



New Bedford Police Department

Administrative Services

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JONATHAN F. MITCHELL
Mayor

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Chief of Police

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Guidelines Concerning the Civilian Ride-Along Program

1. The ride-along participants will not represent themselves as law enforcement in any form either verbally or visually.
2. The officer shall notify communications that they have a civilian rider when they go in service any time they have a participant riding with them.
3. Officers will instruct the participant(s) regarding the operations of the Police Radio at the start of the shift. Participants will only be allowed to use the cruisers radio to summon help in the event of an emergency situation. Location of the vehicles First Aid equipment should also be shown to the participant(s).
4. Persons conducting a ride-along are not permitted to carry a firearm or other weapons during their ride-along.
5. The ride-along participant will at all times obey the commands and or directive of the officer assigned and of all officers of this agency. The assigned officer will determine when a participant is allowed to exit the vehicle in any instance.
6. The officer shall have the authority to suspend a ride-along at any time, and transport and participant back to Police H.Q. The assigned officer shall notify the Shift Supervisor and the Training Director at the earliest possible convenience and explain the reason(s) the ride was terminated.
7. Ride-along participants shall not become directly involved in any law enforcement activity unless specifically requested to do so by the assigned officer or in cases of extreme emergency, at their own discretion.
8. Ride-along participants may not be on private property against the will of the owner. The privacy of victims and/or suspects should be respected by the participant at all times.
9. Safety of the participant shall be paramount for the assigned officer at all times, especially when using their discretion as to whether or not to allow the participants to exit the cruiser during their scheduled tour.

10. Officers will not allow ride-along participants to participate in active calls. Ride-along participants will only be allowed to observe police operations and remain seated in their marked patrol units during the scheduled tour.
11. Officers who are assigned with participants will not engage in proactive police actions and will not respond with participants to potentially dangerous calls for service. Examples of calls which are prohibited include the following *police pursuits, active incidents involving robberies, shots fired incidents and calls involving weapons*. Officers may respond to assist in traffic stops and past disturbances but must keep a safe distance to ensure the safety of the participant(s).
12. In the event of an emergency situation, officers can terminate the ride.
13. Ride-along participants shall properly wear their seat belt at all times while the police vehicle is in motion.
14. The assigned officer shall notify participants that anything they observe is of a confidential nature and shall not be freely discussed. The participant WILL NOT divulge any of the privileged information they may be exposed to during the scheduled ride.
15. Any injury to a ride-along participant, no matter how slight, shall be documented and the shift supervisor shall be immediately notified. The assigned officer shall insure that the injury is examined by an emergency medical care provider and is completely documented, including photographs when applicable. A copy of the report will also be forwarded to the Departments Training Director.
16. Ride-along participants are not permitted to be involved in any police action (e.g., search, arrest, interview suspects, etc.)
17. Ride-along participants shall not be permitted to remain with prisoners in the absence of officers.
18. The ride-along participants are not permitted to ride along with a police officer with whom they have or have had any personal relationship (e.g., boyfriend, girlfriend, spouse, former spouse)
19. Ride-along participants are prohibited from carrying with them, during the Ride-along, any flashlight, camera, radio of any type, tape recorder or player, binoculars, or any similar device unless authorized by the commander or shift supervisor.
20. Ride-along participants are prohibited from using any type of tobacco product during the scheduled ride.
21. Ride-along participants are observers. They will not exit a police vehicle during any police activity unless directed to do so by a police officer. They will refrain from direct involvement in police functions or conversation with violators, suspects, arrestees, witnesses, complainants, or other members of the public encountered during the source of the official duties of the police officers with whom the participant is riding along with.

22. Ride-along participants are required to dress in casual business attire during their ride-along. Acceptable dress for men includes suit, sport coat and slacks, collared shirt and slacks. Women may wear the preceding or a dress or pants suit. Tactical clothing, jeans, shirts without collars, or tee shirts are not permitted.

Lt. Scott Carola
Administrative Assistant to the Chief

Participant's Full Name (Print): _____

Participant's Signature: _____ Date: _____