

**OCEAN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**Ocean City, Maryland**

<b>SUBJECT: TRANSPORTATION OF PASSENGERS IN DEPARTMENTAL VEHICLES / RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM</b>		<b>NO:</b> 400 U-1
<b>APPROVED/EFFECTIVE DATE</b> MAY 19, 1997	<b>AMENDS:</b> G.O. 400 U-1 Dated 3/1/88	<b>RESCINDS:</b> G.O. 10-82
<b>DISTRIBUTION/DATE</b> A 6/13/97	<b>REFERENCES</b>	

- .10 To encourage community interest and involvement in the law enforcement process, it is the policy of this agency to allow interested citizens of Ocean City, upon approval, to ride as passengers in departmental vehicles and to observe police officers engage in the performance of their duties.
- .20 Persons requesting participation in the Ride-Along Program must request permission from the Watch Lieutenant or, in his/her absence, the Shift Supervisor's, by way of the Desk Sergeant, and shall be required to meet the following criteria:
  - A. Be at least 18 years of age or older, except with permission of the Chief of Police.
  - B. Must have the apparent mental or physical ability to provide for their own safety in situations where the officer is unable to do so.
  - C. Must be free of significant or recent criminal arrest.
  - D. Must be a resident of Ocean City. An exception is made for Ocean City Public Safety personnel, police applicants, visiting police officers, family members of police officers, or members of the news media.
- .30 Individuals shall not be permitted to habitually or continuously ride. Any one individual may only ride one time during a sixty (60) day period; however, additional requests may be granted only by the Chief of Police if determined to be of potential benefit to the Department.
- .40 Citizen observers granted this privilege shall be required to sign a "Release and Indemnity Agreement" Form 82 prior to riding in a departmental vehicle.
- .50 The Watch Lieutenant or, in his/her absence, the Shift Supervisors, shall insure that the Release and Indemnity Agreement Form is signed in duplicate by the observer prior to entering any departmental vehicle.

- .60 Officers engaging in a vehicular pursuit while transporting an observer shall temporarily leave the observer in a secure area until the emergency assignment is completed and/or the potential for danger to the observer has past.
- .70 Except as required in the performance of duty, members shall not allow persons, other than those authorized by the department, to ride in a departmental vehicle under their control.
- .80 When it is necessary to transport an opposite sex passenger, i.e. complainant, witness, etc., in a departmental vehicle, officer shall advise the dispatcher of the purpose and provide:
  - A. The location and odometer mileage at the start of transport and the intended destination.
  - B. The odometer mileage and actual location at the end of transport.