

**STOCKTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**GENERAL ORDERS**

**CIVILIAN RIDERS**  
**SUBJECT**

**DATE:** May 6, 2019

**NO:** W-1

**FROM:** CHIEF ERIC JONES

**TO:** ALL PERSONNEL

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

**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/helicopter:
    - 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 police vehicle rider/observer. Only the Air Support Unit (ASU) Lieutenant, or their designee, may authorize a police helicopter rider/observer. It will be the commander's responsibility to ensure the completion of the Release and Waiver form (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 Administrative Lieutenant 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 and its filing in the Watch Commander's Office. For helicopter riders, ASU crewmembers will be responsible for ensuring the completion of the Release and Waiver form and its filing in the ASU Sergeant'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" will be retained by the Watch Commander until the conclusion of the ride-along. It will then be filed in the Ride-Along Binder.
  - D. The Ride A Long log in Onedrive will be completed in conjunction with the release form which will be maintained in the Watch Commander's Office. It will be the Watch Commander's responsibility to ensure its proper completion.

**City of Stockton Police Department  
Civilian Rider Waiver and Release of Liability**

In consideration for being granted permission to ride as an observer in either a City of Stockton (City) police vehicle or helicopter, I, \_\_\_\_\_ agree as follows:

**ASSUMPTION OF RISK:**

If participating in a **helicopter ride** along:

I freely and voluntarily choose to assume all the risks inherent in aircraft flight. Serious injury or death can result from many causes, including but not limited to crashes, pilot error, engine or mechanical failure, negligent maintenance, interference by birds and other objects, weather conditions, or hard or forced landings.

\_\_\_\_\_(initial)

If participating in a **vehicle ride** along:

I freely and voluntarily choose to assume all the risks inherent in a vehicle ride along. Serious injury or death can result from many causes, including but not limited to high-speed chases, being fired at, attacked, or asked to exit the police vehicle at a time and place which may expose me to danger.

\_\_\_\_\_(initial)

**I fully understand police ride-alongs can become very hazardous without any warning, and hereby expressly and specifically assume the risk of injury or harm in these activities and release the City from all liability for injury, illness, death, or property damage.**

**RELEASE OF LIABILITY:** In consideration for being permitted to participate in the ride-along, I agree that neither I nor my assignees, heirs, executors, guardians or legal representatives will make a claim or assert any causes of action (known or unknown) against, or sue City, its relates or affiliated entities or persons, directors, officers, employees, contractors or agents for death, bodily injury, property damage or any other liability, of any sort arising from ride-along activities.

**INJURY:** I release the City from any claim that may arise as a result of any first aid treatment or other medical services that I receive in connection with my participating in either vehicle or helicopter ride-along with the City. If I am injured during my participation, I authorize any physician licensed in California to provide the emergency treatment he or she believes, in his or her sole judgment is necessary. I also fully understand that the City does not assume any responsibility for or have any obligation to provide financial assistance or other assistance, including but not limited to medical, health or disability insurance, in the event of injury, illness, death or property damage. In no event shall the City be liable, regardless of whether any claim is based on contract or tort, for any special, consequential, indirect or incidental damages.

**PHOTOS:** I agree to allow my image “**or likeness**” to be used in published materials and web sites that promote the City’s ride-along programs. I grant the City all right, title, and interest in any and all photographic images, video or audio recordings and other replications or documentation of my person or voice made by the City during my ride-along with the City, including, but not limited to, any royalties, proceeds, or other benefits that are derived from such photographs or recordings.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT AND WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENT AND MEANING. I AM AWARE THAT THIS FORM IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND A CONTRACT BETWEEN ME, AND CITY.

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Spelling of Participant's Name	Date	Address	Phone
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Signature of Participant	City/State/Zip	E-mail
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**IF PARTICIPANT IS UNDER 18, THE PARENT (OR GUARDIAN) MUST SIGN.**

**I am the parent or legal guardian of the above participant and he/she has my permission to participate in ride-along activity. I have read and agree to the provisions stated above for myself and the participant. Further, I understand and agree that the City is not responsible for supervision of minor participants and that if I allow the above minor to participate without my supervision, I assume ALL the risks from such participation.**

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Spelling of Legal Guardian's Name	Date	Address	Phone
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Signature of Legal Guardian	City/State/Zip	E-mail
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