



RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM



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| <b>ISSUE DATE:</b>     | 01 December 2020                        | <b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> | 01 December 2020 |
| <b>RESCINDS:</b>       | 25 August 2017 Version                  |                        |                  |
| <b>INDEX CATEGORY:</b> | Human Rights and Community Partnerships |                        |                  |

**I. PURPOSE**

This directive:

- A. continues the Department's Ride-Along Program.
- B. informs Department members of the United States Supreme Court decision as it relates to the Fourth Amendment.
- C. establishes procedures to request a ride-along.
- D. introduces [CPD-11.424 \(8/17\)](#) Approval For Ride-Along For City Of Chicago Employees.
- E. introduces the revised [CPD-11.425 \(Rev. 8/17\)](#) Approval For Ride-Along For Persons Not Employed By The City Of Chicago.
- F. discontinues the version of CPD-11.425 (Rev. 1/12) Approval for Ride-Along.
- G. assigns responsibilities regarding the ride-along.

**II. THE PROGRAM**

The Ride-Along Program facilitates the Department's partnership with the community by affording individuals the opportunity to personally observe patrol operations. This program is primarily designed for district law enforcement operations. Requests for a ride-along in units other than district law enforcement will also be considered. The program will allow community residents, government leaders and officials, members of professional organizations, educators, members of other law enforcement agencies, and persons conducting research deemed appropriate by the Department to be considered for approval to participate in the Ride-Along Program.

**III. DEPARTMENT POLICY**

The Department will permit participation in the Ride-Along Program only to the extent that the objectives, effectiveness, and efficiency of Department operations are not compromised. Participants in the Ride-Along Program must be at least eighteen years of age and, with the exception of City employees in the performance of their official duties, sign a waiver of liability.

**IV. GENERAL INFORMATION**

- A. The United States Supreme Court in *Wilson, et al. v. Layne, et al.*, ruled that it is a violation of the Fourth Amendment for police to bring members of the media or other third parties into a home during the execution of a warrant when the presence of the third parties in the home is not in aid of the execution of the warrant.
- B. Failure to follow this ruling could result in liability to the City and to the individual sworn members under 42 U.S.C.A. 1983.

**V. PROCEDURES**

- A. Area deputy chiefs will approve requests to participate in a ride-along within their specific areas.

- B. The Commanding Officer, Special Activities Section, will receive and review for approval, requests to participate in a ride-along, with the exception of requests approved by an area deputy chief as outlined in Item V-A and/or requests from the news media.
- C. The Director, Communications Division, will receive and review for approval all requests from the news media to participate in a ride-along.
- D. The commanding officers of other units who receive requests for a ride-along in district law enforcement and/or requests for a ride-along in units other than district law enforcement, will refer those requests to the Commanding Officer, Special Activities Section.
- E. The Commanding Officer, Special Activities Section, will consult with the commanding officer of the unit in which the ride-along is requested to ensure that permitted requests do not compromise objectives, effectiveness, and efficiency of Department operational needs.
- F. Participants in the Ride-Along Program will:
  - 1. be eighteen years of age, and
  - 2. sign a waiver of liability unless participant is a city employee in the performance of their official duties.

## VI. RESPONSIBILITIES

Department command personnel who provide approval for a ride-along will ensure that:

- A. all approved requests for a department ride-along and a copy of the participant's valid Passport, State ID, or Drivers License are forwarded to the Commanding Officer, Special Activities Section.
- B. a name/warrant check is conducted of individuals who have otherwise satisfied the criteria for participation in a ride-along.
- C. the waiver of liability section of [CPD-11.424](#) "Approval For Ride-Along For City Of Chicago Employees" or [CPD-11.425](#) "Approval For Ride-Along For Persons Not Employed By The City Of Chicago, is completed for each approved ride-along request."
- D. the Crime Prevention and Information Center (CPIC) is informed of the unit, date and time of the approved ride-along.
- E. the signed approval form is retained in the district / unit file for a period of one year.

**NOTE:** The commanding officer, Special Activities Section and the Director, Communications Division, must also verify the availability of the designated date and/or time scheduled for the ride-along and complete and forward the approval form via police mail to the commanding officer of the unit in which the ride-along will take place.

- F. at the start of an approved ride-along, the Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC) is informed of the unit, date and time of the ride-along.
- G. the person participating in the ride-along understands that they are strictly a passive observer and that they must not take an active part in any police operation, **nor enter any home while participating in the ride-along program.**
- H. the participant is assigned to ride-along with an officer who is a positive representative of the Department.
- I. both the officer and the ride-along participant understand that the goals and duties of the Department are foremost. Therefore, any activity contrary to Department policy and objectives will result in immediate cancellation of the ride-along.
- J. the ride-along will not be allowed until:
  - 1. the waiver of liability section of [CPD-11.424](#) "Approval For Ride-Along For City Of Chicago Employees" or [CPD-11.425](#) "Approval For Ride-Along For Persons Not Employed By The City Of Chicago, is signed by the participant and duly authenticated.

2. the participant has received approved soft body armor from CPIC.
- K. non-Departmental electronic equipment (e.g., cameras and tape recorders) are **prohibited in police vehicles without the written permission of the Superintendent of Police.**

Authenticated by: KC

David O. Brown  
Superintendent of Police

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