

**A JOINT MESSAGE FROM**  
**VILLAGE PRESIDENT KEITH GIAGNORIO AND POLICE CHIEF ROY NEWTON**

The Village of Lombard is a proudly diverse community. Hateful criminal acts and racism are an affront to the values and beliefs of our community and will not be tolerated. The men and women of the Lombard Police Department have sworn an oath to protect all residents of Lombard and the citizens of this nation. Accordingly, the Village of Lombard and the Lombard Police Department stand united with fellow Lombardians against any and all acts of violence and racism within our community and reject discrimination towards any person under any circumstance.

The Village of Lombard has received a number of recent inquiries from residents regarding police practices. The panel of common questions originates from the Black Lives Matter movement, based upon the recommendations from the organization on what would help improve police and community relations. In the interest of education, openness, and transparency, we wish to share the questions that were submitted and the answers that were provided in response with all members of the Lombard community.

The Lombard Police Department has proudly been a Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) accredited department since 1991. In order to achieve and maintain CALEA accreditation, our policies and practices are thoroughly reviewed by assessors from outside our agency to insure that we implement and follow the best practices for law enforcement agencies recommended worldwide. Only 18% of all law enforcement agencies nationwide and 49 agencies (out of 249 municipal agencies) in Illinois are CALEA Accredited.

National accreditation through CALEA means the highest standards and best management practices for operations, training, policies, practices, procedures, including those on training, use of force and biased based policing. Accreditation through CALEA is voluntary and continued evidence of the Lombard Police Department's culture of ethics and demonstrated commitment to upholding the highest standards and best practices in law enforcement.

For more information about the Lombard Police Department, visit our website at [www.villageoflombard.org](http://www.villageoflombard.org) to view the latest 2019 Lombard Police Department Annual Report and view results of our resident survey as well as information on our CALEA Accreditation, use of force, arrest and crash reports, and bias based policing.

The Village of Lombard is committed to continually engage with those we serve in a courteous and professional manner. We have worked hard to earn and keep the trust of our community and we value and respect all citizens. Consistent with the policies of the Lombard Police Department, we stand with our community, other law enforcement agencies, and the nation against discrimination, racial profiling, and the use of excessive force.

We are always available to answer any questions you may have please do not hesitate to reach out and contact us so we can respond to your questions and concerns and move forward for the betterment of our community.



Keith Giagnorio  
Village President



Roy Newton  
Chief of Police

## Questions Regarding Police Procedures

**1. Are the police officers in Lombard being trained to de-escalate altercations by using peaceful conflict resolution strategies?**

The Police and Community Relations Improvement Act (50 ILCS 727) and Illinois Police Training Act (50 ILCS 705) mandate training requirements for active police officers in the State of Illinois, including the types of training referenced above. The Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board is the state agency mandated to oversee training requirements, curriculum and standards.

Mandated training for active police officers includes:

- Civil Rights
- Constitutional and Proper Use of Law Enforcement Authority
- Cultural Competency (including implicit bias and racial and ethnic sensitivity)
- Human Rights
- First Responder Procedural Justice (including impartiality, reasonable use of force, de-escalation training, crisis intervention team training, verbal and non-verbal communication, bias awareness, language and cultural responsiveness); and,
- Mental Health Awareness (including de-escalation training)

New officer certification through the Law Enforcement Basic Academy is a curriculum of 580 hours which includes training in de-escalation, communication in the police environment, control and arrest tactics, procedural justice and mental illness behavior.

The Lombard Police Department recognizes the importance of continual education for in-service officers and regularly conducts training in the aforementioned topics annually. Most recently, in November 2019, over a 3-day period, every member of the Lombard Police Department attended training in de-escalation tactics and cultural diversity.

The Lombard Police Department is also proud to note that twenty-four police officers are Crisis Intervention Certified (40 hours of training) and all members of the department have received 8 hours of training in Mental Health First Aid.

**2. Are the police officers in Lombard forbidden from using carotid restraints (chokeholds, strangleholds, etc.) and hog-tying methods? Furthermore, are they forbidden from transporting civilians in uncomfortable positions, such as face down in a vehicle?**

The Illinois Criminal Code (720 ILCS 5-7-5.5) details prohibited use of force by peace officers. A “chokehold,” meaning the application of direct pressure to the throat, windpipe, or airway of another with the intent to reduce or prevent the intake of air, is unlawful under the Illinois Criminal Code when used by a law enforcement officer in any situation where deadly force is not justified. It is therefore unlawful for a Lombard Police officer to use a chokehold where deadly force is not justified.

It is the policy of the Lombard Police Department to handcuff arrestees behind their back unless there is a medical issue or physical limitation where it would otherwise be precluded (e.g., pregnancy, broken or missing limb). When placed in the back of a Lombard squad car, arrestees are seated in an upright position in the back seat and secured with a seat belt. The Lombard Police Department does not use prone maximal restraint methods (e.g. “hog-tying”).

**3. Are the police officers in Lombard required to intervene if they witness another officer using excessive force? Will officers be reprimanded if they fail to intervene?**

Police officers shall intervene when excessive force is being exhibited. Officers using any type of force are accountable for its use. In all allegations of excessive force, an internal investigation will commence by the order of the Chief of Police and where found, may result in discipline ranging from reprimand through suspension or termination.

Additionally, an officer who purposefully allows a fellow officer to violate an individual’s Constitutional rights may be subject to prosecution for a failure to intervene. Failure to intervene may be found where an officer was aware of the Constitutional violation, had an opportunity to intervene, and chose not to do so.

**4. Are the police officers in Lombard forbidden from shooting at moving vehicles?**

Police Officers in Lombard will not discharge a firearm at or from a moving vehicle unless the use of deadly force is justified. The Illinois Criminal Code (720 ILCS 5/7-5) sets forth the parameters of a police officer’s use of force in making an arrest and including the use of deadly force.

Further, it is the policy of the Lombard Police Department that officers are prohibited from using deadly force against “fleeing felons” when the only condition for the use of force is that the individual is a “fleeing felon.”

**5. Is there a clear and enforced use-of-force continuum that details what weapons and force are acceptable in a wide variety of civilian-police interactions?**

The Lombard Police Department General Order regarding use of force, specifically “Force Necessary to Accomplish Objectives” outlines the use of force continuum that an officer follows in a variety of interactions. The use of force continuum provides for:

- Officer Presence
- Verbal Direction
- Empty-Hand Control
- Intermediate Weapons
- Lethal Force

**6. Are the officers in Lombard required to exhaust every other possible option before using excessive force?**

Pursuant to Lombard Policy, officers shall use only the force necessary to accomplish lawful objectives, not excessive force. While force may be used in certain circumstances, it shall be to accomplish lawful objectives and only to the extent reasonably necessary in light of the circumstances confronting the officer. Lombard Police Department Policy is explicit that officers using any type of force are accountable for the force that was used. The Lombard Police Department takes all use of force incidents seriously and is committed to review and evaluate all use of force incidents.

The Lombard Police Department has not utilized lethal force involving the discharge of a weapon over the course of 5 years, accounting for more than 7,500 arrests. In the event where a firearm is discharged, local compliance with the Police and Community Relations Improvement Act (50 ILCS 727) mandates that an investigation by the DuPage County States Attorney's Office and/or the Illinois State Police would be initiated.

**7. Are the officers in Lombard required to give a verbal warning to civilians before drawing their weapon or using excessive force?**

Lombard policy provides that when an officer is faced with an arrest situation, whenever feasible, the officer should advise the subject that they are under arrest prior to the commencement of physical action (hand control, TASER, baton, firearm) used to take the subject into custody. Officers shall use force only to the extent reasonably necessary to accomplish lawful objectives in light of the circumstances confronting the officer, not excessive force. Officers using any type of force are accountable for the force that was used. The Lombard Police Department takes all use of force incidents seriously and is committed to review and evaluate all use of force incidents.

**8. Are the officers in Lombard required to report each time they threaten to or use force on civilians?**

Yes. Policies of the Lombard Police Department provide for report and review in each instance when an officer is involved in any incident requiring the use of force beyond the routine act of handcuffing. Whenever an officer is involved in any incident beyond the routine act of handcuffing, a post event report is written and a review of the incident is conducted by supervisory staff. The Lombard Police Department takes all use of force incidents seriously and is committed to review and evaluate all use of force incidents.

**9. Are the officers in Lombard thoroughly vetted to ensure that they do not have a history with abuse, racism, xenophobia, homophobia / transphobia, or discrimination?**

Yes. The Lombard Board of Fire and Police Commissioners is responsible for recruiting, selecting and appointing qualified candidates for positions as Police Officer. The Police recruitment and selection process is a comprehensive and thorough process involving the following elements:

1. **Written application with references and acquaintances**
2. Written examination
3. **Oral interview in which questions covering all forms of discrimination**
4. **Polygraph examination**
5. **Psychological examination**
6. Medical examination
7. **Background check/investigation**

The portions of the officer selection process that would most directly screen for candidates with a history of abuse, discrimination or bias as referenced above as listed above in bold.

**10. Are the officers in Lombard trained to perform and seek necessary medical action after using excessive force?**

It is the policy of the Lombard Police Department that if an injury is alleged or results from a police officer's use of force, it shall be the involved officer's responsibility to ensure that adequate medical care is made available to the injured party as soon as practicable.

Protocol for providing medical aid includes notification of the watch commander and summoning of medical assistance (paramedic) and documentation of the incident overseen by a supervisor to include photographs of injuries and a written report. Additionally, all Lombard police officers are trained in first aid, CPR and the medical administration of Narcan.

Officers shall use force only to the extent reasonably necessary to accomplish lawful objectives in light of the circumstances confronting the officer, not excessive force. Officers using any type of force are accountable for the force that was used.

**11. Is there an early intervention system enforced to correct officers who use excessive force? Additionally, how many complaints does an officer have to receive before they are reprimanded? Before they are terminated? More than three complaints are unacceptable.**

The Lombard Police Department records, reviews and evaluates every incident that involves use of force by an officer. The Lombard Police Department contracts with an outside third-party vendor, Benchmark Analytics, to record police officer use of force actions, history and type of incident. The data that is collected is evaluated and aggregated on an annual basis. The Police Department's commitment to ongoing review and evaluation of all use of force cases, by design, facilitates early warning, intervention, and remedial action where warranted.

The Lombard Police Department takes all use of force incidents seriously and is committed to review and evaluate all use of force incidents. Therefore, there is no specific number of complaints that will warrant a predetermined level of discipline. Discipline up to and including reprimand, suspension,

or termination may result from a single incident, where warranted, based upon the totality of the circumstances.

**12. Is there a report on civilian deaths that occurred in custody as a result of use of excessive force by a police officer?**

There have been no civilian deaths that have occurred in the custody of the Lombard Police Department, resulting from any use of force by Lombard Police. In the event that a civilian death were to occur in custody, for any reason, Police Department policy would require an investigation by the DuPage County States Attorney's Office and the Illinois Department of Corrections. In the event of an in-custody death suspected to have occurred as a result of the use of excessive force by a police officer, it is also anticipated that the Illinois Attorney General's Office as well as the United States Department of Justice would commence an investigation.