



# LINCOLN POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS

**NUMBER:** 1140  
**TOPIC:** CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS  
**ISSUED BY:** TERESA EWINS, CHIEF OF POLICE  
**DATE:** 1-1-2022  
**SUPERSEDES:** G.O. 1140, 2020  
**REFERENCE:**

## I. POLICY

The Lincoln Police Department seeks to promote public safety and public confidence in law enforcement through programs of crime prevention and community relations.

## II. PROCEDURE

A. The following crime prevention and community relations programs are supported by the department, such as:

1. Neighborhood Watch: The department organizes new groups, provides support to the Neighborhood Watch board of directors, maintains records, publishes a newsletter, and maintains liaison with individual groups.
2. Business Watch: The department supports a program for retail and commercial businesses based on the same theme of mutual watchfulness as Neighborhood Watch.
3. Security Surveys: The department consults with community members and businesses regarding the physical security of premises.
4. School Resource Officer Program: Uniformed officers are assigned to provide police services to high schools and to serve as resources to teachers and staff.
5. Publication of Crime Prevention Materials: The department produces and distributes printed materials and other media concerning all major public safety issues.
6. Speeches and Presentations: The department accepts presentation requests from school, community, and neighborhood groups and organizations.
7. Quality Service Audit: The department maintains a system for surveying community members who have recently received police services, and providing feedback to officers and management.
8. Annual Report: The department publishes an annual report which includes such topics as mission and goals, organization and

personnel, statistical information, and major accomplishments.

9. Community Engagement: The department participates as an active member in issue-oriented committees, and provides liaison to established neighborhood and community organizations.
10. Ride-Alongs: Under limited circumstances, the department allows community members to ride with officers during their duty shift to enhance their understanding of policing.
11. Problem Oriented Policing (POP) Projects: Innovative and effective problem-solving efforts to achieve measurable success in reducing specific crime, disorder, and public safety problems.

## B. Education and Personnel Unit

1. The Education and Personnel Unit provides support services for crime prevention and community relations, such as:
  - a. Curricula, media, and materials;
  - b. Training and technical assistance;
  - c. Scheduling and coordinating programs and requests;
  - d. Liaison with city-wide groups.
2. Although the Education and Personnel Unit coordinates and provides support services for department programs, facilitating crime prevention programs and cultivating positive community relations is a fundamental role of all department units and employees.

## C. Ride-Along Guidelines

1. Although the department views ride-alongs as an excellent opportunity for improving community knowledge and participation, the sheer number of requests requires that ride-alongs be limited. Generally, the department will attempt to provide ride-along experiences to:
  - a. Department employees, volunteers, and interns;
  - b. Members of other criminal justice agencies;

- c. Citizens' Police Advisory Board Members.
- 2. Commanding officers may authorize ride-alongs for other persons not listed, when the request is initiated by the officer.
- 3. Ride-alongs for study or research and ride-alongs by elected officials, political candidates and members of the news media require approval from the chief of police.
- 4. Requests from large groups, such as classes, cannot be accommodated.
- 5. No person shall be authorized to ride-along on a continuing or repetitive basis.
- 6. All ride-alongs must be a least 19 years of age and must sign a waiver form. The form is to be sent to the executive assistant to the chief of police.
- 7. The duty commander must give final approval for any ride-along and sign the waiver form. Circumstances such as extreme weather, heavy workload, emergencies, etc., may require postponement of scheduled ride-alongs.
- 8. Ride-alongs should not exceed four hours, unless the purpose can be tied to efficiency for the department.
- 9. Officers who have ride-alongs in their vehicles cannot become involved in pursuits, transporting violent prisoners, or other highly dangerous situations.
- 10. Whenever an officer believes that circumstances make it necessary for safety, the officer may:
  - a. Instruct the ride-along to remain in the cruiser;
  - b. Drop the ride-along off at a safe location, such as a substation, open business, etc., and arrange for later pickup.
- 11. Ride-alongs cannot enter private homes or locations where there is an expectation of privacy without permission of the resident.