



KENSINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY REPORT

August 2026

PREPARED BY:
Kensington Police Department

CHIEF OF POLICE:
Mike Gancasz

REPORT DATE:
September 1st, 2026



Activity

Reporting Period: August 1 – August 31, 2026

Overview

The Kensington Police Department handled a total of 1,464 incidents, a slight increase from 1,334 in July 2026. Of this total, 1,213 were officer-initiated (up from 1,077 the prior month), and 223 were dispatched calls for service, consistent with the prior month's volume.

Key Metrics at a Glance

Metric	Aug 2026	Jul 2026	Change
Total incidents	1,464	1,334	+130
Officer-initiated activities	1,213	1,077	+136
Dispatched calls for service	223	—	—
Citations issued	90	72	+18
Verbal warnings	18	—	—
Average response time (min.)	4.6	5.0	-0.4
Investigative reports prepared	22	—	—
NIBRS crime reports	9	21	-12
Arrests	1	0	+1

Officer-Initiated Activity

Officer-initiated activity for the period included the following:

Activity Type	Count
Traffic stops	94
Building/security checks	480
Extra patrols	498
Vacation home watches	70
Vehicle/pedestrian checks	9

Enforcement Actions

Officers issued 90 traffic citations and 18 verbal warnings.



Calls for Service & Response Times

Officers responded to 251 dispatched calls for service, similar to the 257 calls handled the previous month. The average response time for dispatched calls was 4.6 minutes.

Investigations & Arrests

The department prepared 22 investigative reports. Of these, 9 were NIBRS crime reports — 7 for crimes occurring during the period and 2 for crimes that occurred in prior periods — and officers made 1 felony arrest.

Notable Incidents

The figures above reflect the month's overall volume. The following incidents merit particular attention from a patrol operations perspective:

DUI Enforcement Operation: On August 22, officers conducted the department's first DUI enforcement operation of the new grant cycle.

Domestic Battery Arrest: Officers responded to a domestic battery call that resulted in a felony arrest.

Mutual Aid – El Cerrito: On August 23, Kensington officers responded to a nearby shooting in El Cerrito. They were first on scene, provided emergency care to a critically wounded victim, secured the scene, preserved evidence, and identified witnesses.

Table 1. Patrol Data Comparison by Month

August 2026 vs. July 2026 vs. August 2025 — Change/Z-Score vs 3-month rolling baseline

Metric	August 2025	July 2026	August 2026	3-mo Baseline	Change	Z-Score	Significance
Total Incidents	1,425	1,334	1,464	1,172	+24.91%	8.52	high
Dispatched Calls for Service	276	222	223	236	-5.51%	-0.83	none
Traffic Stops	93	92	94	74	+27.03%	2.32	moderate
Citations Issued	123	72	90	65	+38.46%	3.10	high
Crime Reports Occurring in the Period	19	20	18	23	-21.74%	-1.10	none
Misdemeanor Arrests	0	0	0	1	-100.00%	-1.00	none
Felony Arrests	0	0	1	0	+1	1.15	none
Avg. Response Time	7.2 min	5 min	4.6 min	5.6 min	-0.4 min (-8.00%)	-2.44	moderate



Table 2. March 2026 NIBRS Offense Data

NIBRS Code	Offense	Aug 2026	Jul 2026	30 Days Prior to Aug 31	May-Jul Avg	%Δ	Z-Score
NR	Not Reportable	12	10	12	15	+20.0%	-0.77
13B	Simple Assault	2	0	2	1.7	+100.0%	0.26
23G	Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories	2	3	2	1	-33.3%	1.00
290	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	1	1	0	1.7	0.0%	-0.52
13C	Intimidation	1	0	1	0	+100.0%	0.00
23F	Theft from Vehicle	1	4	1	2	-75.0%	-0.71
240	Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	0	0.3	0.0%	-0.58
250	Counterfeit/Forgery	0	0	0	0.3	0.0%	-0.58
13A	Aggravated Assault	0	0	0	0.3	0.0%	-0.58
23D	Theft from Building	0	1	0	0.3	-100.0%	-0.58
23H	All Other Larceny	0	0	0	0.7	0.0%	-0.82
26A	False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence Game	0	0	0	0.3	0.0%	-0.58
26F	Identity Theft	0	0	0	0.3	0.0%	-0.58
90C	Disorderly Conduct	0	0	0	0.3	0.0%	-0.58
90Z	All Other Offenses	0	1	0	0.3	-100.0%	-0.58

NIBRS Category Comparison - Kensington Police

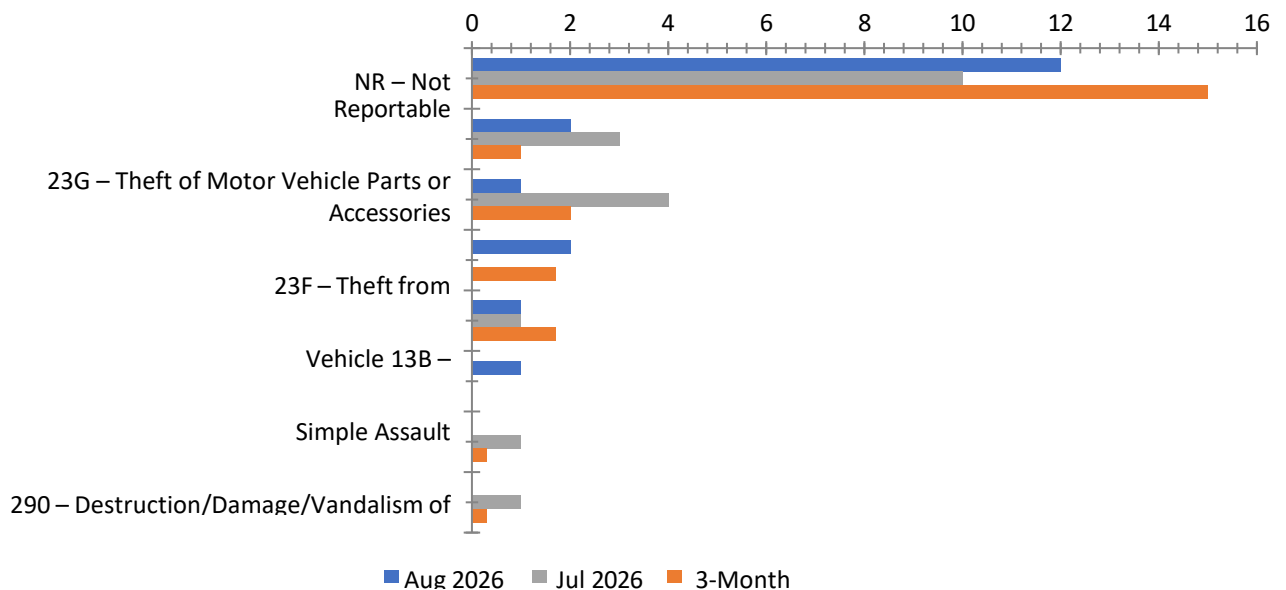




Table 2. Patrol Case Heat Map

Incident locations are aggregated into a heat surface using a distance-weighted smoothing calculation over nearby points, where warmer colors indicate higher estimated activity concentration and cooler colors indicate lower concentration.

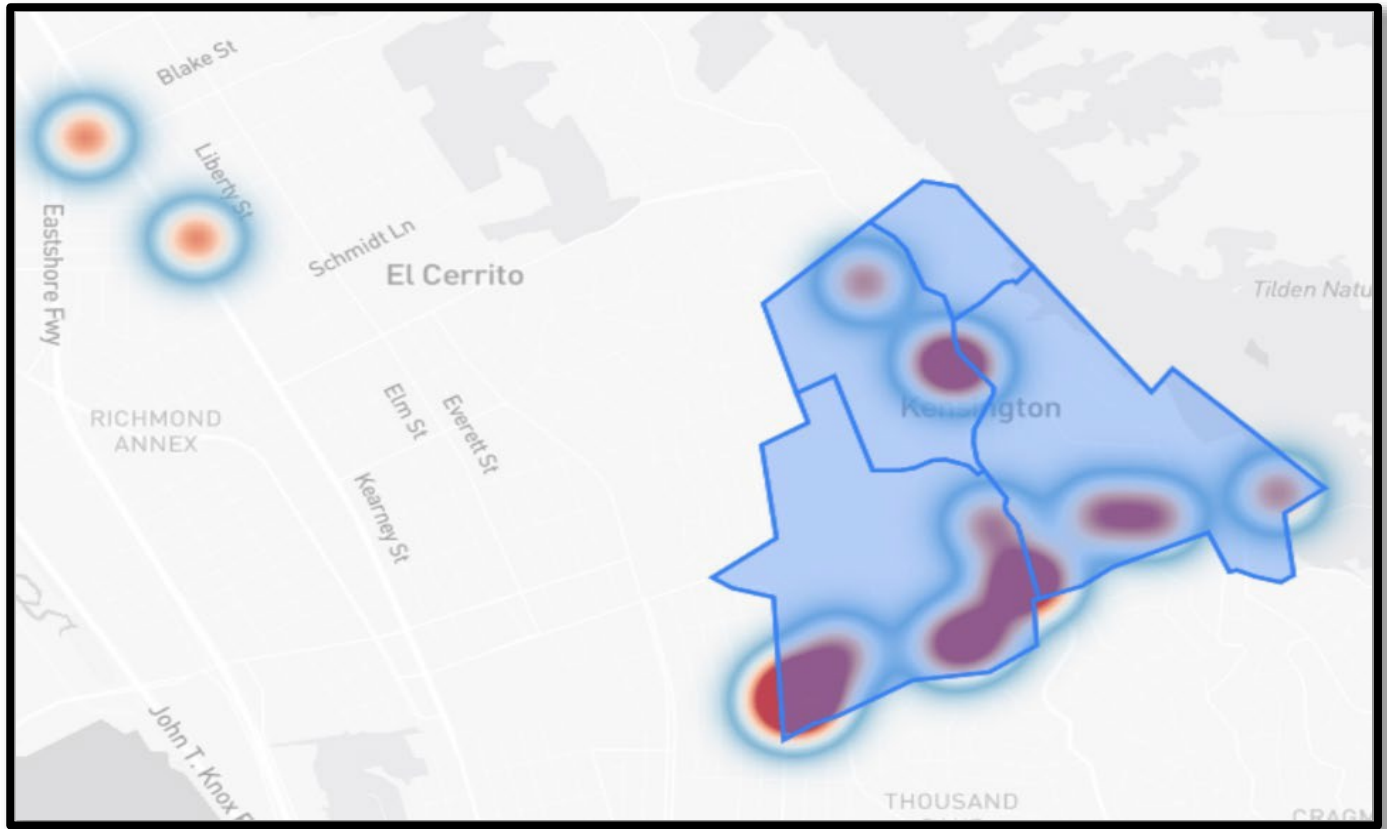


Table 3.

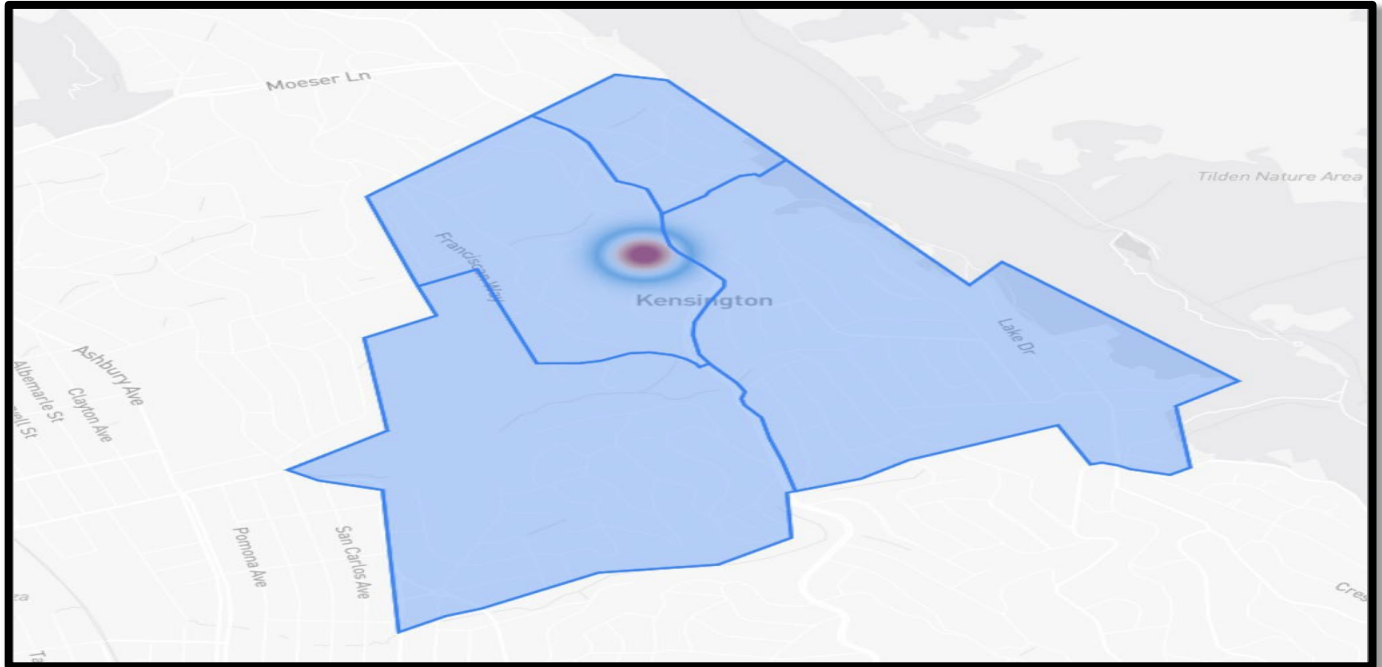
Day	00-03	03-06	06-09	09-12	12-15	15-18	18-21	21-00	TOTAL
Sun	1.14	0.14	1.21	1.82	1.39	0.14	0.14	0.14	6.12
Mon	1.02	0.02	0.52	0.52	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	2.16
Tue	1.02	0.02	0.02	1.02	1.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	3.16
Wed	1.02	0.02	0.02	1.02	0.52	0.52	0.02	0.02	3.16
Thu	1.02	0.02	0.02	1.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	2.16
Fri	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	1.12
Sat	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.16
TOTAL	5.38	0.37	1.94	5.56	3.13	0.87	0.37	0.37	18

Case Temporal Heatmap (Past 30 Days): The temporal heat map uses time-quality weighting where incidents with exact reported times count fully toward their hour, while incidents with unknown or range-based times are proportionally distributed across applicable hours, providing a more accurate representation of activity patterns by reducing the skewing effect of default midnight timestamps common in RMS data.



Traffic Safety

During the period, **1** non-injury collision was reported, which was relatively consistent with **1** in the prior period.



KPD officers conducted the first of 10 scheduled DUI saturation patrols this month, part of a grant-funded partnership with the California Highway Patrol aimed at keeping impaired drivers off the road. The operation resulted in 15 traffic stops, with officers issuing 6 warnings and 9 citations for vehicle code violations.

This effort is supported by new grant-funded equipment, including patrol vehicles and field alcohol-screening devices, with additional resources on the way in the coming months to further strengthen the department's DUI enforcement capabilities.

Patrol Activity Log:

Date	Location	Statute	Offense	Severity	Arrest	Summary
8/1/2026	XX Rincon Rd, Kensington, CA 94707	384A(a)(1) PC	Cut/destroy/remove plant on highway (M)	Misdemeanor	No	Unauthorized tree trimming on monastery property was reported. Investigation concluded with no prosecution desired; matter is being handled civilly.
8/2/2026	XX Kingston Rd, Kensington, CA 94707	487(a) PC	Grand theft — motor vehicle parts/accessories (F)	Felony	No	A catalytic converter theft was reported. An area canvass yielded no leads; case suspended pending further investigative activity.
8/3/2026	5XX Coventry Rd,	—	Miscellaneous public aid contact	Administrative	No	An advice call regarding a landlord-tenant dispute was documented. No



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Date	Location	Statute	Offense	Severity	Arrest	Summary
	Kensington, CA 94707					criminal action was determined; case closed as informational.
8/5/2026	4XX Beloit Ave, Kensington, CA 94708	—	Patrol information exchange	Administrative	No	Officers responded to a welfare check involving a firearm. Both parties were briefly detained; no crime occurred and all parties were released at the scene.
8/5/2026	7XX Coventry Rd, Kensington, CA 94707	242 PC	Battery on person — simple (M)	Misdemeanor	No	A simple battery involving a caretaker and a patient was reported. No prosecution desired; report taken for documentation purposes only.
8/11/2026	3XX Colusa Ave, Kensington, CA 94707	—	Injury report / patrol information exchange	Administrative	No	An injury report was taken for a male who fell and struck his head. Medical personnel transported him for evaluation; no hazardous conditions were found at the scene.
8/11/2026	XX Arlington Ct, Kensington, CA 94707	—	Traffic accident, no injuries	Administrative	No	A no-injury collision occurred. A collision report was completed.
8/16/2026	Santa Fe Ave / Oak View Ave, Kensington, CA 94707	—	Injury report	Administrative	No	A fall with injury was reported and medical assistance was provided. Incident closed for information only.
8/19/2026	Arlington Ave / Arlington Ct, Kensington, CA 94707	487(a) PC	Grand theft — motor vehicle parts/accessories (F)	Felony	No	A catalytic converter theft was reported. An investigation was conducted and the case was closed with leads exhausted.
8/20/2026	109XX San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530	—	Patrol information exchange	Administrative	No	A historical report involving allegations of a stabbing and related incidents was taken. Investigation is pending due to a lack of corroborating evidence.
8/21/2026	XX Anson Way, Kensington, CA 94707	530.5(a) PC	Identity theft (F)	Felony	No	An identity theft report was taken involving unauthorized use of personal information. No financial loss occurred; case closed.
8/23/2026	61XX Potrero Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530	—	Outside agency assist	Administrative	No	KPD assisted at a shooting incident, providing emergency first aid and scene supervision. Case forwarded to the El Cerrito Police Department for investigation.
8/23/2026	Beloit Ave / Amherst Ave, Kensington, CA 94708	—	Vehicle impound	Administrative	No	A vehicle with expired registration was stopped and towed. Citations were issued and the vehicle was impounded.
8/23/2026	3XX Berkeley Park Blvd, Kensington, CA 94707	—	Miscellaneous public aid contact	Administrative	No	KPD received a call regarding potential abuse concerns, forwarded to the appropriate sheriff's office. Case closed for information only.
8/25/2026	2XX Arlington Ave, Kensington, CA 94707	—	Found property	Administrative	No	Found property was recovered and returned to its owner. No further police action was necessary.



Date	Location	Statute	Offense	Severity	Arrest	Summary
8/25/2026	3XX Coventry Rd, Kensington, CA 94707	484(a) PC	Theft of personal property — motor vehicle parts/accessories (M)	Misdemeanor	No	A theft of a motor vehicle license plate was reported. The plate was entered into the Stolen Vehicle system; case suspended with no leads.
8/27/2026	8XX Coventry Rd, Kensington, CA 94707	273.5(a) PC	Inflict corporal injury on spouse/cohabitant/dating partner (F)	Felony	Yes	A felony corporal injury incident involving a dating relationship was reported. An arrest was made following investigation and the suspect was taken into custody.
8/27/2026	109XX San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94707	—	Patrol information exchange	Administrative	No	A resident submitted a house key to participate in the Kensington Key Program. The key was logged and the case was closed.
8/28/2026	6XX Beloit Ave, Kensington, CA 94707	459 PC	Burglary — from motor vehicle (F)	Felony	No	A felony burglary from a motor vehicle was reported.
8/30/2026 *	Colusa Ave / Oak View Ave, Kensington, CA 94707	422(a) PC	Threaten crime with intent to terrorize (M)	Misdemeanor	No	A resident reported threats made by a neighbor. The incident was documented and closed; no prosecution was desired.
8/31/2026	2XX Arlington Ave, Kensington, CA 94707	—	Vehicle impound	Administrative	No	A vehicle with expired registration was stopped and impounded. A citation was issued to the driver and the vehicle was towed; case closed.

Training: Readiness, Development & Compliance:

This month, Kensington officers took part in scenario-based training built around real body-worn camera footage, pausing at key moments to talk through their decisions and reasoning in real time. Learning objectives centered on prioritizing bystander safety during a dynamic foot pursuit — including the tactical necessity of pausing to physically shield civilians and managing crossfire — and on dynamic containment strategies that weigh the use of patrol vehicles against foot pursuit to maintain a safe standoff distance and establish hard cover. The scenario also assessed the force mitigation continuum, requiring officers to navigate the transition from verbal commands and less-lethal TASER deployment to immediate lethal cover when less-lethal options fail and a suspect actively escalates.

This type of training has sharpened officers' situational awareness, decision-making, and judgment across a range of realistic, high-pressure situations — including encounters with uncooperative individuals and incidents involving an armed subject — helping ensure officers are prepared to respond safely, lawfully, and effectively in the field.

This training reflects one of the more contemporary approaches available in law enforcement today and is part of KPD's ongoing commitment to preparing officers for real-world decision-making. The department's training unit is supervised by Sergeant B. Lande, who does an exceptional job ensuring officers and staff have access to the best, most current training available.



Staff also completed a rigorous, state-certified training course on red dot sights — an advanced optic technology mounted on handguns that helps officers aim more quickly and accurately. The 10-hour course was held over two live-fire sessions on August 5th and 12th at the Sheriff's Office range at Marsh Creek Detention Facility.

Training combined hands-on firearms instruction with classroom lessons on the technology itself, proper maintenance, and the legal standards that govern police use of force. Officers practiced core skills such as drawing and aiming, reloading, shooting while moving, and operating safely in low-light conditions. They also trained for equipment failure, learning backup techniques to stay accurate if an optic stops working.

Every officer was tested and observed by an instructor, with additional practice required until they met the department's standard. Each officer's equipment was carefully calibrated and confirmed for accuracy before completing a final, scored qualification test.

This is currently the only state-certified course of its kind offered by any law enforcement agency in Contra Costa County. KPD staff developed and hosted the program.

Chief of Police

National Night Out

The 2026 National Night Out was a wonderful success for the Kensington community. I, along with our Lieutenant, Sergeants, Officers, and Volunteers, visited ten locations across our community. These visits provided meaningful opportunities to engage with residents, answer questions, and strengthen the relationships that are so vital to community policing.

We are grateful to the many residents who welcomed us with thoughtful conversations, genuine curiosity, laughter, and overwhelming support. Events like this remind us why community partnership remains at the heart of everything we do.

I want to extend special recognition to the Sergeants, the Volunteer Staff, and Lieutenant Nath, whose organization and coordination of the department's resources ensured a safe, well-run, and successful event. Their efforts behind the scenes made this year's National Night Out possible.



The following photos capture a few memorable moments from NNO 2026.



Mutual Aid Response

Commending the Courage of Sergeant Brian Lande and Officer Jose Fajardo

On August 23, 2026, Sergeant Brian Lande and Officer Jose Fajardo heard an emergency radio broadcast reporting a shooting just blocks from our police department, in El Cerrito. In that instant, they made a choice that defines the very best of law enforcement: instead of staying back, they moved directly toward the danger.



It is worth pausing on the significance of that decision. Research on human behavior tells us that our instinct in the face of gunfire or violence is to flee — it is a hardwired, evolutionary response. Police officers, firefighters, and other first responders train for years to override that instinct, so that when the moment comes, they can act with composure and purpose rather than hesitation. Psychologists who study this behavior point to a combination of rigorous training, a deep sense of duty, and a genuine commitment to the safety of others as what allows some individuals to run toward the very danger everyone else is running from. That is precisely what Sergeant Lande and Officer Fajardo did on Sunday, August 23.

They were first to arrive at a chaotic scene — a critically wounded gunshot victim, a large and emotional crowd, and limited resources — and they did not hesitate. Officer Fajardo located the victim and immediately began lifesaving trauma care. Sergeant Lande took command of a rapidly evolving and dangerous situation, coordinating the response and maintaining order while lifesaving efforts were underway. Together, they transitioned seamlessly into securing the scene, protecting evidence, and identifying witnesses in support of the El Cerrito Police Department's investigation.

I was personally contacted by the Chief of the El Cerrito Police Department, who expressed his sincere gratitude for the professionalism, skill, and composure our officers brought to an extraordinarily difficult scene. Their assistance made a meaningful difference for our partner agency during a moment of crisis.

Our community must understand what many officers like Sergeant Lande and Officer Fajardo do every day: they willingly walk toward danger so that others do not have to. Their willingness to do so — without hesitation, without regard for their own safety — is a form of selflessness that deserves to be recognized, not taken for granted.

On behalf of the Kensington Police Department and the community we serve, I want to express my deepest gratitude to Sergeant Lande and Officer Fajardo for their courage, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the preservation of life. Both officers will be formally recognized with a Commendation at the KCSD Board of Directors Meeting in October, and I warmly invite members of the public to attend and join us honoring their exceptional service.

Volunteers in Police Services VIPS

Our Volunteers, Logan, Gill, and Haynes, contributed over 40 hours of service to the Police Department and the community. Their contributions included administrative support, fleet management, inspection of patrol fleet vehicles, and several special projects as assigned.

Reserve Officer Program

Our Reserve Officer, Michael Tranate, contributed over 30 hours of service to the Police Department and the community. His contributions included serving as a secondary officer on patrol, training, and projects as assigned.



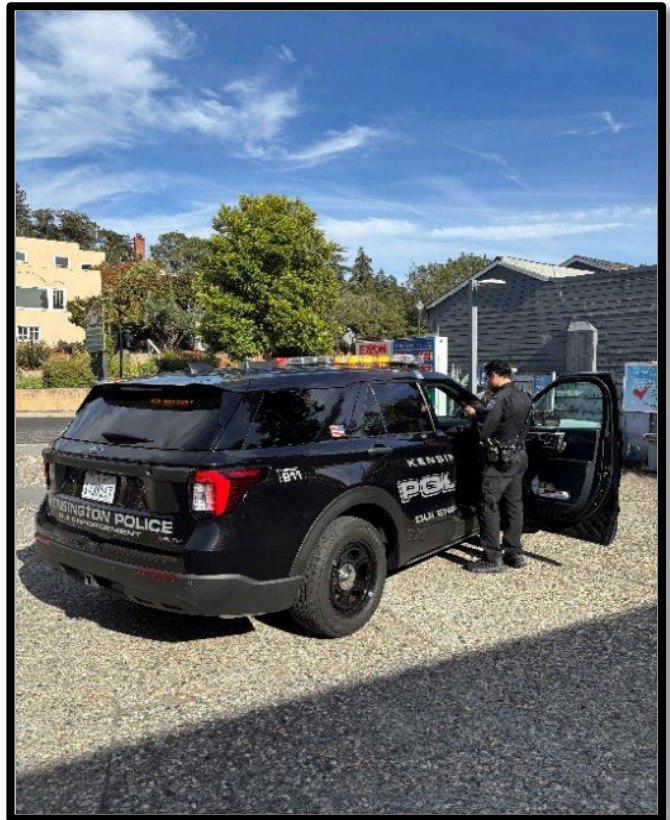
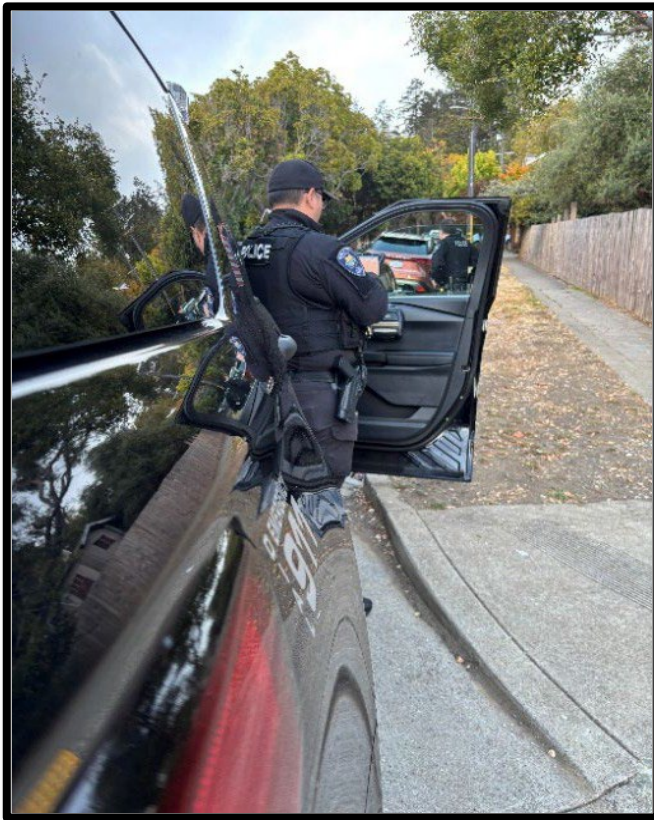
Kensington Park'd

The District of Kensington hosted the popular Kensington Park'd event on August 14, 2026, bringing together residents for an evening of great food, live music, and community fellowship. The event

provided an excellent opportunity for members of the Kensington Police Department to engage with residents in a relaxed and welcoming environment, answering questions, discussing neighborhood concerns, and strengthening positive relationships outside of traditional law enforcement interactions.

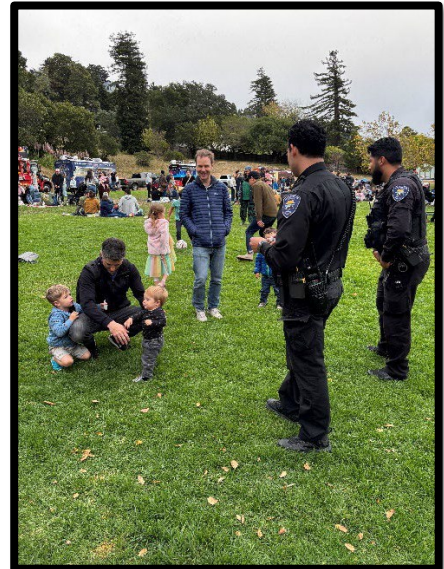
Community events such as this continue to reinforce the department's commitment to accessibility and building trust through meaningful engagement.

Grant-Funded Traffic Safety DUI Enforcement





Kensington Community Event



Police In The Park

A community engagement event was held on Wednesday, August 26. KPD hosted this event, providing an assortment of healthy snacks and engaging with the youngest members of our community as they left the Hilltop Elementary school. The event drew a strong turnout from kids and adults from the community, creating a welcoming atmosphere for connection and conversation. Our staff had the opportunity to engage with residents and kids, exchange information, and answer many questions. We absolutely love the engagement we get from the youth in our community!





Firearms Red-Dot Training



Upcoming September Community Events

Kensington has several community events planned for September. Community members are encouraged to attend, meet local public-safety personnel, and enjoy the activities.

- **Friday, September 11, 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM:**
Kensington Park'd
Food Trucks at Kensington Community Park, 59 Arlington Avenue
- **Saturday, September 19, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM:**
Tri-City Community Event - El Cerrito Plaza, 1000 El Cerrito Plaza
Featuring K-9 demonstrations, fire-rescue operations, and other family activities.



- **Wednesday, September 30, 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM:**
Coffee with the Cops - Semifreddi's Bakery Café, 372 Colusa Avenue

For more information about upcoming events, visit KPPCSD.org, Instagram, or our Facebook page.

**COFFEE WITH
THE COPS**

**Building community
relationships over a cup of
coffee.**

Wednesday, September 30, 2026
8:30am to 10:30 am
Semifreddi's Bakery
372 Colusa Ave, Kensington CA 94707