

DALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

	<i>Effective Date</i> May 1, 1998	<i>Number</i> GO88-4.17
<i>Subject</i> Ride-Along Program		
<i>Reference</i>		<i>Revised</i> December 28, 2021 December 19, 2023
<i>Distribution</i> All Personnel	<i>Re-evaluation Date</i> December 2023 December 2025	<i>No. Pages</i> 7

I. **Policy**

It is the policy of the Dalton Police Department to allow 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 Public Safety Cadet Program or fulfilling an educational requirement from an approved school curriculum. All Dalton Public Safety Cadets shall comply with the requirements of policy GO93-4.18, 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.
- E. Only experienced Officers or Supervisors should be selected to escort 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 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

CHIEF OF POLICE

RESTRICTED LAW ENFORCEMENT DATA

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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: 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) 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____.

 Notary Public

Criminal history completed:
 Date: _____
 By whom: _____

 Witness Date

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.

Signature

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 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) 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, 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 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, unless caused by intentional and / or willful or wanton acts of the City of Dalton's officers or employees;

(b) to reimburse the City of Dalton any legal fees and other costs incurred in the City of Dalton's defense of any claim 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) 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 this waiver and release hereby releases and discharges the 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

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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) the agreement 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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