FORT ATKINSON POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY	TITLE: 310 – Citizen Ride Along Program		
ISSUE DATE: 02-23-17	LAST UPDATE: 02-23-17	SECTION: 300	FILE NAME: Ride Along
POLICY SOURCE: Chief of Police			TOTAL PAGES: 4
SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: "RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT" Included at end of this policy			

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the program, by which citizens may ride along with officers on duty, is to increase understanding between officers and citizens. Officers can use the period of ride along to learn how they are viewed by citizens; riders can increase their awareness of law enforcement needs, problems, and operations.

II. CITIZEN RIDERS

A. All Persons requesting to participate in the ride along program shall complete the "RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT" form. Persons under the age of 18, when allowed to participate in the ride along program are required to have the permission (signature) of their parent or guardian.

B. The application/liability waiver will be submitted to the shift lieutenant of the shift requested by the applicant. The shift lieutenant shall approve or deny the request, and if approved, assign the ride along to an officer. If the shift lieutenant is not available, the chief or any lieutenant may approve or deny the request. Shift commanders may not approve or deny a request.

C. After receiving a ride along application persons authorized to approve the request shall conduct a criminal record check on the applicant. The approved application will be placed on the briefing board until the ride along is complete. Once the ride along is complete the application will be filed.

D. Assignments will be given on a first come basis with priority given to persons studying criminal justice or engaged in criminal justice research.

E. Officers from other jurisdictions requesting a ride along, will not be allowed to carry firearms or other police equipment during the ride along.

F. Unless otherwise approved by the chief of police, participants in the ride along program shall be limited to three (3) approvals per year, except for family members of department members, which there shall be no set maximum number of times for ride along approvals.

III. OFFICER RESPONSIBILITY

A. When an officer is assigned a citizen rider, the officer will use the opportunity to fully acquaint the citizen with the range of the officer's duties and responsibilities. The officer will attempt to expose the citizen to law enforcement work without putting the citizen into a hazardous situation and without allowing the citizen to participate in carrying out the officer's duties.

B. When assigned a rider, an officer will immediately make known to the shift lieutenant any unusual assignments for that shift which could present a hazard beyond normal risk. The shift lieutenant will then find another means to complete the ride or ask the citizen to return on another day.

C. During the course of a ride, if the officer or citizen decides that a danger is present to the citizen, the officer will discontinue the ride. The officer may also discontinue a ride if continuing it would threaten his/her safety or substantially interfere with the discharge of his/her duties. When discontinuing, the officer shall notify the dispatcher and attempt to provide either immediate transportation to the police department or shelter until transportation can be obtained.

D. Probationary officers will not be assigned a citizen rider.

This policy and procedure is to be used in conjunction with all relevant existing Fort Atkinson Police Department policies, procedures, rules and regulations in such a manner as to further the pursuit of the department mission, vision, and goals.

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Adrian Bump Date
Chief of Police

FORT ATKINSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

101 S Water St West, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538
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CITIZEN RIDE ALONG PROGRAM

Citizens may ride along in Fort Atkinson Police patrol vehicles providing the following requirements are met:

A. They must be eighteen (18) years of age or older. (Active Explorers/Interns Exempt from age requirement with Parent/Guardian signed permission)
B. They must secure permission from a Supervisor of the Department prior to the ride along.
C. They must sign a Release and Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement.
D. They will at all times be under the direction of the officer with whom they are riding.
E. They will not have consumed alcohol for a minimum of eight (8) hours prior to riding.
F. No more than one (1) marked squad will have a rider at any one time and no car will have more than one rider at any time.
G. They will not exhibit extremes in dress, grooming or demeanor.
H. They will not bear arms.
I. They will not discuss confidential activities encountered while riding, outside of discussing it with the officer present.

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"RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT"

I understand the nature of the activity I am participating in. I understand that the activity involves risks of serious bodily injury, including permanent disability and death which may be caused by my own actions, or inactions, those of other individuals, the condition in which the Ride Along takes place or the negligence of the RELEASSES named below; and that there may be other risks either not known to me or not readily foreseeable at this time. I understand that the Ride Along will be conducted over public roads and facilities open to the public during the Ride Along and upon which traffic hazards are to be expected. I acknowledge that if I believe conditions may be unsafe, I may immediately discontinue participation in the Ride Along.

I, _____, do hereby release the City of Fort Atkinson, the Fort Atkinson Police Department, the Chief of Police and the members of the enforcement section from any civil liability and fully accept and assume all such risks and responsibility for losses, costs and damages I may incur as a result of my participation in the Ride Along activity.

I hereby release, discharge and promise not to sue the City of Fort Atkinson, it's respective administrators, officials, officers, volunteers and employees, other participants, sponsors and if applicable, owners and landlords of premises on which the Ride Along takes place (each considered one of the "Releasees" herein) from all liability,

claims, demands, losses or damages that I suffer which are caused or alleged to be caused in whole or in part by the negligence of the Releasees or otherwise, including negligent rescue operations.

I will indemnify, save and hold harmless each Releasee from any loss, liability, damage or cost which any may incur, if, despite this release and waiver of liability, and assumption of risk, I or anyone on my behalf, makes a claim against any Releasee.

I have read this release and waiver of liability, assumption of risk and indemnity agreement, fully understand its terms and that I have given up substantial rights by signing it and have signed it freely without any inducement or assurance of any nature. I intend it to be a complete and unconditional release of all liability to the greatest extent of the law. If any portion of this Agreement is held to be invalid, the balance shall continue in full force and effect.

This release covers all enforcement actions and all times when the above-named person is riding in the City of Fort Atkinson Police Department vehicle.

Name

Address

Date of Birth

Telephone Number

Emergency Contact & Telephone Number

Date of ride along

Signature

Time of ride along
(Beginning and Ending)

Witness, Fort Atkinson Police Dept.

Approving Supervisor