

PATROL

NORTH LITTLE ROCK POLICE RIDE ALONG PROGRAM

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to establish a ride-along program that allows potential police applicants and/or interested citizens the chance to accompany police officers during routine patrol. This program will allow police officers the opportunity to perform a customer service function within the community which should give participants a more realistic view or insight into the operations of the North Little Rock Police Department.

Policy Statement: It is the policy of the North Little Rock Police Department to encourage community interest in the ride-along program to allow citizens the opportunity to ride as passengers in marked police vehicles. This program allows citizens to interact and observe police officers during the performance of their duties. Citizens will be considered as observers, and their safety should be foremost at all times.

Summary of Changes:

Procedure:

1 Program Participation

- 1.1 Participants in the ride-along program must complete an application. All forms will be kept and filed in the Patrol Division Commander's office.
- 1.2 Consideration of eligible participants will include the following personnel:
 - 1.2.1 NLRPD police applicants;
 - 1.2.2 College criminal justice majors;
 - 1.2.3 Police officers from other jurisdictions;
 - 1.2.4 Visiting dignitaries;
 - 1.2.5 Citizen police academy participants; and
 - 1.2.6 Other authorized persons.
- 1.3 Instructions and signed waiver:
 - 1.3.1 Prior to participation, the following forms must be completed and turned into the Patrol Division Commander's office.
 - 1.3.1.1 The application and the instruction form must be initialed and signed by the applicant and a witness.
 - 1.3.1.2 The waiver of liability must be signed by the applicant and a witness.
- 1.4 Adults must be approved by the Patrol Division Commander or his designee.
- 1.5 Juveniles must be approved by the Chief of Police or his designee and a waiver must be signed by a parent or guardian.

2 Criminal History Check

- 2.1 A criminal history and warrants check will be conducted on all ride-along participants other than law enforcement officials and dignitaries.
- 2.2 Applicants who have the below listed criminal history will not be allowed to participate in the ride-along program:
 - 2.2.1 Any pending misdemeanor charges.
 - 2.2.2 Any domestic abuse conviction.
 - 2.2.3 Any violent misdemeanor or weapons conviction.
 - 2.2.4 Any felony conviction or any pending felony charges.
- 2.3 Supervisors of the Patrol Division will be responsible for requesting criminal history checks.

3 Applicant Review and Approval

- 3.1 The Patrol Division Commander or the Chief of Police will review the forms completed by the applicants along with their criminal history check.
- 3.2 Once the review has been completed, the Patrol Division Commander and/or the Chief of Police may grant or deny the request.

4 Patrol Administration Responsibilities

- 4.1 When the request is approved by the Patrol Division Commander, or his designee, will attempt to accommodate the ride-along participant with the following:
 - 4.1.1 The ride-along date and time;
 - 4.1.2 The zone or area of the City; and

- 4.1.3 The police officer and/or the shift requested.
- 4.2 The Patrol Division Commander or his designee will contact a supervisor from one of the four patrol areas.
 - 4.2.1 The area supervisor will inform the patrol division captain or his designee of the ride-along date, time, and police officer assigned.
 - 4.2.2 The patrol captain or designee will contact the ride-along participant to confirm the availability of the approved time.
 - 4.2.3 When the date and time have been confirmed, the patrol captain or his designee will fill out the pertinent information on the application under the line labeled "for official use only."
 - 4.2.4 After the required forms are completed, the Patrol Division Commander or his designee will send the ride-along forms to the appropriate area supervisor.
 - 4.2.5 When the ride-along has been completed, an area supervisor will fill out the pertinent information under the line labeled "for official use only" on the waiver form.
 - 4.2.5.1 The above forms will be returned to the patrol captain's office for filing. The forms are good for 1 year at the discretion of the patrol division captain or his designee.

5 Responsibilities of the Area or Zone Supervisors

- 5.1 No ride-along will be permitted if an area or zone supervisor is not on duty in the assigned area.
- 5.2 Advise the participant that the officer is subject to respond to all types of situations.
- 5.3 Advise the participant that he/she must obey any legal order given by the officer.
- 5.4 No officer will be forced to accept a ride-along participant.
- 5.5 Officers' spouses or relatives must ride with another officer designated by the area supervisor.
- 5.6 No probationary officer will be allowed to have a ride-along participant.
- 5.7 The area supervisor may disallow any ride-along when such participation may jeopardize any objective of the North Little Rock Police Department.

6 Responsibilities of Assigned Police Officers

- 6.1 Take every step possible to minimize any risk to the ride-along participant.
- 6.2 Have participants remain in the police vehicle unless given permission to exit.
- 6.3 Participants will not accompany officers to any of the following dangerous situations:
 - 6.3.1 Robberies in progress;
 - 6.3.2 Burglaries in progress;
 - 6.3.3 Hostage situations; or
 - 6.3.4 Barricaded suspects.
- 6.4 If a vehicle pursuit ensues while a ride-along participant is in a police vehicle, the officer will:
 - 6.4.1 Inform dispatch so that another police vehicle can become the primary pursuit vehicle.
 - 6.4.2 When another vehicle becomes the primary pursuit vehicle, the ride-along vehicle will assume a backup position.
 - 6.4.3 When a backup vehicle is available, the ride-along will terminate their participation in the pursuit.
- 6.5 No participant will be allowed to enter or remain on private property where any citizen would not have the legal right to be.
- 6.6 The officer assigned a ride-along must report any misconduct on the part of the ride-along participant to a supervisor immediately.
- 6.7 If cause exists, the supervisor or assigned officer may terminate the individual's privilege to participate in the ride-along program at any time.

7 Ride-Along Participant Guidelines

- 7.1 All participants must turn in their applications for approval at least two weeks before participation in the ride-along program.
- 7.2 All participants in the ride-along program must have a least one-week's prior approval before participating.
- 7.3 One week prior to the scheduled ride-along, the participant must contact the Patrol Division Commander or his designee to confirm approval, assignment, and reporting time.
- 7.4 No participant may ride-along more than once in a two-month period.
- 7.5 The participant will report to the assigned area or zone lieutenant and/or sergeant at least fifteen minutes prior to the start of the shift.
- 7.6 The participants will carry personal identification during the ride-along.
- 7.7 In addition to the ride-along guidelines, participants should advise a supervisor of the following information:

- 7.7.1 Name of the person to notify in case of an emergency.
- 7.7.2 The nature of any medical problems.
- 7.7.3 Hospital and/or doctor preference.
- 7.8 Participants should dress in casual or semi-business attire. No shorts, T- shirts, or torn clothing of any kind will be allowed.
- 7.9 Cameras and recording devices are prohibited.
- 7.10 Seat belts will be worn at all times while riding in a police vehicle.
- 7.11 Since the ride-along program is a part of the Patrol Division; the Patrol Division Commander is responsible for the adherence to this Policy Directive. Therefore, he will have the final word on participation in this program.

Patrick Thessing
Chief of Police