

**1.09-3**

**DAYTON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
GENERAL ORDER  
RIDE ALONG POLICY**



**RICHARD S. BIEHL – DIRECTOR AND CHIEF OF POLICE**

REV. 5/15

**POLICY STATEMENT**

The Dayton Police Department frequently has members of the community and other law enforcement agencies ride along with our sworn officers to observe police activities and to foster an environment of trust and respect between the Dayton Police Department and the citizens of the Greater Dayton area through education and communication with the community.

**I. Procedures**

Persons who wish to ride along with members of the department must complete the Dayton Police Department Form RF-56 (Ride Along Request and Release) and submit it to the Dayton Police Department no later than ten days prior to the proposed ride along date. Media ride along requests will be referred to the Public Information Officer.

- A. The prospective ride along must provide acceptable identification when the form is submitted.
  - 1. The supervisor who receives the Ride Along Request and Release Form will complete a Wants and Warrants check and MIS Master Index check and if anything questionable is discovered, perform a record's card check on the prospective rider. The results of the record's checks will be attached to the Ride Along Request and Release Form.
  - 2. Persons who have felony convictions or a history of mental illness are not permitted to participate without approval of the Chief of Police.
- B. The completed Ride Along Request and Release Form will be forwarded through the chain of command to the commander of the requested ride along district or bureau.
  - 1. The commander will approve or deny the request.
  - 2. The commander of the requested district or bureau will ensure that the prospective rider is notified.

**II. Ride Along Release Form RF-56**

- A. The Ride Along Release form must be completed in full including the Background Investigation that must be completed prior to approval by the Division Commander.
- B. The completed original form will then be forwarded to the Professional Standards Bureau. They will retain the forms for the approved record's retention schedule and complete a quarterly statistical report.

**III. The rider will be permitted to observe the activities of the officers of any unit within the department unless officer safety is compromised. Any person whose conduct or attire is unbecoming or unsafe may have their ride along privilege revoked at any time by an on duty supervisor.**

- A. The rider must follow all police officer's instructions.
- B. Weapons, cameras, video recorders and audio recorders are not permitted.
- C. Peace Officers, authorized to carry firearms in the State of Ohio, may be permitted to carry their authorized firearms.



#### IV. Rider Prohibitions

In the interest of safety, riders are prohibited from:

- A. Participation in any raid, high-risk entry or traffic stop, use of force or other excessively dangerous encounter.
  - If such situations arise, riders are to follow the specific instructions of the assigned officer, detective or Scene Commander,
- B. Acting as a decoy or agent in any investigation,
- C. Effecting an arrest,
- D. Interviewing or interrogating a victim, witness or suspect,
- E. Issuing citations or warnings,
- F. Driving police vehicles,
- G. Becoming involved in a pursuit (can be initially involved but the officer must turn over the pursuit to another officer as soon as practicable),
- H. Participating in or observing undercover or covert investigations,
- I. Acting as an informant,

#### V. Procedural Guidelines for Civilian Riders in General:

- A. Civilian observers will not be armed with weapons under any circumstances.
- B. Civilian observers will remain in the police vehicle when the officer(s) they are riding with are dispatched on crimes in progress, alarm calls, persons with weapons or anytime they are told to remain in the vehicle.
- C. When accompanying an officer on a dispatched call or during any investigation, civilian observers will position themselves behind the officer(s) or at their side and never in between the officer(s) and whom they are speaking with. Civilian observers are not permitted to talk to anyone that an officer is interviewing, questions for the officer will be reserved for when the interview or dispatched call is concluded
- D. Participants will be permitted to ride along once every six months or as approved by the Chief of Police or his designee.