



NEWS RELEASE

Chicago Police Department

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CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES NEW FOOT PURSUIT POLICY

New foot pursuit policy increases supervisory responsibility, improves data collection

CHICAGO — Chicago Police Department (CPD) Superintendent David O. Brown today announced a new finalized foot pursuit policy. This policy, which will be implemented by the end of this summer, strengthens supervisory responsibility and also improves foot pursuit data collection through new documentation that must be completed following a pursuit. This policy was guided by national best practices, as well as input from the community, the Office of the Attorney General, the Independent Monitoring Team and Department members.

“The safety of our community members and our officers remains at the core of this new foot pursuit policy,” said Superintendent David O. Brown. “We collaborated internally with our officers and externally with our residents to develop a policy we all have a stake in.”

This policy provides clearer guidelines to officers and supervisors involved in foot pursuits. The importance of supervision is highlighted in this policy, which expands the roles of supervisors during foot pursuits and following the conclusion of a foot pursuit.

The documentation, which will be filled out by officers and supervisors following a pursuit, will enhance the Department’s collection and analysis of foot pursuits. Documentation will also add another layer of accountability, while helping CPD identify patterns within foot pursuits that can be used to inform training and any possible policy revisions.

All sworn members will receive e-learning training on the new directives prior to the final policy going into effect. In-person foot pursuit training will also be built into the 40 hours of mandatory in-service training all officers must receive by the end of the training year. The training will focus on all aspects of initiating and conducting foot pursuits with safety as the top consideration.

Highlights of the policy include:

Standard

- Members may only engage in or continue a foot pursuit if there is a valid law enforcement need to detain the person that Department members reasonably believe outweighs the threat to safety posed by pursuit.

- A valid law enforcement need to detain a person exists when Department members establish reasonable articulable suspicion or probable cause to believe a person being pursued has committed, is committing, or is about to commit a felony, a Class A misdemeanor, a traffic offense that endangers the physical safety of others, or the person being pursued is committing or is about to commit an arrestable offense that poses an obvious physical threat to any person.
- Under circumstances where foot pursuits are permissible, Department members are expected to weigh the seriousness of the offense against the immediate need to apprehend and the consideration of Department member and public safety. The decision to initiate or continue a foot pursuit must be continuously re-evaluated in light of the circumstances presented at the time.
- Members and supervisors must complete a new Foot/Bicycle Pursuit Report following the completion of a foot pursuit.

Safety as the Primary Consideration

- The safety of the public, any person being pursued and Department members is the primary consideration when determining whether a foot pursuit should be initiated or continued.

Prohibitions

- Department members are prohibited from initiating a pursuit or continuing a pursuit if the member:
 - Reasonably believes the risk to Department members, members of the public or the person being pursued outweighs the objective of immediate apprehension.
 - Becomes injured and is unable to safely continue the pursuit, or a third party is injured and requires immediate medical aid that cannot be provided by other on-scene Department members or emergency medical personnel.
 - Is unaware of their current location or is unable to provide a location for support units to respond.
 - Is unable to or loses the ability to effectively and promptly communicate with the Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC) or other Department members.
 - Loses their Department-issued radio, firearm or other essential equipment that may endanger the Department member or member of the public if recovered by another person.
 - Reasonably believes they would not be able to control the person being pursued should a confrontation occur.

Supervisor Responsibilities

- Supervisors will discontinue a foot pursuit if:
 - It reasonably appears the pursuit lacks a lawful purpose or is unsupported by reasonable articulable suspicion or probable cause.
 - They reasonably believe the risk of pursuing Department members, the public, or the person being pursued outweighs the objective of immediate apprehension.
- The notified supervisor will ensure members of the public, the individuals pursued or Department members will receive appropriate medical attention for any known or reported injuries.
- The notified supervisor will promptly report any known or observed violations of Department policy or any other allegations of misconduct consistent with Department directives.

The full policy can be viewed [HERE](#).