

Hobart/Lawrence Police Department Citizen Ride-Along Program

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I. Citizen Ride-Along Program Policy:

The Hobart/Lawrence Police Department will provide a ride-along program to authorized members of the community in an effort to promote a better understanding of law enforcement experiences and the work performed by officers.

Statement of Purpose:

The purpose of the ride-along program is to provide participants with the opportunity to observe and interact with officers during the performance of their duties. Officers should use the ride-along to learn how the citizens view our department. Citizens, while participating in this program, should increase their awareness of the public safety needs, problems and operations. With this knowledge and understanding, the public will realize the necessity of professional police service in our Community.

DEFINITIONS:

- Spouse:* The husband or wife of an officer.
- Shift:* The normal on-duty work period.
- Shift Supervisor:* The officer in charge of all personnel on any given shift.
- Supervising Officer:* The officer to whom the ride-along is assigned.
- Hazardous Calls:* Any call where the shift supervisor or supervising officer feels that their safety, the safety of the participants, or the safety of a community member would be at risk.

II. Procedure

- A. The administration of the Ride-Along Program is the responsibility of the Chief of Police or his designee. Eligible persons will be scheduled to ride by the Chief of Police or his designee. Scheduling refers to dates and times only.
- B. Riders will be at least 18 years old. Anyone less than 18 years old must be specifically authorized by the Chief of Police, with written permission being obtained from the minor's parent prior to participation in the program. (See Appendix E.)
- C. No more than two riders will be permitted during a given shift.
- D. Assigned officers will have at least 24 months of law enforcement experience.
- E. Screening Applicants
 - 1. Applications to participate in the Ride-Along Program must be made at least three days in advance.
 - 2. Applicants must meet for an interview with the Chief of Police or his designee to determine the applicant's eligibility. Shift Supervisors shall have the authority to cancel the ride-along based upon staffing or other relevant considerations.
 - 3. Exceptions: Requirements under E1 and E2 may be waived at the discretion of the Chief of Police or his designee. Example: A family member, media.
 - 4. The below criteria will be considered when evaluating participant applications.
 - a. The rider should have a sincere interest in law enforcement..
 - b. The ride-along is to be an educational experience for the rider.
 - c. The application should include a statement of interest and reason for requesting the ride-along.
- F. A full-time officer or deputy from another department may ride at his/her option with or without uniform.

III. Participant Regulations

A. When permission is granted to the participant, that participant must complete the following forms:

1. Sign waiver of Liability (See Appendix A.)
2. Carry identification.
3. Participant informational background. (See Appendix B.)
 - a. The participant must comply with the following rules set forth by the Hobart/Lawrence Police Department.
 1. The ride-along participant shall not interfere with the officer in the performance of his/her duties in any way.
 2. The ride-along participant shall remain in the squad car unless otherwise directed by the officer.
 3. No police equipment will be used or touched without the express direction of the officer.
 4. Cameras and tape recorders will not be authorized unless approved by the Chief of Police or his designee.
 5. All activities and information observed, overheard, or resulting from the rider's involvement with the Hobart/Lawrence Police Department and its clients will be treated by the rider as "confidential". Any reports required of ride-along participants are subject to review by the Chief of Police or his designee.
 6. All questions and comments, et cetera, should be asked or stated after an incident, not during the incident.
 7. All ride-along participants will comply with the dress code. Riders will dress neatly and wear clean clothes, including shirts and shoes.
 8. At no time should a rider participate in enforcing laws unless requested to do so by the officer.
 9. Ride-along participants are not permitted to ride during vehicle pursuit. The officer will drop the rider in a safe

location before joining the pursuit, or the officer will not get involved in the pursuit.

10. The ride-along participants are not permitted to respond to a high-risk call, such as a gun call. The officer will drop the rider in a safe location before responding to the high-risk call, or the officer will not respond to the call and notify headquarters of the situation.
11. Ride-along participants shall carry no personal weapons, with the exception of certified Wisconsin Law Enforcement Officers. In such cases, prior approval must be obtained from the Chief of Police or designee.
12. Ride-along participants are required to follow any and all instructions given by the shift supervisor and/or supervising officer.
 - b. A ride-along participant shall be allowed to ride once each year, unless other arrangements are made and authorized the Chief of Police or his designee.
 - c. During the course of the ride, if the officer or rider decides that a danger is present to the rider, the officer shall discontinue the ride-along. The officer may also discontinue the ride if continuing it would threaten his/her safety or substantially interfere with the discharge of his/her duties. When termination becomes necessary, an attempt should be made to provide immediate transportation for the rider back to the station.
 - d. Spouse ride-alongs will be required to complete the Spouse Ride-Along Form (Appendix C), and must be made aware of participant regulations.
 - e. When possible, officers should drop off the rider at a safe location before responding to some particularly hazardous incident.

HOBART/LAWRENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CITIZEN RIDE-ALONG GUIDELINES

1. Sign Waiver of Liability. (Appendix A)
2. Carry identification.
3. Comply with the rules set forth by the Hobart/Lawrence Police Department.
 - a. The ride-along participant shall not interfere with the officer's performance of his/her duties in any way.
 - b. The ride-along participant shall remain in the squad unless otherwise directed by the officer.
 - c. No police equipment will be used or touched without the express direction of the officer.
 - d. Cameras and tape recorders will not be authorized unless approved by the Chief of Police or his designee.
 - e. All activities and information observed, overheard, or resulting from the ride-along's involvement with the Hobart/Lawrence Police Department and its clients will be treated by the ride-along as "confidential". Any reports required of ride-along participants are subject to review by the Chief of Police or his designee.
 - f. All questions and comments, et cetera, should be asked or stated after an incident, not during the incident.
 - g. All ride-along participants will comply with the dress code. Riders will dress neatly and wear clean clothes, including shirts and shoes.
 - h. At no time should a rider participate in enforcing laws unless requested to do so by the officer.
 - i. Ride-along participants are not permitted to ride during a vehicle pursuit. The officer will drop the rider in a safe location before joining the pursuit, or officer will not get involved in the pursuit.
 - j. The ride-along participants are not permitted to respond to a high-risk call, such as a gun call. The officer will drop the rider in a safe location before responding to the high risk call, or the officer will not respond to the high-risk call and notify headquarters of the situation.

- k. Ride-along participants shall carry no personal weapons, with the exception of certified Wisconsin Law Enforcement Officers. In such cases, prior approval must be obtained from the Chief of Police or his designee.
- l. Ride-along participants are required to follow any and all instructions given by the Shift Supervisor and/or supervising officer.

APPENDIX A

AGREEMENT ASSUMING RISK OF INJURY OR DAMAGE, WAIVER, AND RELEASE OF CLAIMS AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

I, _____, have made a voluntary request to ride in a Hobart/Lawrence Police Department vehicle and to accompany a member or members of the Hobart/Lawrence Police Department during the performance of their official duties.

The Hobart/Lawrence Police Department is willing to allow me to ride in a vehicle assigned to that department and to accompany a member or members of the department during the performance of their duties only upon the conditions set forth below. I understand and agree that I am not under employment, hospitalization, disability, or worker's compensation coverage, nor am I acting as an employee of the Municipalities of Hobart or Lawrence when riding in the assigned vehicle.

In consideration of the permission given to me to ride in a Hobart/Lawrence Police Department vehicle, and to accompany a member or members of said department during the performance of their official duties, I do hereby agree that:

1. I am aware that the work of the Hobart/Lawrence Police Department is inherently dangerous and that I may be subjected to the risk of death or personal injury or damage to my property by accompanying a member or members of the Hobart/Lawrence Police Department during the performance of their official duties. I freely, voluntarily, and with that knowledge, assume the risk of death, personal injury, or property damage arising from or in any way connected with my riding in the automobile, and/or in any way with the use of weapons, unlawful acts, or forcible resistance by law violators or suspected law violators, assault, riot, breach of the peace, fire, explosions, gas, electrocution, or the escape of radioactive substances while accompanying a member or members of the Hobart/Lawrence Police Department during the performance of their official duties.

2. The Municipalities of Hobart and Lawrence, its officers, employees, agents, officials, and all members of the Hobart/Lawrence Police Department shall not be responsible or liable for any injury, damage, loss or expense, either to me or my property, incurred while riding in the Hobart/Lawrence Police Department vehicle or while accompanying any member or members of said department during the performance of their official duties, and resulting from any negligent act or omission on the part of any member of the Hobart/Lawrence Police Department.

3. For myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns to defend and indemnify the Municipalities of Hobart and Lawrence, its agents, employees, officials, officers, and all members of the Hobart/Lawrence Police Department, against any and all manner of actions, causes of actions, suits debts, claims, demands, or damages or liability or expense of every kind and nature incurred or arising by reason of any actual or claimed negligent or wrongful act or omission of mine while riding in any vehicle assigned to the Municipalities of Hobart and Lawrence Police Department or while accompanying any member or members of said Hobart/Lawrence Police Department during the performance of their official duties.

4. I understand one purpose of this agreement is to bar me and my successors and assigns from suing or making a claim for an injury sustained while accompanying the Hobart/Lawrence Police Department officer(s), including any injury sustained entering or exiting any Hobart/Lawrence Police Department vehicle, and any and all injury sustained while accompanying such officer(s), during the performance of their official duties. Further, another purpose of this agreement is to indemnify the Municipalities for my own actions.

5. My reasons for accompanying a Hobart/Lawrence Police Department officer(s) are _____

**APPENDIX B
INDIVIDUAL BACKGROUND**

Name _____

Date of Birth _____ School _____

Home Address _____

Local Address _____

Home Phone# _____ Local Phone# _____

Driver's License#/State _____

Doctor's Name _____

Medical History _____

Records Check Completed _____

Signature of Applicant _____

Who to notify in case of an emergency:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Permission is hereby granted/denied to the person named herein, and whose signature is affixed above, to be a passenger in a Police Department vehicle with the Hobart/Lawrence Police Department, on _____, 20____, from _____ o'clock ____ M. to _____ o'clock ____ M.

APPENDIX C
SPOUSE RIDE-ALONG FORM

Date of Request _____

Date Approved _____

Signature of Chief of Police _____

Date of Scheduled Ride-Along _____

Officer's Name _____

Spouse's Name _____

**PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED CRITIQUE FORM TO THE
HOBART/LAWRENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR
HOURS OF THE RIDE-ALONG.**

**APPENDIX E
RIDE-ALONG PARENTAL PERMISSION FORM**

I, _____ of
Last Name, First, Middle Phone #

Street Address City/Village, State

am the parent/guardian of the below minor who desires to participate in the "Ride-Along Program" of the Hobart/Lawrence Police Department. I have read and understand all the pages contained in this policy and do hereby consent to the release of liability for the Municipalities of Hobart/Lawrence Police Department; furthermore, I hereby consent to allow my child to participate in the "Ride-Along Program."

Minor's Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date