



*Superintendent Snelling has made clear his commitment to ensuring traffic stops are being used effectively for public safety. This commitment is rooted in the Chicago Police Department's (CPD) overall reform efforts, which are focused on building trust in the communities we serve through lawful and constitutional policing.*

This document is designed to provide an update on CPD's work to ensure constitutional policing during all interactions with the public, including traffic stops, and towards implementing a policy specific to governing traffic stops.

## >> CONSTITUTIONAL POLICING DURING TRAFFIC STOPS

Currently, CPD is taking steps to continue and strengthen its commitment to constitutional policing during all police-community interactions and encounters, including traffic stops.

- CPD has announced new policies, *Police Encounters and the Fourth Amendment* policy suite, that are posted on CPD's Department Directives System ([directives.chicagopolice.org](https://directives.chicagopolice.org)) awaiting implementation. These policies cover a wide range of Fourth Amendment protections and requirements during police encounters, including traffic stops, investigatory stops, and searches, both of vehicles and individuals.
- CPD is also creating one, unified Stop Report electronic application for documenting, reviewing, tracking, and evaluating all stops, including traffic stops and investigatory stops, replacing the separate processes and an outdated, manual paper reporting system.
- CPD is also developing training on both the *Police Encounters and the Fourth Amendment* policy suite and Stop Report electronic application to instruct officers on these new policies and processes prior to taking effect.

## >> COMMITMENT TO CONTINUED TRAINING

*"We are continuing to ensure traffic stops are being used for public safety. We are continuing to review our use of traffic stops and providing Fourth Amendment training to all officers." – Superintendent Larry Snelling*

- In 2025, all CPD sworn members will receive a minimum of 40 hours of in-service training, including 16 hours of in-person training with a focus on constitutional policing between two separate trainings:
  - Constitutional Policing Foundations. An 8-hour, in-person training on the 4th Amendment, police encounters, constitutional decision making rooted in Procedural Justice and Legitimacy, a law-enforcement/public safety purpose, and the proper use of officer discretion.
  - De-escalation, Response to Resistance, and Use of Force / Vehicle Stops. An 8-hour, in-person refresher training on De-escalation, Response to Resistance, and Use of Force and conducting constitutional and professional traffic stops, including high-risk traffic stops.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment concepts and foundations are also included in annual in-service supervisor training (reviewing stops for constitutionality, based on reasonable articulable suspicion and probable cause) and Firearm qualification and Taser recertification (constitutional seizures and the reasonableness standard).
- In 2023, CPD's in-service training program included an 8-hour, in-person training course for all sworn CPD members in constitutional policing.



### Where can I find CPD's Policies and Revised Drafts for Comments?

- CPD's current policies are available on CPD's Department Directives System website located at <https://directives.chicagopolice.org/>.
- CPD's draft traffic stop policy and other policies that are posted for public comment are available on CPD's Transform website located at <https://chicagopolice.org/policy-review/>.

## >> TRAFFIC STOPS IN CHICAGO

*"There's already been a reduction in traffic stops since I've taken over because the focus is different... my focus is violent crimes and traffic safety."* – Superintendent Larry Snelling

**Traffic Stop**—the stop of a motor vehicle and the temporary detention of the driver and any occupants based upon Reasonable Articulable Suspicion or Probable Cause of a possible traffic law violation (including a parking violation) or vehicle equipment or license compliance violation.

Per the *Illinois Traffic and Pedestrian Stop Statistical Study* (625 ILCS 5/11-212) and CPD policy, CPD officers conducting a Traffic Stop will document the stop in a written report, regardless of whether a citation is issued. This report will collect the statistical information required by the *Illinois Traffic and Pedestrian Stop Statistical Study* and submitted annually to the Illinois Department of Transportation for independent analysis.

➤ The table below identifies CPD's annual traffic stop activity reported per the *Illinois Traffic and Pedestrian Stop Statistical Study* requirements (625 ILCS 5/11-212):

CPD TRAFFIC STOP VIOLATIONS: BY YEAR	2023	2024
TOTAL TRAFFIC STOPS CONDUCTED	535,166	293,150
VIOLATION FOR STOP: Moving (% of Stops)	146,520 (27%)	84,241 (29%)
VIOLATION FOR STOP: Equipment (% of Stops)	151,168 (28%)	79,546 (27%)
VIOLATION FOR STOP: License (% of Stops)	237,370 (44%)	129,283 (44%)

CPD TRAFFIC STOP DISPOSITIONS: BY YEAR	2023	2024
TOTAL TRAFFIC STOPS CONDUCTED	535,166	293,150
STOP DISPOSITION: Verbal Warning (% of Stops)	516,141 (96%)	269,038 (92%)
STOP DISPOSITION: Citation Issued (% of Stops)	19,025 (4%)	24,112 (8%)

CPD TRAFFIC STOP SEARCHES: BY YEAR	2023	2024
TOTAL TRAFFIC STOPS CONDUCTED	535,166	293,150
SEARCH CONDUCTED: Total (% of Stops)	4,725 (0.88%)	3,561 (1.21%)
SEARCH CONDUCTED: Consent Approved (% of Stops)	1,798 (0.34%)	1,261 (0.43%)
SEARCH CONDUCTED: Consent Approved (% of Searches)	1,798 (38.1 %)	1,261 (35.4 %)
SEARCH CONDUCTED: Contraband Found (% of Searches)	3,705 (78 %)	2,684 (75%)

Chicago Police Department		General Order G03-08-02	
TRAFFIC STOPS			
ISSUE DATE:	21 April 2025 – DRAFT	EFFECTIVE DATE:	TBD – DRAFT
RESCINDS:			
INDEX CATEGORY:	04 - Preliminary Investigations		
CALEA:			
<p>I. PURPOSE</p> <p>This directive delineates the authority and circumstances necessary for sworn Department members to conduct Traffic Stops to ensure compliance with the rights guaranteed to the public under the United States Constitution, the State of Illinois Constitution, and the law.</p> <p>II. DEFINITIONS</p> <p>A. <b>Traffic Stop</b>—the stop of a motor vehicle and the temporary detention of the driver and any occupants based upon Reasonable Articulable Suspicion or Probable Cause of a possible traffic law violation (including a parking violation) or vehicle equipment or license compliance violation.</p>			

As part of CPD's ongoing mission to grow trust and build partnerships within the communities it serves, CPD now invites the community to review and provide feedback on the draft traffic stop policy at:

<https://www.chicagopolice.org/policy-review/>



## >> CURRENT POLICY REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAFFIC STOPS

While the Chicago Police Department is currently developing a stand-alone policy governing traffic stops, CPD already has existing policies on the expectations of constitutional policing and lawful actions during all police-community interactions and encounters, including traffic stops, via the following directives:

➤ **General Order G02-01, *Protection of Human Rights***

- CPD is committed to observing, upholding, and enforcing all laws relating to individual rights. CPD officers will respect and protect each person's human rights and comply with all laws relating to human rights.
- CPD prohibits its members from engaging in any illegal discrimination against an individual or group on the basis of any protected class under federal, state, and local law, including 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, or criminal history.
- CPD does not tolerate abuse of law enforcement authority. While CPD does recognize the concept of discretion, that discretion must be reasonable and defensible and may not be for an improper purpose.
- All interactions with members of the public will be conducted with the utmost respect and courtesy and be based on the principles of Procedural Justice and Legitimacy. During each interaction, CPD officers will:
  - strive to attain the highest degree of ethical behavior and professional conduct at all times.
  - interact with all members of the public in an unbiased, fair, and respectful manner.
  - treat all persons with the courtesy and dignity that is inherently due every person as a human being.
  - act, speak, and conduct themselves in a courteous, respectful, and professional manner, recognizing their obligation to safeguard life and property, and maintain a courteous, professional attitude.
  - not exhibit a condescending attitude or direct any derogatory terms toward any person in any manner and will not use language or take action intended to taunt or denigrate an individual, including using racist or derogatory language.
  - when requested, correctly identify themselves by providing their rank, name, and star number (or employee number for civilian members) to any member of the public.

➤ **General Order G02-04, *Prohibitions Regarding Racial Profiling And Other Bias-Based Policing***

- CPD prohibits its members from engaging in any racial profiling or other bias-based policing.
- When making routine or spontaneous law enforcement decisions (including traffic stops and issuing citations), CPD officers will not use:
  - race, ethnicity, age, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, disability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, immigration status, homeless status, marital status, parental status, military discharge status, financial status, lawful source of income.

**EXCEPTION:** CPD officers may rely on age as a factor only when the individual's age is an element of the specific crime or ordinance that the individual is suspected of violating including but not limited to curfew, school absenteeism, and underage consumption of alcohol.

- substitutes or stereotypes for the demographic categories listed above, such as manner of dress, mode of transportation, or language ability.

**EXCEPTION:** CPD officers may rely on the above-listed demographic categories only when such information is part of a specific description of a wanted person.

**REMINDER:**

**CPD's draft traffic stop policy is available for review at:**

<https://www.chicagopolice.org/policy-review/>



## >> PROPOSED TRAFFIC STOP POLICY

Below is an overview of the newly developed draft of CPD's traffic stops policy. The complete draft policy is available for review at: <https://www.chicagopolice.org/policy-review/>.

### ➤ **Respecting and Protecting the Rights of all Persons During Traffic Stops**

- **Protecting Human Rights** – CPD is committed to working with all communities of the City to serve and protect; to safeguard lives and property; to guarantee all persons fair and equal treatment under the law; and to ensure that all persons may enjoy their fundamental rights as human beings. CPD traffic stops will be conducted in a manner that complies with the Constitution and laws of the United States and the State of Illinois.
- **Emphasizing Respectful, Courteous, and Professional Treatment** – CPD officers will treat all persons with the courtesy and dignity that is inherently due every person as a human being without reference to stereotypes based on race, color, ethnicity, religion, or other protected class. The use of traffic stops should consider CPD's role in promoting public safety, enforcing the law, preventing crime and serving the community, with any risk of harm to the community and building and maintaining community trust.
- **Staying True to the Principles of Procedural Justice** – CPD officers will employ the four central principles including: giving others a voice (listening), neutrality in decision-making, respectful treatment, and trustworthiness.
- **Prohibiting Traffic Stop Quotas** – CPD will not consider the number of traffic stops as part of any bonus, incentive, or promotional process or require a minimum number of traffic stops as a crime-reduction strategy.

### ➤ **Strengthen Requirements for Conducting Traffic Stops**

**Providing Specific Guidance for Conducting Traffic Stops**, including:

- Being clearly identifiable as a CPD officer, including by being in uniform or displaying CPD identifying credentials.
- Recording the traffic stop on body worn cameras and in-car video systems.
- Focusing on safety, respectful treatment, and professional behavior and communications.
- Ensuring that the traffic stop does not take longer than necessary.
- Providing truthful and complete reporting of traffic stops, including providing a written receipt for the stop.
- Creating guidance, communication requirements, and documentation for traffic stops that include removing occupants from a vehicle, handcuffing occupants, or asking for and conducting consent searches.

**Requiring Comprehensive Training** – CPD will conduct comprehensive training on traffic stops, including scenario-based elements, that will instruct how to conduct and document traffic stops; CPD's use of traffic stops in its role in promoting public safety, enforcing the law, preventing crime, and serving the community; and community perceptions of traffic stops in relation to building community trust.

### ➤ **Increased Accountability and Transparency**

**Supervisory Responsibilities:**

- CPD supervisors will effectively supervise officers to set expectations, performance, and accountability, including that traffic stops are conducted respectfully, safely, and in a manner that complies with the law and CPD policy.
- All Stop Reports submitted for traffic stops will be reviewed by a CPD supervisor to ensure that the reports are properly completed and conform to CPD policy,

**Data Collection and Transparency:**

- CPD will collect and maintain the necessary data related to traffic stops to accurately evaluate its practices, comply with the law, and annually post traffic stop data on its website (<https://home.chicagopolice.org/>).
- CPD will conduct an annual department-level review of traffic stops that compiles and analyzes data regarding CPD traffic stops, including an analysis of the total number of traffic stops, the reasons for the stops, searches, enforcement actions, and contraband found.

**Policy Review and Community Engagement:**

- CPD will conduct a comprehensive review of its traffic stop policies every two years to ensure they are consistent with CPD's mission, address any identified trends, provide clear and effective guidance, and comply with law.
- In reviewing its traffic stop policy, CPD will seek input from the community, particularly those with relevant knowledge and experience, through community-engagement efforts and establish clear channels for input.