



Office of Law Enforcement Oversight (OLEO) Community Advisory Committee Guidelines for Ride-Alongs

Logistics

- Plan your trip ahead of time, be responsible for your own transportation to and from the precinct, and arrive on time. When planning, account for the traffic that might put you behind schedule.
- Wear walking shoes and appropriate clothes, keeping in mind weather conditions and that you may be in an air conditioned car for several hours. Once in the field, you may not have an opportunity for a break, so use the restroom before you depart and pack along water and a snack if needed.
- The Sheriff's Office requires a completed NCIC Interstate Identification Index (criminal history check referred to as a Triple I) and Hold Harmless Agreement. These can be completed when you arrive at the precinct prior to your ride-along.
- The on-duty sergeant and/or deputy conducting the ride-along has the ability to terminate the ride, at any time, for any reason.

Representing and Interacting

- Be respectful and cooperative at all times. Be mindful that your presence on the ride-along creates extra effort and safety concerns for officers. Always follow the officer's instructions. You do not have the authority to override their directions. If they tell you to stay behind or stand somewhere specific, it is for your own protection.
- Be a good listener. This is a great opportunity to learn from the perspectives and experience of police officers.
- Be thoughtful in how you express your viewpoints. Be cognizant that your words and behaviors reflect upon both OLEO and the whole CAC. Think about how you frame your comments and observations about police work, keeping in mind that there are many sensitivities around community-police relations and oversight.
- If you want to take a picture of something, ask first. Many officers are sensitive about the use of cameras.
- Be respectful of any citizens you encounter, understanding that you may encounter them in one of their most difficult moments.
- Take notes on things you learn and want to follow-up on.