2.430  RIDE/WALK ALONG PROGRAM

A. The agency’s ride/walk along program is established primarily for the use of:
   1. Currently registered students, staff, and faculty of the university;
   2. PROSPECTIVE TU students;
   3. University police officer applicants; and
   4. Others as determined by the Chief or a commander.

B. The commander responsible for the public information function is responsible for managing and facilitating the ride/walk along program. Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:
   1. Ensuring adequate supplies of applications are available to the public;
   2. Ensuring application 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 only for the hours of 0800 – 2400;
   5. Ensuring ride/walk alongs are not assigned to officers during their FTO training;
   6. Ensuring not more than 50% of patrol vehicles carry ride/walk along participants at any time;
   7. Maintaining appropriate program records; and
   8. Preparing and disseminating any required or requested reports pertaining to the ride/walk along program.

C. Background checks of ride/walk along applicants includes, but are not limited to:
   1. Criminal history;
   2. Wants and warrants;
   3. Driver’s record;
   4. Maryland Judiciary Case Search;
   5. CAD / RMS and internal affairs index master name check; and
   6. The university’s office responsible for student conduct.

D. Family members, domestic partners, and other individuals with romantic, business, etc. relationships with agency employees are not permitted to ride/walk along with those employees to whom they are linked.

E. Individuals litigating or threatening to litigate against the agency or who file complaints with the agency may be permitted to participate in ride/walk alongs. Only the Chief may authorize ride/walk alongs in these situations. Those individuals involved will not be authorized to ride/walk along with officers against whom litigation or complaints are directed.

F. Applicants for ride/walk alongs:
   1. Must be at least 18 year old;
   2. Must complete Ride/Walk Along Applications and Consent and Release agreements (UPO.027.D), preferably at least five business days prior to their projected ride/walk alongs;
   3. Must be dressed appropriately and present an appropriate demeanor;
   4. May be allowed to ride/walk along not more than four hours, twice a semester unless otherwise authorized by the Chief or a commander;
   5. Must use safety belts and any other safety equipment while in agency vehicles;
   6. Must not interfere with or attempt to assist with officers handling situations or calls for service;
   7. Must not use the police radio except in true emergencies;
   8. May be ordered to remain in police vehicles or places of safety while officers are handling situations or calls for service;
   9. Will be assigned only to single officer cruisers or foot patrol units; and
   10. 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.

G. Ride/walk alongs will not be approved if:
   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.

H. Applicants who are refused permission to participate in ride/walk alongs may appeal the decision in writing to the Chief who retains final discretion for authorizing or not authorizing ride/walk alongs.

I. Officers conducting ride/walk alongs:
   1. Will review program guidelines with participants before beginning ride / walk alongs;
   2. May request permission from the patrol supervisors to end walk/ride alongs if they determine that participants do not meet the criteria in parts F. or G.:
   3. Will ensure participants are taken to, or left in, safe areas before officers enter patently hazardous or life threatening situations;
   4. Will ensure observers are returned to Police Headquarters if they have been dropped off or will not be readily rejoined by officers;
   5. Complete Ride/Walk-Along Evaluation (UPO.028.D); and
   6. Write reports documenting facts and circumstances of ride/walk alongs that are terminated for cause.