

DUNCANVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS

SUBJECT: Citizens Riding Observation	SECTION: 6.04
EFFECTIVE DATE: September 20, 2019	APPROVED:
AMENDS/SUPERSEDES: Reg. 6.04 ISSUED: January 2, 2014	Robert D. Brown, Jr. Chief of Police

I. PURPOSE

The intent of the Civilian Rider Program is to allow the community to observe the daily operations of the police department in an effort to foster the partnerships beneficial to public safety. Consequently, the majority of Civilian Riders, hereafter referred to as Primary Civilian Riders, will meet one or more of the following criteria; City resident, someone who works or owns a business in the City, potential Department applicants, CPA students or alumnus, Explorers, or SWRCC employees. The Department does recognize that employees' friends, girl/boyfriends, significant other, spouse, or other family member may want to ride occasionally in order to see what the employee does. However, as these people fall outside the primary intent of the Civilian Rider Program, they will be referred to hereafter as Secondary Civilian Riders.

II. APPROVAL

- A. Except for SWRCC personnel or departmental chaplains, written approval from the Chief of Police or Assistant Chief of Police must be obtained on every occasion, regardless of whether the prospective rider has ridden in the past, before being allowed to ride with an officer (a memo requesting an observer shall be submitted to a chief at least 24 hours in advance of the date of the ride-along). **The memo must be accompanied by the rider's criminal history. Criminal histories shall not be queried by those who are related by consanguinity or affinity to the rider.** SWRCC personnel must obtain written approval before riding for the first time. Thereafter, they may simply make scheduling arrangements with the on duty patrol supervisor. This exception does not eliminate the need for a waiver of liability to be completed prior to each ride along.
- B. After receiving a chief's approval, the officer with whom the civilian rider will ride will present the approval to his immediate supervisor for scheduling approval (if there is a scheduling conflict, the supervisor may allow the rider to ride within the week without further chief's approval).
- C. At the end of each ride along, the immediate supervisor for the shift on which the ride-along took place will attach the approval memo to the waiver, and route that paperwork to the chief's office.

III. WAIVER OF LIABILITY

A Waiver of Liability form must be completed before an observer is allowed to ride in a police vehicle. Waivers of Liability will not be required of the Mayor, City Council

Representatives, City Judge, City or Assistant City Manager, members of the Civil Service Commission, or employees of the Duncanville Police Department.

IV. TIME LIMITS

Primary civilian riders will be allowed to ride once in one calendar month, and for not more than twelve (12) hours each time they ride. The 12-hour time limit for any rider may be reduced at the officer or supervisor's discretion. Secondary civilian riders may ride no more than twice per calendar year, and for not more than twelve (12) hours each time they ride.

V. APPEARANCE

Civilian observers must wear appropriate civilian attire while riding in police vehicles. Appropriate attire is dress slacks and shirt for males and dress slacks/pants and blouse for females. Sport coats/jackets are optional.

VI. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

- A. When an officer stops a vehicle, the observer may step out of the squad but will not approach the violator's vehicle unless instructed to do so by the officer.
- B. During calls for service the observer will remain in the squad unless instructed otherwise by the officer. Observers will not enter into any conversation or investigation with any complainants, witnesses, or prisoners concerning a police matter or investigation.
- C. Officers are reminded that the United States Supreme Court, in *Wilson v. Lane* has ruled that representatives of the media, or any other third party, are not authorized to enter private property while involved in a ride-a-long program. To allow their participation or observation is a violation of the rights provided by the Fourth Amendment. Therefore, at any time a call, search, arrest, etc. is being conducted at a private residence, or any other private area not open to the public, the individual riding must wait in the squad car or in a public area. The observer or any third party ride-along will not be allowed to participate in the execution of a search regardless of whether it is being conducted subject to a warrant or subject to consent.
- D. Observers will not enter the holding facility area at any time while there are prisoners within the facility during book-in and/or awaiting arraignment or transfer. Observers may accompany an officer/PSO during a facility inspection when the facility is vacant.
- E. Observers will not operate or use any police equipment or vehicle or anything in police custody except in a case of emergency or as authorized by Article 2.14 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (article is explained in the Waiver of Liability).

VII. OFFICERS' RESPONSIBILITY

Officers will immediately report to their supervisors any interference with their duties or willful non-compliance with instructions, rules, or regulations on the part of observers. Any supervisor, at his discretion, may cause or permit termination of the privilege to ride observation regardless of the origin of the assignment of authority when the effectiveness of police operation is deterred. No officer with less than eighteen (18) months police

experience and still on probation with the Department will be allowed to have a civilian observer riding with him unless authorized by the Chief of Police.

VIII. NUMBER OF RIDERS

- A. No more than two (2) civilians will be allowed to ride during any given watch.
- B. Patrol officers will be allowed one civilian observer a week. Supervisors will not have civilian observers unless specifically approved by the Chief of Police.

ATTACHMENTS



Civilian Rider
Waivers of Liability.doc