

**RESOLUTION**

MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE  
BOROUGH/TOWNSHIP OF \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: Police Department Ride-along Program

RESOLUTION #: \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, the Police Department has proposed a Ride-along Program as part of the Community Policing Program, and

WHEREAS, said program has been reviewed by the Borough/Township Attorney

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough/Township of \_\_\_\_\_ that the Police Department Ride-along Program be approved subject to the conditions set forth in the Ride-Along Policy and Procedures (annexed hereto).

# **Borough/Township of \_\_\_\_\_ Police Department**

## **Ride-Along Policy & Procedure**

### **1. Purpose**

The Department's Ride-along program is established to provide citizens with an opportunity to view law enforcement operations from the perspective of an officer. The program is not only designed to foster positive relationships between the department and the community, but to enhance citizen participation and involvement within the department. The program accommodates all persons 18 years of age or older. Every person desiring the ride is afforded the opportunity to do so unless it is demonstrated that allowing certain persons to do so would constitute a hazard to the individual, the officer, the department or the community. Members who volunteer for, and take part in the ride-along program are expected to conduct themselves in the highest professional manner.

### **2. Basic Provisions**

#### **A. Applications**

1. Individuals 18 years of age or older may request a ride-along application in person from the Department.
2. Individuals 16 years of age but less than 18 year of age may take part in the program provided a parent or adult legal guardian accompanies the juvenile.
3. Applicants are subject to a criminal history check prior to being granted permission to take part in the ride-along program, to avoid potential conflicts and safety issues for the Department, its personnel and on-going investigations.
4. All applicable forms and waivers are required to be completed and signed prior to the application being approved.
5. Completed applications shall be forwarded to the designated Program Supervisor for clearance purposes, the appropriate tour commander for approval and signature and the Officer assigned. The Ride-Along

program supervisor shall notify the applicant of the time and date of the granted ride-along.

## **B. Ride-Along Regulations Concerning the Applicant**

1. Refer to the “Rules-Regulations Ride-Along program” Form.

## **C. Officer Information**

1. The assigned Officer is responsible and in control of the ride-along and exercises his or her discretion to provide the highest level of safety and protection to the ride-along.
2. Only those Officers who have volunteered to take part in, and have been granted approval to take part in the ride-along program are required to participate in the program.
3. In cases of injury or illness to a ride-along, the respective tour commander is to be notified immediately (who in turn shall notify the appropriate command staff if necessary). Whenever the injured rider is a juvenile, immediate notification is also made to the parent or legal guardian taking part in the program and/or the alternate emergency contact listed on the Medical Consent Form.
4. Officers are expected to conduct themselves in the highest professional manner at all times.
5. Officers are required to obey all Departmental Rules and Regulations and Prosecutor’s Directive and guidelines at all times. This includes, but is not limited to pursuit guidelines which strictly prohibit the undertaking of any type of high-speed pursuit while a civilian is in a Police Patrol vehicle.
6. As the officer responds to a dangerous and/or sensitive call (domestic disturbances, child abuse, sexual assault, etc.) the officer will use his or her discretion as to the rider(s) being permitted to closely observe the development of the call. If there is uncertainty as to the situation, the rider(s) shall remain in the patrol vehicle or other place of safety

until the uncertainty is resolved. The discretion of the Officer shall be the deciding factor.

7. If any Officer experiences a problem with a participant, he or she will notify the Tour Commander, and he or she may terminate the ride-along immediately.
8. Participants may be given a tour of the Police Department.
9. Ride-alongs will not be longer than 8 hours and will terminate at 11:00 p.m.
10. Tour Commanders may refuse to allow the rider to take part in the program if he or she deems it necessary. In this case, the ride-along will be rescheduled for a more suitable time.

#### **D. Type of Ride-Alongs**

1. Adult Civilian Ride-Alongs – Individuals 18 years of age or older shall follow the standard application process as outlined under the Basic Provisions section of this policy.
2. Juveniles 16 years of age or older – Individuals at least 16 years of age but less than 18 years of age may participate in the Ride-Along program, provided that a parent or legal guardian accompanies the juvenile at all times during the program. All Rules and Regulations applicable to an adult rider also apply to a juvenile. All waivers require Parental signature in person.
3. Visiting Law Enforcement Officers – Sworn Police Officers from outside jurisdictions and agencies desiring a ride-along may request one at any time. All applicable waivers are required, the Officer is required to follow the directions of the \_\_\_\_\_ Police Officer assigned. The \_\_\_\_\_ Police Department assumes no responsibility for violations of the visiting Officer's Agency Policies. The visiting Officer is responsible for such violations solely in the event that emergent circumstances require the Officer to act in an Official capacity. Provided the required waivers are signed, no

application to ride is required for a sworn Law Enforcement Officer from another agency. Waivers and the permission of the Tour Commander are all that is needed.

4. Family Members – Department personnel will be permitted to initiate Ride-Alongs for relatives with the permission of the Tour Commander. The Liability Release is required for all riders.

#### **E. Scheduling Criteria**

1. A maximum of two (2) Ride-Alongs are permitted during any one shift.
2. Ride-along applicants may request either a 4 hour ride-along or an 8 hour ride-along.

#### **F. Special Provisions**

1. Any Ride-Along may have his or her privilege to ride denied or revoked by either the on-duty Tour Commander or Assigned Officer, whenever there is justification to do so.

**Borough/Township of \_\_\_\_\_ Police Department**

**Medical Consent Form**

**Emergency Contact Information**

I authorize the Borough/Township of \_\_\_\_\_ to procure medical treatment for me (and/or my child if applicable) in the case of emergency, at my own cost and expense. I understand the Borough/Township will make a reasonable attempt to notify the emergency contact/s I have designated below, in the event of an emergency.

Emergency Contact Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

**Borough/Township of \_\_\_\_\_ Police Department**

**Agreement Assuming Risk of Injury and Damage  
Waiver and Release of Claims and Indemnity Agreement**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ request the \_\_\_\_\_ Police Department allow me to accompany a member or members of the Police Department during the performance of their official duties.

I do hereby agree:

1. That I am aware that the work of the \_\_\_\_\_ Police Department is inherently dangerous and that I may be subjected to the risk of death, personal injury, or damage to my property, by accompanying a member or members of the department during the course of their official duties;
2. That I voluntarily and knowingly assume the risk of death, personal injury, or property damage, arising from or in any way connected with the use of vehicles, weapons, unlawful acts, or forcible resistance by law violators, or suspected law violators, fire, explosion, gas, electrocution, or injury in any other way, while accompanying a member or members of the department during the performance of their official duties;
3. That the Borough/Township of \_\_\_\_\_, its officers, agents and employees shall not be responsible or liable for any injury, damage, loss, or expense, either to me or my property, incurred while accompanying any member or members of the Police Department during the performance of their official duties, whether resulting from any negligent act or omission on the part of any member of the Police Department or any member of the public;
4. That the Police Department is not assuming a special duty to me;

5. That I agree to a criminal history check for the purpose of ensuring that I am not a risk or potential conflict to any member of the Police Department, or its ongoing investigations, and;
6. For myself, my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, to defend and indemnify the Borough/Township of \_\_\_\_\_, its Officers, agents and employees, against any and all manner of actions, causes, suits, debts, claims, demands or damages, or liability, or expenses of every kind and nature, incurred or arising by reason of any actual or claimed negligent or wrongful act or omission of mine, while accompanying any member or members of the Police Department during the performance of their official duties.

I hereby represent that I have carefully read and understand the contents of this document and sign the same of my own free will.

**CAUTION: YOU ARE WAIVING YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT. READ THIS DOCUMENT IN FULL BEFORE SIGNING.**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_



**Borough/Township of \_\_\_\_\_ Police Department**  
**Rules-Regulations Ride-along Program**

1. All observers shall execute a signed waiver of liability. Persons under 18 years of age shall sign the waiver themselves, along with one parent or guardian (who shall be riding with the juvenile). This form and the waiver form must be signed and submitted in person prior to being scheduled for a ride-along.
2. Observers are expected at the police building (\_\_\_\_\_) at their scheduled time and will be returned to the station at the conclusion of the shift. Exceptions will be made if the observer desired to be returned to the station prior to the end of the shift. If you are unable to meet your scheduled time, call \_\_\_\_\_ and notify the Dispatcher or Desk Officer.
3. Male observers are requested to wear a dress shirt or sport shirt with slacks or nice jeans. Female observers are requested to wear comparable clothing and may not wear dresses or skirts. Remember, whatever clothing you wear, it should be suited for the weather conditions. Tape recorders or cameras will not be permitted. No weapons or handcuffs are permitted.
4. It is desirable to ask questions regarding procedures and activities, however, this must be done at an appropriate time. Observers shall not interfere with the officer's activities at any time.
5. Observers shall not converse with prisoners, suspects, witnesses, or other parties contacted on Police business.
6. Observers shall not participate in any police activity unless specifically directed by officers.
7. Observers shall not leave the patrol car at any time without first obtaining the permission of the officer.
8. You are riding in the capacity of an observer only and are under the complete control of the officer at all times.
9. You will be asked to complete a form at the conclusion of your ride critiquing the experience.

10. You are required to submit to a criminal history check prior to being approved as a ride-along candidate to ensure that potential conflicts and/or dangers will not occur to the Officer(s) and/or ongoing investigations.

11. Anytime an observer violates a provision of the rules and regulations pertaining to the ride-along program, the Officer, at his or her discretion, can terminate the ride.

Observer signature : \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
(required if under 18)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Borough/Township of \_\_\_\_\_ Police Department**

**Ride-Along Critique**

**Name of Officer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Ride:** \_\_\_\_\_

**How did the Officer impress you?**

**Did you learn anything about procedures and duties contrary to your prior belief?**

**What would you suggest to improve this program?**

**Do you feel the experience was worthwhile?**

**On what do you base this opinion?**

**Critique completed by:** \_\_\_\_\_