DAVIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

RIDE-ALONGS
Policy and Procedure 2.07-A

DEPARTMENT MANUAL

Index as:
Ride-Alongs
Cadet Riders
Citizen Riders

I. POLICY

The Davis Police Department offers a very limited ride-along program to community members and those employed within the City as well as a full ride-along program for Cadets and Volunteers.

II. QUALIFICATIONS AND PROCEDURE

A. Riders

1. The following persons are permitted to do a ride-along;
   a. Current California peace officers with valid department identification and permission of an administrator.
   b. Davis Police Cadets and Volunteers with permission of the Patrol Commander.
   c. All others with permission from the Office of the Police Chief.

2. A ride-along will generally only be approved for applicants, those with verified academic need, the media or compelling reason. Any applicant may be disqualified without cause. The following factors may be considered in disqualifying a rider applicant, but are not limited to:
   a. Being under 18 years of age
   b. Criminal history
   c. Prior contacts with law enforcement or the Davis Police Department
   d. Known or suspected association with others who have a criminal history
   e. Pending criminal action
   f. Pending lawsuit against the Department

3. All approved riders must appear in person at the Police Department, fill out the required waiver, and present valid identification at the time of the ride-along.

4. A signed Waiver and Release form must be presented before the ride-along begins. Any rider under the age of eighteen must have a parent or guardian sign the form.

5. All ride-along applicants are subject to a criminal history check. The criminal history check may include a local records check and a Department of Justice Automated Criminal History System check through CLETS prior to their approval as a ride-along with a law enforcement officer (provided that the ride-along is not an employee of the Davis Police Department).
6. Riders shall be informed prior to the ride-along that for safety reasons they shall obey all lawful directions given by the assigned officer, shift supervisor, or in their absence, any Davis PD officer and that their failure to comply will be reason to terminate the ride-a-long.

7. Riders will be required to dress in appropriate clothing. No uniforms or other items that may resemble a police uniform will be allowed. Shoes must be worn at all times. It is expected that an appropriate level of personal hygiene be adhered to.

8. Riders shall wear an orange identification tag on the front of their outer clothing indicating they are affiliated with the Davis Police Department. The tag will be issued to the rider by Records or the shift supervisor prior to the beginning of their ride-along and will be collected by the assigned officer. The tags will be kept in the ride-along folder in the Records Division.

B. Department Employees

1. Non-Sworn members may ride with approval of the Watch commander or other supervisory personnel.

2. The member must wear civilian clothing so they are not mistaken as an officer. A jacket over the uniform will meet this requirement.

3. A non-sworn rider should not take any official action, except in an emergency, to ensure their safety or the safety of others.

4. Sworn members may not participate in a volunteer ride-a-long.

C. Cadets

1. Cadets must be at least fourteen years of age, and be certified by a Cadet Advisor before they are allowed to ride with a patrol officer.

2. A signed waiver/permission slip from a parent or guardian is required if the Cadet is under eighteen years of age. The waiver is to be kept in file by the Cadet Advisor(s).

3. Cadets may participate in no more than three tours of duty per month. Each tour shall be for a maximum of six hours. A Watch Commander may extend this time restraint if the assigned officer agrees.

4. On school nights, Cadets are prohibited from participating in a ride-along past 10:00 PM. (normally Sunday-Thursday nights)

5. Cadets are not permitted to loiter at the police department before or after the ride-along. Cadets shall report to the Watch Commander upon arrival for assignment.

6. At all times while on duty, Police Cadets will be well groomed. They shall wear the appropriate uniform which will be clean and pressed, and will maintain appropriate standards of personal hygiene.

7. The Cadet is expected to comply with all proper and lawful directions given by the companion officer and/or the Watch Commander. Any dispute concerning the role of a Cadet will be referred to the Watch Commander and/or the Cadet Advisor(s).
D. Police Officer Responsibilities

1. The safety of the rider is of great importance. At the discretion of the host officer, any rider may be dropped off at a safe location prior to responding to hazardous or potentially hazardous situations. When practical, dispatch shall be advised of the location of any rider who was dropped off and arrangements should be made to have the rider picked up.

2. Among the activities riders are specifically prohibited from involvement are:
   a. In-progress crimes with a potential for violence.
   b. Family disturbances.
   c. Foot pursuits.
   d. Sex crime reporting and investigation.
   e. Interrogations.
   f. Building searches.
   g. Prisoner bookings.
   h. Warrant service.
   i. Other calls deemed inappropriate by the Watch Commander or companion officer.

3. Officers hosting a rider will be courteous at all times. With Cadets they are serving as role models and with others they are representing the entire department.

4. There is no expectation that the host officer put off their report writing merely to stay on the street with a rider. If the officer has extensive paperwork the Watch Commander, when practical, will re-assign the rider.

5. Although there is no expectation to have the rider join the officer on meal or personal breaks, the officer will not deliberately, except as mentioned in this policy, leave the rider somewhere and resume solo patrol.

6. When practical and without divulging confidential information the officer will explain to the rider what is occurring during the course of the ride-along.

Darren Pytel
Police Chief

Created:
3/91

Rev. 10/99
11/01, standard citizen riders deleted.
12/03, friends and family can ride with W/C approval.
3/04, citizens can ride with permission of patrol commander
04/09, valley consulting removed from list of approved riders
06/09, Added II, A, 7
04/10 reserves removed, clarification on rider denial

Reviewed:
12/00, 1/03, 11/05, 5/08, 09/11, 5/17, 12/17, 5/19