

Anchorage Police Department Regulations and Procedures Manual	Administrative Procedures 3.10.080	
Policy and Procedure Title Ride-Along Program & Civilian Transports	Effective Date 11/13/18	Page 1 of 4
Replaces Prior Policy: Ride-Along Program	Approved by: Chief Justin Doll	

This Policy is for Departmental use only and does not apply in any criminal or civil proceeding. This Policy should not be construed as creation of a higher legal standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense with respect to third party claims. Violations of this Policy will only form the basis for departmental administrative sanctions. Violations of law will form the basis for civil and criminal sanctions in a recognized judicial setting.

3.10.080 Ride – Along Program & Civilian Transports

PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for the transportation of persons other than police officers or prisoners who may be permitted to ride as passengers in on-duty police vehicles.

POLICY

Due to considerations of liability and potential hazards to civilians, it shall be the policy of the Anchorage Police Department that permission for any civilians to ride, as observers in police vehicles or otherwise, is strictly limited as outlined in this general order.

I. GENERAL

A. Authorized Passengers

1. No Waiver/Release of Liability Form Required:
 - a) On-duty police officers/agents from other jurisdictions, non-sworn employees, chaplains, and other Municipality of Anchorage employees in the course of their duties.
 - b) Public Assists; suspects & witnesses
 - c) Family members and friends under the supervision of the officer while the vehicle is operated off-duty
2. Waiver/Release of Liability Form Required:
 - a) Ride-Along Program participants (General Public, Citizens Academy Participant/Graduate).

B. Ride-Along Program

Before a citizen will be authorized to participate in the ride-along program a criminal background check must be conducted. At a minimum APSIN, NCIC (III), and Tiburon will be checked. Areas of concern might include a Tiburon history of mental health issues. If there are additional concerns

Courtview and/or IAPro databases can also be checked. There will be no exceptions to this rule, to include members of other law enforcement agencies. Background checks may be conducted by Public Affairs, Patrol, Dispatch, or any other APD entity authorized to use these systems.

1. The Commander or Manager of Public Affairs will insure all Citizen Academy and other citizen requests to participate in the program have a background check.
2. The Patrol Shift Commander or designee will insure all other citizen riders have a criminal background check completed prior to riding.
3. As a general rule, the minimum standard of acceptance will include no felony convictions, no misdemeanor convictions within the past five years, up to one misdemeanor conviction in the past ten years, and no pending criminal cases.
4. The Shift Commander has the final authority to approve or disapprove a rider based upon operational or other considerations.
5. There will be a limit of no more than two pre-approved riders per shift, per day, and, as a general rule, there will be a limit of one ride-along per person per calendar year for a lifetime maximum of three rides. Exceptions may be made for the District Attorney's office, the Municipal Prosecutor's office, and other law enforcement agencies; APD Dispatch and Records personnel; and anyone else deemed appropriate by the Patrol Captain.

C. Assignment

1. Shift Sergeants will make ride along assignments based on operational and staffing considerations. These assignments will not be made in the presence of the rider.
2. Prior to any ride-along, officers shall ensure the rider has read and signed the APD Waiver/Release of Liability Form. The original signed copy is delivered to a shift sergeant, who will provide it to the shift commander for approval. The signed and initialed forms will be provided to Internal Affairs for retention. In addition, officers will be familiar with and enforce the instructions outlined on the Ride-along [Waiver/Release of Liability](#) form.

D. Officer Responsibilities

1. Officers assigned a civilian rider will notify Dispatch at the start of their shift of the presence of a civilian rider. Otherwise, they are responsible for responding to calls and performing their duties as normal.
2. Officers shall ensure that each civilian rider wears a ballistic vest that fits the individual properly.

3. Officers shall have passengers wear their seatbelt while the vehicle is in motion.
4. Officers may familiarize the rider with certain equipment in the patrol vehicle and how it functions (e.g., the police radio).
5. Officers are expected to be cordial and answer the rider's questions, but shall not disclose confidential, tactical, or operational information. Pursuit of a personal relationship during the ride-along is prohibited.
6. When appropriate, officers should introduce their rider to the public as a civilian observer.
7. Should it be necessary to stop at a substation or any other location where the rider will be alone with the officer, officers shall notify Dispatch via the radio upon arrival and again upon departure. Any unscheduled tours of the training center or other locations will be cleared through the sector sergeant.

E. Restrictions

1. Officers shall not allow riders to enter felony crime scenes before they are processed for evidence or where the suspect is still present; nor shall they observe formal, recorded interviews in sensitive cases.
2. When responding to calls, officer shall weigh situations for potential hazards. Riders shall not be exposed to situations that pose extraordinary danger or extreme hazards. In those cases, riders shall be let out of the vehicle a safe distance from the scene or shall be told to remain in the patrol vehicle if it is safely parked near the scene.

F. Termination of The Ride

1. In those cases where a rider must be discharged from the vehicle for safety purposes, the officer shall immediately notify Dispatch of the location where the rider was left. Every effort must be made to leave the citizen in as safe a location as practical; the officer shall retrieve the rider or arrange for the rider to be retrieved by another.
2. Should an officer with a rider initiate a pursuit or take the secondary pursuing unit role, that officer should relinquish those positions as soon as possible. (See *Vehicular Pursuits* [3.06.015 IV, C](#))
3. Should a rider request to end the ride-along, they should be returned to headquarters or the point of departure as soon as practical.

4. With the approval of the shift supervisor, officers may end the ride-along if (1) the rider does not follow the rules of the program, or creates conflict or unsafe conditions for the officer; (2) conditions exist that make it unsafe or inappropriate for the ride-along to continue; or, (3) the officer discovers something that would have precluded the rider from participating in the program.

At all times, officers with passengers will conduct themselves in a professional manner consistent with the tenets outlined in the Anchorage Police Department's policies.

*****END OF DOCUMENT*****