**VAN Applicant Ride-Out Guide**

**Remember-**

· Please bring your signed release form, and one “Ride Out Officer Evaluation Guide.” Please note the name of the officer you ride with, so I know who to follow up with about your ride-out.

**Dress Code-**

VAN advocate dress code is “casual & conservative professional”. Our goal is to look as professional as possible, and to wear clothing/accessories that don’t distract those we are helping or pose a safety hazard.

· Shoes - No open-toed shoes or high heels. Sneakers are OK!

· Short skirts and short shorts are prohibited. Longer shorts and long skirts are acceptable.

· General - Tattoos are fine, but if the tattoo is particularly violent or distressing, please cover it up. If you are unsure, just ask. No strong cologne or perfume. Alcohol and/or drug use before or during a ride out is strictly prohibited. Even if you have a permit to carry a firearm you are not to have it with you during your ride out. (no weapons of any type). Jewelry is permitted.

If any of these requirements violate an ethical or religious principle, please notify VAN staff before you ride out.

**Tips-**

· If you are in conversation with an officer and you notice the radio going off or you observe them trying to hear their radio, immediately PAUSE your discussion so they can hear the radio without distraction.

· Follow officer instructions at all times. Do not interact with community members unless instructed to.

· Consider…how often do you have an opportunity to pick the brain of a first responder or police officer? Utilize this opportunity to better understand their work and their collaboration with VAN! Ask questions!

Some ideas-

“What is your favorite part of your job?”

“What is the most challenging part of your job?”

“Can you tell me about your experiences with VAN?”

\*Also make note of any questions you think of for the VAN Program Coordinator!