

## 125. RIDE-ALONGS IN POLICE VEHICLES



### **RICHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY**

Effective Date: 06/01/92  
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Serial Number: 10-025  
Authority: Chief Jay Henthorne

*NOTE: This policy is for internal use only and does not enlarge an employee's civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this policy, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this Department, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.*

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Policy is to define the scope and policies of the Department's ride-along program.

### **II. POLICY**

The Department maintains a ride-along program for department employees and law enforcement students to further the training needs of the Department and law enforcement education programs. Access to the ride along program for the general public will be allowed on a limited basis.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

**FAMILY MEMBERS:** Members of an officer's immediate family extended out to the officer's first cousin.

### **IV. PROCEDURE**

#### **APPROVAL**

An employee of the Police Department may ride-along with the approval of that employee's supervisor and the sergeant of the appropriate shift. Police interns and potential police recruits may ride-along with the approval of the Patrol Section Lieutenant.

Police reserves and explorer scout ride-alongs must be arranged through the Reserves/Explorers program coordinator and be approved by the Patrol Section Lieutenant.

Ride-alongs by residents, persons who work in Richfield and employees of other city departments will be limited to a one time only basis for up to four hours. Such ride-alongs must be approved by the Patrol Section Lieutenant and occur between the hours of 0800 and 1700 unless otherwise approved by the Police Chief.

Spouses of Police Division employees may ride-along, with the approval of the Patrol Section Lieutenant, no more than twice per calendar year. The spouse ride-along should be with the officer on his/her regularly scheduled duty shift and may be for the entire shift.

Children of officers who have reached the age of twelve (12) may ride-along with their parent no more than twice in a calendar year. Child ride-alongs must be arranged with the Patrol Section Lieutenant. Spouse ride-alongs and child ride-alongs are treated in this Policy independently in calculating the twice a year rule (i.e. spouse twice, each child twice).

An officer's child may ride-along with another officer if the child's parent and the selected officer agree on the ride-along and the ride-along is approved. These ride-alongs will be counted against the allowable times per year.

Other family members of an officer, extended out to the officer's first cousin, may ride with the officer once during a calendar year.

The Police Chief, at his choosing, may have up to (40) ride-alongs per calendar year assigned to officers. These ride-alongs would not be an expansion of any officer's family members. They would be the Chief's decision based on a Police Department purpose.

All persons requesting a ride-along must sign a Release and Indemnity Agreement. Persons under the age of 18 must have a parent or guardian sign the agreement. All signatures must be witnessed by a Department employee, with the employee signing as witness.

### **SAFETY**

Ride-alongs should not be allowed to accompany officers on potentially dangerous calls such as assaults, robberies, and domestics. For such calls, the ride-along should be instructed to wait in or by the squad or other safe area designated by the officer. Pursuits are not permitted with a ride-along.

For medicals and other calls of a sensitive nature, such as rape, child abuse, etc., discretion should be used in allowing the ride-along access to the scene. Generally, a civilian ride-along should not be allowed any more access than would be given an interested bystander.

The Police Chief or his designate may deny or cancel a ride-along at any time when, in their judgment, public safety concerns would be compromised.


### **CONDUCT**

Ride-alongs may be terminated by the officer at any time in the following situations:

- 1) The ride-along refuses to obey an officer's instructions
- 2) The ride-along is disruptive and unresponsive to requests to cease disruptive behavior
- 3) Any situation where the presence of a ride-along would put the ride-along or officer at risk

Note: The terms and conditions set forth in this Policy were the result of negotiations between the City and L.E.L.S. Do not alter without consultation with the City and L.E.L.S.

By Order Of:



Chief of Police

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