

JACKSONVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Policy: 16-5
Effective: 04-01-09
Revised: 01-18-21

POLICE VEHICLE: OCCUPANTS / RIDE ALONG PROGRAM

PURPOSE: To reduce the possibility of liability resulting from the death or injury of an unauthorized person in a departmental vehicle and to provide the general public the opportunity to experience actual problems and complexities involved in providing law enforcement services.

POLICY: For the benefit of law abiding citizens who have a desire to become more aware of law enforcement operations; it shall be the policy of this Department to provide a ride along program which will allow civilian passengers to ride in a police vehicle when it has been authorized by the Chief of Police or his designee.

PROCEDURES:

I. TRANSPORTING CIVILIANS

- A. Passengers in a police vehicle, other than for official business or those who have been authorized, are prohibited.
- B. Officers, when transporting civilians, will notify Communications of starting and ending mileage.

II. ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS IN THE RIDE ALONG PROGRAM

- A. Any person eighteen (18) years or older wishing to participate in this program will be referred to the Chief of Police, or his designee, for processing of an application.
- B. All participants must complete an application and waiver of liability form.
- C. Participants must have express written authorization from the Patrol Commander before recording, by any means (audio, video, film, or photo), any portion of the ride-along.
- D. Media representatives must complete all documents required of any other participant. In addition, members of the media must have express written authorization from the Chief of Police, or his designee, before recording, by any means (audio, video, film, or photo), any portion of the ride-along.

III. APPLICATION PROCESS

- A. An Application/Waiver of Liability (JPD Form 16-6) should be filled out and turned in to a Shift Supervisor at least seven (7) days prior to the date the civilian is requesting to ride.
 1. Employees of the Jacksonville Police Department are required to submit one (1) release form per calendar year.
 2. The following people are exempt from the seven (7) day prior notification rule, but will require the approval of the Shift Supervisor: Certified officers, reserve officers, Chaplains, non-sworn Department employees, City Council members, or Officers of the Courts.
- B. JPD Form 16-6 will be forwarded to a Division Commander or his designee who will request an ACIC/NCIC and in-house computer check
- C. Based on information developed, the Division Commander or his designee will approve or deny the request and the applicant will be notified as to whether or not he has been approved to ride.
- D. After the ride-along has been completed the Shift Supervisor will sign the form and forward it

to the Division Commander.

- E. In most situations, a law abiding citizen wishing to ride and completing all necessary requirements will be granted that opportunity.
- F. Any individual who is a convicted felon or is suspected to be involved in criminal activity will not be allowed to participate in this program.
- G. Whenever a rider is participating in the program, he will not be allowed to exit the police vehicle unless instructed by an officer.
- H. Citizens who participate in this program will be prohibited from accompanying an officer into the scene of any potentially dangerous situation (robberies in progress, burglaries in progress, pursuits, felony warrant arrests, hostage or barricaded suspects, etc.)
- I. Before responding to the previously listed dangerous situations, the ride along participant will be dropped off at a safe public place. (i.e. convenience store, gas station, etc.)
- J. Any employee who does not wish to have a ride along with him has the right to refuse to participate in this program.
- K. Casual business attire is the required dress. The rider shall not wear a garment or headdress which contains the writing or artwork which might be considered as advertising and/or offensive. The shirt should be a plain sport or dress shirt with a collar. Additionally, no logos shall be worn indicating that an individual is an employee of a law enforcement agency unless that individual is in fact a police officer and authorized to wear a Department logo. The Shift Supervisor may cancel permission to ride based upon the appearance of the guest rider.
- L. Employees who violate this policy will assume responsibility and personal liability for their actions and results of their actions.
- M. At any time the Jacksonville Police Department deems it necessary, they reserve the right to revoke an individual's privilege to participate in the Ride-Along Program.



Brett C. Hibbs
Chief of Police