



## LINCOLN POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS

**NUMBER:** 1140  
**TOPIC:** CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS  
**ISSUED BY:** MICHON MORROW, CHIEF OF POLICE  
**DATE:** 10-3-23  
**SUPERSEDES:** G.O. 1140, 2023  
**REFERENCE:**

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### 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 an 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, may not be accommodated.
5. No person shall be authorized to ride-along on a continuing or repetitive basis.
6. All ride-alongs must be at least 19 years of age and must sign the ride-along waiver form.
7. The Commanding officer reviewing the ride-along will:
  - a. Review the ride-along request and complete the required background checks,
  - b. If approved, contact and notify the applicant of the scheduled date and time or;
  - c. If denied, contact and notify the applicant of the denial and;
  - d. Forward all ride-along forms, whether approved or not, to the executive assistant to the chief of police.
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.