



INVESTIGATING POLICE PRACTICES IN JOLIET

IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov/Joliet

FACT SHEET

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul announced on September 8, 2021 that he opened a civil investigation into the Joliet Police Department (JPD). The civil investigation follows requests made by the Joliet mayor and members of the Joliet City Council. The investigation will assess whether JPD engages in a pattern or practice of unconstitutional or unlawful policing.

The Attorney General's Office has jurisdiction to focus on broad, systemic problems with law enforcement agencies (called "patterns or practices") rather than individual incidents of potential police misconduct.

The Attorney General's office will take specific incidents into account during the investigation. The investigation's questions, findings and conclusions will be focused on whether systemic problems exist within the Joliet Police Department.

Career attorneys in the office's Civil Rights and Special Litigation Bureaus will carry out the investigation, with assistance from experienced law enforcement, legal, and data experts. Attorney General's Office staff will also seek input from all areas of the Joliet community.

Conducting an independent, unbiased, comprehensive investigation

The Attorney General's Office has authority under state law to investigate whether JPD engages in patterns or practices that violate the U.S. Constitution or Illinois law.

To assess this, the Attorney General's Office will:

- Examine JPD's policies, training, and practices related to officer conduct, including stops, searches, arrests, and uses of force;
- Assess whether any patterns of discriminatory policing exist; and
- Examine the department's supervision and accountability systems.

The Attorney General's Office will also speak with community members and police unions, interview command staff and police officers, and directly observe police activities. New information may lead the Attorney General's Office to investigate additional areas of concern.

The investigation will focus on whether any systemic problems exist. It will examine JPD as a whole and will not make determinations about individual incidents or individual officers.

We Want to Hear from You:

Email:
input.joliet@ilag.gov

Call:
833-243-1498

Visit:
IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov/Joliet

Focusing on public safety through community trust, accountability, and legitimacy

The Illinois Attorney General's investigation will focus on public safety by examining whether JPD has adequate policies, systems, support, and accountability to serve the community safely, lawfully, and effectively.

At the end of the investigation, the Attorney General's Office will issue written findings on whether there are patterns or practices of unlawful or unconstitutional conduct at JPD. If the Attorney General's Office finds patterns of misconduct, it will make recommendations for JPD to address them to comply with the law, improve accountability, and build public trust. The Attorney General's Office also has authority to file a legal action to compel the City of Joliet and JPD to remedy any pattern or practice of unconstitutional or unlawful policing.

Seeking input from all areas of the Joliet community

The Attorney General's Office welcomes all relevant information, including the varied experiences and views of Joliet residents, community groups, local officials, business leaders, police officers and unions, and other criminal justice stakeholders.

The Attorney General's Office encourages anyone with relevant information to contact the office:

Email: input.joliet@ilag.gov
Toll-Free Hotline: 833-243-1498

When contacting the Attorney General's Office, please note:

- The Attorney General's Office does not have the authority to investigate or file individual complaints against JPD. It cannot give you legal advice or sue JPD on your behalf.
- Information or documents sent to the Attorney General's Office are subject to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and may be disclosed if requested, though exceptions exist under FOIA, 5 140/7 and 5 ILCS 140/7.5. However, the Attorney General's Office will not disclose any information that would reveal your identity (such as your name, personal phone number, or personal email address).

Please visit IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov/Joliet for additional information and updates.

The investigation is being conducted pursuant to the Illinois Attorney General Act, including recent amendments under the SAFE-T Act, which took effect July 1, 2021; the Illinois Human Rights Act; the Illinois Civil and Equal Rights Enforcement Act; and the Attorney General's common law authority to enforce state law.