



# CHICAGO JOHN DINEEN LODGE # 7

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April 18, 2025

## VIA EMAIL

Superintendent Larry Snelling  
Chicago Police Department  
3510 S. Michigan ave.  
Chicago IL 60653

Re: SIGSauer P320

Dear Superintendent Snelling,

As the President of Lodge 7, I would like to bring an urgent matter to your attention which requires immediate action, both for the safety of Chicago Police Officers and the citizens of the City of Chicago.

As I am sure you are aware by now, the Department's Arsenal Committee (presumably under the authority set forth in "Uniform and Property U04-02"), recently recommended that the Department remove the Sign Sauer P320 weapon as a prescribed firearm for all sworn Officers, based on safety concerns. For many years, CPD allowed Officers to use the Sig Sauer P320 as both a primary and auxiliary weapon. To the best of Lodge 7's knowledge, about 1,200 current Police Officers have such a firearm registered with (and approved by) the Department. It remains my understanding that no formal notice and/or determination has been made by the Department on how to proceed. Certainly, Lodge 7 has not received any formal notification. To be clear, the Lodge is not taking a position on the weapon reliability and safety concerns one way or the other.

Other law enforcement jurisdictions across the country have already addressed this issue and moved to eliminate the eminent danger associated with the continued use of the Sig Sauer P320. Specifically, the Milwaukee Police Department, concerned about the propensity for the Sig Sauer P320 to fire without a trigger pull, agreed to swap out all the Sig Sauer P320's and replace them with Glock pistols, at no cost to the Officers. Based on several reports, more than 100 people had reported unintentional discharges and 80 injuries resulting for the Sig Sauer P320 since 2016. See, <https://www.wisn.com/article/mpd-transition-from-sig-sauer-p320s-to-new-glock-service-weapons-nearly-complete/43661021>. In March, 2025, the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission became the latest to permanently ban the Sig Sauer P320 from its training facilities. See, <https://stateline.org/2025/03/10/more-law-enforcement-agencies-reconsider-use-of-popular-sig-sauer-p320-handgun/> Many other Police Departments are doing the same.

THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE OF CHICAGO'S PATROL OFFICERS



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The Department currently has knowledge of the possible dangers associated with the continued utilization of the Sig Sauer P320. Current recruits at the Chicago Police Academy already have been advised that the Sig Sauer P320 is no longer a prescribed weapon for them to purchase or utilize.

Both Police Officers and citizens remain at risk, especially given the Department's knowledge. If an accidental discharge occurs, will the City indemnify and defend the Officer, both civilly and criminally? Lodge 7 does not believe it is in the Department's best interest to wait, but rather should act quickly.

To that end, Lodge 7 is willing to coordinate and work with the Department to transition out the Sig Sauer P320 for the current 1,200 Officers, many of whom are Lodge 7's bargaining unit members. It is Lodge 7's position, however, that Chicago Police Officers who have previously registered the Sig Sauer P320 as a weapon should not have to bear any costs associated with any changes to the current practice. Since such an endeavor impacts both safety and budgetary concerns, Lodge 7 is bringing this matter to Monitor Maggie Hickey's attention as well, since it clearly falls under the existing Consent Decree.

I remain hopeful that the Department will do the right thing and act swiftly to alleviate this continuing danger. From a liability and safety perspective, the City does not have much time to waste.

Very truly yours,

John Catanzara Jr.  
President  
Chicago John Dineen Lodge 7

cc:

Commander Donna Rowling (via email)  
Monitor Maggie Hickey (via email)  
Inspector General Deborah Witzburg (via email)  
Baum Sigman (via email)  
Alderman Brian Hopkins (via email)  
Alderman Christopher Taliaferro (via email)