

ETHICAL DECISION MAKING

A POLICE RIDE ALONG

Claire, a student taking an Introduction to Policing class online, has arranged to do a police “ride along” for extra credit. Very excited the night before the ride along, she barely gets any sleep. She arrives for the ride along 15 minutes early and is greeted by Officer Johnson, a patrol officer who has been in the department for four years.

Officer Johnson and Claire ride around for two hours before the officer decides to pull over a car for speeding. After the car stops, Claire walks with the officer so that she can watch as the officer and the driver discuss the speeding violation. Claire is surprised

when she looks in the car and sees that the driver is her friend, Chloe.

After Officer Johnson learns that Claire and Chloe know each other, the officer asks the policing student, “Do you believe I should give Chloe a ticket?”

YOU DECIDE

1. If you were Claire, would you recommend giving Chloe a ticket?
2. Should the officer have asked Claire to make a recommendation?