

URBANA POLICE DIVISION

Ride-A-Long Program

Policy & Procedures

PURPOSE:

The Urbana Police Division's Ride-A-Long program is designed to offer citizens a better understanding of police responsibilities and operations. The purpose is to provide citizens and interested persons an opportunity to observe daily police patrol activities and to provide an overall view of the police officers' duties. It is our hope that the insight into the line operation of the Division will be both informative and enjoyable and further promotes positive citizen contacts.

POLICY:

The Urbana Police Division encourages open and candid police operations and strives to establish a climate that allows officers to perform their duties with the acceptance, understanding, and approval of the public. Citizens are allowed to ride with officers to promote trust and understanding.

PROCEDURES:

The following outlines what the conditions and circumstances are under which the program operates:

1. Applicant will submit a written request to the Lieutenant (can be forwarded from UPD employee source) requesting to participate in a ride-a-long, with a preference for day(s) and hours: 0600 – 1359 __, 1400 – 2159 __, or 2200 – 0600 __. The application will also include personal information on the applicant to be used to conduct a background check to help make the determination that the applicant is suitable for the program. A local and NCIC check will be completed prior to approval to check for any driving or criminal history that could exclude an applicant from participating.
2. Applicant must be 16 years of age or older. Juvenile applicants are not permitted to ride between the hours of 2100 & 0600. Juveniles may only participate in the ride-a-long program with the approval of the Chief of Police. They must include a signed permission slip from a parent and the parent must also sign the application and waiver at the time of submission.
3. Applicant, whenever possible, will be assigned to ride with a police officer of the same gender.
4. Applicant, who is a spouse or significant other to an officer, is not permitted to ride with his or her spouse under any circumstance, but may be allowed to ride with another officer on the same shift.
5. Applicant must not have any convictions other than for a minor misdemeanor offense or minor traffic offense.
6. Applicant must not be under investigation by any criminal justice agency.
7. Applicant must not have been terminated or forced to resign from any criminal justice agency.
8. Applicant will report to the assigned shift supervisor before the start of the ride-a-long.
9. Applicant will be riding in the capacity of a citizen ride-a-long and will follow the directions of the assigned ride-a-long officer or other police official to insure their safety and well-being while at the scene of a police incident.
10. Applicant shall not leave the police vehicle at the scene of any police activity including traffic stops unless directed by the officer.
11. Applicant shall not converse with prisoners, suspects, witnesses or other persons contacted on police business unless requested by the officer.
12. Applicant shall not interfere with the officers' activities at any time. Although it is desirable and encouraged for participants to ask questions regarding procedures and activities, it must be done at an appropriate time.
13. Applicant Cell phones (except for emergency purposes), tape recorders, video recorders or cameras are not permitted.
14. Applicant will not be armed with any type of weapon.
15. Applicant must present themselves in a neat and clean appearance. No jeans, tee shirts, flip-flops

- or shorts will be allowed.
16. Applicant must wear a seat belt at all times while in the vehicle.
 17. Applicant is allowed one ride-along per six months.
 18. Under no circumstances shall a civilian, including media personnel, be allowed to participate in the execution of a Search Warrant or Arrest Warrant.
 19. Officers will not allow participants to enter private homes or other areas where a citizen has a reasonable expectation of privacy without the explicit consent of the citizen.
 20. All activities and information observed, overheard, or learned from the citizen involvement as a ride along will be treated as "CONFIDENTIAL."

RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY:

FOR VALUABLE CONSIDERATION RECEIVED, including the benefits of this program and the permission which I have received to accompany one or more police officers of the Urbana Police Division, in the course of his or her duty, I, the undersigned, do by these release the city of Urbana, its police officers, public officials, and employees from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions, and causes of action, which may hereafter have on account any and all injuries and damage to me or my property, or my death, arising out of or relating to any happenings or occurrence while I accompany any officer or officers of the Urbana Police Division on duty, or incidental thereto, and for the said city and the said persons, and agree to forever hold them and each of them harmless from any such liability, claims, demands, actions or causes of action.

The terms hereof shall be of full force and effect on the date hereof and on any occasion when I may hereafter accompany any Urbana Police officer or officers.

I have read and understand the conditions of this program as stated above and hereby voluntarily assume all risk of loss, damage or injury to me or my property, including death, which may be sustained while a passenger of the town vehicle or incidental to accompanying one or more Urbana Police officers while on duty.

This release agreement shall be binding upon me and my heirs, executors, administrators, personal representatives and assigns, and shall include to the benefit of the said city, officers, public officials and person herein designated and there heirs, executors, administrators, personal representatives, assigns and successors in office.

I have read and do understand this policy.

I authorized a check of my driver's license and a check for any criminal or traffic related history.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Witness

Signature

Parent

