

**Lower Providence Township Police Department
Eagleville, Pennsylvania**

General Order <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		ORDER NUMBER
Special Order <input type="checkbox"/>		
Personnel Order <input type="checkbox"/>		419
Subject Ride-Along/ Police Internship Program		
Date of Issue September 8, 2020	Effective Date September 8, 2020	Expiration Date Until Amended or Rescinded
Issued by: Michael Jackson, Chief of Police		
Amends	Rescinds	
Standard Number:		
Distribution 1. General Order Manuals 2. Records Manual 3. Reading Verification to all Personnel		

I. PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this policy to establish guidelines to permit authorized individuals to participate in a "Police Ride Along Program." The program shall serve to enhance the participant's knowledge and skills of the police function in Lower Providence Township by closely observing police officers handling calls and performing a variety of tasks during the course of a patrol shift.

II. POLICY

It shall be the policy of this Police Department to permit authorized individuals to participate in the "Ride Along Program" under strict supervision of Lower Providence Township Police Officers. Participants, while engaged in the program, shall be required to abide by established ride along policies and procedures to ensure their own safety, the safety of the officer and the public, and to reduce the potential for liability directed at the Police Department arising out of their participation in the program.

III. DEFINITIONS

AUTHORIZED RIDE ALONG INDIVIDUAL: Authorized individuals will be considered on a case-by-case basis. A person chosen by the police department, through the guidelines established in this general order, to participate in the police department's ride along program.

IV. RIDE-ALONG PROCEDURES

A. Authorized Ride Along Individual Responsibilities

1. Authorized ride along individual should be a criminal justice student and/or a prospective employee with criminal justice background or training.
2. Authorized ride along individual shall be 18 years of age or older.
3. Authorized ride along individual shall have a working knowledge of the Police radio system.
4. Authorized ride along individual shall have demonstrated a willingness to work closely with police officers, and a willingness to accept direct supervision from the officer.
5. Authorized ride along individual shall have demonstrated confidentiality with respect to police activities the member may have been privileged to as a participant in the Ride Along Program.
6. Authorized ride along individual shall sign a waiver of liability releasing the Department and the Township from all liability, which may result from participation in the program.
7. Members shall wear and display their Ride Along Program identification card at all times.

B. Police Officer Responsibilities

1. Police officers participating in the program will directly supervise Ride Along Program participants.
2. Officers shall be knowledgeable of Ride Along Program rules and procedures.
3. Officers will closely monitor the individual's participation in the program, and shall report, in writing to the Chief of Police, all infractions or any other conduct the officer believes:
 - a. will interfere with the officer performing his duties;
 - b. has jeopardized the safety of any person, including the officer and the member;
 - c. Or brings discredit or reflects unfavorably upon the Lower Providence Township Police Department.
4. Officers shall have the authority to terminate any ride along patrol at their own discretion, providing one of the above circumstances has taken place or some other emergency condition exists.

5. Officers shall not request the assistance of the authorized ride along individual to conduct any type of criminal investigation, such as checking doors and buildings, or searching for suspects. Generally, the authorized ride along individual shall remain in the patrol vehicle while the officer conducts police business. However, the member may exit the vehicle upon the request of the officer to perform some other tasks that will not place the individual in jeopardy; i.e., conducting a search for a missing child in conjunction with other members of the Police and/or Fire Departments.

6. Officers shall not knowingly and intentionally place the authorized ride along individual in jeopardy, such as engaging in a high-speed pursuit while the member is in the patrol car. Authorized ride along individuals shall be knowledgeable on the use of the department radio. If the officer determines that a call or situation might unnecessarily place the member in jeopardy, the officer shall discharge the authorized ride along individual at a safe place and then respond to the call. The authorized ride along individual shall then call to be picked up by another patrol officer or pre-determined individual who will be available during the times of the ride along session.

7. Officers should be careful not to discuss confidential police business in the presence of the authorized ride along individual.

8. While on patrol, the officer shall discuss important aspects of the police function with the authorized ride along individual, such as, how to patrol effectively, radio procedures, police tactics, reporting suspicious activity, and any other significant function of being a police officer that might benefit the program participant.

9. Reports shall be done for each ride along patrol.

V. POLICE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

A. The Lower Providence Township Police Department will sponsor a student internship program. The goal of the program is to provide undergraduate students, who are considering police work as a career, a structured program, which will present a practical look at a local law enforcement agency.

B. The Administrative Sergeant will be responsible for administering the police internship program.

C. If an irreconcilable behavior or program problem occurs between the student and an employee, the Chief of Police and the educational institution are to be notified immediately with an explanation.

D. The Police Internship Program is an individualized program that will be designed in consultation with the student, their university or college, and the police department.

E. Interns will be selected through a process determined by the Chief of Police.

F. Each intern will become familiar with Law Enforcement Code of Ethics and

necessary Department policies and procedures.

- G. The Department retains the right to terminate a student's internship for unacceptable behavior. The student's academic advisor will be notified by the Chief of Police, or designee, about the termination of the internship and related circumstances justifying the student's dismissal.

VI. PROHIBITED ACTIVITY

- A. All members of the Lower Providence Township Police Department are prohibited from fraternizing, dating or becoming romantically involved with any student intern working within the Department during the student's internship or with any participant in the department's Ride-Along Program.

VII. RESPONSIBILITY

- A. It is the responsibility of all supervisory personnel to ensure that all personnel under their immediate supervision comply with this policy.
- B. It is the responsibility of all police personnel to become familiar with this policy and to adhere to its procedures.

Michael Jackson

Michael Jackson
Chief of Police