

# DALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

<i>Effective Date</i>	<b>May 1, 1998</b>	<i>Number</i>	<b>GO88-4.17</b>
<b>Subject</b> <b>Ride-Along Program –General</b>			
<i>Reference</i>		<i>Revised</i>	<b>November 26, 2019</b> <b>December 28, 2021</b>
<i>Distribution</i>	<b>All Personnel</b>	<i>Re-evaluation Date</i>	<b>November 2024 December 2023</b>

## I. Policy

It is the policy of the Dalton Police Department to allow ~~civilian personnel that are not members of this Department~~ members of the community to ride as observers in police vehicles upon proper request and authorization.

## II. Guidelines

- A. Any person, not a member of this Department, wishing to ride as an observer in a police vehicle shall complete a ride-along application packet (Appendix A) and submit it to the respective Watch Commander for approval at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance.
- B. Any person wishing to ride as an observer in a police vehicle must be at least eighteen (18) years of age, unless he / she is a member of the ~~Explorer~~ **Public Safety Cadet** Program or fulfilling an educational requirement from an approved school curriculum. All Dalton ~~Police Explorers~~ **Public Safety Cadets** shall comply with the requirements of policy GO93-4.18, ~~Ride-Along Program—Explorers~~ **Public Safety Cadet Program**. Any person wishing to ride for an educational requirement must receive approval from the Patrol Division Commander or his / her designee at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance.
- C. The following categories of persons shall not be allowed to ride as observers: persons with known felony convictions; persons with mental incompetence; persons with medical problems; or other persons disqualified by the Chief of Police. Prospective ride-along observers shall be the subject of a criminal history check through Department files and NCIC/GCIC. The ride-along file shall also be checked to determine the number of times an individual has rode along during the year.
- D. In every case, the needs of the Department and availability of resources shall determine whether a request to ride as an observer is approved. Priority shall be given to applicants intended for criminal justice coordination, news media, education research, or similar purposes.

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- E. Only experienced Officers or Supervisors should be selected to escort **civilian ride-along** observers.
- F. If an observer interferes with operations or police actions, the Officer shall return the observer to the place of departure and advise the Supervisor of the circumstances.
- G. All program participants are required to reflect a neat and clean appearance and are expected to pay for their own meals and refreshments.
- H. If an Officer with an **civilian** observer responds to an emergency call, which has a high probability of being life-threatening to the observer or may expose him / her to undue risk of injury, the Officer is to direct the observer to remain in the patrol vehicle. In all other incidents, the observer may exit the patrol unit with the Officer or remain in it at his / her discretion.
- I. Observers are not permitted to carry weapons, including firearms, batons, Taser or stun guns, pepper sprays, or knives, while riding along, unless they are certified Georgia peace officers in good standing.
- J. Observers are limited to periods of four (4) hours per ride-along, unless otherwise authorized by the Patrol Division Commander.
- K. Observers are limited to riding along no more than three (3) times per calendar year, unless otherwise authorized by the Patrol Division Commander.
- L. While participating in a ride-along, no observer is allowed to enter into a residence or any other location where a reasonable expectation of privacy exists.
- M. Audio and video recordings shall not be allowed by any observer during a ride along, unless authorized by the Patrol Division Commander. Cameras or video recorders are not to accompany any observer during the ride along, unless authorized by the Patrol Division Commander.

*This policy supersedes any previous policies issued.*

**BY ORDER OF**

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**CHIEF OF POLICE**

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## Appendix A

GO88-4.17  
Ride-Along Program

Public Safety Cadet	
Educational Program	
Citizens' Academy	
Leadership Dalton/Whitfield	
Emerging Leaders	



Case # \_\_\_\_\_

### DALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT Application for Ride Along

Full Name (please print)

Date of Birth

Social Security Number

Home Address

Race

Sex

Driver's License Number & State

City, State, Zip Code

Telephone #

Signature

Secondary Telephone #

Signature of Parent or Guardian (if under 18 years of age)

#### PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

Preferred dates to ride: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred time to ride: **First Day** Shift: \_\_\_\_ 7 a.m. – 11 a.m. Or \_\_\_\_ 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Or \_\_\_\_ 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.

**(Only one 4-hour  
block will be  
approved)** **Second Night** Shift: \_\_\_\_ 7 p.m. – 11 p.m. Or \_\_\_\_ 11 p.m. – 3 a.m.

Officer preference (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Sworn to and subscribed before me,

This \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_.

Criminal history completed:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Notary Public

By whom: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness

Date

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William C. Cason III  
Chief of Police



301 Jones Street  
Dalton, GA 30720  
<http://daltonga.gov>  
P: 706.278.9085  
F: 706.217.2075

## **DALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT** **Appropriate Dress Guidelines for Ride Along**

Clothing must be neat and clean.

Appropriate business clothing will be acceptable.

Casual style pants and a shirt with a collar are acceptable.

A cap or other inclement weather clothing (jacket, rainwear) is acceptable, as long as it does not indicate anything of an inappropriate nature.

Footwear that covers the foot (no open toe) and provides protection from varying conditions is required.

No tank tops, shorts, or t-shirts allowed.

No skirts, dresses, or mid-drift shirts allowed.

No torn clothing allowed.

***I acknowledge that I have read and understand the Appropriate Dress Guidelines.***

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Signature

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Date

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## GEORGIA CRIME INFORMATION CENTER AWARENESS STATEMENT

Access to Criminal Justice Information, as defined in GCIC Council Rule 140-1-.02 (amended), and dissemination of such information are governed by state and federal laws and GCIC Council Rules. Criminal Justice Information cannot be accessed or disseminated by any employee except as directed by superiors and as authorized by approved standard operating procedures which are based on controlling state and federal laws, relevant federal regulations, and the Rules of the GCIC Council.

O.C.G.A. §35-3-38 establishes criminal penalties for specific offenses involving obtaining, using, or disseminating criminal history record information except as permitted by law. The same statute establishes criminal penalties for disclosing or attempting to disclose techniques or methods employed to ensure the security and privacy of information or data contained in Georgia criminal justice information systems.

The Georgia Computer Systems Protection Act (O.C.G.A. §16-9-90 et. seq.) provides for the protection of public and private sector computer systems, including communications links to such computer systems. The Act establishes four criminal offenses, all major felonies, for violations of the Act: Computer Theft, Computer Trespass, Computer Invasion of Privacy, and

Computer Forgery. The criminal penalties for each offense carries maximum sentences of fifteen (15) years in prison and/or fines up to \$50,000.00, as well as possible civil ramifications. The

Act also establishes Computer Password Disclosure as a criminal offense with penalties of one (1) year in prison and/or a \$5,000.00 fine.

The Georgia Criminal Justice Information System Network is operated by the Georgia Crime Information Center in compliance with O.C.G.A. §35-3-31. All databases accessible via CJIS Network terminals are protected by the Computer Systems Protection Act. Similar communications and computer systems operated by municipal/county governments are also protected by the Act.

By my signature below,  
I acknowledge that I have read and understand this Awareness Statement.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed by GCIC in 2013/Last Revised 2010

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## DALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT Waiver of Liability

WHEREAS, the undersigned, \_\_\_\_\_ desires to ride with a member of the City of Dalton Police Department in order to observe the activities of the City of Dalton Police Department;

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration ~~of the use~~ of the premises, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the undersigned does hereby declare and agree to the following:

(a) ~~agree and warrant that they do hereby~~ to release, defend, indemnify and save harmless the City of Dalton, its officers, directors, employees, and any other person, firm or corporation charged or chargeable with responsibility or liability, their heirs, administrators, executors, successors, ~~and~~ assigns and agents, from any and all costs, expenses, restrictions, claims, demands, suits, actions, proceedings, damages, liabilities, deficiencies, judgments, levies, costs or expenses, including, but not limited to, attorney's fees and expenses of any kind and nature, including, but not by way of limitation, any claim for damages to property or injuries to or death ~~of any person or persons~~ relating to or arising from riding with a member of the City of Dalton Police Department or arising out of any activities in connection with the ride-along with the City of Dalton Police Department, ~~regardless of whether arising from the negligence or wrongful acts, errors or omissions of the City of Dalton unless caused by intentional and / or willful or wanton acts of the City of Dalton's officers or employees;~~

(b) ~~agree and warrant that they shall~~ to reimburse the City of Dalton ~~for any~~ legal fees and other costs incurred in the City of Dalton's defense of ~~such any claims of litigation or action arising out of any ride-along with the City of Dalton Police Department.~~ The City of Dalton shall have the right to participate in the defense of any claims or litigation and shall have the right to approve any settlement;

(c) ~~agrees~~ that this ~~waiver is also a~~ release ~~which~~ extends and applies to, and also covers and includes, all unknown, unforeseen, unanticipated and unsuspected injuries, damages, loss and liability, and the consequences thereof, as well as those now disclosed and known to exist. The provisions of any state, federal, local or territorial law or statute providing in substance that releases shall not extend to claims, demands, injuries or damages which are unknown or unsuspected to exist at the time, to the person executing such release, are hereby expressly waived;

(d) acknowledge that ~~the this~~ waiver and release hereby releases and discharges the

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City of Dalton, its officers, directors, employees and agents, of any and all claims, relating to any bodily and personal injuries or damages to property and the consequences thereof resulting from their participation in the ride-along with the City of Dalton Police Department **absent the City of Dalton's officer's or employee's intentional, willful, or wanton act or reckless conduct.** The undersigned further covenants with the City of Dalton that they, their heirs, executors, assigns and transferees will never at any future time sue the City of Dalton for or on account of any claim for damages arising out of their participation in the ride-along with the City of Dalton Police Department whether such claims arise by the negligence of the City of Dalton, its employees or agents, or by the negligence of any other participant **except when there is intentional willful or wanton misconduct or acts on the part of the City of Dalton's officers or employees;**

(e) **agree and understands that** the agreement **by** of the City of Dalton to allow the undersigned to ride with a member of the City of Dalton Police Department, is not to be construed as an admission of liability and acceptance of assumption of responsibility by the City of Dalton, its officers and members.

WITNESS the hand and seal of the undersigned, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

“Undersigned”: \_\_\_\_\_  
(sign here)

Signed, sealed, sworn to, and  
Subscribed before the undersigned  
unofficial witness and notary public

\_\_\_\_\_  
Unofficial Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

Commission Date:

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