


Billerica Police Department 	POLICY NUMBER ADM-38	PAGES 4	EFFECTIVE 1/1/2025
	Accreditation Standards: Issuing Status <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> NEW <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AMENDED <input type="checkbox"/> RESCINDED <input type="checkbox"/>		
Ride Along			

I. General Considerations & Guidelines

A. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for a ride-along with members of the Billerica Police Department. This policy provides the requirements, approval process, and member responsibilities for a ride-along.

II. Policy

A. It is the policy of the Billerica Police Department to provide ride-along opportunities for members of the public, Town employees, and members of this department to observe and experience, first hand, various functions of the Billerica Police Department.

B. The Term “ride along” includes riding as a passenger with an officer on patrol or observing the work day of members engaged in other function within the Department.

III. Eligibility

A. Efforts may be made to accommodate interested persons. However, any applicant may be disqualified without cause from participating.

B. Factors that may be considered in disqualifying an applicant include, but are not limited to the following:

- Age of participant
- Prior criminal history
- Pending criminal action
- Pending lawsuit against the Billerica Police Department or Town
- Denial by any supervisor

IV. Requests to Participate

- A. Ride-along and job observation requests will be approved by Chief of Police or the Deputy Chief of Police. The applicant will complete and sign a **Ride Along Waiver**.
- B. If the applicant is under 18 years of age, a parent or guardian must be present to complete the waiver form.
- C. Information requested will include a valid state-issued identification number or driver's license, birthdate, address, telephone number, and emergency contact.
- D. The Officer-In-Charge will schedule a date, based on availability, and ensure that all required paperwork is properly completed prior to the ride-along. If approved, a copy of the waiver form will be forwarded to the appropriate division as soon as possible for scheduling considerations.
- E. If the request is denied, a representative of this department will advise the applicant of the denial.

V. Procedures

A. Off Duty Participation

- 1. Off-duty members of this department or any other law enforcement agency will not be permitted to participate in a ride-along with on-duty members of this department.

B. Criminal History Check

- 1. All ride-along applicants are subject to a criminal history check. All applicants must sign a **Ride Along Waiver (Appendix A)** form.
- 2. If the applicant is under 18 years of age, a parent or guardian must be present to complete the background check. The criminal history check may include a local record check and a Department of Criminal Justice Information Services check prior to the approval of the ride-along.

C. Officer Responsibilities

1. The assigned Officer shall consider the safety of the ride-along or job observation participant at all times. The member shall maintain control over the participant and instruct the individual about the conditions that necessarily limit his/her participation. Instructions should include:
 - The participant will follow the directions of the Officer.
 - The participant will not become involved in any investigation, handling of evidence, discussions with victims or suspects, reading an individuals criminal history or other protected information, or handling any police department equipment.
 - Participation may be terminated at any time by the Officer if the participant interferes with the performance of the members duties. The Officer also has the option of returning the participant to the point the ride originated at any time.
 - Participants may be allowed to continue a ride-along during the transportation and booking process, provided it does not jeopardize their safety.
 - Officers will not allow participants to be present in any location or situation that would jeopardize the participants safety or cause undue stress or embarrassment to a victim or any other member of the public.
 - Participants who are not law enforcement officers shall not be permitted to accompany the Officer into a private residence without the express consent of the resident or other authorized person.
2. The Officer assigned to provide a ride-along shall advise the dispatcher that a ride-along participant is present before going into service.
3. An Officer with a ride-along participant should use sound discretion when encountering a potentially dangerous situation and, if feasible, let the participant out of the vehicle in a well-lit public place.
4. If the ride-along participant is removed from the Officer's vehicle, and when practical, the dispatcher will be advised of the situation and have another Officer pickup the participant at that location. The ride-along may be continued or terminated at this time.
5. Conduct by a participant in a ride-along that results in termination of the ride or is otherwise inappropriate will be reported immediately to the Officer-in-Charge. The member should enter comments regarding the reasons for termination on the ride-along waiver form.



Town of Billerica Police Department

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CRUISER “RIDE ALONGS” COVENANT NOT TO SUE/RELEASE

I, _____ of _____,

Massachusetts for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, covenant and agree not to commence any legal action or make any claim whatsoever against the Town of Billerica, the Billerica Police Department, or any of their officers, and employees (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Town”) for personal injury, including death, or property damage, which I may suffer or incur, in connection with or arising out of my riding as a passenger in a Town of Billerica police cruiser. Furthermore, I release the Town from all claims, demands, liabilities, damages, actions, and causes of action arising out of or connected with my riding as an observer in a police cruiser. Furthermore, I agree to hold harmless and indemnify the Town from all loss, cost and expense (including reasonable counsel fees), claims, demands, damages, actions and liability, arising out of or connection with any actions taken by me as a passenger in a police cruiser. I acknowledge that riding in a police cruiser is inherently dangerous and I, therefore, assume all risks of harm and damage associated therewith. I intend that this document shall be binding upon myself, and my heirs, successors and assigns.

Signature

Print Name

Witness Signature

Print Name

Parent’s Signature (if necessary)

Print Name