



KENSINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

10940 San Pablo Avenue ▪ El Cerrito ▪ CA ▪ 94530

(510) 526-4141

www.kppcsd.org

DATE: October 1st, 2024

TO: David Aranda: General Manager

FROM: M. Gancasz, Chief of Police

RE: Police Chief's Monthly Report, September 2024

Patrol Operations

In September, the Kensington Police Department demonstrated its ongoing commitment to public safety by managing a total of 1,018 incidents, a notable decrease from the 1,417 incidents reported in August. Our officers engaged in 798 proactive actions, including 100 traffic stops, which resulted in 24 citations aimed at enhancing roadway safety.

Throughout the month, officers responded to 220 dispatched calls for service, an increase from the 202 calls in August. The department produced 16 investigative reports, a decrease from 29 the previous month, reflecting our effective resolution of cases and the overall decline in reported crime. Significantly, reportable crimes fell by approximately 40% compared to August.

Our investigative efforts this month included handling several felony cases, such as assault with a deadly weapon, misdemeanor hit and run, commercial burglary, vehicle theft, and minor harassment. The department successfully made one felony warrant arrest and one arrest for a misdemeanor hit-and-run, underscoring our dedication to addressing criminal activity in our community.

Analysis of crime patterns revealed that the majority of NIBRS reportable crimes occurred between 9 PM and midnight on Mondays and Saturdays, prompting us to enhance patrols during these peak times.

Despite an increase in the average response time to 6.6 minutes—slightly above the 6.3 minutes recorded in August—we remain committed to improving our efficiency and service delivery.

Table 1. Date and Time Heatmap



Figure 1. NIBRS Offense Data

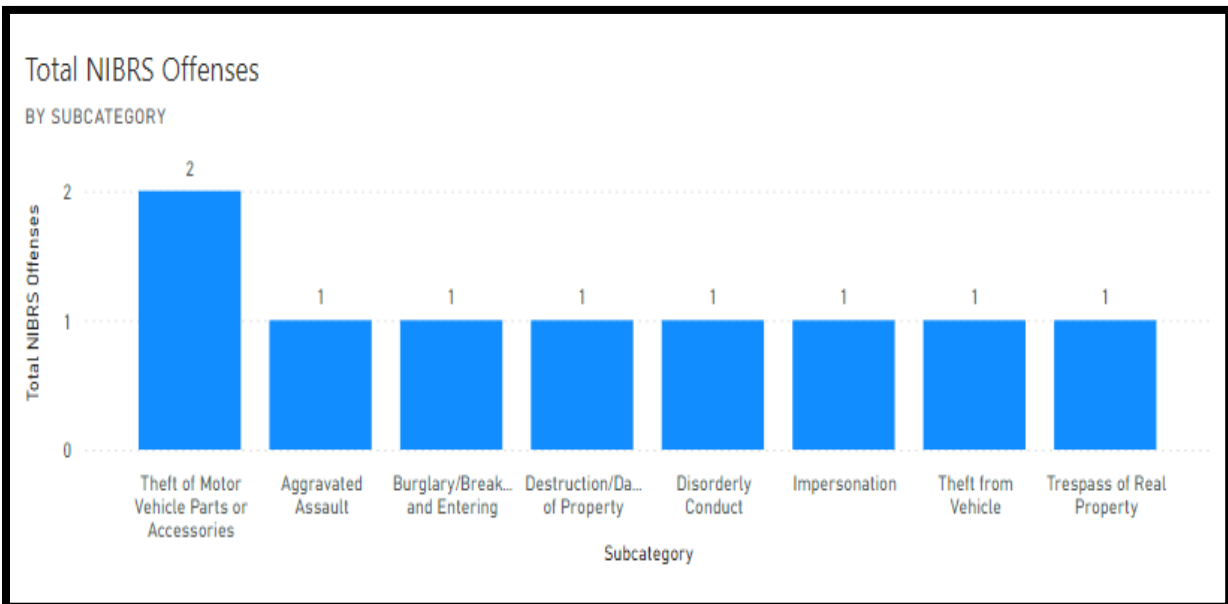


Figure 2. Month over Month

Case Count LM, MoM% - Cases, Month Case Count

BY CATEGORY

Category	Month Case Count	Case Count LM	MoM% - Cases
All Other Offenses			→ 0.00%
Animal Cruelty			→ 0.00%
Arson			→ 0.00%
Assault Offenses	1	1	→ 0.00%
Bad Checks			→ 0.00%
Bribery			→ 0.00%
Burglary/Breaking and Entering	1		↑ 100.00%
Counterfeit/Forgery		1	↓ -100.00%
Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy Violations			→ 0.00%
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	1		↑ 100.00%
Disorderly Conduct	1		↑ 100.00%
Drug/Narcotic Offenses			→ 0.00%
Drunkenness			→ 0.00%
DUI			→ 0.00%
Embezzlement			→ 0.00%
Extortion/Blackmail			→ 0.00%
Family Offenses, Non-Violent			→ 0.00%
Fraud Offenses	1	2	↓ -50.00%
Gambling Offenses			→ 0.00%
Homicide Offenses			→ 0.00%
Human Trafficking Offenses			→ 0.00%
Kidnapping/Abduction			→ 0.00%
Larceny/Theft Offenses	3	3	→ 0.00%
Liquor Law Violations		2	↓ -100.00%
Motor Vehicle Theft		2	↓ -100.00%
Peeping Tom			→ 0.00%
Pornography/Obscene Material			→ 0.00%
Prostitution Offenses			→ 0.00%
Robbery			→ 0.00%
Runaway			→ 0.00%
Sex Offenses, Forcible			→ 0.00%
Sex Offenses, Nonforcible			→ 0.00%
Stolen Property Offenses			→ 0.00%
Trespass of Real Property	1		↑ 100.00%
Weapon Violations			→ 0.00%
Total	9	11	-18.18%

Figure 3. Crime Trend Mapping

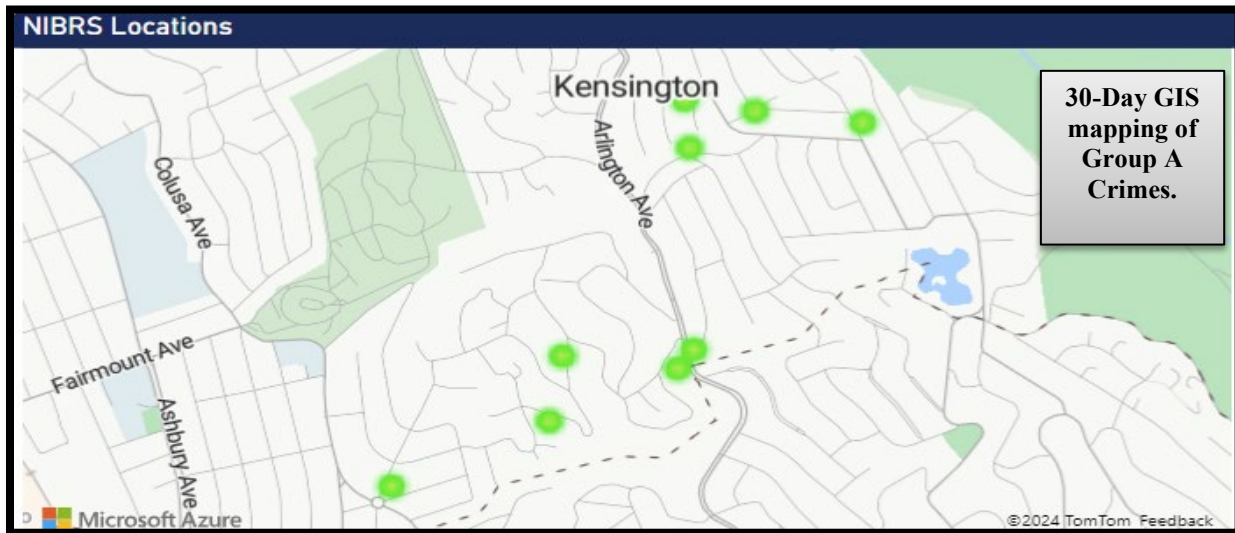
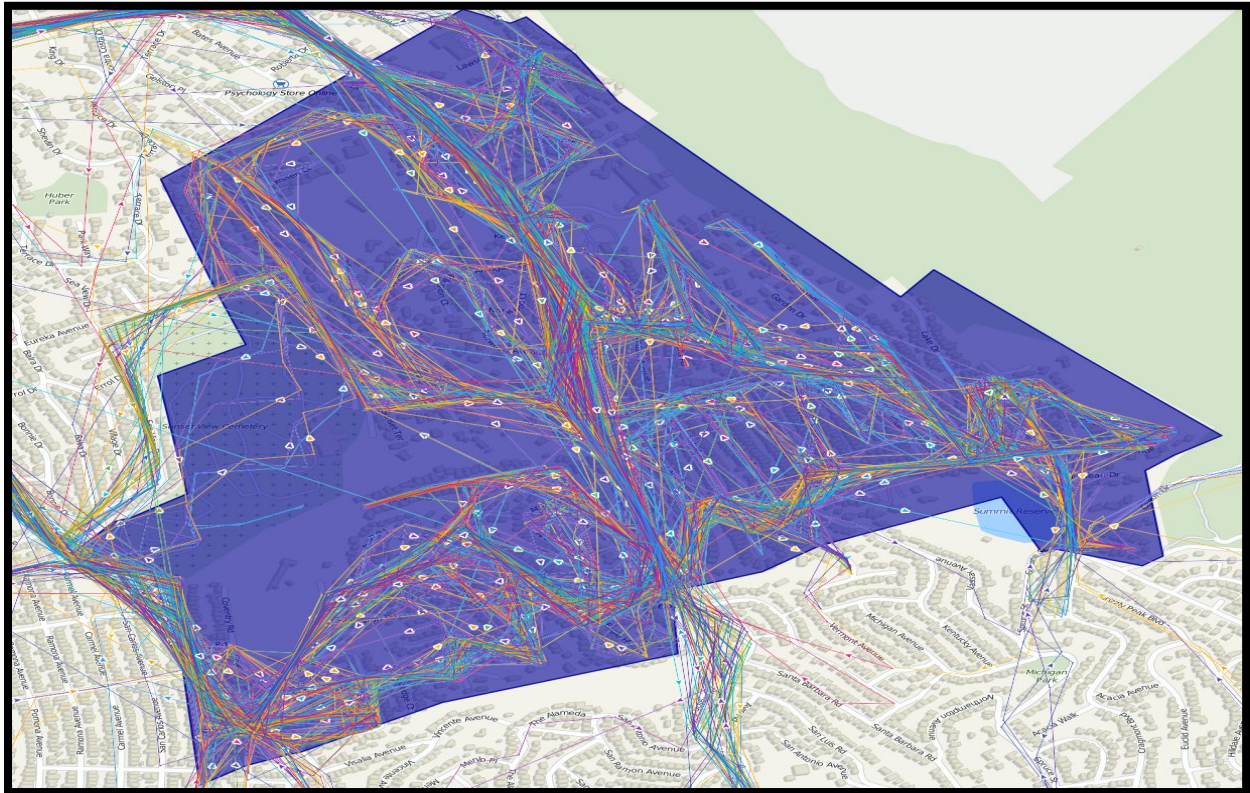


Figure 4. Patrol fleet mapping

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

Sept 1: Officers responded to a rollover collision with injuries on Arlington Avenue. A report was taken.

Sept 3: Officers responded to a report of license plate theft on Berkeley Park Blvd. A report was taken.

Sept 4: There was an auto burglary report on Coventry Road. The victim identified the suspect, and the investigation is ongoing.

Sept 5: Officers responded to the police department for a civil detail. A report was taken.

Sept 6: Officers responded to a hit-and-run collision on Arlington Avenue. The investigation is ongoing.

Sept 12: Officers contacted a person on Grizzly Peak Blvd who was a fugitive with an active warrant from Siskiyou County. The suspect was arrested and transported to the Martinez Detention Facility without incident.

Sept 15: Officers were dispatched to a suspicious circumstance detail on Arlington Avenue. A report was taken.

Sept 16: Officers responded to a parking complaint on Yale Avenue, and a vehicle with an expired registration for over nine months was impounded. A report was filed.

Sept 19: Police were dispatched to Coventry Road for a vehicle tampering detail. A report was taken.

Sept 21: Officers assisted El Cerrito PD with a photo line-up during an active investigation. A supplemental report was generated.

Sept 22: Officers responded to a commercial burglary on Arlington Avenue. Using Flock community safety cameras, officers identified the suspect vehicle and license plate. The investigation is ongoing.

Sept 23: Officers responded to a report of license plate theft on Berkeley Park Blvd. A report was taken.

Sept 24: Officers responded to Willamette Avenue/Highland Blvd for a suspicious person detail. The suspect was contacted and identified, and no further action was taken.

Sept 30: Officers responded to the area of Purdue Avenue for a report of a possible assault. A report was taken, and the investigation is ongoing.

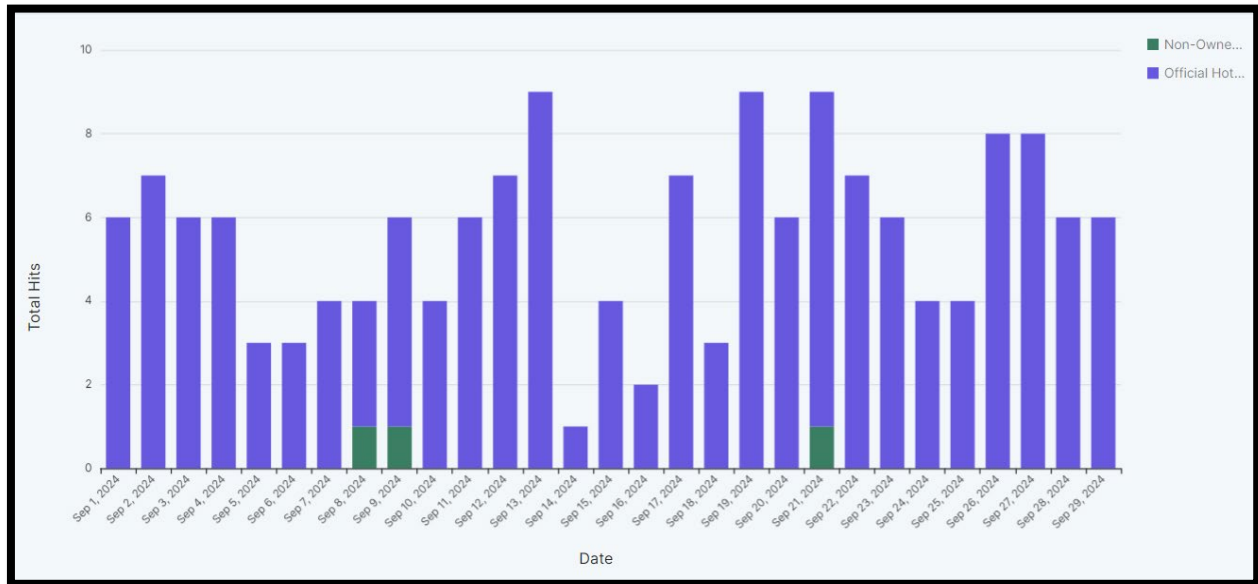
Sept 30: Officers responded to St. Albans Road for a report of an identity theft. A report was taken.

Community Safety Cameras

The number of stolen vehicles detected in Kensington decreased to 1 for September. Further, the Flock cameras helped identify a suspect in a stolen vehicle investigation.



August Data Captured – five (5) cameras			
Type	Stolen Plates	Stolen Vehicle	Felony Warrant
Count	158	1	0



Training

This month's training initiatives were strategically designed to enhance operational effectiveness while ensuring compliance with POST State training regulations and addressing the contemporary needs of our officers.

Sgt. Lande participated in the California Highway Patrol's Collision Report Review Course, aimed at refining our traffic collision investigation processes. This training underscores our commitment to improving traffic safety and investigative accuracy within our community.

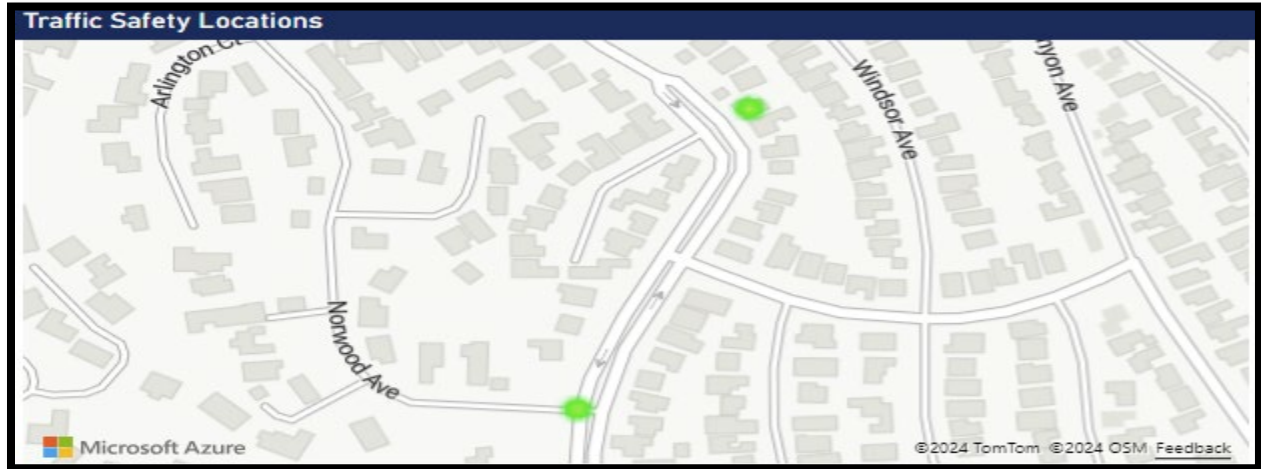
Sgt. Rivera successfully completed the FTO Update course from CA POST, fulfilling the recertification requirements and reinforcing our commitment to high standards in field training.

Officers Gill, Payne, and De Santiago attended Advanced Officer Training (AOT) alongside El Cerrito PD, engaging in force options scenario training in Antioch. These scenarios were tailored to reflect recent events in Contra Costa County, focusing on critical areas such as decision-making, use-of-force, and de-escalation techniques. Additionally, officers completed training for our new e-citation program, which promises to enhance safety and efficiency in our operations. This contemporary approach will significantly reduce the time officers spend processing paper tickets, allowing them to dedicate more time to community engagement and proactive policing.

The Kensington Police Department remains dedicated to the continuous professional development of our officers, ensuring both officer and public safety as we adapt to the evolving landscape of law enforcement.

Traffic Safety

Traffic collisions were down 50% compared to August. Officers investigated 1 misdemeanor hit-and-run collision and one non-injury collision.



Chief of Police

We would like to share a significant incident highlighting the effectiveness of the **Flock Community Safety Cameras**.

On September 30, officers responded to a report of a stolen trailer in the 700 block of Wellesley Avenue. The victim reported that an unknown male driving a Dodge truck stole his trailer in front of his home. A neighborhood canvas provided a detailed description of the vehicle, which was subsequently cross-referenced with the Flock cameras. Over the next two days, officers identified the suspect and vehicle through camera footage, noting the driving patterns in our jurisdiction and neighboring areas. With assistance from the El Cerrito Police Department, the suspect's vehicle was located following a KPD alert. On October 2, officers conducted a traffic stop, safely apprehending the driver, who was then transported to the Martinez Detention Facility on multiple charges related to the theft. During follow-up communication with the victim, additional stolen items were reported. Under Miranda advisement, the suspect confessed to the theft and provided information about the whereabouts of these items. KPD personnel then undertook further investigative steps, including obtaining and serving search warrants in the City of Richmond. As a result, additional stolen items were recovered and returned to the victims, leading to further charges against the suspect. Collaborating with El Cerrito and Richmond Police Departments, KPD confirmed connections to a series of local crimes during this operation.

This incident underscores the vital role that the Flock Community Safety Cameras played in the investigation. It exemplifies the district's significant investment in tools that enhance our capabilities and lead to positive outcomes for our community.

Community

The "Police in the Park" event, hosted by the Police Department at Kensington Community Park, was a resounding success and a testament to the strong bond we share with our community. Seeing so many families, teachers, and community members come together, enjoying cookies, snacks, and refreshments while engaging with our officers was heartwarming. The smiles on the faces of the children and the enthusiastic conversations highlighted the positive relationship between the police department and the community we serve. We were honored to have Board President D. Spath in attendance, supporting our efforts and witnessing our commitment to transparency and connection. Thank you to everyone who joined us; your presence made the event truly special. Here are some photos capturing the joy and camaraderie of the day. We are incredibly proud of our community and look forward to hosting more events like this in the future!



The KCC hosted a Movie Night showing of Wonka at Kensington Community Park. Kensington officers were on hand to ensure the attendees' safety and security.



Kensington officers also participated in the West Contra Costa County Safety Day on September 21 in El Cerrito. This is a well-attended annual event in West Contra Costa County

Albany, El Cerrito and Kensington Present.

WEST COUNTY Safety Day

- 🚒 FIRE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT FROM WITHIN WEST COUNTY
- 🐕 POLICE CANINE DEMONSTRATION
- 🚁 FLYING DRONE PRESENTATION
- 🐕 GUEST APPEARANCE BY "SPARKY THE FIRE DOG" AND MUCH MORE!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

EL CERRITO PLAZA
EL CERRITO, CA 94530

MORE DETAILS 📞 (510) 215-4450 ✉️ fire@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us



Coming Soon

Saturday, October 26th, National Prescription Drug Take Back Day



Location – NORTH Parking Lot
Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley
1 Lawson Road
Kensington, CA 94707

Saturday, October 26, 2024
10 am – 2 pm