



DEPARTMENT NOTICE

25-068

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Ride-Along Policy and Procedures

(Update to DB 18-151)

The purpose of this notice is to set policy and procedures regarding the San Francisco Police Department's (SFPD) Ride-Along program.

The SFPD encourages civilians to participate in a Ride-Along with the Police Department to familiarize them with the daily operations of the Department.

The Ride-Along program guidelines are as follows:

- Participants in the program must be at least 18 years old unless they are a PAL Cadet.
- Police applicants and lateral candidates are welcome to participate.
- Participants will not be permitted to ride with an officer with whom they share a familial or romantic relationship.
- A Ride-Along can be scheduled for up to 4 hours in duration unless prior written authorization has been granted for a longer time period.
- Only one Ride-Along within a six-month period is permitted, without written approval by a Deputy Chief.
- Participants may be required to show proper identification when they arrive.
- Participants must wear appropriate "business casual" attire and shall not wear clothing similar to uniforms worn by department members.
- Participants are to follow all directions given by any department employee.
- Participants cannot enter any private premise without officer approval AND consent from the owner/occupant.
- Participants may take notes during the Ride-Along. However, they shall not disclose the names of people they observe or come into contact with.
- If an officer has to respond to a potentially dangerous or hazardous call, the participant may be dropped off at a safe location away from the incident. If this occurs, the officer will provide instructions and may arrange for another police employee to pick up the participant.
- Participants may not record any audio or video or take photographs unless they have prior authorization. A cellular phone may be carried but shall not be used without an officer's permission. No posting to social media is allowed while on the ride-along.
- Media requests for profit must first be facilitated through the San Francisco Film Commission (1-415-554-6241 or film@sfgov.org).
- All media Ride-Along requests shall be vetted through the Media Relations Unit (MRU) and approved by the Deputy Chief of Staff. The MRU will schedule media Ride-Alongs.
- Media Participants shall not disclose the names of people they come in contact with or observe without first receiving consent from the individual(s).
- The Department may impose additional conditions or restrictions not listed above.

Application Procedure:

To request a Ride-Along, participants must:

- Complete the Ride-Along Application (SFPD form 84 Rev. 4/2025)
- Provide a color copy of a valid ID
- Submit the documents to the front desk at a district station.
- Note: SFPD non-sworn employees may submit the documents through interdepartmental mail or email to the Lieutenant of the Field Operations Bureau.

Members who receive the Ride-Along application will forward the packet to the Lieutenant of the Field Operations Bureau.

If approved, the Ride-Along participant will be notified, and a request will be forwarded to the Commanding Officer of the district or unit. Commanding Officers should schedule the Ride-Along during days/times that will have minimal effect on police operations.

Officers conducting a Ride-Along shall also adhere to the following:

- Prior to going on patrol, notify DEM that you have a Ride-Along.
- The officer has discretion to leave a Ride-Along at the station or a safe location when responding to a call for service the officers believe poses an unreasonable risk. In the event the Ride-Along is left at a safe location, the officer shall make arrangements for the individual to be picked up and returned to the station.
- Officers shall not engage in any vehicle pursuits during a Ride-Along.
- Officers shall not transport a prisoner during a Ride-Along.
- Officers shall not allow a Ride-Along to enter a known crime scene.
- Officers shall not allow a Ride-Along to be present for the booking process at county jail or a mental health detention at the hospital, unless prior approval was given.
- Officers may discontinue a Ride-Along, with a supervisor's approval, at any time.

SFPD form 84 and 84a have been updated and combined (attached). The updated SFPD form 84 can be found in the SFPD forms desktop folder and the forms section of PowerDMS.


PAUL YEP
Interim Chief of Police

Per DN 23-152, all sworn & non-sworn members shall electronically acknowledge this Department document in PowerDMS within (30) thirty calendar days of issuance. Members whose duties are relevant to this document shall be held responsible for compliance. Any questions regarding this policy should be sent to sfpd.writtendirectives@sfgov.org who will provide additional information.



SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT RIDE-ALONG RELEASE



The undersigned, and each of them on behalf of themselves, their successors, assigns, heirs, executors, or administrators, realize that the nature of police work is unpredictable and may involve response to life-endangering situations, and further involves other risks which are inherent in the use of police equipment or facilities, release and discharge the City and County of San Francisco, all of its agents, employees, departments, commissioners, and officers, including, but not limited to, the San Francisco Police Department, of and from all actions, causes of actions, damages, claims and demands, in law or equity, of every kind and character, including claims resulting from any injury by way of damages which might arise in connection with the undersigned acting in the capacity of a passenger in a police vehicle, using police equipment or facilities, or otherwise observing police activity.

The City and County of San Francisco and its agents, employees, departments, commissions, and officers, including, but not limited to, the San Francisco Police Department and its members, shall not be liable in any manner whatsoever for my death, personal injury, or damage to property, whether caused by negligence of the City and County of San Francisco, its agents, employees, departments, commissioners, and officers, or which subsequently may be sustained by reason of the acts or omission of the aforesaid City and County of San Francisco, its agents, employees, departments, commissioners, and officers, and are hereby released and held harmless from any and all claims arising out of such acts or omissions, whether known or unknown suspected or unsuspected.

Open Case Ride-Along Conditions. For purposes of this agreement and release, an "Open Case" is defined as any crime, criminal, or administrative investigation, prosecution, activity, personnel matter, or material related to or arising out of any criminal, civil, or administrative matter. If the undersigned films or records material relevant to any Open Case, during the SFPD ride-along, the undersigned agrees to accept service of, and comply with, any subpoena at the address listed herein, including an administrative subpoena, from the City, for any footage or recordings of or arising in any way out of Open Cases, including, but not limited to, any unpublished and/or unedited footage and recordings regarding Open Cases. Undersigned agrees that it will not move to quash any City subpoena under this paragraph or assert any privilege, protection or objection to production of the subpoenaed materials. In connection with any City subpoena under this paragraph, the undersigned waives, for undersigned and its Agents, application of California Evidence Code Section 1070 and any federal or state privilege or protection for journalistic sources and for unpublished information obtained or prepared in gathering, receiving or processing of information for communication to the public regarding or arising out of such Open Cases.

The undersigned is not authorized to film, record, or disclose information deemed confidential by the SFPD and the City, and the City reserves the right to inspect and demand return of such materials.

*This release shall supersede any prior release signed by the undersigned.

The undersigned hereby executes this release and discharge on: (date) _____.

Name (signature) _____

Name (printed) _____

Signature of Guardian (if under 18): _____

Name of Guardian (printed): _____

Website: www.sanfranciscopolice.org



SFPD 84 (Rev. 06/25)



SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT

RIDE-ALONG APPLICATION



RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM GUIDELINES

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- The Department may impose additional conditions or restrictions not listed above.

By my signature below, I acknowledge I have read and understand the guidelines above. I voluntarily agree that San Francisco Police Department personnel, in consideration of my request for a ride-along, will conduct a computerized criminal history inquiry using my name and other identifying information.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Guardian (if under 18): _____ Date: _____



SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT



RIDE-ALONG APPLICATION

NAME: _____

D.O.B.: _____

RACE (for background check): _____

GENDER: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE: _____

WORK/CELL PHONE: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

OCCUPATION/SCHOOL: _____

DRIVER'S LICENSE/I.D. # / (STATE): _____

SS#: _____

OTHER ID / (TYPE) _____

****MUST ATTACH A COPY OF AN I.D. TO THIS APPLICATION****

UNIT/STATION REQUESTED: _____

REQUESTED DATE/TIME: _____

REASON FOR RIDE-ALONG: _____

FIRST RIDE-ALONG WITH S.F.P.D.? YES ☐ NO ☐ (IF NO, WHAT MONTH/YEAR?) _____

ARE YOU AN APPLICANT OR IN THE HIRING PROCESS FOR S.F.P.D.? YES ☐ NO ☐

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION INFORMATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

RESIDENCE PHONE: _____

WORK/CELL PHONE: _____

-----DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE—DEPARTMENT USE ONLY-----

BACKGROUND CHECK (COMPLETED BY NAME/STAR: _____)

	TYPE OF CHECK	NONE	MISD.	FELONY
<input type="checkbox"/>	WARRANT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	CRIMINAL RECORD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DEPUTY CHIEF'S REVIEW

1. Approved ☐ Disapproved ☐

2. COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS/LIMITATIONS:

3. Reason why person denied ride-along:

Deputy Chief's signature: _____ Date: _____