



NEWS RELEASE

Chicago Police Department

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CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES NEW FOOT PURSUIT POLICY

Department launches extensive community engagement for new policy outlining responsibilities of officers and supervisors when engaging in foot pursuits

CHICAGO — Mayor Lori Lightfoot and Chicago Police Department (CPD) Superintendent David O. Brown today announced a new foot pursuit policy that prioritizes the safety of officers and individuals involved in the pursuit, as well as members of the public.

"Because foot pursuits are one of the most dangerous actions that police officers can engage in, we cannot afford to wait any longer to put a policy in place that regulates them," said Mayor Lightfoot. "The important parameters outlined in this policy will not only protect our officers, the public and potential suspects during foot pursuits, but it also serves as a step forward in our mission to modernize and reform our police department."

Due to a recognized need for an expedited policy by the CPD, the current version of the foot pursuit policy will be implemented on June 11, 2021. The Department will continue to review the policy and make revisions as appropriate, with a finalized policy to be completed in September.

During the policy development process, the Department conducted internal focus groups which provided feedback from officers that was used to inform the new directives. The Department will continue hosting additional internal focus groups while also [facilitating community input](#).

The current version of the pursuit policy will be made available for public comment beginning today, May 26, 2021 until July 15, 2021. The Department will also facilitate community meetings throughout the city, as well as targeted discussions with community organizations and individuals who have direct experiences.

"It's essential the voices of our officers and community members are represented in policies that can directly affect them," said Superintendent Brown. "As we transform the police department through reform, we will continue to collaborate with our residents to make Chicago safer for everyone."

The Department will hold a [live virtual webinar on June 1, 2021](#) to review the policy and answer general questions from the public. CPD is also offering multiple ways to provide feedback on the policy, including an anonymous [public input form](#) and two virtual citywide community conversations.

Community groups and organizations will also be invited to provide input on the policy through [deliberative dialogues](#) aimed at improving the policy from the perspective of Chicago's residents. The Center for Conflict Resolution will be partnering with the Department to support and facilitate opportunities for public input. All feedback provided to the Department will be analyzed and taken into consideration for the finalized policy.

Ahead of the policy going into effect, sworn Department members will have to complete a mandatory e-learning that will familiarize them with the new policy. The e-learning will focus on the responsibilities of pursuing members, assisting members and supervisors when attempting to apprehend a fleeing individual. This includes pre-pursuit considerations, prohibitions against pursuits and procedures for when engaged in a pursuit.

Highlights of the revised policy include:

- Reminding officers to begin any interaction with tactics meant to reduce the possibility of a foot pursuit.
- Defining foot pursuits as appropriate only when there is probable cause for an arrest or it is believed an individual has committed, is committing or is about to commit a crime.
- Prohibiting foot pursuits stemming from minor traffic offenses.
- Detailing tactics to avoid a foot pursuit, including continual communication with a subject and encouraging officers to position themselves in such a way to reduce the opportunity for a foot chase.
- Outlining alternatives to foot pursuits that should always be considered by officers, including establishing a surveillance or containment area and/or apprehending an identified suspect at another time or place.
- Ensuring circumstances surrounding a foot pursuit are considered before any foot pursuit takes place. Officers must ask themselves if the need to apprehend the subject is worth the risk to responding officers, the public, or the subject.
- Prohibiting foot pursuits for criminal offenses less than a Class A misdemeanor, unless the person poses an obvious threat to the community or any person.
- Discontinuing foot pursuits if someone is injured and requires immediate medical assistance; if officers are unaware of their location; and if the need to apprehend the subject is not worth the risk to responding officers, the public or the subject.
- Informing Department members that they should not separate from their partner or from assisting units in a foot pursuit if the loss of visual contact, excessive distance or nearby obstacles interfere with their ability to come to the aid of their partner.
- Termination of a foot pursuit if officers engaged in the pursuit believe they would not be able to control the suspect if a confrontation were to occur.
- Outline responsibilities for supervisors, which allow them to instruct officers to discontinue a foot pursuit at any time.
- Requiring officers to notify the Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC) of a foot pursuit.
- Ensuring officers engaged in foot pursuits activate body-worn cameras to record the entire incident in accordance with the Department's [body-worn camera policy](#).

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

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