

## **SANTA CLARA POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER: 92.2**

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT RIDEALONGS**

**ISSUED APRIL 2006**

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#### **92.2.1 Purpose**

An observer is any person who rides on duty with members of or observes the operations of the Santa Clara Police Department. The following will be the procedure and rules relating to these persons.

#### **92.2.2 Who Can Ride**

All persons wishing to observe the inner-operations of the Police Department shall submit their request at least one week in advance. For those covered in [General Order 92.2.9](#), the request should be submitted through the Chief's Office. For others included in this policy, requests should be submitted through the involved Watch Commander. Records personnel or the Watch Commander shall ensure that all observers complete the required paperwork and record their names in the required log book. The observer shall sign a release that indicates that they will abide by the "Rules for Observers" and will hold the City harmless for injuries or damages resulting from their participation. Law enforcement observers wishing to carry a concealed weapon must review and sign a "Law Enforcement Observer Supplemental Release" form (SCPD #149A), prior to the ride-along.

#### **92.2.3 Number of Observers**

There shall be no more than two observers between the hours of 0230 and 1730. From 1730 to 0230 there shall be no more than three observers.

#### **92.2.4 Police Officer Candidates**

Candidates testing for a police officer position may ride as an observer if arrangements have been made with the Personnel Sergeant.

#### **92.2.5 Reserve Officer Candidates**

Candidates testing for the Reserve Police program may ride as an observer if the Reserve Director makes the arrangements.

#### **92.2.6 College Students**

College students may ride as observers only if they live and/or attend a school in the City of Santa Clara and then one time only.

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College students who, by special arrangement, are serving an internship or practicum with this Department may ride no more than one shift with each Watch in the Operations Division and may observe with the Detective and Service Divisions by arrangement with the Commanders of those Divisions.

### **92.2.7 Residents**

Residents of Santa Clara, 18 years of age or older, may ride as observers one time only.

### **92.2.8 Relatives**

Relatives of Santa Clara Police Officers may, with permission of the Watch Commander, ride as observers one time only.

### **92.2.9 Exceptions**

The Police Chief, or designated representative, may grant permission to persons not enumerated above to ride as observers when it appears that it would be in the best interests of law enforcement.

Examples of this would be: City Council persons; City Commissioners, Officials, and employees; Parole Officers, Probation Officers; Judges; Police Officers from foreign countries or other jurisdictions.

The Watch Commander or supervisor shall, in writing, notify his/her Division Commander of any request or the presence of any of the above named. The Division Commander shall forward this information to the Chief's Office.

### **92.2.10 Rules for Observers**

- Observers will not leave the police car unless authorized to do so by the police officer to whom they have been assigned.
- Observers will not go into the THF at the Police Administration Building or any other area of the building in which prisoners are being processed, examined, or questioned.
- Observers will not engage in conversation with prisoners.
- Observers will not engage the police officer in conversation while radio traffic is being broadcast on the police radio.
- In the event that the police officers are required to engage in any activity which they believe will be dangerous to the observer, they will let the observer out of the police car and make arrangements for the observer to be picked up as soon as possible. This may occur at any time and in any place.
- Observers will not bring cameras or weapons into the police car or the Police Administration Building.
- Observers will wear the furnished I.D. badge on the breast of their outer garment at all times. This rule will not apply to Explorer or Cadets in uniform.

- Observers shall be appropriately attired and the following attire will not be permitted:
  - Shorts or cutoffs
  - Tank tops
  - Bare feet or bare midriffs
- Observers will follow the instructions of the police officer to whom they have been assigned.
- Weapons may not be carried or issued to any observer riding under this directive.

#### **92.2.11 Law Enforcement Observers With Weapons**

The law enforcement official must be currently employed by a Federal, State, County or local law enforcement agency and must not be a probationary employee, on suspension or administrative leave.

The officer/deputy (only if a California Peace Officer) must possess a Basic POST certificate, or higher.

The officer/deputy will not ride in uniform and must comply with the dress requirements for observers.

The officer/deputy must keep his/her weapon concealed.

The weapon must be approved by the Watch Commander as to type and ammunition carried.

The officer/deputy will not draw or use his/her weapon unless emergency conditions exist. An emergency condition will be defined as those circumstances in which the observer, an officer, or a citizen is in imminent danger of great bodily injury or death.

The officer/deputy will maintain an observer status and will not engage in any enforcement action.

The officer/deputy will sign and abide by the provisions of SCPD Form 149A: 'Law Enforcement Observer Supplemental Release.'

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Attachment A

**LAW ENFORCEMENT OBSERVER  
SUPPLEMENTAL RELEASE**

Law enforcement officials who wish to ride along with the Santa Clara Police Department while carrying a concealed weapon must meet the following conditions:

1. The law enforcement official must be currently employed by a Federal, State, County or local law enforcement agency and must not be a probationary employee or on suspension.
2. The officer/deputy must possess a Basic P.O.S.T. certificate or higher (California Peace Officers only).
3. The officer/deputy will not ride in uniform and must comply with the dress requirements for observers.
4. The officer/deputy must keep their weapon concealed.
5. The weapon must be approved by the Watch Commander as to type and ammunition carried.
6. The officer/deputy will not draw or use their weapon unless an emergency condition exists. An emergency condition will be defined as those circumstances in which the observer, an officer, or a citizen is in imminent danger of great bodily injury or death.
7. The officer/deputy will maintain an observer status and will not engage in any enforcement action.

I agree to the above conditions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Observer's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Watch Commander Approving

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Ride-Along

SCPD 149A  
NEW 4/94