



El Segundo Police Department
Training Section
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TRAINING BULLETIN

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Police Ride-Alongs

Police ride-alongs are designed to accomplish several goals in our police department, with community relations and recruiting being the primary focus. Having a ride-along can be challenging, as the officer is required to not only focus on the inherent dangers of patrol, but they are also responsible for the safety of the civilian ride-along. Here are some guidelines to become familiar with prior to hosting a civilian ride-along:

1. Make sure the ride-along has received approval by the on-duty Watch Commander or Sergeant, and has signed the department liability waiver.
2. Ensure the ride-along is wearing appropriate attire; such as a collared shirt or conservative blouse, slacks or nice jeans, and closed toe shoes. Wearing something that may identify them as a police officer is not permitted. For example, Community Police Academy shirts are not permitted.
3. Make sure the civilian ride-along is not carrying any weapons. Sworn police officers are allowed to carry concealed firearms, but it is the officer's responsibility to notify the Watch Commander/Sergeant, as well as everyone on the shift.
4. Ride-alongs are not permitted to use cameras or any other recording device during the ride-along.
5. All participants must agree not to discuss the names of persons involved in police cases or incidents. The observer will be considered a confidant of the Police Department and it is essential that all matters pertaining to evidence or statements gathered in investigations be held confidential.
6. The ride-along should stay in the patrol vehicle until the officer feels it is safe for them to exit. Once the officer feels it is safe for the ride-along to exit the patrol vehicle, they should stand at a safe distance and in a safe place.
7. Discuss with the ride-along there may be dangerous situations where they should not even be in the vehicle (shootings, high speed pursuits, armed robberies, etc.) and they are to be dropped off in a safe location prior to responding.

8. Ride-alongs shall not participate and shall not get involved in any enforcement action unless directed by the officer. The ride-along will not become involved in any investigation, the handling of evidence, discussions with victims or suspects, or handling of any police equipment.
9. The ride-along should not be less than 4 hours, unless there are circumstances for it to be shorter in time. These circumstances should be relayed to the on-duty Watch Commander or Sergeant, who will then make the final determination.
10. Under no circumstance shall a civilian ride along be permitted to enter a private residence with an officer without the expressed consent of the resident or other authorized person.
11. When the ride-along is complete, the on-duty Watch Commander or Sergeant shall scan the ride-along waiver and permanently store it in the P Drive/Super Folder/Ride-Alongs folder to satisfy JDIC/CLETS audit requirements.

This Training Bulletin is designed to address common protocols regarding hosting a civilian ride-along, however common sense should be used by the officer when encountering situations not covered.