

STOCKTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDERS

CIVILIAN RIDERS
SUBJECT

DATE: April 16, 2010

NO: W-1

FROM: CHIEF ERIC JONES

TO: ALL PERSONNEL

INDEX: **Civilian Riders**
Observers In Police Vehicles

I. POLICY

- A. Persons other than Stockton Police Officers and Police Reserve Officers are permitted to operate or ride in a police vehicle with the following provisions:
1. Permitted to ride as passengers in police vehicles:
 - a. Authorized persons, including those involved or connected with a police investigation, i.e., victims, witnesses, suspects, sick or injured persons, or citizens being aided by a Police Department employee.
 - b. Authorized observers, such as outside agency law enforcement officers, police officer candidates, relatives and friends of officers who request to ride as observers, and community residents.
 2. Permitted to operate police vehicles:
 - a. Civilian personnel, including persons specifically authorized, e.g., Community Service Officers, Facility Aides, Police Cadets, and other Department members engaged in official police duties.

II. PROCEDURE FOR RIDERS AND OBSERVERS

- A. Any Division, Section, Unit, or Watch Commander may authorize a rider/observer. It will be the commander's responsibility to ensure the completion of the Release and Waiver form (PD 1160, copy attached) and its forwarding to the Watch Commander's Office for handling. Any request for a ride-along must be approved by the Watch Commander who is scheduled to be on duty at the time of the scheduled ride-along. The Watch Commander shall be notified at least one day prior to the ride-along, via the Field Services Sergeant with whom the original request was made. The name of the officer with whom the rider will be assigned should, if possible, be included with the request. It will be the Watch Commander's responsibility to ensure the completion of the Release and Waiver form (PD 1160, copy attached) and its filing in the Watch Commander's Office.
1. All persons being scheduled to ride with a patrol officer, whether the rider is sworn or civilian, shall be coordinated through the respective Field Services Sergeant from whose shift the ride has been requested. Persons wishing to ride with an officer may be referred to the on duty Watch Commander for scheduling. The on duty Watch Commander will then assign a Field Services Sergeant to coordinate scheduling of the prospective rider.
 2. California Law Enforcement Officers must be approved by the Division, Section, Unit, or Watch Commander. They are not, however, required to sign the waiver and release form.
 3. Police Officer candidates, i.e., those who have successfully passed both written and oral entrance examination, must be approved by the Personnel & Training Section and are to then contact the Watch Commander's Office, for a Field Services Sergeant to be assigned for coordinating scheduling.
 4. Relatives or friends of police officers must be approved by a Division, Section, Unit, or

Watch Commander.

- a. Officer spouses and/or significant others cannot, under any circumstances, ride with the officer to whom they are married or associated.
 5. All citizens requesting to be a rider may be subject to a “cursory” security check, at the discretion of the Division, Section, Unit, or Watch Commander prior to being approved for a ride-along.
 6. Any person under the age of eighteen (18) years must have a completed “Release and Waiver” signed by their parents(s) or guardian(s) prior to the minor being allowed to ride-along. The minor should be at least sixteen (16) years of age in order to be an observer.
 7. All persons assigned to ride as an observer should be instructed to dress comfortably, but shall be required to wear clothing that is appropriate for the workplace. Clothing which may project for the Police Department an image which is less than professional (e.g., blue jeans, short skirts, shirts with suggestive or derogatory logos, clothing that is unnecessarily revealing, etc.) may result in the rider being unable to participate.
 8. Members of the K-9 Unit, while on duty with their canine, may take a civilian rider as long as it is first cleared by the Watch Commander. Careful consideration should be used when allowing a civilian to ride in a K-9 unit.
- B. All rider/observers must be approved by the on-duty Watch Commander prior to riding in a police vehicle. In some instances, the Watch Commander may elect not to permit the ride-along.
 - C. The completed “Release and Waiver” (PD form 1160) will be retained by the Watch Commander until the conclusion of the ride-along. It will then be filed in the respective (North or South) Field Services Division Watch Commander’s Office, in the Ride-Along Binder.
 - D. The attached example of the “Rider/Observer Roster” will be completed in conjunction with the release form and maintained in the Watch Commander’s Office. It will be the Watch Commander’s responsibility to ensure its proper completion.

RELEASE AND WAIVER

In consideration for being granted permission to ride as an observer in a City of Stockton Police vehicle, I, _____, do hereby agree to hold the City of Stockton, its employees, agents, officers, and elected officials harmless from any liability for damages, of any kind whatsoever, which I may sustain as the result of any act or omissions of said employees, agents, officers, or elected officials or any third party.

I specifically understand that I may be involved in a high-speed chase, be fired at, attacked, or asked to exit the Police vehicle at a time and place which may expose me to danger.

I fully understand Police activities can become very hazardous without any warning.

I expressly assume all risks, including, but not limited to, those specifically listed above, as a necessary condition to being allowed to participate as an observer.

DATED: _____

SIGNATURE

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE NUMBER

JUVENILE

The undersigned, being the parents or guardians of _____, hereby join with him/her in requesting appointment as observer (aforesaid) and do join with him/her in granting release and discharge to the City of Stockton, its officials, officers, agents, and employees as set out in detail above.

DATED

PARENTS OR GUARDIANS

NOTE: Any person under eighteen (18) years must have the signature of parent or guardian prior to riding as an observer. Any person eighteen (18) years and over may be allowed to sign for himself or herself.

WATCH COMMANDER'S APPROVAL

OFFICER ASSIGNED: _____

SECTOR ASSIGNED: _____

DURATION: from: _____ to: _____

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