

123 ADULT RIDE-IN PROGRAM

123.01 PURPOSE

The Adult Ride-In Program of the Las Cruces Police Department is designed to allow the general public the opportunity to ride with and observe police officers during their normal course of duty.

123.02 POLICY

It is the policy of the Las Cruces Police Department to encourage open and candid police operations and strive to establish a climate that allows officers to perform their duties with the acceptance, understanding, and approval of the public. Citizens are allowed to ride with officers to promote trust and understanding of the Law Enforcement Profession, which will help foster relationships with the community we serve.

123.03 APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all employees of the Las Cruces Police Department and supersedes all previous versions.

123.04 ELIGIBILITY

The Adult Ride-In Program is offered to residents, students, and those employed by the City of Las Cruces. Every attempt will be made to accommodate interested persons; however any applicant may be disqualified without cause. The following factors may be considered in disqualifying an applicant, but are not limited to:

- Being under 18 years of age (the Chief of Police or his designee will have the authorization to waive the age requirement)
- Prior criminal history
- Pending criminal action
- Pending lawsuit against the department
- Denial by any supervisor

123.05 PROCEDURES

Prospective ride-in participants will complete the departmental Ride-In Application and Hold Harmless Waiver and return it to the Office of the Chief of Police. Participants will be permitted to ride for a maximum duration of one (1) normal shift or as regulated by the shift supervisor. A period of ninety (90) days must lapse between each ride-in session. The number of riders allowed per shift will be left to the discretion of the on duty shift supervisor(s).

An exception would apply to the following, upon approval by the Area Watch Commander: Cadets, Chaplains, Mounted Patrol, family members including spouses, significant others, police applicants, and all others as approved. The Area Commander or designee shall have absolute discretion in assigning ride-ins of family members / significant others, as well as the frequency they are allowed to ride.

Upon approval of the Chief of Police or his / her designee, the Administrative Secretary shall forward the notice of ride-in application to the appropriate shift supervisor(s). Shift supervisors will complete and return the form to the Administrative Secretary when the session is complete.

Officer's who encounter problems with ride-in participants or know of circumstances making it unadvisable to allow their participation, will immediately notify the shift supervisor.

123.06 SUITABLE ATTIRE

Any person approved to ride is required to be suitably dressed in professional casual clothing. Sandals, t-shirts, tank tops, shorts, and ripped or torn jeans are not permitted. The Area Commander or duty supervisor may refuse to allow a ride-in to anyone not properly dressed.

123.07 PEACE OFFICER RIDE-IN AND WEAPON RESTRICTIONS

Off duty members of this department or any other law enforcement agency will not be permitted to ride-in with on duty officers without the expressed consent of the shift supervisor. In the event that such a ride-in is permitted, the off duty employee shall not be considered on duty and shall not represent themselves as a peace officer or participate in any law enforcement activity except as emergency circumstances may require.

Weapons (including knives, OC spray, etc.) may not be carried unless the person is a sworn (current or retired) law enforcement officer pursuant to 18 USC 926. This restriction includes concealed weapons permits issued by the State of New Mexico or any other state. Such officers will not act as an agent of the department and will have no law enforcement responsibilities during the ride-in; they will dress in civilian clothes, and will carry the weapon concealed.

123.08 OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITY

The officer shall advise the dispatcher that a ride-in is present in the vehicle before going into service. Officers shall consider the safety of the ride-in at all times. Officers should use sound discretion when encountering potentially dangerous situations (i.e. vehicle pursuits, felony stops, etc) and if feasible, let the participant out of the vehicle in a well lighted place of safety. The dispatcher will be advised of the situation and as soon as practical have another police unit pick up the participant at that location. The ride-in may be continued or terminated at this time. Upon completion of the session, the ride-in form shall be returned through the shift supervision to the Office of the Chief of Police with any comments, which may be offered by the officer.

123.09 CONTROL OF RIDE-IN

The assigned employee shall maintain control over the ride-in at all times and instruct the rider in the conditions that limit their participation. These instructions should include, but are not limited to:

- (a) The ride-in will follow all directions given by the officer with whom they are riding as long as they are within reason.
- (b) The ride-in will not become involved in any investigation, handling of evidence, discussions with victims or suspects, or manipulate, interfere or handle any call/equipment; absent emergency circumstances.
- (c) The officer may terminate the ride-in at any time and the officer will return the observer to their home or to the station if the ride-in interferes with the performance of the officer's duties.
- (d) Ride-in(s) may be allowed to observe during the booking process provided this does not jeopardize their safety.

- (e) Officers will not allow any ride-in to be present in any residences or situations that would jeopardize their safety or cause undue stress or embarrassment to a victim or any other citizen.
- (f) Under no circumstance shall a civilian ride-in be permitted to enter a private residence with an officer without the consent of the resident or other authorized person.
- (g) For security and safety reasons, participants are not allowed to handle or use any of the officer's equipment or the equipment in the patrol vehicle unless emergency circumstances exist.
- (h) All ride-in(s) should be able to effectively communicate with officers, dispatchers, other law enforcement personnel, understand instructions, and be able to use the radio to summons assistance in an emergency situation.

LAS CRUCES POLICE DEPARTMENT
Adult Ride-In Program



Chief of Police
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Application

Name: _____
Last / First / Middle Application Date

Present Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Social Security Number: _____

Previous Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

Have You Ever Been Arrested? _____

In Case of Emergency, contact: _____

Condition of Ride –In Program

The Adult Ride-In Program of the Las Cruces Police Department is designed to allow the general public the opportunity to ride with and observe police officers during their normal course of duty. The program will allow a person to ride for a maximum duration of one regular shift or as regulated by the shift supervisor. A period of 90 days must lapse between each riding period.

Authorization for Conducting
Criminal Record Check

I hereby authorize the Las Cruces Police Department to inspect and /or obtain copies of arrest information concerning myself, if any, filed with the Las Cruces Police Department or with any other agency.

Signature of Applicant

State of New Mexico
County of Dona Ana

Subscribed and sworn to (affirmed) before me this ____ day of _____ 20 ____ by
_____.

Notary Public
My Commission expires: _____ 20 _____.

Remarks: _____

Checked by / Date

Hold Harmless Agreement

The undersigned does hereby request permission from the City of Las Cruces and the Las Cruces Police Department to ride with city police as an observer in a city police vehicle. Permission is granted to observe routine police activities. The undersigned recognizes that there are many significant risks of injury to the undersigned, both from the activities of the police officers as well as from the activities of third parties. In order to induce the City of Las Cruces and the Las Cruces Police Department to grant such permission, the undersigned does hereby agree to hold harmless the City of Las Cruces and the Las Cruces Police Department from any and all claims, injuries, or damage, which the undersigned may sustain while riding in such police vehicle or from undertaking any activities in connection therewith, and does hereby waive any right, which the undersigned might have to pursue a claim against the City of Las Cruces or the Las Cruces Police Department for any such claims, injuries, or damages.

Signature of Applicant

State of New Mexico
County of Dona Ana

Subscribed and sworn to (affirmed) before me this ____ day of _____ 20 ____ by _____.

Notary Public

My Commission expires: _____ 20 _____.

Approve **Disapproved**

Condition/Limitations: _____

Chief of Police

Date: _____