



# KENSINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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**DATE:** December 31, 2024

**TO:** David Aranda, Interim General Manager

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

**RE:** Police Chief’s Monthly Report, December 2024

## Patrol Operations

The Kensington Police Department demonstrated its ongoing commitment to public safety by managing 1472 incidents, an increase from 1,319 incidents reported in November. Our officers engaged in 1153 proactive actions, including 134 traffic stops, which resulted in 79 citations aimed at enhancing roadway safety.

Throughout the month, officers responded to 319 dispatched calls for service, an increase from 196 calls in November. Patrol initiated 18 investigative reports, a decrease from 20 the previous month. NIBRS reportable crimes decreased by 37.5% compared to November.

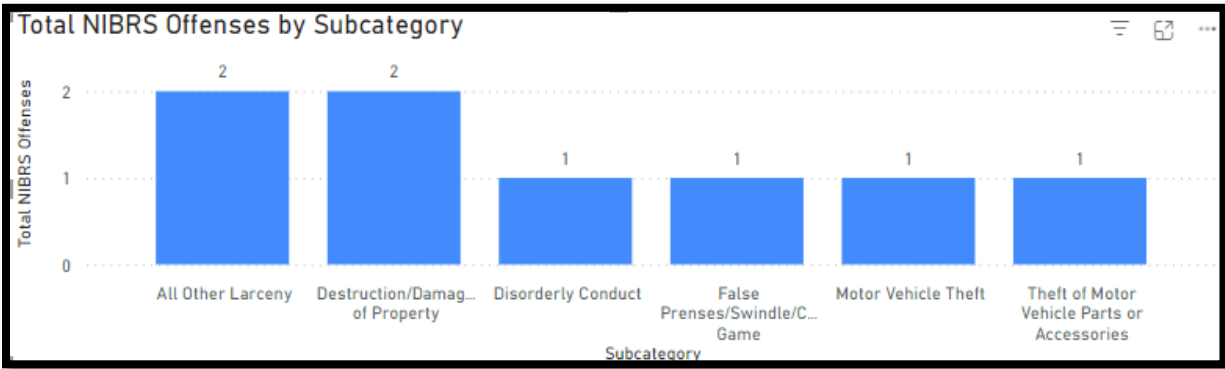
Investigations included several felony cases including one report of a sexual assault, a commercial burglary, and a stolen vehicle. The department also arrested a suspect for a warrant. Analysis of crime patterns revealed the majority of NIBRS reportable crimes occurred during the evening hours on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, prompting us to enhance patrols during these peak times.

The average response time rose to 5.51 minutes from 4.41 minutes in November, still below the 2024 average.

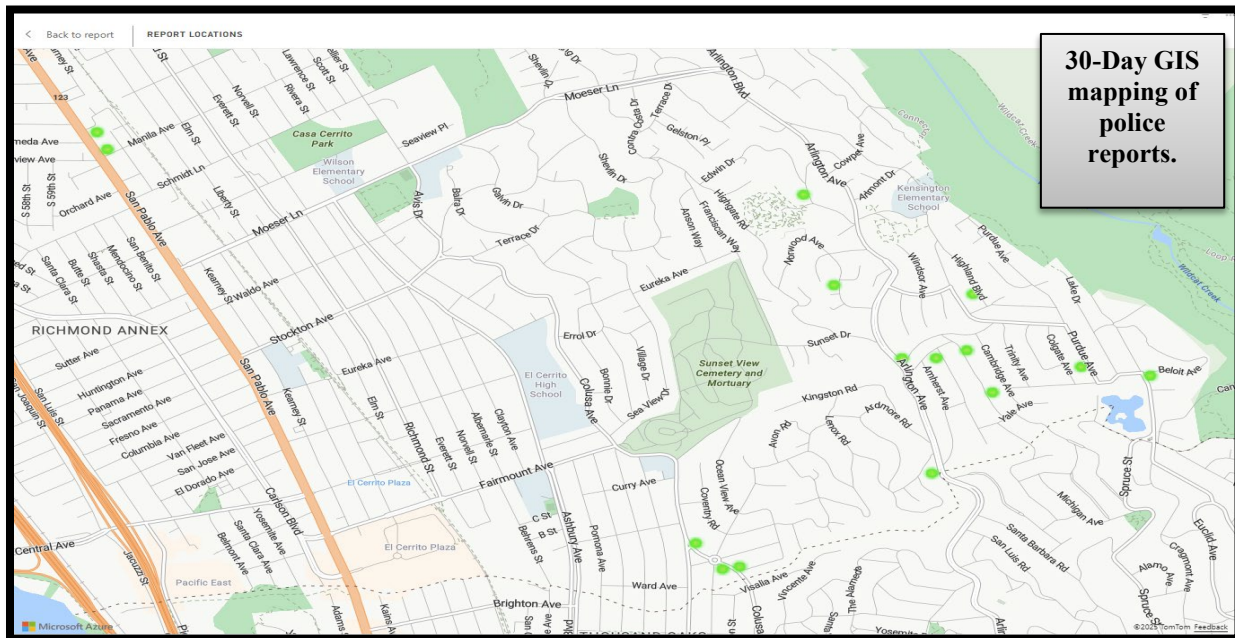
**Table 1. Date and Time Heatmap**

| Cases by Day and Time |           |           |           |           |         |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| Weekday               | 0000-0259 | 0900-1159 | 1200-1459 | 1500-1759 | Total   |
| Monday                |           | 16.67%    |           |           | 16.67%  |
| Tuesday               | 16.67%    |           |           |           | 16.67%  |
| Friday                |           |           | 16.67%    |           | 16.67%  |
| Saturday              |           |           |           | 16.67%    | 16.67%  |
| Sunday                |           |           |           | 33.33%    | 33.33%  |
| <b>Total</b>          | 16.67%    | 16.67%    | 16.67%    | 50.00%    | 100.00% |

**Figure 1. NIBRS Offense Data**

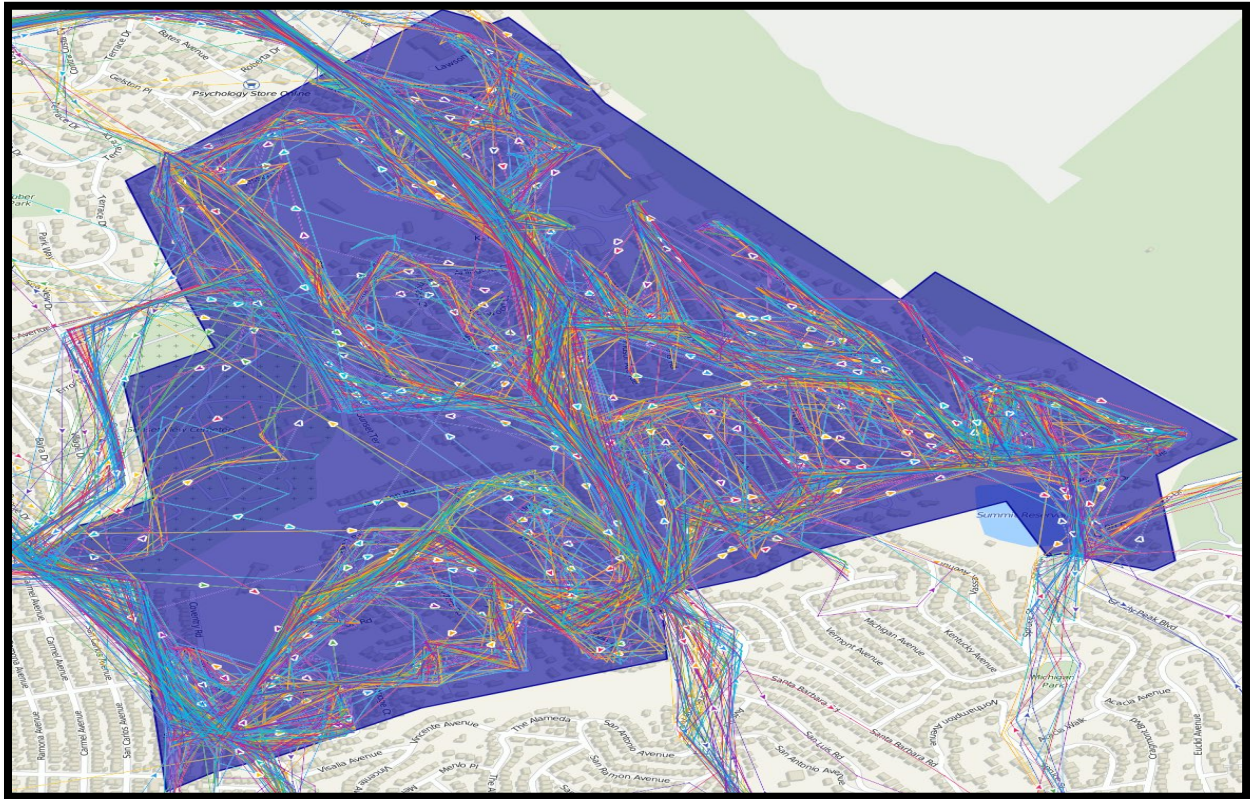


**Figure 2. Crime Trend Mapping**



## Figure 4. Patrol fleet mapping

Kensington's patrol fleet is tracked with GPS technology, allowing real-time mapping. Figure 4 depicts the Special District of Kensington boundary (dark blue), and the six colored lines represent black-and-white patrol car locations inside the district throughout the month.



## Activity Log

**Dec 2:** Officers responded to a vandalism report on Purdie Avenue. A report was taken.

**Dec 2:** Officers responded to a theft report on Yale Avenue. A report was taken.

**Dec 2:** Officers were dispatched to Highgate Court for a report of a theft. A report was taken.

**Dec 3:** Officers conducted a traffic enforcement stop on Arlington Avenue and Sunset Drive for a vehicle that failed to yield for a pedestrian in a crosswalk. The driver was cited and his vehicle was impounded due to expired registration.

**Dec 3:** Officers responded to a non-injury traffic collision at Norwood Avenue. A report was completed.

**Dec 8:** Officers contacted a resident on Kingston Road regarding a potential Venmo scam. A report was taken.

**Dec 9:** Officers responded to the El Cerrito BART station for an outside assist for BART PD. A report was taken.

**Dec 9:** Officers assisted El Cerrito PD with an intoxicated subject. The subject had an outstanding Kensington PD warrant and was subsequently arrested and cite released.

**Dec 10:** Officers responded to Colusa Avenue for a commercial burglary. A report was taken.

**Dec 10:** Officers responded to the police station for a found property detail. A report was taken.

**Dec 14:** Officers were dispatched to Ocean View Avenue for a medical event. A report was taken.

**Dec 17:** Officers responded to Berkeley Park Blvd for a residential burglary detail. A report was taken.

**Dec 19:** Officers investigated a suspicious circumstance detail at the police station. A report was taken.

**Dec 24:** Officers responded to an abandoned vehicle on Garden Drive. A report was taken.

**Dec 26:** Officers were dispatched to Stanford Avenue for a report of a grand theft. A report was taken.

**Dec 26:** During a vacation house check, Officers located found property on Rincon Road. The item was placed in safekeeping and a report was taken.

**Dec 27:** Officers responded to Grizzly Peak Blvd for a Service To Citizen detail. A report was taken.

**Dec 27:** Officers responded to Arlington Avenue for a suspicious circumstance detail. During the investigation, it was determined that the incident occurred in the City of El Cerrito. El Cerrito PD notified.

**Dec 28:** Officers were dispatched to Colusa Avenue for a report of a grand theft. A report was taken.

**Dec 29:** Officers responded to Highland Blvd for a natural Coroner's Case. A report was taken.

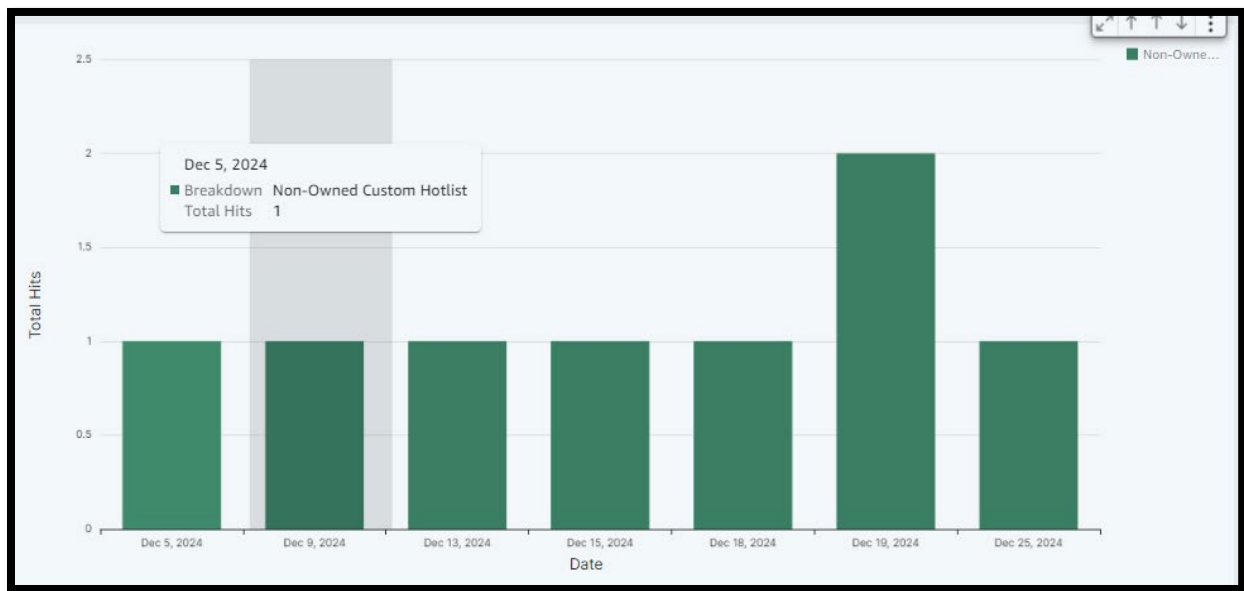
**Dec 31:** New Years Eve, additional officers were deployed to work patrol. KPD received multiple calls regarding a large party on Kenilworth Drive. With the assistance of El Cerrito and Albany PD, the party was dispersed with no damage to property and no injuries.

## Community Safety Cameras

The number of stolen vehicles detected in Kensington decreased to 0 for December. Further, the Flock cameras helped identify a suspect in a sexual assault case and were also used to track suspect vehicles used during a commercial burglary. The cameras continue to provide critical leads.



| August Data Captured – five (5) cameras |               |                |                      |
|---|---------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Type                                    | Stolen Plates | Stolen Vehicle | Other Agency Hotlist |
| Count                                   | 148           | 0              | 8                    |



## Training

Officer Payne has been selected to become a new Field Training Officer (FTO) and attended Field Training Officer School this month. This rigorous, state-mandated program covers various topics related to training new officers, including performance evaluations, ethics, liability, instructional methods, and learning assessments. FTOs hold one of the most important roles in policing, instilling an agency's core values and competencies in recruits. They play a crucial role in fostering a healthy organizational culture based on fairness, trust, and teamwork among new employees.

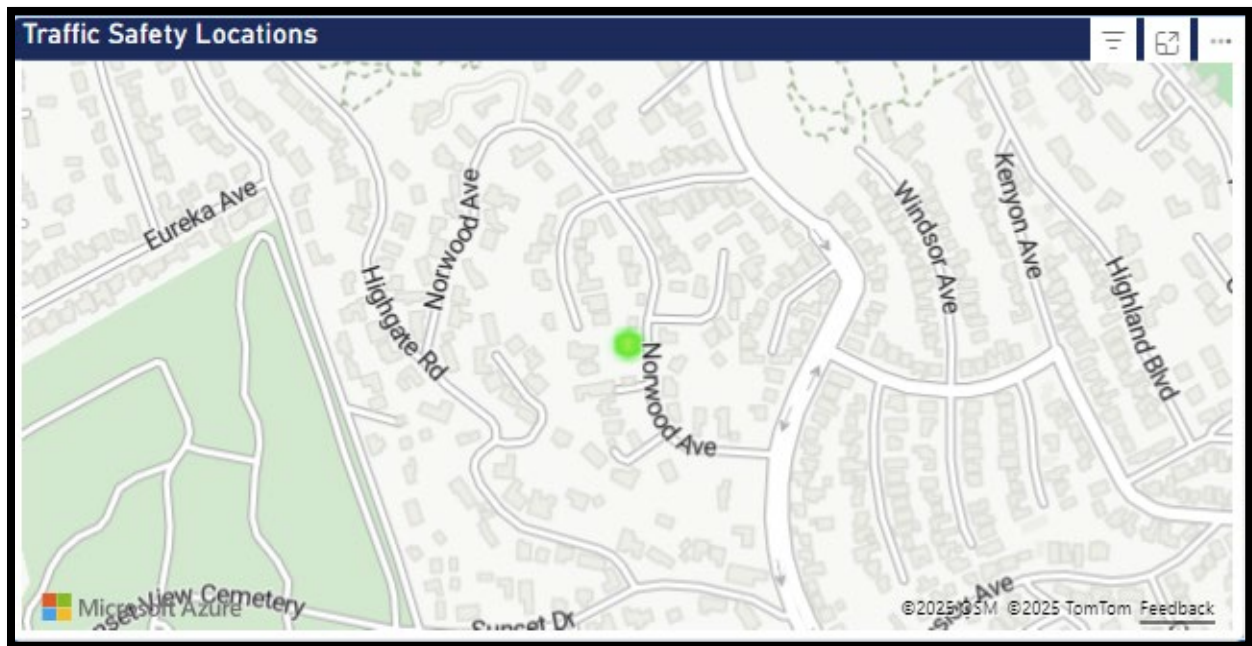


Additionally, Sergeant Lande participated in the Field Training Program Supervisor/Administrator/Coordinator (FTP SAC) course, a state-mandated requirement for agencies. This course focuses on the overall management and structure of Field Training Programs, emphasizing the importance of producing competent officers, ensuring that FTOs are well-trained, and establishing a fair and effective system for preparing officers for their release to solo duty after completing the training program.

Sgt. Lande also completed a training course on the development of effective counter-ambush training, Critical Incident Response, Tactical Patrol Considerations, and training on Response to Failed Taser Deployment.

### **Traffic Safety**

Traffic collisions increased to 1, compared to 0 in November. The reported collision was non-injury and related to parking.



### **Chief of Police**

#### **Flock Community Safety Cameras.**

At approximately 2140 hours on Friday December 27, a woman reported she had been assaulted in Kensington by a man she met online. Officer Thota and Officer De Santiago contacted the woman, obtained partial plate information for the suspect vehicle, and checked our Flock Community Safety Camera database for similar vehicles. The cameras captured the suspect vehicle and the entire plate as it was leaving Kensington. The suspect and his vehicle were positively identified, and the suspect was contacted at his home in Hayward a few hours later. The investigation is ongoing. Without this technology, it is unlikely the suspect would have been identified that quickly or potentially not at all.

KPD held its 2024 Employee Recognition event. The day brought family members and employees together to celebrate the employees' contributions and accomplishments for the year:

- Volunteer Ed Woo Service Recognition
- Volunteer Mike Logan Service Recognition
- Consultant Jason Haynes Service Recognition
- Reserve Officer Tranate Service Recognition
- Officer Harjot Gill Service Recognition
- Officer David Payne Service Recognition
- Officer David Payne Name on his badge
- Officer Jose Fajardo Service Recognition
- Sergeant Jose Rivera Initials on his badge
- Sergeant Brian Lande Service Recognition
- Sergeant Brian Lande Chief's Award
- Sergeant Brian Lande Name on his badge
- Officer Vijay Thota Service Recognition
- Officer Vijay Thota Officer of The Year

#### MUTUAL AID PATROL EFFORTS

Kensington was invited to support DUI prevention efforts in the City of Hercules by staffing a grant funded DUI checkpoint in their jurisdiction. The results of the checkpoint were:

- 1,018 vehicles passed through
- 6 drivers were tested for suspicion of DUI
- 1 arrest made for DUI
- 7 individuals were cited for being unlicensed

No injuries or uses of force occurred during the multijurisdictional operation.



