

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO RIDE IN AUSTIN POLICE CRIME SCENE UNIT  
INCLUDING LIABILITY RELEASE BY RIDER**

LAST NAME		FIRST NAME		MIDDLE NAME	
DOB	RACE	SEX	D.L.#	STATE	
CATEGORY OF RIDER: (CIRCLE ONE)		APD EMPLOYEE	CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY	INTERN	
		CIVILIAN TRAINEE	GUEST	INTERN	OTHER
PHONE	OCCUPATION	EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION		PHONE	
(WARRANT CHECK AND INVOLVMENT INFO) PERFORMED BY: RESULTS OF WARRANT CHECK:					
#RIDES THIS MO.	UNIT #	CSU/EMP#	START TIME	STOP TIME	DATE
TIME AND DATE APPROVAL GIVEN			SIGNATURE OF APPROVING SUPERVISOR		

IN CONSIDERATION OF BEING ALLOWED TO ACCOMPANY AUSTIN CRIME SCENE UNIT PERSONNEL ON OFFICIAL DUTIES AND OTHERWISE PARTICIPATE IN THE POLICE RIDER PROGRAM.

I, UNDERSTAND, BINDING MY HEIRS, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND ASSIGNS, DO HEREBY RELEASE AND AGREE NOT TO HOLD LIABLE, THE CITY OF AUSTIN, ITS OFFICERS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES AND ESPECIALLY \_\_\_\_\_, FROM ANY AND ALL ACTIONS, CAUSES OF ACTION, CLAIMS, DEMANDS, COSTS OR DAMAGES ARISING FROM OR RESULTING FROM PROPERTY DAMAGE, PERSONAL INJURIES OR DEATH SUSTAINED BY ME OR MY PROPERTY WHILE PARTICIPATING IN THE POLICE RIDER PROGRAM. I FURTHER AGREE, BINDING MY HEIRS, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS AND ASSIGNS, TO INDEMNIFY, HOLD AND SAVE HARMLESS FROM ANY LIABILITY ACTION, CLAIM, DAMAGE, AWARD, OR JUDGMENT INCURRED OR SUFFERED BY THE ABOVE CITY OR INDIVIDUALS AS A RESULT OF ANY ACT OR OMISSION BY ME OR CAUSE, IN WHOLE OR PART BY ME WHILE PARTICIPATING IN THE ABOVE NAMED PROGRAM WHETHER OR NOT ALSO CAUSED IN PART BY A PERSON INDEMNIFIED HEREUNDER. IN ADDITION, I MAKE THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS UPON WHICH I INTEND THE CITY TO RELY:

(1) I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE THAT WHILE ACCOMPANYING ANY CRIME SCENE UNIT IN HIS DUTIES, I AM TO BE ONLY AN UNARMED, LAY OBSERVER AND BYSTANDER WITH NO ACTIVE ROLE WHATEVER AND THAT I WILL HAVE AND AM GIVEN NO DUTIES, RIGHTS, POWERS OR AUTHORITY WHATEVER OTHER THAN THOSE CONFERRED BY UPON ANY OTHER PERSON IN LIKE SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES AS MAY ARISE FROM TIME TO TIME.

(2) I REALIZE AND AGREE THAT WHILE PARTICIPATING IN THE POLICE RIDER PROGRAM, I WILL NOT BE AN AGENT, SERVANT OR EMPLOYEE OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN AND THEREFORE WILL NOT BE COVERED BY THE CITY OF AUSTIN FOR ANY WORKERS COMPENSATION, DEATH, OR DISABILITY BENEFITS.

(3) I REALIZE THAT AS AN INHERENT INCIDENT OF THIS PROGRAM, I WILL AT UNPREDICTABLE TIMES BE PLACED IN BOTH FORESEEABLE AND UNFORESEEABLE POSITIONS OF CONSIDERABLE DANGER AND AGREE THAT NEITHER THE CITY NOT ANY OF ITS OFFICERS OR EMPLOYEES SHALL BE OBLIGATED TO TAKE ANY STEPS OR ACTION TO PROTECT MY PERSON OR PROVIDE A MEANS OF WITHDRAWAL OR RETREAT FOR ME, AND RELEASE THEM FROM ANY DUTY TO DO SO.

(4) I AGREE THAT ANY INFORMATION I MAY GAIN, THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN THE POLICE RIDER PROGRAM WILL BE USED BY ME ONLY FOR MY PERSON EDUCATION PURPOSES EXCEPT WHEN I AM SUMMONED AS A WITNESS IN ANY ADMINISTRATIVE OR COURT PROCEEDING.

(5) I UNDERSTAND THAT MY PARTICIPATION IN THE ABOVE NAME PROGRAM IS A PRIVILEGE SUBJECT TO REVOCATION AT ANY TIME BY THE AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WITNESS SIGNATURE

SIGNATURE OF PERSON REQUESTING PERMISSION TO RIDE

## **Police Observer Information Form**

- Police observers must complete and sign the Request for Approval to Ride in an Austin Police Unit form on the reverse of this sheet.
- NO person under the age of eighteen (18) will be permitted to ride as an observer in a police unit at any time unless the Chief of Police has granted prior approval.
- A warrant and criminal history check are done on all requestors prior to approval being given.
- Police observers may ride a maximum of 1 time per month unless approved in writing by the affected area commander.
- Police observers should appear at the scheduled time. If the observer arrives after the assigned officer has gone on the street, the observer has the responsibility of rescheduling the riding period to another date.
- Observers will be assigned to ride with officers of the same sex.  
The area commander or the on-duty area field lieutenant must approve any opposite sex assignment (including spouses).
- Violation of any portions of the prohibited acts, or dress code, or any behavior that impairs the officer's ability to perform his/her job, will be considered grounds for being banned from riding.

### **Dress Code for Police Observers**

- Police observers are to dress neatly and conservatively.
- Cleanliness is required at all times.
- Hair and facial hair must be well groomed.
- Shorts and cut-offs are prohibited.
- Clothing bearing any sign or symbol that advertises any product, business or organization will not be permitted
- Clothing with offensive designs, logos, letters or devices is prohibited.
- Conservative type shoes or boots may be worn; sandals and bare feet are prohibited.

### **Prohibited Acts**

- Will not consume alcoholic beverages prior to and during tours of duty;
- Will not use profane or abusive language during the tour of duty;
- Will not engage in excessive conversation, which may distract the officer or interfere with hearing the police radio;
- Will not make remarks or voice opinions to complainants, witnesses, victims, violators or suspects in any manner which would tend to provoke or degrade anyone or escalate tension;
- Will not be allowed into a private residence during the execution of a search or arrest warrant;
- Will not make known to any unauthorized person, information that may compromise a police operation, procedure or investigation that is either in progress or proposed;
- Will not make known to unauthorized persons the identity of persons arrested, persons being confined in jail, or suspects in a criminal act;
- Will not use information learned during a tour of duty for personal gain;
- Will not carry weapons of any type. Observers possessing a permit to carry a concealed weapon will NOT be allowed to carry a weapon during a tour of duty;
- Non-sworn observers do not have any powers of a police officer, and have no authority except when acting at the direction of a police officer.

### **Police observers will:**

- At all times conduct themselves with proper decorum.
- Remain in the police unit during routine traffic stops unless otherwise directed by an officer.
- Remain in or near the police unit during disturbance calls and calls of a serious nature in order to summon assistance by radio if needed, unless otherwise directed by an officer.