

Police Observer Information Form

- Police observers must complete and sign the Police Observer Information Form.
- NO person under the age of eighteen (18) will be permitted to ride as an observer in a police unit at any time unless the Chief of Police has granted prior approval.
- A warrant and background check shall be completed on all requestors prior to approval being given.
- Police observers may ride a maximum of one (1) time per calendar quarter unless approved in writing by the affected Region Commander.
- Police observers should appear at the scheduled time. If the observer arrives after the assigned officer has gone on the street, the observer has the responsibility of rescheduling the riding period to another date.
- Violation of any portions of the prohibited acts, or dress code, or any behavior that impairs the officer's ability to perform his/her job, will be considered grounds for being banned from the Police Observer Program.

Dress Code for Police Observers

- Police observers are to dress neatly and conservatively.
- Cleanliness is required at all times.
- Hair (including facial hair) must be well groomed.
- Shorts and cut-offs are prohibited.
- Clothing bearing any sign or symbol that advertises any product, business or organization will not be permitted.
- Clothing with offensive designs, logos, letters or devices is prohibited.
- Closed-toe shoes or boots will be worn; sandals and bare feet are prohibited.

Prohibited Acts

- Will not consume alcoholic beverages within four (4) hours of or during observation period;
- Will not use profane or abusive language during the observation period;
- Will not engage in excessive conversation, which may distract the officer or interfere with hearing the police radio;
- Will not make remarks or voice opinions to complainants, witnesses, victims, violators or suspects in any manner which would tend to provoke or degrade anyone or escalate tension;
- Will not be allowed into a private residence during the execution of a search or arrest warrant;
- Will not make known to any unauthorized person, information that may compromise a police operation, procedure or investigation that is either in progress or proposed;
- Will not make known to any unauthorized persons the identity of persons arrested, persons being confined in jail, or suspects in a criminal act;
- Will not use information learned during an observation period for personal gain;
- Will not carry weapons of any type. Observers possessing a Concealed Handgun License will NOT be allowed to carry a weapon during an observation period;
- Non-sworn observers do not have any powers of a police officer, and have no authority except when acting at the direction of a police officer.

Police Observers will:

- At all times conduct themselves with proper decorum.
- Remain in the police unit during routine traffic stops unless otherwise directed by an officer.
- Remain in or near the police unit during disturbance calls and calls of a serious nature in order to summon assistance by radio if needed, unless otherwise directed by an officer.

POLICE OBSERVER INFORMATION FORM

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____
Date of Birth: _____ Race: _____ Sex: _____
Address: _____ City, State, Zip Code: _____
Driver's License Number: _____ State of Issuance: _____ Date of Expiration: _____
Email Address: _____ Daytime Phone Number: _____ CHL Holder: _____

Requested Observation Date: _____ Requested Observation Shift: _____
Have you ever observed before: _____ If yes, what sector: _____
Date of last observation: _____ Requested sector: _____
Category of Observer: _____ If a Student, Name of College: _____

In consideration of being allowed to accompany Austin Police Officers on official patrols and otherwise participate in the Police Observer program: I, the undersigned, binding my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns to hereby release and agree not to hold liable, the City of Austin, its officers, agents and employees and especially Officer _____ from any and all actions, causes of action, claims, demands, costs or damages arising from or resulting from property damage, personal injuries or death sustained by me or my property while participating in the Patrol Observation Program. I further agree, binding my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns to indemnify, hold and save harmless the City of Austin, its officers, agents, and employees and especially the above named employee, from any liability, action claim, damage, award or judgement incurred or suffered by the above City or individuals as a result of any act or omission by me or caused in whole or in part by me while participating in the Police Observer Program whether or not also caused in part by a person indemnified hereunder. In addition, I make the following representations and acknowledgements upon which I intend the City to rely:

Attention: Observer must read, acknowledge and initial all the following statements:

- _____ I understand and agree that while accompanying any police officer during his/her law enforcement duties, I am to be an **unarmed** observer and bystander only and take no active role whatsoever. I will not have, nor will I be given any duties, rights, powers or authority other than those conferred by law upon any other person in like or similar circumstances as may arise from time to time.
- _____ I realize and agree that while participating in this program, I will not be an agent, servant or employee of the City of Austin and therefore will not be covered by the City of Austin for any worker's compensation, death or disability benefits.
- _____ I realize that as an inherent condition of this program, I will at unpredictable times be placed in both foreseeable and unforeseeable positions of considerable danger and agree that neither the City nor any of its officers or employees shall be obligated to take any steps or actions to protect my person or provide a means of withdrawal or retreat for me, and release them of any duty to do so.
- _____ I agree that any information I may gain through participation in a study program will be used by me only for my personal education purposes except where I am summoned as a witness in any administration or court proceeding.
- _____ I understand that my participation in the above named projects is a privilege subject to revocation at any time by the Austin Police Department.

Observer's Signature: _____ Date of Signature: _____

DO NOT WRITE BELOW – OFFICIAL POLICE USE ONLY

Warrant Check Performed: _____ Criminal History Check Performed: _____
APD Database Check Performed: _____ Results: _____
Signature of Emp. Who Performed the Checks: _____ Date of Checks: _____
Observer Assigned To: _____ Employee #: _____ Dist.: _____
Supervisor's Signature: _____ Employee #: _____ Date: _____
Commander/Lieutenant Signature: _____ Employee #: _____ Date: _____