



# KENSINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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[www.kppcsd.org](http://www.kppcsd.org)

**DATE:** August 31, 2023

**TO:** David Aranda: General Manager

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

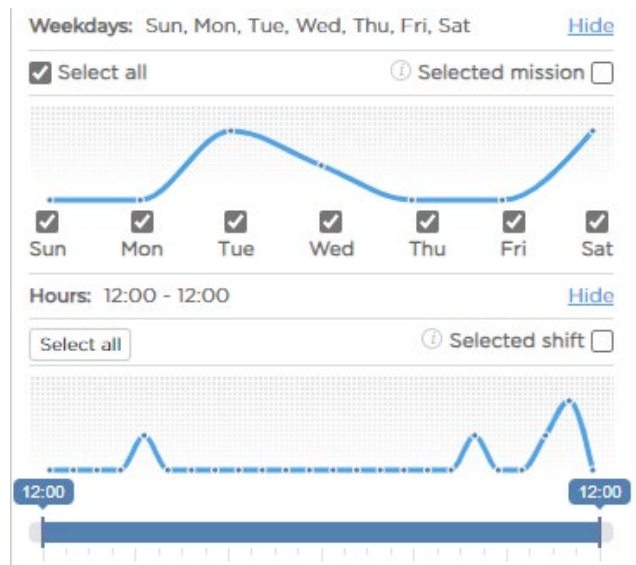
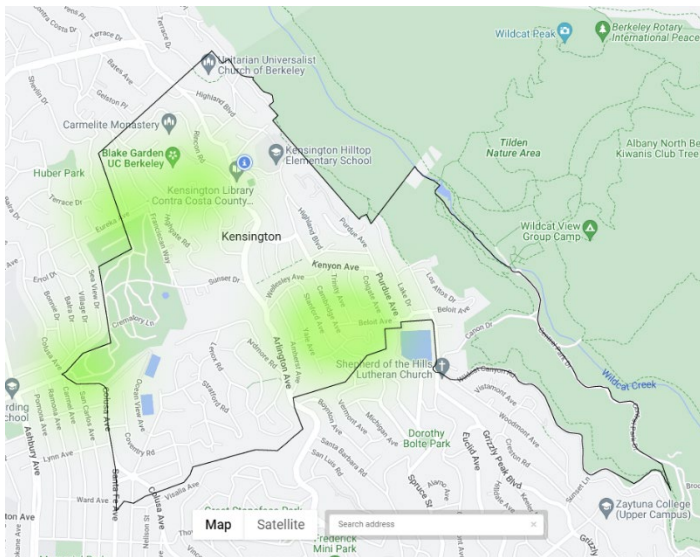
**RE:** Police Chief's Report, August 2023

## Patrol Operations

The Kensington Police Department handled 817 incidents during the month of August (up from 748). 541 were officer-initiated events including 55 traffic enforcement stops resulting in 35 citations (up from 27 in the prior month). Officers responded to 276 dispatched calls for service (up from 245) and took 24 reports (down from 27). Officers focused on deterring auto burglaries and vandalisms around Grizzly Peak Blvd and Beloit Ave, where there has been an increase in reported crimes. No felony or misdemeanor arrests were made. Officers received one report of a catalytic converter theft, two stolen vehicle reports, and two vehicle burglary reports, all of which are being investigated. Officers are pursuing leads and working with our partner agencies to reduce and prevent similar crimes. Response time for officers remained consistent at 6 minutes.

Mapping data revealed highlighted areas are experiencing more criminal activity than other parts of the District. Our crime analysis software helps us direct patrols to areas at risk. Tuesdays and Saturdays, late mornings, had the highest frequency of property crime.

**Figure 1. Property theft heat map for August 2023.**



## **Traffic Safety**

There were zero reported traffic collisions in August. Additional traffic enforcement was conducted near the intersection of Franciscan Way and Sunset Dr due to complaints of speeding in the area. Community members provided one online traffic submission with concerns about a parked van. This issue was peacefully resolved. There are no speed analyses for August. We are exploring new modern signs to enhance our ability to capture this type of information.

## **Administration**

Newly hired police officer Vijayram Thota will begin his field training on September 11. We have two other police officer applicants in the background process for one vacant position. Sgt. Lande secured the services of a licensed defensive tactics instructor to train our officers. We secured the purchase of a new patrol car from Arizona. The car was funded by a recently awarded CHP grant. We anticipate the car entering service September/October.

## **Training**

The majority of August training was focused on preserving and improving perishable skills. Sgt. Lande taught several Advanced Arrest and Control/De-Escalation courses during August. Officer Farley attended an 8-hour in-service patrol rifle training. Officer Payne attended a 4-hour Drug Abuse Recognition course. Sgt. Lande completed a 4-hour update on Elder and Dependent Abuse.

## **July Patrol Log**

- On Thursday, August 1, at 1535 hours, officers took a report of theft by false pretenses related to an internet scheme with a loss of approximately \$300.00. The investigation is ongoing.
- On Friday, August 4, at 1507 hours, officers responded to the 200 block of Lake Drive for firearms a citizen wished to surrender. The firearms were collected, secured, and are scheduled for destruction.
- On Saturday, August 5, at 1500 hours, officers responded to the 100 block of Kenyon Avenue for a computer scam. A report was taken, and the investigation is ongoing.
- On Monday, August 7, at 2035 hours, officers conducted traffic enforcement near Franciscan Way and Sunset Drive. A vehicle was impounded for expired registration.
- On Tuesday, August 8, at 1053 hours, officers responded to Eureka Avenue for a stolen vehicle report.
- On Tuesday, August 8, at 2040 hours, officers responded to a residential burglary in the 600 block of Plateau Drive. The investigation is ongoing.
- On Wednesday, August 9, at 1918 hours, officers received a fictitious medical emergency call requesting a welfare check 200 block of Purdue Avenue. Officers are investigating leads.
- On Saturday, August 12, at 0953 hours, officers took a report of a vehicle burglary. The investigation is ongoing.
- On Wednesday, August 16, at 1115 hours, officers took a report of a catalytic converter theft.
- On Thursday, August 17, at 1500 hours, officers took a report of a vehicle vandalism.
- On Friday, August 18, at 1600 hours, officers took a report of lost property.
- On Saturday, August 19, at 1545 hours, officers were dispatched to a report of a found wallet. Officers contacted the owner and returned his wallet.
- On Tuesday, August 22, at 0729 hours, officers took a stolen vehicle report from Norwood Avenue.
- On Friday, August 25, at 2120 hours, officers responded to 100 block of Arlington Avenue for reports of reckless driving. Officers located the vehicle and determined the driver was suffering a medical emergency. EMS responded to the scene and helped the victim.

## **West County Crime Patrols**

Officers Fajardo joined West Contra Costa County police departments in a multi-agency crime suppression operation. Each West County agency combines resources to complete saturation patrols in every jurisdiction throughout the summer. This month, patrols were completed in Hercules. More than fifteen officers patrolled Hercules conducting over 30 vehicle enforcement stops, probation and parole compliance checks, and making multiple arrests. The next joint operation in September will be held in the Cities of Kensington/El Cerrito.

## **California Highway Patrol DUI/DUID Grant**

In July of 2023, the Kensington Police Department was awarded a grant of \$89,800.00 from the California Highway Patrol. The grant's purpose is to fund the purchase of a new patrol vehicle for DUI/DUID enforcement, training, and saturation patrols for individuals driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

The Kensington Police Department will host law enforcement training for 35 officers from the greater Bay Area in December and January. The training will focus on field sobriety testing and advanced drug recognition aspects related to DUI investigations.

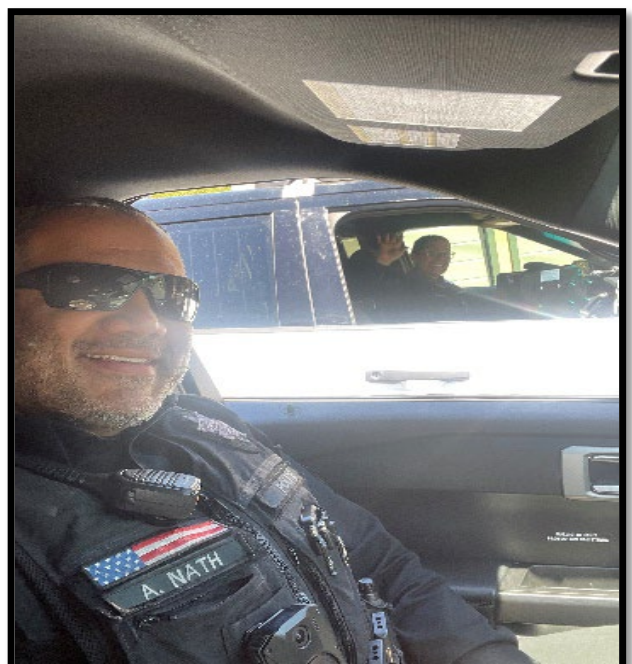
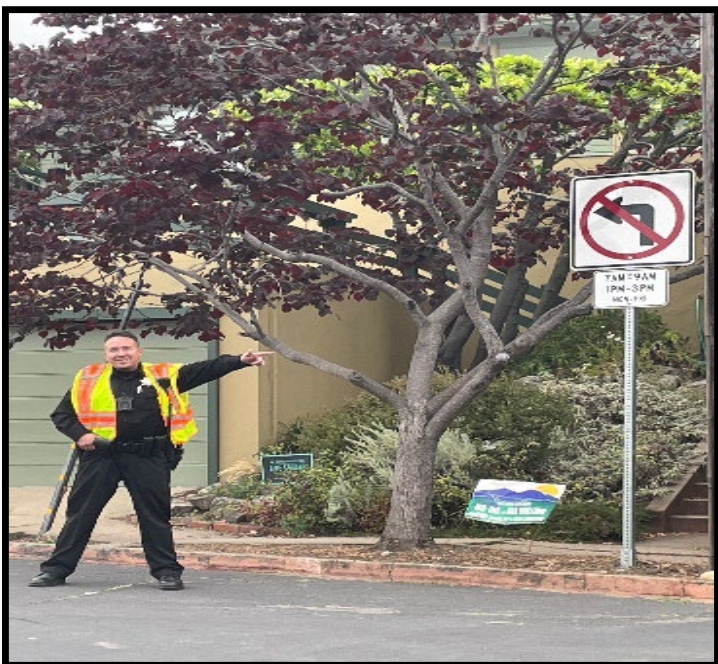
On Thursday, August 24, the first of ten DUI enforcement saturation patrols took place with Kensington Officers completing heavy patrols on the lookout for impaired drivers. Vehicle enforcement stops were completed, and citations were issued for a variety of infractions. The next saturation patrol is Sunday, September 3, with four officers working during the Labor Day Weekend.

## **Community**

Extra officers were on duty August 1, 2023, for the annual National Night Out. Block parties were plentiful, with the police department personnel and volunteers attending thirteen hosted events during a 6-hour tour. Lots of connections were made during a great community turnout once again.

Officers stepped up their visibility during back-to-school week. Additional Officers were stationed around the school to monitor traffic flow and keep students and drivers safe throughout the week. Parents and teachers thanked the officers who issued warnings to drivers and parents instead of citations. Education, helpful reminders, speed limits, and travel directions in and around the campus was the name of the game.

# Back to School Week



# National Night Out

