

FARMERSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS: O-97-R002

RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM

Effective Date: October 8, 1997

1.0 PURPOSE

To provide citizens of the City of Farmersville an opportunity to observe Police Officers in the performance of their duties and to establish guidelines for the administration of the program.

2.0 POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Farmersville Police Department to encourage interested citizen to observe, first hand, police officers in the performance of their duties. It is hoped this policy will promote a better understanding of the officer's responsibilities and relationship to the community. It is hoped this program will facilitate an exchange of ideas and points of view between the officers and the citizens of Farmersville.

3.0 PROCEDURES

3.1 Participants will complete a Ride-Along Application and sign a waiver. Participants under the age of 18 years old will have their parent or guardian sign the release waiver. The application and waiver will then be forwarded to the Chief's Office for review. A copy of the C.L.E.T.S. record check shall be attached.

3.2 The citizen and his/her parent or guardian if under 18 years old, shall be fully and completely advised of the potential dangers incidental to participating in the program. This shall include but not limited to risks of injury to person or property as a result of civil disturbances, explosions or shootings, assaults and/or batteries, vehicular collisions, etc...

3.3 No cameras and/or audio or visual recorders will be permitted.

3.4 Employee's family members or close personal friends of the opposite sex may be scheduled to Ride-Along, but must be assigned to ride with another officer.

3.5 Only one citizen will be allowed to ride during any one given shift unless the Chief of Police grants special permission.

3.6 All participants shall be suitably and comfortably dressed. Sandals, tee-shirts, shorts, gang related paraphernalia, and other unsuitable clothing will not be permitted.

3.7 Ride-Along participants may be required to testify in court, with no compensation, except for regular witness fees.

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4.0 ELIGIBILITY

4.1 The minimum age of a Ride-Along participant shall be 14 years of age.

4.2 Citizens **must not have any felony convictions** or multiple misdemeanor convictions.

4.3 A record check through the California Law Enforcement Telecommunication System (CLETS) will be done on all participants prior to approval for Ride-Along.

5.0 TIME LIMITATIONS AND CONSTRAINTS

5.1 The citizen will not ride more often than twice in one year period.

5.2 Members of any law enforcement agency, Defined as a Peace Officer in the California Penal Code, may ride at any time as long as they have their Badge, Identification, and a Weapon. Clergy, City Employees, and City Council Members may also ride at any time but must sign a waiver and go through the office of the Chief of Police prior to Ride-Along.

6.0 GENERAL RULES

6.1 Concern by the host officer shall be given to the safety of the participant. Should hazardous circumstances arise, and there is an opportunity to leave the participant at a safe location. The officer shall leave the participant and notify dispatch. The participants shall remain at that location until another police unit arrives to pick them up.

6.2 Participants shall not operate department equipment without permission of the officer, and then permission is only to be given in emergencies.

6.3 Participants shall refrain from conversing with prisoners, suspects, or witnesses without the permission of the officer.

6.4 Participants shall not interfere with an officer while he/she is handling a police incident. Participants shall obey all orders and instructions given by the Host Officer.

6.5 The officer or participant may terminate the ride at any time. If this is done the participant will be returned to the Police Department as soon as safety permits.

6.6 Participants shall wear a safety belt at all times in the patrol units.

7.0 HOURS AND SCHEDULING

7.1 With the exception of other Peace Officers and Ministers a Ride-Along must be scheduled at least one week in advance. Ride-Along days are Wednesday's and Thursday's from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm. Any exception

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to this must be approved by the Chief of Police. All waivers are to be filed out and forwarded to the Chief's Office.

7.2 The waiver is to be attached to the Host Officers log at the end of shift.

All waivers will be kept for a three (3) years in the office of the Chief of Police.

M. Krstic

CHIEF OF POLICE

MK/cs