

# **Cobb County Police Department**

## **Policy 6.09**

### **RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM**

<b>Effective Date:</b> October 1, 2019	<b>Issued By:</b> Chief C.T. Cox
<b>Rescinds:</b> Policy 6.09 (November 1, 2017)	<b>Page 1 of 2</b>
The words “he, his, him,” which may appear in this policy, are used generically for clarity and ease of reading. These terms are not meant to imply gender and relate to all employees of the Department.	

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to employees and participants relating to the Department’s Ride-Along Program.

#### **I. DEFINITION**

**Ride-Along:** A person who rides as an observer (with a Cobb County Police Officer) who does not have law enforcement jurisdiction in unincorporated Cobb County. Typically, participants are limited to Police Explorers, Department Chaplains, interns, recruitment candidates, court personnel, 911 operators, and members of the media.

#### **II. REQUIREMENTS**

All ride-alongs must:

- Be lawfully present in the United States.
- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Be approved by the Chief of Police or his designee.
- Read, understand, and follow the program rules.
- Sign the Department liability waiver

Employees being compensated by Cobb County do not need to sign a liability waiver.

#### **III. RULES**

- A.** All ride-alongs must obtain body armor from the DPS Uniform Supply Unit prior to participation in the program.
  1. Body armor must be worn at all times while participating in the program.
  2. If body armor is not available, ride-alongs will not be permitted to participate in the program.
- B.** Ride-alongs should wear business or business casual attire.
- C.** Ride-alongs shall not be armed with any firearms unless they are certified law enforcement officers and permitted by law to do so.

- D.** Officers will not engage in vehicle pursuits while ride-alongs are in the vehicle.
- E.** Ride-alongs should remain in the police vehicle on all calls for service or police business unless told otherwise by an officer. Should a ride-along be instructed to exit the vehicle he should:

  - Play no active role in the police function.
  - Avoid speaking to victims, witnesses, or prisoners unless authorized.
- F.** Prior to a ride-along entering private premises the officer must:

  1. Advise a person at the private premises who has apparent authority over the property that the ride-along is a civilian with no law enforcement function; and
  2. Receive consent from said person for the ride-along to enter.
- G.** Ride-alongs should not operate any police equipment unless directed to do so.
- H.** Ride-alongs shall not bring cameras or recording devices without the express permission of the Chief of Police or his designee.
- I.** Ride-alongs shall not disclose any confidential information of which they become aware while participating in the program.
- J.** A supervisor has the authority to dismiss a participant from the program at his discretion.