



GENERAL POLICE ORDER CLEVELAND DIVISION OF POLICE



EFFECTIVE DATE: October 29, 2004	REVISED DATE: February 6, 2006	NO. PAGES: 1 of 3	NUMBER: 1.3.10
SUBJECT: <p style="text-align: center;">RIDE-ALONG POLICY</p>			
ASSOCIATED MANUAL:		RELATED ORDERS:	
CHIEF OF POLICE: <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Michael McGrath, Chief</i></p>			

PURPOSE: To provide interested citizens, media, and outside law enforcement agencies the opportunity to observe Division members in their routine activities.

POLICY: It shall be the policy of the Division of Police to promote an environment of mutual trust, understanding and respect among Division members, citizens, media, and outside law enforcement agencies through the implementation of a ride-along observation program whereby the individual will be provided a means to directly observe routine activities of officers.

PROCEDURES:

- I. All individuals who wish to ride-along with members of the Division must complete the appropriate Ride-Along Release form (*Appendix A-B-C*) and submit it to the Cleveland Division of Police no later than ten (10) days prior to the proposed ride-along date. Media ride-along requests shall be referred to the Public Information Officer.
 - A. The prospective ride-along observer must provide acceptable identification when the form is submitted.
 - 1. The officer who receives the Ride-Along Release form shall complete a record check and, if a felony is discovered, perform an SIU check of the prospective ride-along observer. The results of the record check(s) shall be attached to the Ride-Along Release form.
 - 2. Individuals who have felony convictions or have been adjudicated incompetent are not permitted to participate as a ride-along without approval from the Chief of Police. No individual may be denied participation as a ride-along because of a physical handicap.
 - B. The completed Ride-Along Release form shall be forwarded through the chain of command to the Commander of the requested ride-along district or bureau, who shall approve or deny the request.

PAGE: 2 of 3	SUBJECT: RIDE ALONG POLICY	GPO NUMBER: 1.3.10
-----------------	-------------------------------	-----------------------

1. The Commander shall forward the Ride-Along Release form to the Deputy Chief of the requested operation for final approval.
2. The Commander of the requested district or bureau shall ensure that the prospective ride-along is notified.

II. Ride-Along Release Form

- A. The Ride-Along Release form must be completed in full, signed and notarized.
 1. Adults shall complete and submit the form shown in Appendix A.
 2. Minors 15 years of age and older AND their parents or guardians shall complete and submit the form shown in Appendix B.
 3. *Civilian Police Academy students and Auxiliary Police Officers shall complete and submit the form shown in Appendix C.*
 4. *Except for those exempted by Appendix C, a ride-along shall provide proof of insurance coverage. Members of the media shall provide proof of insurance coverage from their individual sponsoring news agencies.*
- B. Each district or administrative unit shall retain the original approved release form in its files as follows:
 1. If any death or injury occurs on the ride – ten years.
 2. If the ride along is a minor – five years from the time of the minor’s 18th birthday.
 3. All other releases – five years.

III. Restrictions

- A. The ride-along shall be permitted to watch the activities of the officers of any unit within the Division **UNLESS** officer’s safety is compromised.
 1. **No** ride-along observer, media or otherwise, shall enter any private residence or private property that is not otherwise accessible to the general public.

PAGE: 3 of 3	SUBJECT: RIDE ALONG POLICY	GPO NUMBER: 1.3.10
-----------------	-------------------------------	-----------------------

2. **No** ride-along observer shall enter an area that the escorting officer deems inappropriate.

B. The escorting officer may terminate the ride-along at any time and for any reason.

1. The ride-along shall follow the police officer's instructions at all times.

2. Weapons, cameras, video recorders and audio recorders are not permitted.

3. Peace officers authorized to carry firearms in the State of Ohio may be armed with their authorized firearms.

4. The ride-along observer shall not converse with prisoners, suspects, witnesses or other parties contacted on police business unless requested by the officer.

5. Ride-along observers shall not interfere with the officers' activities at any time. Although it is desirable and encouraged for participants to ask questions regarding procedures and activities, it must be done at an appropriate time.

C. Dress Requirements

1. Any ride-along observer whose attire is unbecoming or unsafe may have the ride-along privilege revoked at any time by an on duty supervisor.

2. Male and female ride-along observers shall wear conservative and neat clothing.

3. Police oriented clothing, material or paraphernalia shall not be worn or carried by the ride-along observer.

IV. Cleveland Police Explorers are permitted to ride-along once a month and shall be scheduled through the supervisor assigned to the Cleveland Police Explorers. Other observers shall be permitted to ride-along once every six months or as approved by the Chief of Police.