

## 209 CIVILIAN RIDERS IN POLICE UNITS

### 1. General

1. It is the belief of the present administration that it is to the mutual benefit of the City of Breckenridge, the Police Department, and the general public to provide for an open law enforcement agency.
2. In line with the intent of the above statement, the Police Department will accept interested persons as riders and/or observers in the police units. Such riders and/or observers will be required to comply with the rules and regulations set forth below.
3. This policy does not include any employee or official for the City of Breckenridge, or other person exempted elsewhere in Department policy.

### 2. Rules and Regulations

1. It is considered a privilege, rather than a right, to be allowed to ride with a police unit on duty. The City Council, the Police Committee, and the Chief of Police, and the Police Officers Association do not consider this to be a negotiable matter.
2. Each person who wishes to ride with a police unit must have the explicit permission of the senior officer in charge at the time of the request.
3. Each person will be required to sign such releases from liability, as the City of Breckenridge shall require. This is a necessary and absolute requirement prior to obtaining the permission of the officer in charge or shift commander.
4. Each rider must agree in writing to abide by the rules and regulations of the Police Department, which pertain to riders. A copy of these regulations will be provided to all riders.
5. Signed releases shall be good for a period of eight hours or the length of the shift even if they continue into another day.
6. Riders are absolutely required to obey the orders of any officer with whom they are riding, or with whom they come in contact, during their tours, or at the scene or any police incident.
7. Riders may not interfere in any way with any police activity. Any rider who wished to protect any police activity he has witnessed may do so, in writing, to the Chief of Police.

8. Riders are not allowed to photograph any police incident, or any person in custody, or being questioned, without the explicit permission of the office concerned or of the person in custody or being questioned.
9. Riders must understand that many incidents involving the police have an inherent confidential nature and that confidence must be respected, particularly where it may concern the constitutional right of privacy.
10. No officer or employee of the Police Department is required to have any rider accompany him at any time. No person is empowered to order any officer or employee to either accept or refuse to take any rider with him. This is an individual choice to be made by the officer or employee and no coercion or pressure of any kind may be brought to bear by any person.
11. Riders may not communicate in any way with any person in custody, being questioned, or in any way involved in a police incident, unless that person agrees to communicate with such rider.
12. Shift commanders are hereby delegated the authority to reject any person as a rider who fails or refuses to comply with these rules, or such other rules as may from time to time be issued.
13. Shift commanders are hereby delegated the authority to decide how many riders may be allowed on his shift, but he may not refuse to allow riders on his shift if the officers on that shift do not object to riders. All of the provisions of Item J. apply to shift commanders.
14. Any person under the age of 18 years must present the release from liability form signed by a parent or guardian. Shift commanders are authorized to require proof of age in situations justifying such proof.
15. No officer or employee shall be required by any person to justify or explain in any way or to any person his refusal to accept riders, or his reasons for accepting riders.