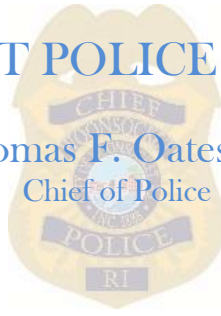


# WOONSOCKET POLICE DEPARTMENT

Thomas F. Oates, III  
Chief of Police



TYPE OF ORDER	NUMBER/SERIES	ISSUE DATE	EFFECTIVE DATE
General Order	520.03	3/8/2024	3/8/2024
TITLE		PREVIOUSLY ISSUED DATES	
Ride-Along Program		New	
ACCREDITATION		RE-EVALUATION DATE	
RIPAC: CALEA:			
SECTION	SUBSECTION	DISTRIBUTION	
Community Relations	Outreach	All Personnel	

## RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM

### I. PURPOSE

This policy aims to establish directives for the Woonsocket Police Department's ride-along program.

### II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Woonsocket Police Department to promote and improve community relations and to provide interested citizens with an insight into the daily operations and duties of the Patrol Officers. In furtherance of that policy, the ride-along program was established.

### III. PROCEDURE

#### A. Participants

1. All participants must be approved by the Officer-in-Charge (OIC). Participants may include but are not limited to:
  - a. Department Family Members
  - b. Citizens Police Academy students
  - c. Police Explorers
  - d. Police Chaplin



- e. Department Civilian Staff
  - f. Visiting Law Enforcement Officials
  - g. Law Enforcement Advocate
  - h. College Interns working for the police department.
2. Individuals younger than eighteen (18) years of age shall be permitted to participate in the ride-a-long program if registered with a current Police Explorer Program or with the approval of the Chief of Police or their designee.
  3. Before approving a Ride-Along request, an NCIC, BCI, and RILETS check is to be performed.
  4. The following factors may be considered in disqualifying a request for a Ride-Along, but are not limited to:
    - a. Prior criminal history;
    - b. Gang membership or criminal associations;
    - c. Pending criminal action; or
    - d. Pending litigation against the department.

#### B. Duties of Civilian Participants

1. Should report to headquarters fifteen (15) minutes before their scheduled ride-along.
2. Must be properly dressed in business attire.
3. For liability purposes, all participants must sign a waiver of liability.
  - a. The signature of a parent or legal guardian is required for all participants under 18 years of age.
  - b. Waiver forms will be forwarded to the Chief's Secretary
4. Shall always follow the instructions of the host officer.
5. Shall play no active role in the police function. They must only act as an observer unless otherwise directed by the host officer.
6. Ride-along observers are prohibited from becoming involved in arrests or other dangerous situations.
7. Must not speak to victims, witnesses, prisoners, or other persons associated with the police event unless serving as the role of the Law Enforcement Advocate.
8. Shall not enter any person's home unless the host officer has asked and been granted permission from the homeowner/occupant to allow their entry.
9. In case of emergency, the participant must stay in the vehicle, per order of the host officer.
10. Are not allowed to carry any firearm or other weapon.
11. Ride-along observers are prohibited from bringing or using video cameras, cameras, or any other recording device unless the Chief of Police or their designee has given prior authorization.



### C. Duties of Law Enforcement Partner Organization Participants

1. Law Enforcement Partnership Organizations include but are not limited to:
  - a. Law Enforcement Advocates
  - b. Domestic Violence Advocates
  - c. Family Resources Advocates
  - d. Parole Officers/Representatives
2. For liability purposes, all participants must have a signed waiver of liability on file.
3. Shall always follow the instructions of the host officer.
4. Shall play no active role in the police function other than as it pertains to the specific role of their parent organization.
5. Ride-along observers are prohibited from becoming involved in arrests or other dangerous situations.
6. May speak to victims, witnesses, prisoners, or other persons within their role as a Law Enforcement Advocate or other partner agency.
7. Shall not enter any person's home unless the host officer has asked and been granted permission from the homeowner/occupant to allow their entry.
8. In case of emergency, the participant must stay in the vehicle, per order of the host officer.
9. Are not allowed to carry any firearm or other weapon.

### D. Host Officer Responsibilities

1. No officer will host a ride-along for more than an 8-hour shift.
2. Dispatch will be notified and will log the following:
  - a. Name of officer
  - b. Name of participant
  - c. Date and Time of ride-along.
3. The hosting or assigned officer shall maintain control over the ride-along at all times and instruct them in the conditions that limit their participation. These instructions should include:
  - a. Following the directions of the officer
  - b. The ride-along shall not become involved in any investigation, handling of prisoners or evidence, discussions with victims or suspects, traffic directions, or handling of any police equipment (unless necessary for an immediate emergency).



- 1) Advocates may become involved in investigations consistent with the role of their parent organization at the request of the host officer.
- c. The ride-along observer may be allowed to continue riding during the transportation of arrestees and the booking process provided this does not jeopardize their safety.
4. Officers have an obligation to the welfare and safety of the participants.
  - a. The hosting officer or assigned officer shall not become involved in a pursuit except in exigent circumstances where no viable alternative exists.
  - b. In the event of a dangerous or potentially dangerous encounter, the hosting officer shall make every reasonable effort to keep the ride-along observer a safe distance and be instructed to remain in the vehicle.
  - c. If a participant is injured during the ride-along, the OIC will be notified immediately.
    - 1) OIC will notify the Chief of Police via the chain of command.
    - 2) The host officer will complete a report of the incident.
    - 3) The incident report will be forwarded to the Chief of Police.
    - 4) In the event the host officer is injured and unable to complete the report, the shift supervisor will complete the incident report.

#### IV. ATTACHMENT

[Ride-Along Program Waiver of Liability](#)

Per order,

*Thomas F. Oates, III*

Chief of Police

*Written directives published within PowerDMS are in full force and effect on the referenced dates and have been approved by the Chief of Police*





# WOONSOCKET POLICE DEPARTMENT

242 Clinton Street, Woonsocket, Rhode Island 02895

## Ride-Along Program Waiver of Liability

### Statement of Responsibility

By signing below, I indicate that I \_\_\_\_\_, will participate in the Woonsocket Police Department (WPD) Ride-Along Program.

### Knowledge and Assumption of Risks

My signature below indicates that I fully understand that policing is an inherently dangerous activity. I hereby voluntarily and expressly assume all of the risks known and unknown with accompanying police officers in the performance of their duties. No member of the WPD has made any statement to me that the program is totally without risk or made any absolute guarantees of safety. \_\_\_\_\_ (initials)

### Statement of Consideration

I understand that no civilian is entitled to accompany a police officer in the performance of their duties. I have an express interest in law enforcement and I consider the WPD's permission to participate in the program to be valuable consideration. The program provides experience that cannot be obtained otherwise. It is in exchange for this valuable consideration that I enter into their waiver of liability. I understand that the signature below of an authorized agent of the WPD signifies permission for me to participate in the program. \_\_\_\_\_ (initials)

### Express Statement of Waiver

It is my express intent that this agreement binds me, my heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns. By signing below I waive and release the City of Woonsocket, and its employees, from all possible liability and claims arising out of participation in the program. This agreement is intended to have the full effect of what is referred to as a "covenant not intended to sue" under law. Essentially, I hereby contract not to sue or file any claims against the City of Woonsocket or its employees. \_\_\_\_\_ (initials)

### Confidentiality

I agree that I shall maintain confidential anything seen or heard during the program and shall not divulge such information to third parties.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Participant (or Guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Agent, Woonsocket Police

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date