

## **CHAPTER 21 – RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM**

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**EFFECTIVE: JULY 1, 2020**

## **CHAPTER 21 – RIDE ALONG PROGRAM**

### **\*Section 21.00 – Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to allow the members of the community the opportunity to ride with a Raymore Police Officer. This time provides citizens and officers the chance to interact with each other as officers perform their duties and citizens gain a broader understanding of the operation of the police department.

### **Section 21.01 – Policy**

It is the policy of the Raymore Police Department to provide a ride-along program for members of the community.

### **\*Section 21.02 – Procedures**

A. Applicants for the Ride-Along Program must submit a completed application one (1) week prior to the date requested to insure approval and scheduling. Extenuating circumstances that deviate from the time requirement must have approval from a commander or the Chief of Police before the ride-along occurs.

1. All applications must be approved by a Commander or the Chief of Police.

B. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age or have written approval from a parent or legal guardian. At no time shall anyone under the age of 16 be allowed to ride.

C. The applicant must sign a ride-along waiver, releasing the police department and City from liability in the event of injury. If the applicant is not 18 years of age, then the parent or legal guardian must sign the form.

D. The applicant must not have a criminal record.

1. A computer check of the applicant will be conducted prior to approval and the printout will be attached to the application.

E. The applicant must be dressed in a suit or business casual attire. Nice denim jeans with no holes and a collared shirt or Citizens Academy t-shirt are acceptable.

F. The above stated restrictions will not apply to employees of this department or police officers from other agencies.

1. Department employees or officers from other agencies must receive prior approval from a Captain or the Chief of Police.

2. Any other exceptions to the above stated restrictions must be approved by the Chief of Police.

H. Following approval, the participant will be scheduled and assigned to a police unit by the appropriate shift commander.

I. There will not be more than one (1) ride-along participant per shift, unless circumstances dictate an exception, such as related individuals or Citizen's Academy.

J. The officer must have a minimum of one (1) year of experience.

K. The officer will direct the ride-along as to when he or she may leave the unit. Under normal circumstances, officers should direct the riders to remain in the vehicle while calls, car stops, and similar matters are being handled.

L. It is recognized that in the course of conducting police work, officers may become involved in high risk incidents such as Priority 1 calls or pursuits. It is not always practical to drop the rider at a safe location, so officers are advised to exercise due caution based on the presence of a civilian.

M. Ride-Alongs may not accompany officers into places normally restricted from the general public, such as:

1. Private homes;
2. Private business, and;
3. Search warrants or tactical "raids".

N. The officer in charge of the unit may terminate the ride-along session any time the citizen does not follow instructions or interferes with police activities.

1. A memorandum will be prepared by the officer in charge and forwarded through the chain-of-command to the Chief of Police, detailing the reasons why the session was terminated.

O. The ride-along may be terminated at any time by the citizen. If the officer is on a call and cannot take the citizen back to the station immediately, another officer or a supervisor may be called to transport the individual.

P. Officers will present themselves in a professional manner in all instances, keeping in mind that they are representing the City and Raymore Police Department. All citizens participating in the ride-along program will be treated with respect and courtesy.

Q. The Chief of Police may deny or cancel any ride-along request when that action appears to be in conflict with the best interests of department operation.

R. Citizens will not be allowed to ride with an officer with whom they have a relationship, such as a family member, boyfriend or girlfriend.