

A. PURPOSE. To establish a procedure regarding requests to be a rider/observer in Grand Rapids Police vehicles

B. SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Rider/Observers shall:

- a. Submit a written request to the appropriate service area, unit, or Watch Commander for review and approval one week prior to the requested ride along.
- b. Have an acceptable criminal history as determined by the reviewing commander.
- c. Be 18 years or older and:
  - (1) An immediate family member of a Grand Rapids Police Department employee or volunteer, or
  - (2) A participant in the Grand Rapids Police Department Citizens Police Academy or Leadership Grand Rapids, or
  - (3) A Grand Rapids Police Department civilian employee or volunteer, or
  - (4) A sworn police officer, or
  - (5) A potential candidate for employment as a Grand Rapids Police Recruit or Police Officer, or
  - (6) Approved by a member of the command staff.
- d. Be limited to two ride-alongs per year.
- e. Not enter a private residence when officers are executing arrest warrants or search warrants.
- f. Obey the commands of the assigned officer in the interest of rider/observer personal safety and police procedures.
- g. Due to the inherent danger, generally remain inside the patrol vehicle during traffic stops.

- h. Not become involved in enforcement action except as a last resort to aid the police officer.
2. Commanders shall:
- a. Approve or deny the request.
  - b. Assign a willing and appropriate officer for the date and time requested (i.e., right of refusal).
  - c. Notify the commander of the assigned officer of the scheduled rider.
  - d. Forward the original signed ride-a-long waiver form and ride-a-long request form upon completion to the Community Engagement Unit in order to accurately track and record those citizens riding or observing.
  - e. Have the final determination regarding the possession of firearms, restraining devices, or other weapons by full-time sworn rider/observers with law enforcement jurisdictions in Kent County. Part-time, retired, and out of state sworn law enforcement officer rider/observers without federal jurisdiction may be prohibited from carrying firearms, restraining devices, or other weapons by the area or unit commanders. Civilian rider/observers are strictly prohibited from carrying firearms, restraining devices, or other weapons.
3. When directed, officers shall complete an email or critique form at the conclusion of the ride-along and forward it to the Community Engagement Unit.
4. The Community Engagement Unit shall maintain a central repository of the ride-a-long waiver forms and critiques for all riders.

### C. DRESS CODE

- 1. Police interns and police volunteers shall wear the department issued uniform. If an outer garment is required and the employee has not been issued an outer garment, a plain jacket without advertising or logos shall be worn.

2. Civilians (other than police interns and police volunteers) shall wear appropriate clothing, which is meant to include dress or casual shirts, blouses, dress or casual slacks, dresses or suits, and appropriate shoes. Blue jeans or denim jackets are **not** acceptable. If an outer garment is worn, either a sweater or jacket, it shall be plain without advertising or logos.
  3. All individuals participating in a "ride-along" shall wear body armor.
  4. **There shall be no deviation from the dress code.**
- D. The Chief of Police, Deputy Chiefs of Police, and captains may, under special circumstances, amend this procedure.