



## KENSINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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**DATE:** May 31, 2023

**TO:** David Aranda: General Manager

**FROM:** M. Gancasz, Chief of Police

**RE:** **Police Chief's Report, May 2023**

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### **Patrol Operations**

The Kensington Police Department handled 804 incidents during the month of May. 650 were officer-initiated events including 68 traffic enforcement stops resulting in the issuance of 53 citations. Milder weather resulted in a significant increase in the number of stops made and citations issued. Officers responded to 174 dispatched calls for service and took 28 criminal reports. Officers focused their patrols looking for evidence of vandalism and catalytic converter theft. Officers took 2 catalytic converter theft reports, 2 stolen vehicle reports, and one vandalism report, all occurring between the hours of midnight and 6am. Officers are pursuing leads and working directly with our partner agencies to reduce and prevent similar crimes. Response time for officers was reduced in May compared to April by 3 minutes. (April 9.4 minutes vs May 6.1 minutes)

### **Traffic Safety**

There were no traffic collisions during the month and officers focused their efforts monitoring speed on Franciscan Way and Colusa Ave. observing average speeds of 21.079 MPH. The average vehicle speed on Franciscan is below the 25MPH posted speed limit. There is a minor fluctuation between average and peak speeds with most speed violations occurring between 6:00pm and 8:00pm. There are no obvious speeding trends associated with days of the week.

### **Administration**

Three new software programs were rolled out designed to enhance and improve the department's infrastructure, efficiency, and analysis of crime trends along with effective ways to address them. Sergeant Brian Lande will train all staff on how to use these new systems.

### **Training**

Officer Marrkel Smith attended 40 hours of POST mandated perishable skills training and a 36-hour field training officer update course. Sergeant Brian Lande attended 20 hours of de-escalation training. Sgt. Lande continues offering weekly briefing training using "The Briefing Room" service. Officers review weekly training videos on a wide range of topics from officer safety, de-escalation procedures, and constitutional issues in policing. Officer David Payne is progressing well in the field training program and his anticipated release date to solo patrol is June 11.

## May Patrol Log

- On Monday, May 1, at 0017 hours, officers responded to the Sunset View Cemetery for a report of an unclothed adult inside the mausoleum. Officers determined the suspect smashed the door with a brick and gained entry unlawfully. The suspect was arrested and transported to County Hospital, where he was placed on a mental health evaluation hold. The mausoleum filed a restraining order against the suspect. Damage was estimated to be \$1000.
- On Wednesday, May 3, between 0900 and 1100 hours, officers responded to a stolen vehicle report from the 100 block of Kingston Road.
- On Friday, May 5, officers responded to Arlington Avenue and Amherst Avenue for an intoxicated person. Officers arrested the suspect, who was transported to the hospital for alcohol intoxication.
- On Wednesday, May 10, at 0900 hours, officers contacted a person at the intersection of Arlington Avenue and Amherst Avenue who had \$10,000 in outstanding arrest warrants from Santa Clara County. The suspect was arrested, processed, and released under the warrants.
- On Friday, May 12, at 0400 hours, officers spotted a suspicious vehicle in the Park-N- Ride at Arlington Avenue and Coventry Road. One of the occupants was arrested for possessing Methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia, stolen credit cards, and a probation violation.
- On Saturday, May 13, at 1130 hours, officers responded to a traffic issue in the 100 block of Highland Blvd. Officers determined one of the drivers was suspended, and he was cited for the violation.
- On Monday, May 15, at 1600 hours, officers responded to a traffic issue at Colusa Circle. One of the parties was cited for failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk.
- On Monday, May 22, at 0800 hours, three separate auto burglaries occurred at different locations. The total loss was estimated to be \$10,000. Officers completed a follow-up investigation and identified a black Infiniti QX70 believed to belong to the suspect. Officers determined the license plate was reported stolen a few days earlier in Oakland. An area-wide "Be On The Look-Out" flyer was issued to surrounding police departments for the suspect's vehicle and stolen property. The investigation is ongoing.
- On Monday, May 22, at 2000 hours, a victim of an online scam called to report they were defrauded of approximately \$2,900. Officers took a report, and the investigation is ongoing.
- On Sunday, May 28, officers took a report of graffiti in the bathroom at the Kensington Community Park bathrooms. The graffiti was documented, cleaned up, and the investigation is ongoing.
- On Monday, May 29, officers took a report of a stolen catalytic converter in the 700 block of Coventry.
- On Tuesday, May 30, an unknown suspect entered a vehicle in the 200 block of Lake Drive and took \$20.00. The incident was captured on surveillance video, and officers are following up on leads.
- On Wednesday, May 31, officers responded to a report of mail theft from the 200 block of Sanford Ave.

## West County Crime Patrols

- Officers Smith and Fajardo joined West County police departments Hercules, Pinole, El Cerrito, Richmond, and San Pablo, in the West County Crime Patrols (WCCP). Each agency provides officers to conduct saturation patrols in every jurisdiction throughout the summer. This month, patrols were completed in San Pablo. More than twelve officers patrolled San Pablo for ten hours making multiple arrests and issuing dozens of citations. A joint operation in September will include El Cerrito and Kensington as the host cities.

## Community

On Saturday, Kensington Police Department Officer David Payne, Sgt. Brian Lande and Lieutenant Brad Harms joined the Kensington Fire Department at Hilltop Elementary School for the 75th Annual Spring Carnival. Many thanks to the Kensington Hilltop Elementary School PTA for organizing this important community event. In addition to handing out coloring books and stickers, KPD was able to respond to a lost toddler who was quickly located with help from the school, the community, and the Kensington Fire Department.

