

	SECTION:	OPERATIONS	OPR-292
	CHAPTER:	COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING	
	DIRECTIVE:	PATROL RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM	

292.01 SUMMARY

Department policy allows civilians to ride with on-duty Patrol Officers. Through a Patrol Ride-Along Program, interested civilians can learn about the Department and the actual job of an Officer. The Patrol Ride-Along Program is intended as an educational tool. This directive sets the guidelines and procedures for the Patrol Ride-Along Program.

292.02 AUTHORIZED CIVILIAN PARTICIPANTS

Authorized Patrol Ride-Along Program participants (Riders) include, but are not limited to:

- Adults interested in the law enforcement profession.
- Persons under eighteen years old who express an interest in the law enforcement profession, with the approval of a parent or legal guardian. Approval by a Commander or designee is also required. (NOTE: Minors are required to have parent signature and can ride on a Saturday or Sunday between 1000 hrs to 1400 hrs.)
- Any local, state, or federal official.
- Officers, Telecommunicators, or other employees of law enforcement agencies.
- A Department employee's spouse, relative or friend (in no case less than fourteen years old) with approval of the assigned Officer's on-duty Commander or Shift Supervisor.
- Any other person, if approved in advance by a Commander or Deputy Chief.

292.03 ARRANGING A RIDE-ALONG

WRITTEN REQUEST – The interested party will complete a “Request and Authorization to Ride in Police Car” form and return the form to Records Personnel. Records personnel will clear each prospective passenger's personal information (name, date of birth, and description) through the NCIC/CCIC Crime Information System prior to scheduling the ride-along. The Records personnel will then forward the information to the Shift Commander. The Shift Commander or designee will approve or deny the request and notify the rider of the decision.

ARRANGING A RIDE-ALONG (con't)

This requirement is waived for Department employees, volunteers, interns, Victim Advocacy Program personnel, and other persons associated with the Department in an official capacity. However, the on-duty Patrol Commander or Shift Supervisor should be notified if a civilian in this category requests to ride along with an Officer.

SCHEDULING – The Shift Supervisor will schedule the approved ride-along, which may not exceed four (4) hours, although the Shift Supervisor and Officer each have the authority to lengthen or shorten the ride-along.

FREQUENCY – No individual may ride along more than one time in six months, unless a Commander or Shift Supervisor approves an exception. This rule does not apply to Department employees, volunteers, and interns.

MEDIA RIDE-ALONGS – Media ride-alongs allow members of the media to accompany Officers as they perform their duties. Members of the media may be granted access for a ride-along by the PIC or PIC designee, who will make arrangements. Department personnel must identify members of the media to property owners upon entering private property. It is up to the reporter to obtain consent before recording or reporting anything on private property. Media personnel are required to adhere to the same procedures as described in this direction for any civilian ride-along.

292.04 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

NOTIFY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER – Prior to leaving the Police Department building with a ride-along passenger, notify the Communications Center.

DIRECT RIDE-ALONG PASSENGER – The Officer will give directions to the passenger to help ensure the safety of the passenger and the Officer. The Officer may discontinue the ride-along if a passenger fails to reasonably follow the Officer’s directions.

DISCONTINUE RIDE-ALONG IN DANGEROUS SITUATIONS
The Officer is responsible for the Ride-Along passenger’s safety up to the time the ride-along is discontinued. The Officer will discontinue a ride-along in these situations:

- **VEHICLE PURSUIT** – Do not engage in any vehicle pursuit with a Ride-Along passenger. Leave the passenger at a safe location. Notify the Shift Supervisor that the passenger is no longer in the Patrol vehicle.

**OFFICER
RESPONSIBILITIES (con't)**

- **DISPATCH TO SERIOUS, INHERENTLY DANGEROUS INCIDENT** – Discontinue the ride-along prior to responding to the call unless your immediate response or presence is necessary.

The Officer will leave the passenger at a safe, public location, such as a convenience store or service station. The Officer notifies the Communications Center of the passenger's location and makes reasonable arrangements for the passenger's transportation.

**292.05 RIDE-ALONG
PASSENGER'S
RESPONSIBILITIES**

APPEARANCE – No passenger is allowed to ride along unless dressed and groomed appropriately, including acceptable personal hygiene. An Officer, Shift Supervisor, or Shift Commander has the discretion and authority to deny any passenger due to unacceptable grooming or clothing.

- Appropriate pants or slacks (for men and women), shirt or blouse, footwear, and appropriate outer clothing.
- Clean and neatly groomed hair.

CONDUCT – A ride-along participant is a guest of the Department and behaves accordingly. The assigned Officer discusses the following ride-along rules immediately before the ride-along begins:

- No use of controlled substance or consumption of any alcohol within eight (8) hours prior to ride-along.
- No profane or abusive language or behavior or otherwise inappropriate behavior during the ride-along that could embarrass the assigned Officer, the Department, or the City.
- Do not enter any investigation, crime scene or location.
- Do not converse with any citizen, witness or prisoner concerning a police incident or investigation.
- Do not reveal to any unauthorized person the identity of any person arrested, detained, or suspected of any offense or discussed in your presence.
- Do not operate or use any Department equipment or vehicle, except in the case of an emergency when the assigned Officer directs you to do so.
- Stay in the Patrol vehicle unless the assigned Officer directs otherwise.

**RIDE-ALONG PASSENGER'S
RESPONSIBILITIES (con't)**

- Do not carry or wear a weapon unless approved in advance by the duty Commander or designee.
- Do not carry or operate a recording device or camera unless the duty Commander or designee approves it in advance.

