

## 2.452 RIDE/WALK ALONG PROGRAM

- A. The agency's ride/walk along program is established as an outreach and educational tool primarily for the use of:
  1. Currently registered students, staff, and faculty of the university;
  2. Perspective UM students; and
  3. University police officer applicants.
  4. Family members of Agency officers.
- B. The bureau commander administering patrol squads will designate a supervisory or administrative ranked officer to serve in an ancillary capacity as the agency's ride/walk along program coordinator and at least one other supervisory or administrative ranked officer to serve, when needed, as an acting ride/walk along program coordinator.
- C. Duties and responsibilities of the ride/walk along program coordinator include, but are not limited to:
  1. Ensuring an adequate supply of ride/walk along Consent and Release Agreements are available at the service desk;
  2. Ensuring ride/walk along applications and necessary background checks are processed expeditiously;
  3. Approving ride/walk along applications consistent with the protocols established herein;
  4. Coordinating and scheduling approved ride/walk alongs with patrol squad supervisory personnel and program applicants;
  5. Maintaining appropriate program records;
  6. Preparing and disseminating any required or requested analytical reports pertaining to the ride/walk along program; and
  7. Reviewing, at least annually, the policy, guidelines, and website and making any need revisions.
- D. Individuals not directly affiliated with the university may be authorized to participate in ride/walk alongs if, as determined by the ride/walk along program coordinator, patrol's bureau commander, or chief, such participation would reinforce the strengths and support the values of the agency.
- E. Juvenile participants must have Consent and Release Agreements signed by a parent or guardian. Parents or guardians may be required to accompany juveniles.
- F. Ride/walk alongs will not be assigned to officers during the active phase of their FTO training.
- G. No more than 50% of on-duty patrol cruisers may carry ride alongs at any time.
- H. Individuals who file complaints with the agency consistent with **2.900 Complaints & Discipline** may be permitted to participate in ride/walk alongs.
  1. Only the chief may authorize complainants to participate in the ride/walk along program.
  2. Complainants will not be authorized to ride/walk along with officers against whom they have filed a complaint.
  3. Persons litigating or threatening to litigate against the agency or the university will not be authorized to ride/walk along.
- I. Applicants for ride/walk alongs:
  1. Must complete online ride/walk along applications and Consent and Release Agreements, preferably at least five business days prior to their requested ride/walk alongs;
  2. Must complete and sign hard copies of Consent and Release Agreements when reporting for their ride/walk alongs and have them witnessed by the officer to whom they are assigned.
    - a. Officers will witness applicant signatures and complete the bottom portion of the forms when the ride/walk alongs are completed.
    - b. Officers will submit the forms to supervisors for approval prior to the end of the shift during which the rides occur.
  3. Must be dressed appropriately and present an appropriate demeanor;
  4. May not ride/walk along more than once per calendar year unless specifically authorized by the Chief or Patrol's Bureau Commander;
  5. Must utilize safety belts and any other safety equipment while in agency vehicles;
  6. Must not interfere with or attempt to assist officers handling situations or calls for service;
  7. May be ordered to remain in police vehicles or places of safety while officers are handling situations or calls for service;
  8. Will be assigned only to single officer cruisers or foot patrol units; and;
  9. May be summonsed to appear in court or administrative proceedings to testify on behalf of the State relating to incidents witnessed during their ride/walk alongs.
  10. Will not be permitted to have cameras or recording devices and may not take any type of pictures, videos, or audio recordings with their cell phones unless it has been specifically approved by the ride along coordinator, PIO, patrol's bureau commander, or the Office of the Chief prior to the ride/walk along being approved.
  11. Will not be permitted to follow officers into the station with a prisoner and may not be in the arrest processing room with a prisoner.
    - a. If the officer has an arrestee, the applicant will be directed to the public entrance of the station to wait for the officer in the lobby.
    - b. If it appears the officer will be delayed for an extended period of time, another officer may be assigned to continue the ride along.
- J. Ride/walk alongs will not be approved or will be terminated when:
  1. Applicants supply untruthful information in their applications;
  2. Applicants refuse to execute the Consent and Release Agreement;
  3. Applicants have adverse criminal histories or driving records;
  4. Applicants do not present an appropriate dress or demeanor;
  5. Applicants are intoxicated, under the influence of alcohol or other substances, or have the odor of alcoholic beverages on or about their persons;
  6. Evidence is developed to indicate applicants may intend to disrupt, or interfere with, agency or university activities; or
  7. The presence of applicants would place applicants, officers, or citizens at unnecessary, unreasonable, or unjustifiable risk.
- K. Applicants refused permission to participate in ride/ walk alongs may appeal the decision, in writing, to the chief. The chief retains final discretion for authorizing or not authorizing ride/walk alongs.
- L. Officers may request permission of supervisory or administrative ranked personnel to discontinue or terminate for cause those in-progress ride/walk alongs wherein applicants fail to meet the criteria established in this directive.
- M. Ride/walk alongs terminated for cause will be documented in CIS by the supervisory or administrative ranked officers who authorize the discontinuations or terminations.
- N. Frequency and time length limitations do not apply to members of the agency's chaplain corps.
- O. Sergeants and acting sergeants may approve last minute ride/walk along requests made through officers on their shifts only when it is not possible to go through normal procedures. When approving the ride/walk along, the approving supervisor will:
  1. Ensure the applicant completes the online application.
  2. Ensure the applicant completes and signs the Consent and Release Agreement.
  3. Have Communications run a computer background check and review it for any disqualifying information.
  4. Send the ride along coordinator an email advising of the approval.
  5. Review the Consent and Release Agreement and sign it.

6. Place all related paperwork in the ride along program coordinator's mailbox by the end of the shift during which the ride/walk along was approved.
- P. Officers will advise Communications when they begin and end ride/walk alongs. Communications will initiate a "status" entry in the RMS that will indicate the start and end times of the ride along.