DE-ESCALATION, SELF-RESTRAINT, AND USE OF FORCE, General Order GO3-02

I. PURPOSE

This directive:

A. sets forth Department policy regarding sworn members’ and detention aides’ use of force.

B. satisfies CALEA Law Enforcement Standard Chapter 4.

II. DEPARTMENT POLICY

A. Sanctity of Human Life. The Department’s highest priority is the sanctity of human life. In all aspects of their conduct, Department members will act with the foremost regard for the preservation of human life and the safety of all persons involved. Every human being deserves the right to pursue and fulfill their fullest human potential. Sanctity means ‘to be reverenced, to treat as sacred and with the utmost regard. Sanctity of life further means to live a life without being enslaved, disenfranchised, vilified, abused, beaten, hung, wrongfully arrested, incarcerated and killed solely because of fear, internal biases, and/or systemic racism. Sanctity of life means to create both an internal and external culture that manifests good morals and recognizes all humans as persons that have the right to live and thrive. Sanctity of life is inclusive of all human beings including black people, people of color, LBGTO+ persons, persons with disabilities, and others. To recognize the sanctity of every human life, CPD and every other institution in our society must become more actively aware of and respectful of these various cultures, intentionally learning and acting in ways that continuously deepens the understanding of sanctity of life, develops a culture within CPD that honors and protects each and every life, ultimately bettering all members of society.

B. Public Cooperation. A strong partnership with the public is essential for effective law enforcement. Inappropriate or excessive uses of force damage that partnership and diminish the public trust that is a cornerstone of policing in a free society. CPD is committed to understanding the negative consequences that police have had in communities of color, particularly for Black people. CPD is also committed to having this understanding of historical and contemporary trauma inform their policing moving forward. Department members will act:

1. with a high degree of ethics, professionalism, and respect for the public.

2. in a manner that promotes trust between the Department and the communities that it serves.

C. Service Model of Policing. The purpose of policing is to serve and support the community and to promote peace. As such, police are not warriors fighting crime. They are public servants who must address all individuals with dignity and respect and whose primary responsibility is to preserve the life of all parties/stakeholders. To meet this responsibility, police must be committed to the ethic of doing no harm and to de-escalating conflict.

D. Transparency. It is the policy of the Chicago Police Department to require full and prompt public transparency and honesty about all uses of force by Department members.

E. Accountability. It is the policy of the Chicago Police Department to hold Department members, including police supervisors, strictly accountable for violations of this Order.

F. Core Principle. To respect the driving principle of respect for the sanctity of all human life, the Chicago Police Department seeks to eliminate the need to use force wherever possible and limit the force used only to that which is necessary under the circumstances.
Assessing the Need for Force. Department members involved in a use of force incident will make an independent assessment and decision to use force based on the totality of the circumstances and will be individually responsible for articulating the specific details that justify their use of force.

1. Officers are required to use a critical thinking, decision-making framework to analyze and respond to incidents, under which officers:
   (a) Gather facts about the incident and assess the relevant situation, threats, and risks for the purpose of minimizing and eliminating the use of force, including by:
      (i) Evaluating individualized factors, including age, physical impairment, frailty, pregnancy, and risk posed by the individual; and
      (ii) Considering whether a person may be noncompliant due to limited English proficiency, a medical condition, disability, age/developmental immaturity, behavioral health crisis, a language barrier, and/or drug or alcohol use;
   (b) Consider relevant policies with an emphasis on preserving the sanctity of life;
   (c) Attempt non-violent, developmentally-appropriate, and trauma-informed de-escalation techniques, identify alternative options (including but not limited to crisis intervention and a behavioral health response) and determine the best course of action; and
   (d) Act, review, and re-assess the situation and the need for force.

2. No officer shall be penalized for taking sufficient time to resolve an incident without use of force.

3. Nothing in this policy requires members to take actions, or fail to take actions, that unreasonably endanger themselves or others.

4. Nothing in this policy precludes the legally mandated oversight or assessment of a Department member’s use of force consistent with the procedures established in this policy.

When a use of force incident result in a potentially life-threatening injury or death, Department members will refer to the Department directive titled “Firearm Discharge and Officer-Involved Death Incident Response and Investigation” for additional notifications, response procedures and investigative responsibilities.

III. USE OF FORCE - WHEN AUTHORIZED

A. Definition of Force. Force is defined as any physical contact beyond compliant handcuffing, either directly or through the use of equipment, to compel a person’s compliance. It includes pointing a firearm or other weapon at a person or pet. It also includes non-physical actions intended to intimidate or coerce a person into complying with a Member’s directive, and non-physical actions that denigrate a person.

1. This definition is inclusive of aggressive body language and posture, tone of voice, degrading language and all other means of aggressive behavior, as an intimidation or degrading tactic that can result in fostering a traumatic experience to a person.

B. Force Mitigation Principles: Last Resort, Necessary, Proportional, and the Duty to De-escalate. De-escalation and force mitigation are the primary aims of this policy. Department members may
only use force that is necessary and proportional in order to: (1) ensure the safety of a member or third person, (2) stop an attack, (3) make an arrest, (4) control a person, or (5) prevent escape. Officers may not use any force, except as a last resort. Officers may use force only when necessary and after other non-violent means have been exhausted. When force is used, officers may use only the least amount necessary under the circumstances, and the amount of force must be proportional to the threat. Officers are prohibited from using more force than necessary to address the imminent threat of bodily harm and must immediately reduce the level of force as the threat diminishes.

3. Necessary. When force is necessary, Department members will use only the least amount of force required under the circumstances to serve a lawful purpose.

4. Proportional. If force must be used, Department members will use only the force that is proportional to the threat, actions, and level of resistance offered by a person. This may include using greater force or a different type of force than that used by the person. The greater the threat and the more likely that the threat will result in death or serious physical injury, the greater the level of force that may be necessary to overcome it. When or if the person offers less resistance, the member must decrease the amount or type of force accordingly.

5. De-escalation. De-escalation must be a Department member’s mandatory first response.

a. Department members have an affirmative and mandatory duty to de-escalate conflict in order to avoid the need for any force.

b. Members shall use various de-escalation techniques, including trauma-informed and disability-informed techniques, before resorting to force and to reduce the need for force. Members are required to use the principles of force mitigation to de-escalate potential use of force incidents, including through the use of time as a tactic, continual communication, tactical positioning, and requesting assistance from other officers, mental health personnel, or specialized units as necessary and appropriate.

c. Members may resort to force only after all other available alternatives have been exhausted or would clearly be ineffective under the circumstances.

i. Members shall provide verbal or visual warnings with reasonable time to allow the person to comply, before resorting to force, unless doing so would create a substantial risk of death or great bodily harm.

ii. Specific trauma-informed de-escalation techniques include but are not limited to: verbal persuasion; acknowledging fear, confusion and mistrust; using a calm and neutral tone; asking questions and issuing respectful warnings; and tactical de-escalation techniques, such as slowing down the pace of an incident, waiting out persons, creating distance between the officer and the threat, retreating, and requesting additional resources (e.g. specialized units, crisis intervention units, behavioral health care providers, negotiators, available community members, medical professionals, etc.), whenever possible, before resorting to force and to reduce the need for force.

4. Prohibitions.

a. The use of excessive force, unwarranted physical force, or unlawful force by a Department member is prohibited and will not be tolerated.
b. Deadly force is prohibited unless it is necessary for an officer to protect against an imminent threat to life or serious bodily harm to another person. Department members must identify themselves as law enforcement officers and verbally warn of their intent to use deadly force unless doing so would create an imminent risk of death or serious bodily harm.

c. Department members are prohibited from pointing a firearm and/or a taser at another human being unless the person presents an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to another person. Members are prohibited from pointing a firearm at a person to gain compliance with orders unrelated to preventing imminent death or great bodily harm, and may not point a firearm at a person when the person is handcuffed, otherwise subdued, or unarmed. Members are prohibited from drawing or exhibiting a firearm, including in a seated or low-ready position, in the field and/or when interacting with members of the public, unless the officer has an objectively reasonable belief that deadly force may become necessary. When the threat is over, the officer shall holster the firearm.

d. Members are prohibited from using a Taser or other Electronic Control Weapon against a person, unless the person presents an immediate threat of serious bodily harm to themselves or another person. Members may not use Tasers or ECWs against children in schools, people who are especially vulnerable, or persons who are simply running away.

e. Members are prohibited from using chokeholds, neck holds, and other uses of force or restraints that restrict a person’s oxygen, blood flow, and/or inhibit their consciousness.

f. Members are prohibited from striking a person to the head, whether close-handed or with a weapon, except in circumstances in which they are authorized to use deadly force.

f. Department members are prohibited from using force based on bias or any other protected characteristic as outlined in the Department directive titled "Prohibition Regarding Racial Profiling and Other Bias Based Policing," including bias against a person’s race, color, sex, gender identity, age, religion, disability, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, marital status, parental status, military status, source of income, credit history, criminal record, criminal history, financial status, immigration status, or homeless status.

g. Force used as punishment or retaliation (e.g., force used to punish or retaliate for fleeing, resisting arrest, or insulting a Department member) is prohibited.

h. Force used in response to a person’s lawful exercise of First Amendment rights (e.g., protected speech, lawful demonstrations, observing or filming police activity, or criticizing a Department member or conduct) is prohibited. Use of force against peaceful protestors is prohibited. OC spray, long-range acoustic devices, and batons must not be used against passively resisting protestors or to disperse crowds at protests.

NOTE: First Amendment rights are not absolute and are subject to reasonable time, place, manner restrictions. Further guidance may be found in the Department directive titled "The First Amendment and Police Actions."

i. Department members are prohibited from firing their weapon at or into a moving vehicle, except when such force is a last resort and necessary to protect against an imminent threat of death or great bodily harm to a person. The member is prohibited from placing themselves in the path of the moving vehicle and must make every effort to move out of the path of the moving vehicle, before resorting to force.
j. Department members are prohibited from firing their weapons from a moving vehicle.

k. Department members are prohibited from using any force against a person who is handcuffed or restrained, except when necessary to prevent an imminent threat of bodily harm to another person. Members must exhaust all other available forms of control before engaging in any force against a person who is restrained or in handcuffs.

5. Additional procedures and prohibitions.

a. For further procedures on de-escalation, the principles of Force Mitigation, and when force is authorized, Department members will refer to the Department directive titled "Force Options."

b. For further procedures on when Department weapons are authorized and prohibitions on weapon use, Department members will refer to the Department directives titled:
   (1) "Firearms Discharge Incidents Involving Sworn Members."
   (2) "Taser Use Incidents."
   (3) "Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Devices And Other Chemical Agent Use Incidents."
   (4) "Canine Use Incidents."
   (5) "Baton Use Incidents."

C. Use of Deadly Force: Necessary to Prevent Death or Great Bodily Harm. The following additional policies apply to the use of deadly force:

1. Definition of Deadly Force. Deadly force is force by any means that is likely to cause death or great bodily harm. It includes but is not limited to:
   a. firing of a firearm in the direction of the person to be arrested.
   b. firing of a firearm at a vehicle in which the person to be arrested is riding.
   c. intentional striking of a person's head or neck with an impact weapon.
   d. application of a chokehold (applying direct pressure to a person's trachea (windpipe) or airway (front of the neck) with the intention of reducing the intake of air), carotid artery restraints (techniques that compresses the blood vessels in the neck to inhibit or restrict blood flow to carotid arteries), or other maneuvers for applying direct pressure on a windpipe or airway.

2. Definition of Imminent Threat. A threat is imminent when:
   a. the person's actions are immediately likely to cause death or great bodily harm to the member or others unless action is taken; and
   b. the person has the means or instruments to cause death or great bodily harm; and
   c. the person has the opportunity and ability to cause death or great bodily harm.

3. Last Resort. The use of deadly force is a last resort that is permissible only when necessary to protect against an imminent threat to life or to prevent great bodily harm to the member or
another person. Consistent with this requirement, a sworn Department member may use deadly force only when such force is necessary to prevent:

a. death or great bodily harm from an imminent threat posed to the sworn member or to another person.

b. an arrest from being defeated by resistance or escape, where the person to be arrested poses an imminent threat of death or great bodily harm to a sworn member or another person unless arrested without delay.

4. Prohibitions: Deadly force may not be used:

a. on a fleeing person unless the person poses an imminent threat, as defined above.

b. against a person who is a threat only to himself, herself, or property.

5. Sworn members will identify themselves as police officers prior to using deadly force, unless identification would jeopardize the safety of the member or others.

6. A sworn member is justified in using deadly force to stop a dangerous animal only when the animal reasonably appears to pose an imminent threat to the safety of the sworn member, another person, or another animal and no reasonably effective alternatives appear to exist.

IV. MEDICAL ATTENTION

A. Once the scene is safe and as soon as practical, whenever an individual is injured, complains of injury, or requests medical attention, Department members:

1. will immediately request appropriate medical aid for the injured person, including contacting emergency medical services (EMS) from the Chicago Fire Department via the Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC).

2. may provide appropriate medical care consistent with their training to any individual who has visible injuries, complains of being injured, or requests medical attention. This may include providing first aid and/or arranging for transportation to an emergency medical facility.

B. Members will treat injured persons, whether another officer, a member of the public, or a person, with dignity and respect.

V. DUTY TO INTERVENE AND REPORT

A. Ensure Compliance. All Department members are obligated to ensure compliance by themselves and other members with Department regulations, policies, and the law. Consistent with the Department directive titled “Complaint and Disciplinary Procedures,” Department members will be held accountable for using force that violates law, this directive, or other Department policy.

B. Intervention, Supervisory Intervention, Notifying Superiors.

1. A Department member who directly observes a use of force and identifies the force as excessive or otherwise in violation of this directive will, except in extraordinary circumstances, act to intervene on the person's behalf. Such action will include, but is not limited to, verbally and physically intervening to try to stop the violation. If the member is a supervisor, he or she will issue a direct order to stop the violation.

2. Consistent with the Department directive titled “Complaint and Disciplinary Procedures,” any Department member who observes misconduct or becomes aware of information alleging misconduct, including an identified excessive use of force, a reportable use of force incident that
was not reported, or a use of force that is otherwise in violation of this directive, will immediately notify his or her supervisor. Department members will be held accountable for failing to report force that violates law, this directive, or other Department policy.

C. Written Reporting Obligation. Consistent with the Department directive titled "Complaint and Disciplinary Procedures:

1. Department members who have knowledge of the use of force against a person in violation of this directive will submit an individual written report to a supervisor before reporting off duty on the day the member becomes aware of the misconduct.

2. Department supervisors who have knowledge or receive allegations of a use of force against a person in violation of this directive that is person to the Log Number process will report the information to the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA), including forwarding a report outlining all the information available at the time the allegation was received.

D. Retaliation Prohibited. The Department prohibits any form of retaliation, interference, intimidation, or coercion against a Department member for:

1. reporting misconduct, including a use of force that is allegedly in violation of this directive, or

2. cooperating with any complaint or misconduct investigation.

E. Accuracy and Candor. Department members will be responsible at all times:

1. for truthfully and completely:
   a. reporting each reportable use of force incident consistent with the Department directive titled "Incidents Requiring the Completion of a Tactical Response Report."
   b. describing the facts and circumstances concerning any incident involving the use of force by Department members.

2. for articulating the specific facts to explain the member’s own decision to employ a particular use of force.

VI. DEPARTMENT MEMBER’S BILL OF RIGHTS

Use of Force investigations remain bound by the involved members’ respective collective bargaining agreement(s) and the Department directive titled "Department Member’s Bill of Rights."

VII. POLICY REVIEW

A. Consistent with the Department directive titled "Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA)," the Department will conduct an annual review of its use of force policies in compliance with the CALEA accreditation requirements.

B. On a biennial basis, the Department will conduct a comprehensive review of its use of force policies to assess whether the policies meet the requirements of the consent decree (pursuant to State of Illinois v. City of Chicago, Case No. 17-cv-6260), incorporate identified best practices, address observed trends and practices, as necessary, and reflect developments in applicable law.

VIII. USE OF FORCE TRAINING AND OFFICER SCREENING

A. At a minimum, Department members will receive annual training on the laws and Department policies regulating the use of force, including, but not limited to, de-escalation, force options, and appropriate supervision and accountability.
1. Medical professionals and community members will have input on training content.

2. All training must be evaluated, and ineffective training must be modified. All training must be evaluated by independent researchers. Evaluations must employ rigorous experimental/quasi-experimental methodology. When an evaluation finds a training to be ineffective, the training must be revamped and reevaluated until it is found to be effective. The findings and the data and code used to arrive at conclusions must be shared publicly. All training and evaluation must be ongoing and conducted annually.

B. Prior to being approved to carry a Department-authorized weapon or use a weapon for employing a use of force, Department members will be trained on the proper techniques and use of the weapon, as well as de-escalation. Additionally, Department members will:

1. successfully qualify with their firearms annually.

2. if Taser certified, successfully participate in the annual Taser recertification program.

3. receive refresher training on impact weapons and OC Devices biennially.

4. refer to the Department directives titled:
   a. "Department Approved Weapons and Ammunition" for specific administrative and operational functions of Department-authorized weapons.

5. In instances when officers do not pass a de-escalation training, they cannot carry a weapon or be in the field until they do pass the training. Certifications must be issued to demonstrate that an officer has successfully completed each training. Annual assessments of character must also be conducted to ensure that officers do not have attitudes that make them likely to use force unnecessarily.

C. Officers are required to complete yearly character assessments, mental health screenings, and confidential background interviews with family and friends to ensure that officer is maintaining their ability to adequately conduct their job in a meaningful and impactful way in the community. This is to monitor their stability throughout the course of their employment to address and potential issues that may arise from work related stressors or other stressors that may affect work.

IX. CITY AND DEPARTMENT COMMITMENTS

A. Pre-Arrest Diversion. The City of Chicago recognizes the importance of diverting individuals from the criminal legal system and reducing unnecessary police encounters and opportunities for force. The City of Chicago commits to developing a pre-arrest diversion program to provide an alternative to arrest and incarceration for individuals experiencing substance addiction, mental health concerns, or extreme poverty, and instead meet their immediate basic needs. Especially when interacting with youth, officers will use alternatives to arrest, including: warn and release, informal counseling, and referral to community services and resources such as mental health, drug treatment, mentoring, and counseling organizations that operate independently from the justice system.

B. Promoting Public Safety. CPD must provide working conditions that reduce the likelihood that force is used unnecessarily by promoting the health and wellness of employees and the public. This includes limiting the hours that officers are expected to work, providing merit-based pay (with merit based on complying with these core principles and use of force policies), and holding officers...
accountable (see core principle on accountability) when officers violate the constitutional rights of community members.

C. Community Rights and Education. The Chicago Police Department will provide readily available, authentic, and relevant education to community members through fostering and maintaining relationships with local organizations, schools, and advocacy groups to ensure the protection of every person’s rights and safety. Education will include "know your rights" resources, reviewed and approved by a variety of community groups, in multiple languages, for adults, minors, U.S. citizens, and non-citizens.