



MYRTLE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

Subject: *Transportation of Civilian Personnel in
Police Vehicles (Ride-Along Program)*

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*215 Transportation of Civilian Personnel
in Police Vehicles (Ride-Along Program)*

01/01/2001

*215-A Transportation of Civilian Personnel
in Police Vehicles (Ride-Along Program)*

04/08/2008

Approved by

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is twofold. First, the policy will provide guidance to police officers transporting civilians in police vehicles. Second, the policy establishes a Ride Along Program to provide citizens an opportunity to gain a better understanding of law enforcement and provide addiction and mental health support to our population by permitting them to ride along with a certified police officer thereby improving community relations. Safety and protecting confidential information are important factors underlying both aspects of the policy.

II. TRANSPORTING CIVILIANS

A. Transporting Civilians Excluding the Ride Along Program

1. **Transporting Witnesses:** In accordance with the Policy on Line-ups, Policy 252, officers may transport victims and witnesses to a subject for the purposes of a show-up. Officers may not transport detained subjects to victims or witnesses for identification purposes. Officers may only move detained subjects the distance necessary to improve safety or to acquire better lighting.
2. **First in Service Ride:** As a courtesy, officers may give civilians a ride where the circumstances indicate that it is the right thing to do, such as an elderly person during extremely hot or cold weather, a stranded motorist, or other similar circumstances.

B. Medical Emergencies

1. **Police Vehicles:** Officers will not transport civilians including arrestees to an emergency room when the person is experiencing a life-threatening emergency or a potential life-threatening emergency, such as chest pain. Officers must call EMS for transport by ambulance because police vehicles are not equipped with the necessary medical equipment nor do they have the room to treat a patient en-route to an emergency room.

C. Logging the Transport

1. **Trip Start:** Prior to transporting a civilian, irrespective of age or gender, officers will call in by radio the transport to Dispatch and give the following information:
 - a. A ride to a female, male or juvenile (the race is not relevant). If an officer feels that it is important to record identifiers, such as name, race and date of birth, officers should type the additional information into the call from their laptop, and should not broadcast it over the radio.
 - b. The starting location by address or intersection, time and full vehicle mileage.
2. **Trip End:** At the end of the transport, officers will radio Dispatch and report the following:
 - a. The finish time, full vehicle mileage and location by address or intersection.
3. **Laptop Messaging:** When it is not immediately possible to notify dispatch via radio transmission, e.g., when radio silence has been called, the use of a laptop message with the above information listed will suffice as “notifying” Dispatch. The laptop will timestamp the message and will serve the same purpose as radio notification, i.e., same information will be transmitted.

D. Confidential Information

1. Officers will refrain from sharing confidential information to include NCIC information in printed form or from the in-car laptop with any civilian passenger. Before exiting a patrol vehicle, officers will lock the screen of their laptop when leaving a civilian passenger behind in the vehicle.

III. RIDE ALONG PROGRAM

A. Civilian Ride Along Participant

1. **Qualifications:** In order to participate in this program, a participant must first qualify. In order to qualify to ride along with a certified police officer:

- a. A participant must be 18 years old, or older, and provide identification to support this, such as in the form of a driver's license.
- b. A participant must be a citizen or guest staying temporarily in the City of Myrtle Beach.
- c. A participant must have a criminal history clear of criminal convictions, i.e., clear of felony and misdemeanor convictions with the latter involving crimes of violence, dishonesty, larceny, sexual misconduct, and moral turpitude.
- d. A participant cannot be involved in an on-going investigation, or prosecution, with this department as a victim, witness or subject because of the potential of tainting the investigation or prosecution of the case.
- e. A participant cannot be a member, or affiliate, of a gang, or group, known to be involved in criminal, or terroristic, enterprises, which can be confirmed by self-admission, a member of the GEU or other official source.
- f. A participant must be dressed appropriately, and practice good hygiene.
- g. A participant must complete, sign and submit a Ride Along Program Waiver form for each ride along they desire to participate in.

B. Supervisors

- 1. Upon receipt of a request by a person to do a ride along, a supervisor will determine whether the applicant is qualified to participate pursuant to Section I, above.
- 2. A supervisor will also check a participant's name in the Master Names' Record of the CAD system, i.e., check for prior disqualifications, or check to see if the participant has exceeded the maximum allowable ride alongs per Section D.1., below. If the participant's name is not already entered into the Master Names' Record of the CAD system, then the supervisor will have the participant's name entered along with the current ride along date or the reason for disqualifying the participant.
- 3. Supervisors will scan and store Ride Along Program Waiver forms in only one location, which is available to all supervisors in a folder on the Forms & Docs network drive. Supervisors need not scan and store the Waiver form where the participant was qualified, but did not actually participate in a ride along, or for participants that did not qualify.
- 4. Even where a participant proves to be qualified for a ride along, a supervisor has the discretion to disallow a ride along, or to terminate one in-progress, provided the supervisor has a valid, articulable reason, such as lack of manpower due to a major event, extreme weather conditions, etc.

C. Officers

1. Officers will notify their supervisor of any requests of them by the public to include family and friends to ride along with them so their supervisor can determine whether the applicant is qualified.
2. Prior to engaging in a high risk endeavor, such as a vehicle pursuit or responding to a potentially life threatening call, an officer must have his or her ride along exit the vehicle and the officer must make arrangements for his or her ride along to be picked up. Officers may not request a ride along to exit where it would put them at risk, such as a high crime area, freezing cold weather, etc. This should be documented on the radio or on laptop if radio silence is called.
3. Officers will report, immediately, any inappropriate behavior on the part of a person doing a ride along towards himself or herself, or a member of the public, to his or her supervisor. Supervisors will investigate, immediately, and determine whether to suspend the ride along. Supervisors will then report the results of their investigation to their Lieutenant along w/ a recommendation, if the complaint is sustained, as to whether to suspend or ban the person from the Ride Along Program. The recommendation will be passed along the chain-of-command to the Assistant Chief of Police or Chief of Police, who will ultimately decide whether to suspend or ban a person from the Program.
4. Officers will refrain from sharing confidential information to include NCIC information in printed form or from the in-car laptop with any civilian passenger. Before exiting a patrol vehicle, officers will lock the screen of their laptop when leaving a civilian passenger behind in the vehicle.

D. Civilian Police Academy (CPA) Participants & Non-CPA Participants

1. A person may not do more than 2 ride alongs in 1 week, nor more than 6 ride alongs in 1 year unless they participate in the department's Citizens' Police Academy, which will provide them with a more comprehensive understanding of law enforcement then numerous ride alongs alone.
2. A person doing a ride along may not shadow an officer into a private residence or the private areas of a business absent express permission by the officer, who must obtain permission from the property owner or person in lawful possession.
3. Only one participant will be permitted to ride in a police vehicle at a time, the participant may only ride in a marked unit, will sit in the front seat of the patrol vehicle, and will wear a seatbelt as appropriate.
4. A participant may not be armed with a weapon of any kind while riding along with an officer irrespective of whether they are legally permitted to do so, such as a member of the military, a sworn officer of another department, a concealed weapons permit holder, etc.

5. Participants will be provided with, and wear, a temporary name tag identifying them as a "Ride Along Participant" so back up officers are aware of their status and can focus their attention on the true subject or subjects on scene instead of mistaking a Ride Along participant as the subject of a call for service.
6. A ride along will not exceed six hours total, and will terminate one hour prior to end of an officer's shift so the officer has time to complete reports, warrants, time sheets, etc., which is of little interest to a ride along participant anyway.
7. The civilian ride along is subject to being audio and video recorded and must understand that he or she may be subpoenaed as a witness to an incident.
8. Participants will not photograph, audio record, or video record during a ride along as it would create evidence subject to subpoena that would be difficult to ascertain, such as from participants visiting from out-of-state, participants that move w/o leaving a forwarding address, etc. A Captain, Assistant Chief or Chief of Police may, at his or her discretion, waive this restriction for bona fide members of the media.
9. Participants will not assist, nor be asked to assist, with calls for service.

E. Exceptions

1. Transporting Family Members: The Transporting Civilians and Ride Along sections of this policy do not apply to officers transporting a family, such as an officer transporting a child to school on his or her way to work.
2. Chaplains: In the event of a conflict, the provisions of the Department Chaplain Program, regulation 105, supersede this policy, such as there are no limits on the number of ride alongs a department chaplain may participate in.
3. CPA: CPA's are pre-approved as part of their participation in the CPA Program so supervisor's need not conduct an NCIC check. Moreover, the limit on the number of ride alongs does not apply while the CPA is attending the CPA Program, but does apply thereafter. All other aspects of the policy do apply.
4. Mutual Aid: The Transporting Civilians and Ride Along sections of this policy do not apply to law enforcement officers to include, but not limited to, deputies, constables, agents, and special agents, when they are riding along with an officers to assist with special events, or general patrol as is the case with many of the constables.

IV. OUTSIDE CIVILIAN SUPPORT RIDE ALONG PROGRAM

A. Addiction Recovery Outreach Program

1. Qualifications: In order to participate in this program, a participant must first qualify. In order to qualify to ride along with a certified police officer:

- a. A participant must be a certified Peer Support Specialist working within the program.
- b. A participant must have a complete, signed, approved and submitted ARO program agreement and waiver and must follow all of the terms and conditions at all times.
- c. A participant may not be involved in an on-going investigation, or prosecution, with this department as a victim, witness or subject because of potential tainting the investigation or prosecution of the case.
- d. A participant cannot be a member, or affiliate, of a gang or group, known to be involved in criminal, or terroristic, enterprises, which can be confirmed by self-admission, a member of the GEU or other official source.
- e. A participant must be identified as a Peer Support Specialist working for ARO, and dressed appropriately with good hygiene.

B. SC Department of Mental Health Alliance Program / Mobile Crisis Unit

- 1. Qualifications: In order to participate in this program, a participant must first qualify. In order to qualify to ride along with a certified police officer:
 - a. A participant must be a certified clinician working within the program.
 - b. The SCDMH MOU/MOA must be active, complete, signed, approved and submitted and all of the terms and conditions must be followed at all times.
 - c. A participant may not be involved in an on-going investigation, or prosecution, with this department as a victim, witness or subject because of potential tainting the investigation or prosecution of the case.
 - d. A participant cannot be a member, or affiliate, of a gang or group, known to be involved in criminal, or terroristic, enterprises, which can be confirmed by self-admission, a member of the GEU or other official source.
 - e. A participant must be identified as a SC DMH employee, and dressed appropriately with good hygiene.

Myrtle Beach Police Department Ride Along Program Waiver

The purpose of the Ride Along Program is to provide participants with an opportunity to observe police officers providing services within the community, and provide participants with real life experiences, which are handled on a daily basis by members of this department and faced daily by citizens of this city.

Participants of this program agree to the following conditions:

1. Participant will ride in marked patrol vehicle only, and only one participant per vehicle is permitted.
2. Participant may only participate in 2 ride alongs in one week and no more than 6 ride alongs in one year.
3. A ride along will not exceed six hours, and will terminate one hour before the end of an officer's tour of duty.
4. Participant will wear a nametag identifying him or her as a Ride Along Participant to all officers.
5. Participant is not permitted to carry a firearm or any weapons, and cannot be under the influence of any drug or alcoholic beverage.
6. Participant must be, at least, 18 years of age, which he or she must show by an official photo ID or state driver's license.
7. Participant will be subject to a criminal history check prior to approval.
8. Participant may not be currently involved with a current investigation or prosecution as witness, victim or subject.
9. Participant is not a gang member, affiliated with a gang, or otherwise involved in an organization that participates in criminal or terroristic activities.
10. Participant will not be asked to assist and will not involve themselves in any police matter.
11. Participant will not accompany officers onto private property, or quasi-public property, unless permission is received from the police officer, the property owner, or other person with authority to grant permission.
12. Participant understands that at any given time, they may be directed to get out of a patrol vehicle due to an emergency response that may result in a known dangerous condition. The police officer responsible for the participant will discharge the participant in a safe area, and arrange to have the participant picked up by another officer.
13. Participants shall utilize all appropriate safety equipment provided, i.e., seat belts, shoulder belts, safety vests, etc.
14. Participant may not take photographs, video recordings or audio recordings.
15. Participant may be videotaped by an officer during a call for service, and may be summoned or subpoenaed to court as a witness.
16. Participant must be dressed appropriately and practice good hygiene.
17. Participant may not read confidential information whether on a computer or in printed form.
18. Participants shall follow all directions from the police officer while participating in this program.
19. Participant must sign and submit this form for each ride along he or she participates in.

Failure to comply with any of these conditions will result in a disapproval of participation or termination of participation (if on going). The applicant acknowledges by signature that he or she is 18 years of age or older, and has read, understands, and agrees to the conditions and rules of this program. Participant agrees to indemnify and hold the City of Myrtle Beach harmless from and against any liability resulting from his or her participation in the Ride-Along Program.

Shift: _____ Section: _____ Officer: _____ Date: _____

(Applicant's Printed Name)

(Applicant Signature)

(Date)

Approval: _____ (Attach a copy of applicant's DL or ID)
(Supervisor's Signature & Employee #)

AGREEMENT AND WAIVER FOR PARTICIPATION IN ADDICTION RECOVERY OUTREACH PROGRAM

The purpose of the Addiction Recovery Outreach Program is to allow a certified Police Officer and Peer Support Specialist to form a partnership to better support those in need of outreach services. A Peer Support Specialist will ride with a certified Police Officer so that those in need of outreach services can be reached quickly. The goal is to provide more effective long-term solutions by providing outreach and support services at the time of the initial crisis.

In exchange for the ability to participate in the Addiction Recovery Outreach Program, the Peer Support Specialist ("Participant") agrees to the following terms and conditions:

1. Only one Participant per patrol unit.
2. Participants are not permitted to carry firearms or any weapons or be under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs.
3. Participants must be sponsored or employed by an agency, such as New Directions of Horry County, that has been recognized as a participant in the addiction recovery outreach program. The Participant must be certified and trained in their field of specialty.
4. Participants may be subject to a criminal history check prior to approval.
5. Participants shall not involve themselves in any police matter unless requested by the officer to whom they are assigned.
6. Participants shall not accompany officers onto private property or quasi-public property unless permission is received from the property owner or other person with authority to grant permission to enter onto the property.
7. Participants understand that at any given time, they may be directed to get out of a patrol vehicle due to an emergency response that may result in a known dangerous condition. The police officer assigned to the participant will arrange to have the participant picked up by another officer.
8. Participants shall utilize all appropriate safety equipment provided (i.e., seat belts, shoulder belts, safety vests, etc.).
9. Photographs, video and/or audiotaping is not permitted.
10. Participation may result in being summoned/subpoenaed to criminal/civil court as a witness.
11. Participants shall follow all directions from the police officer while participating in this program.
12. Participants will NOT purposefully view or use the in car technology including but not limited to computer, camera and radio.

Failure to comply with any of the above conditions may result in a disapproval of participation or termination of participation. The City of Myrtle Beach, in its sole discretion, may decline or terminate participation for any reason.

Participant understands there are risks associated with participation in the Addiction Recovery Outreach Program including but not limited to the risk of injury and the possibility of death. Participant recognizes that participating in the program could increase the participant's risk of contracting COVID-19. Participant appreciates the risk and voluntarily assumes the risk of injury, death and/or infection.

Participant releases and forever discharges the City of Myrtle Beach and its employees, agents, and representatives from any and all liabilities, losses, damages, costs and expenses (including but not limited to attorney's fees and other legal expenses) of any kind and nature whatsoever that Participant may suffer and/or incur as a result of his/her participation in the Addiction Recovery Outreach Program.

Participant agrees to indemnify and hold the City of Myrtle Beach harmless from and against any liability resulting from his/her participation in the Addiction Recovery Outreach Program.

By signing below, the Participant acknowledges he/she has read, understands, and agrees to the terms and conditions of this program.

I have read and understand this Agreement and sign it freely and voluntarily. No oral representations, statements or inducements - apart from this agreement - have been made to me and I execute this agreement fully intending to be bound by the same.

Participant Signature _____ Date _____

Witness
Date

Print Participant Name

Myrtle Beach Police Command Officer Signature Date

Print Myrtle Beach Police Command Officer