

2.430 RIDE/WALK ALONG PROGRAM

- A. The agency's ride/walk along program is established primarily for the use of:
 - 1. Currently registered students, staff, and faculty of the university;
 - 2. PROSPECTIVE TU students;
 - 3. University police officer applicants; and
 - 4. Others as determined by the Chief or a commander.
- B. The commander responsible for the public information function is responsible for managing and facilitating the ride/walk along program. Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:
 - 1. Ensuring adequate supplies of applications are available to the public;
 - 2. Ensuring application and necessary background checks are processed expeditiously;
 - 3. Approving ride/walk along applications consistent with the protocols established herein;
 - 4. Coordinating and scheduling approved ride/walk alongs only for the hours of 0800 – 2400;
 - 5. Ensuring ride/walk alongs are not assigned to officers during their FTO training;
 - 6. Ensuring not more than 50% of patrol vehicles carry ride/walk along participants at any time;
 - 7. Maintaining appropriate program records; and
 - 8. Preparing and disseminating any required or requested reports pertaining to the ride/walk along program.
- C. Background checks of ride / walk along applicants includes, but are not limited to:
 - 1. Criminal history;
 - 2. Wants and warrants;
 - 3. Driver's record;
 - 4. Maryland Judiciary Case Search;
 - 5. CAD / RMS and internal affairs index master name check; and
 - 6. The university's office responsible for student conduct.
- D. Family members, domestic partners, and other individuals with romantic, business, etc. relationships with agency employees are not permitted to ride / walk along with those employees to whom they are linked.
- E. Individuals litigating or threatening to litigate against the agency or who file complaints with the agency may be permitted to participate in ride/walk alongs. Only the Chief may authorize ride / walk alongs in these situations. Those individuals involved will not be authorized to ride / walk along with officers against whom litigation or complaints are directed.
- F. Applicants for ride/walk alongs:
 - 1. Must be at least 18 year old;
 - 2. Must complete Ride/Walk Along Applications and Consent and Release agreements (**UPO.027.D**), preferably at least five business days prior to their projected ride/walk alongs;
 - 3. Must be dressed appropriately and present an appropriate demeanor;
 - 4. May be allowed to ride/walk along not more than four hours, twice a semester unless otherwise authorized by the Chief or a commander;
 - 5. Must use safety belts and any other safety equipment while in agency vehicles;
 - 6. Must not interfere with or attempt to assist with officers handling situations or calls for service;
 - 7. Must not use the police radio except in true emergencies;
 - 8. May be ordered to remain in police vehicles or places of safety while officers are handling situations or calls for service;
 - 9. Will be assigned only to single officer cruisers or foot patrol units; and
 - 10. May be summonsed to appear in court or administrative proceedings to testify on behalf of the State relating to incidents witnessed during their ride/walk alongs.
- G. Ride/walk alongs will not be approved if:
 - 1. Applicants supply untruthful information in their applications;
 - 2. Applicants refuse to execute the Consent and Release Agreement;
 - 3. Applicants have adverse criminal histories or driving records;

4. Applicants do not present an appropriate dress or demeanor;
 5. Applicants are intoxicated, under the influence of alcohol or other substances, or have the odor of alcoholic beverages on or about their persons;
 6. Evidence is developed to indicate applicants may intend to disrupt, or interfere with, agency or university activities; or
 7. The presence of applicants would place applicants, officers, or citizens at unnecessary, unreasonable, or unjustifiable risk.
- H. Applicants who are refused permission to participate in ride/walk alongs may appeal the decision in writing to the Chief who retains final discretion for authorizing or not authorizing ride/walk alongs.
- I. Officers conducting ride/walk alongs:
1. Will review program guidelines with participants before beginning ride / walk alongs;
 2. May request permission from the patrol supervisors to end walk/ride alongs if they determine that participants do not meet the criteria in parts **F.** or **G.:**
 3. Will ensure participants are taken to, or left in, safe areas before officers enter patently hazardous or life threatening situations;
 4. Will ensure observers are returned to Police Headquarters if they have been dropped off or will not be readily rejoined by officers;
 5. Complete **Ride/Walk-Along Evaluation (UPO.028.D)**; and
 6. Write reports documenting facts and circumstances of ride/walk alongs that are terminated for cause.