CLEARPATH

CLEARPATH WILL BE A FORCE FOR GOOD IN CHICAGO

What is it?

CLEARpath is a new website that will serve as an information bridge between neighborhood residents and the Chicago Police Department. It will link the department's Citizen and Law Enforcement Analysis and Reporting System (CLEAR) – a library of crime reports, maps, mug shots and other information that residents can access to help make their neighborhoods safer – with anyone who has a personal computer.

CLEARpath is intended to engage communities and the police in meaningful, two-way communication that promotes accountability and builds trust, respect and understanding. Information gathered and exchanged via CLEARpath will be linked to clear goals that respect due process and fairness, and that do no harm to families or communities.

How was it developed?

For more than two years, residents and community leaders from the Little Village, Pilsen and West Haven neighborhoods worked with police officers in the CLEARpath Pilot Project to shape the design of this new technology. Efforts were guided by an agreed upon vision statement and a set of guiding principles as suggested by the Panel on Technology as a Community Engagement Tool for Crime Prevention[1]. The CLEARPath Pilot Project was funded with major support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

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[1] An independent body assembled by the MacArthur Foundation to provide guidance on the ethical ways to use interactive technology for community policing.

Where do I find it?

CLEARpath is available on the worldwide web at www.chicagopolice.org in both English and Spanish. Additional languages will be phased in gradually.

How does CLEARpath benefit my community?

Through CLEARpath, residents can communicate their concerns to the police department quickly and anonymously and track action on those concerns. They can also access information such as neighborhood crime data and community policing resources that can help make their neighborhoods safer.

Key features

With CLEARpath, residents will have a fast, simple, and anonymous way to inform police about their concerns and track the progress of those concerns online. Residents can also map and track crimes occurring in their neighborhoods, which can help build a case for additional policing or for installing police cameras in specific locations.

Key features include:
- Community Concerns: resident's ability to communicate a concern and follow up on it.
- Our Community: find your local police district and events in your area.
- Educational Opportunities: crime prevention and safety tips, education videos and success stories.
- Resources: community resource directory and links to other websites.
- Get Involved: register your block club and learn more about community policing opportunities.
- CLEARpath Mapping: statistics and crime and community concern mapping.
- Online Services: officer compliments, accident reports, bicycle registrations, etc.