



**SOUTH COAST BRITISH COLUMBIA
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
POLICE SERVICE**

RIDE-ALONG

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Reviewed Date:

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Office of Primary Responsibility: Inspector Operations

POLICY

Definitions

Ride-Along – Means a service offered by SCBCTAPS to provide prospective recruits, community members and other select individuals involved in aspects of law enforcement an opportunity to gain insight, knowledge and understanding into South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Police Service (SCBCTAPS) and the role of its police officers (Members). For the purpose of this policy, the term “Ride-Along” includes any accompanying of a Member during the conduct of their duties.

Authority

1. The Chief Officer authorizes the establishment of a Ride-Along service and policy for SCBCTAPS.

General

2. SCBCTAPS will require all individuals participating in a Ride-Along to be assessed for eligibility and security screened, and to complete all necessary waivers or other requirements.
3. When the Member uses a police vehicle for the Ride-Along, the Ride-Along participant will be required to wear a seatbelt at all times that the police vehicle is being operated.
4. In all instances, a Ride-Along is at the discretion of the SCBCTAPS.

[See also: Policy Chapter AG090 – Police Vehicles]

Security Screening

5. Subject to satisfactory security screening, only those individuals with the Chief Officer’s (or designate) permission will be considered for a Ride-Along. Examples include:
 1. applicants to the SCBCTAPS;
 2. accepted police recruits if they have met the initial requirements to enter the BC Police Academy;

3. university students enrolled in a criminal justice program for research or study which is of value to the SCBCTAPS or the community; or to complete a practicum;
4. local students for educational purposes if their curriculum warrants it;
5. SCBCTAPS civilian staff to learn the geographical area and functional procedures;
6. Police Board members;
7. immediate family of SCBCTAPS staff;
8. officials of TransLink and its operating companies; and
9. media covering the SCBCTAPS.

PROCEDURES

Application to Participate

6. An individual wishing to participate in a Ride-Along will be required to submit an application in the prescribed form at least seven (7) days prior (where practicable) to the date upon which they expect to participate.
7. The Ride-Along applicant will be required to complete the SCBCTAPS Ride-Along Request Form (Form AZ220), including the Waiver of Liability and Declaration of Confidentiality sections.
 1. When the applicant is less than nineteen (19) years of age, a parent or legal guardian is also required to sign the applicable section(s) on Form AZ220.
8. The Watch Commander or their designate will be responsible for the following actions:
 1. ensure the applicant is advised of safety and any operational considerations related to the Ride-Along;
 2. ensure Form AZ220 has been fully completed;
 3. ensure the appropriate security checks are satisfactorily completed prior to the commencement of the Ride-Along;
 4. ensure that the applicant is provided with a copy of the completed Form AZ220 (prior to the background check being done by the Member); and
 5. ensure that the fully completed original (with any supporting documents necessary) is forwarded to the Confidential Assistant – Operations Division for placement in the SCBCTAPS Ride-Along master file.
9. The Watch Commander or their designate reserves the right to refuse an applicant for a Ride-Along.
10. Immediate family of Members are permitted to apply for a Ride-Along in order to develop a better understanding of the nature of police work, subject to the following provisions:
 1. Members will not be permitted to accompany their family relation in the same police vehicle;

2. Members will not be assigned to the same geographic area as their family relation; and
 3. the same family relation will not normally be permitted in the program more than twice.
11. Members will be responsible for keeping the Ride-Along participant aware of emerging hazards, and that the Ride-Along participant is not permitted to divulge information about police tactics or specific investigations.
 12. The Ride-Along participant has “observer” status only and the Ride-Along participant is not to perform any police function or assist the police, unless otherwise directed by a SCBCTAPS Member.
 13. Members will not intentionally disclose to the Ride-Along participant information contained in CPIC, PRIME or any other police information systems.
 14. If Members needs to exit the police vehicle for an extended period and the Ride-Along participant is to remain in the police vehicle, the Members will lock down the car lap top computer to prevent unauthorized access, and secure the vehicle as required by SCBCTAPS policy.
 15. Members will be required to obtain permission from witnesses or victims for a Ride-Along participant to be present or when statements are taken.
 16. A Ride-Along participant will not be permitted to be present when Members takes a statement from a suspect.
 17. Members will take appropriate measures to NOT expose the Ride-Along participant to high risk activities, such as:
 1. calls for service involving violence, or where a history of violence is known;
 2. disturbance at a public gathering or licensed premises;
 3. domestic dispute;
 4. occurrence involving the use, display or threatened use of a weapon;
 5. occurrence involving a person who may be emotionally/mentally disturbed;
 6. incarcerating a prisoner in a detention facility;
 7. patrols to areas where radio/telephone communications are known to be unreliable;
 8. occurrence or patrol requiring police back up or mass response; and
 9. hazardous pursuit or high speed driving.
 18. If an activity poses a real or perceived risk to the Ride-Along participant, the Member will terminate the session and transport (or arrange for transport) the Ride-Along participant to a safe location. A SCBCTAPS Supervisor may terminate the Ride-Along if it appears that a danger to the participant or accompanying Member exists or is likely to exist, or if it appears to be in the best interest of the organization to take such action.

Assigning Member

19. The Watch Commander will consider resource capacity and associated risks in determining the optimal days and times to allow a Ride-Along.
20. When assigning Members to a Ride-Along, the Watch Commander will consider which Member(s) would best represent the Police Service in the circumstance (e.g., dimensions such as experience, training, policing style, cultural understanding or second language).

[See also: AG090 – Police Vehicles]

Key References

Nil