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45.8 Ride-Along Program

Policy: The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the Paradise Valley Police Department's (PVPD) ride-along program, which provides an opportunity for residents to experience the law enforcement function firsthand. This policy provides the requirements, approval process and hours of operation for the ride-along program.

Definitions:

Applicant: The individual requesting to participate in the ride-along program.

Hosting Officer: The Officer who the applicant is assigned to for the ride-along and who is responsible for the applicant during the time they are participating in this program.

Ride-along: The time that an applicant is assigned to a hosting officer and actively participating in this program.

A. ELIGIBILITY:


The Paradise Valley Police Department ride-along program is offered to Paradise Valley residents, citizen academy attendees, employment candidates, employee family members, and Town employees. Every reasonable attempt will be made to accommodate qualifying persons. An individual may be disqualified with or without cause from participating in the program. Applicants must be at least 16 years old to participate. Applicants under 18 years of age must have signed parental consent. The following factors may be considered in disqualifying an applicant and are not limited to: • Criminal history • Pending criminal action • Pending lawsuit against the Department • Denial by any supervisor

B. AVAILABILITY:

The available days and times are indicated on the waiver form. Exceptions to this schedule may be made as approved by the Chief of Police or Patrol Commander.

C. PROCEDURE TO REQUEST A RIDE-ALONG:

The Patrol Commander will process all ride-along requests. All applicants will complete and sign the ride-along waiver form. Information requested will include a valid driver's license, birth date, address and telephone number. The form must be completed in full. The Patrol Commander will

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schedule the date and time for the ride-along based on availability. If approved, a copy of the ride-along waiver form will be forwarded to the respective Patrol Sergeant as soon as possible for their scheduling considerations. If the applicant is denied after the request has been made, the Patrol Commander will contact the applicant and advise them of the denial.

D. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

Generally, applicants will only be approved to ride-along once a year. An exception would apply to the following: Explorers, volunteers, chaplains, reserves and police candidates with approval of the Patrol Commander. An effort will be made to ensure that not more than one applicant will participate in a ride-along during any given time. Ride-along requirements for police Explorers are covered in the Police Explorers' Policy.

Ride-alongs will be 2 hours but can be extended based on the discretion of the hosting officer.

E. SUITABLE ATTIRE:


Any applicant approved to ride-along is required to be suitably dressed in a collared shirt, blouse or jacket, slacks and closed toe shoes. Sandals, T-shirts, tank tops, shorts and ripped or torn blue jeans or clothing with offensive or inappropriate messages are not permitted. Hats and ballcaps will not be worn in the police vehicle. The Patrol Commander or field supervisor may refuse a ride-along to anyone not properly dressed.

F. PEACE OFFICER RIDE-ALONGS

Ride-alongs for Paradise Valley Police officers while off-duty are restricted as follows:

- Off-duty Paradise Valley officers shall not be permitted to ride-along with other on-duty Paradise Valley officers of this department.
- Off-duty Paradise Valley officers may ride-along with on-duty peace officers of another agency.

Off-duty peace officers from other law enforcement agencies requesting to ride-along will follow the process outlined in this policy. The off-duty peace officer shall not be considered on-duty and shall not participate in any law enforcement activity except as emergency circumstances may require. A certified peace officer of the State of Arizona may carry his or her duty weapon, at the discretion of the on-duty supervisor and the hosting officer.

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G. NON-SWORN EMPLOYEE RIDE-ALONGS:

Civilian employees of this department may ride-along with on-duty officers with approval from both supervisors. Civilian members of other law enforcement agencies will follow the process outlined in this policy. The civilian member shall be considered off-duty, unless otherwise authorized by a supervisor, and shall not participate in any law enforcement activity except as emergency circumstances may require.

Due to the confidential information that may be displayed on-screen or broadcasted over the radio, all Ride-Along applicants are restricted from specifically viewing or reading computer screens within the vehicle or at the Police Department. Any information overheard either in preparation of the ride or during the Ride-Along is deemed confidential and shall not be repeated or recorded for any purpose by the applicant.

H. RIDE-ALONG CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK:

All ride-along applicants are subject to a criminal history check, except for current employees of the Paradise Valley Police Department. The criminal history check includes a local records check and a Department of Justice Criminal History System check prior to approval.

I. HOSTING OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

The hosting officer shall advise the dispatcher that a ride-along applicant is present in the vehicle before going into service. Officers shall consider the safety of the individual at all times. Officers should use sound discretion when encountering a potentially dangerous situation, such as a high-speed pursuit. Conduct by an applicant participating in a ride-along that results in termination of the ride-along or is otherwise inappropriate should be immediately reported to the officer's immediate supervisor and the Patrol Commander.

J. CONTROL OF RIDE-ALONG:

The hosting officer shall maintain control over the applicant at all times and give instruction on limitations of participation. These instructions should include:

- The applicant will follow the directions of all officers.
- The applicant will not become involved in any investigation, handling of evidence, discussions with victims or suspects or handling any police equipment.



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- The applicant may terminate the ride-along at any time and the hosting officer may return the applicant to the station if the applicant interferes with the performance of any officer's duties.
- Applicants may be allowed to continue riding during the transportation and booking process, provided this does not jeopardize their safety.
- Officers will not allow the applicant to be present in any residence or situation that would jeopardize their safety or cause undue stress or embarrassment to a victim or any other person.
- Under no circumstance shall the applicant be permitted to enter a private residence with an officer without the express consent of the resident or other authorized person.
- The applicant shall be returned to the station when the ride-along is over.

