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## **Purpose**

This policy recognizes that the Bemidji Police Department will receive requests from citizens who would like to ride along with a police officer in order to observe what officers encounter during a duty shift.

## **Policy**

It shall be the policy of the Bemidji Police Department to evaluate each citizen request for ride along on a case by case basis. The Bemidji Police Department reserves the right to deny any request for ride along at their sole discretion.

## **Procedure**

The following procedures shall be followed when a ride along request has been received:

1. The Bemidji Police Department Ride Along Form is completed as an indemnity and release of liability. This form must be completed prior to activity.
2. Permission to accept the ride along citizen must be obtained from a supervisor prior to activity.
3. A master case will be created and a local background investigation shall be completed prior to activity. The results of the background investigation shall be documented in the master case.
4. Juveniles may only be permitted to ride-along with written permission from a parent or guardian, and, must receive approval from the chief or captain.
5. If an emergency situation arises, the officer will let the citizen out of the patrol vehicle in a safe area before proceeding to a situation where a dangerous event may be in progress or where a citizen may be endangered.
6. Spouses of Bemidji Police Officers may ride along, provided the above criteria are met.
7. Ride-along citizens are potential witnesses and are expected to cooperate with any investigation.

## **Reference or Revision Date(s):**

A. REFERENCE:

B. REVISION DATE(S):