Necessary Reforms to Chicago Police Department Use of Force Policies

The Use of Force Community Working Group was established as a result of the Chicago Police Civil Rights Consent Decree to include people in policymaking from communities that have been most impacted by Chicago police abuse. After spending months studying CPD use of force policies and researching best practices from around the world, the Working Group made a set of urgent recommendations to remedy serious deficiencies in the current policies and dramatically reduce CPD violence and civil rights violations and save lives.

The recommendations prioritize the sanctity of all human life by requiring officers to de-escalate encounters with community members to avoid the need to use force, reserving force as a measure of last resort, and restricting the amount of force to the least amount necessary under the circumstances. They would:

- Ban the use of chokeholds,
- Restrict officers’ use of Tasers,
- Prohibit force against peaceful protesters,
- Restrict force against vulnerable people,
- Require officers to document all uses of force, and
- Respect the dignity of people injured or killed by the police.

The complete set of recommendations can be found and needed revisions to existing CPD policies are available at the links below.

- Summary of Use of Force Working Group Recommendations
- Use of Force General Policy Recommendations
  - App. 1 Split Second Decision-Making
  - App. 2 Taser Research
  - App. 3 Use of Force at Protests and Restrictions on OC Spray
  - Recommended Revisions to CPD General Order 03-02
- Force Options
  - Recommended Revisions to CPD General Order 03-02-01 (mark-up)
  - Recommended Revisions to CPD General Order 03-02-01 (clean)
- Tasers
  - Taser Research
  - Recommended Revisions to CPD General Order 03-02-04 (mark-up)
  - Recommended Revisions to CPD General Order 03-02-04 (clean)
- Use of Force Reports
  - Recommended Revisions to CPD General Order 03–02-02 (mark-up)
  - Recommended Revisions to CPD General Order 03–02-02 (clean)
- OC Spray and Chemical Agents
  - App. 1 Use of Force at Protests and Restrictions on Use of OC Spray
  - Recommended Revisions to CPD General Order 03-02-05 (mark-up)
- Recommended Revisions to CPD General Order 03-02-05 (clean)
- Procedures when Police Shoot or Kill People
  - Recommended Revisions to CPD General Order 03-06
- Use of Batons
  - Recommended Revisions to CPD General Order 03-02-07 (mark-up)
  - Recommended Revisions to CPD General Order 03-02-07 (clean)
- Canines
- Firearm Discharge Incidents
  - Recommended Revisions to CPD General Order 03-02-03 (mark-up)
  - Recommended Revisions to CPD General Order 03-02-03 (clean)