



KENSINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

10940 San Pablo Avenue • El Cerrito • CA • 94530

(510) 526-4141

www.kppcsd.org

Item #17

DATE: November 30, 2023

TO: David Aranda: General Manager

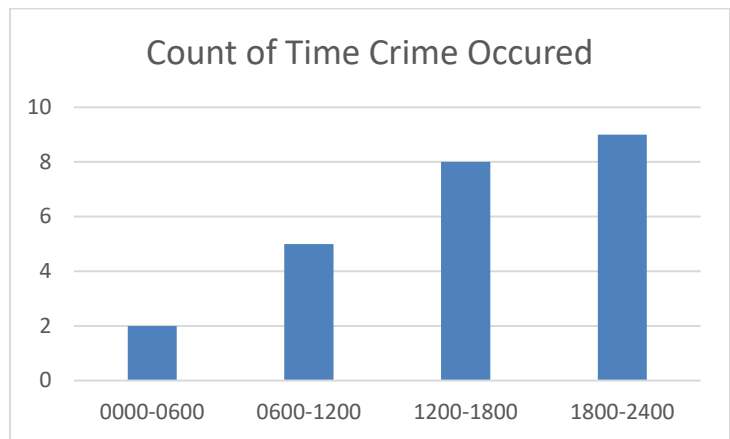
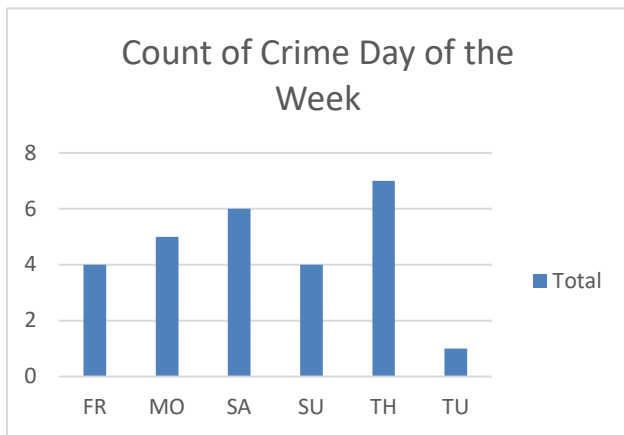
FROM: M. Gancasz, Chief of Police

RE: Police Chief’s Monthly Report, November 2023

The Kensington Police Department handled 684 incidents during September (up from 627). Four hundred and seventy-two were officer-initiated events, including 50 traffic enforcement stops resulting in 30 citations (down from 47 in the prior month). Officers responded to 212 dispatched calls for service (down from 234) and took 29 reports (up from 24 in October). Officers focused on deterring auto burglaries and vandalism around Grizzly Peak Blvd and Beloit Ave, where there has been an increase in reported crimes. Three misdemeanor arrests were made. Officers investigated three catalytic converter thefts, one stolen vehicle report, one vehicle burglary, and one felony domestic violence incident, 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 increased from 4.17 minutes to 5.7 minutes.

The Contra Costa County District Attorney’s Office filed felony charges on a suspect arrested for possession of a stolen vehicle in Kensington. The case was investigated by Ofc. Payne. Sgt. Lande delivered the final investigation to a judge who issued a bench warrant for the suspect who is still at-large.

Officers responded to three mental health calls in November and authored three psychiatric holds. Referrals were made to the Contra Costa County Mental Health Evaluation Team (MHET). MHET deputies from the Sheriff’s Office and clinicians responded to assist KPD twice this month.



The provider for Kensington’s Crime Mapping Analysis, Geolitica, was bought by a competitor and service has been temporarily interrupted. Staff is hopeful the service will be brought back online soon.

Traffic Safety

There were four traffic collisions reported in November. All collisions were non-injury, and three of the four were hit-and-runs. There were no online supplemental traffic reports.

Administration

KPD was awarded its second grant for FY 23/34 in the amount of \$41,000.00. The Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) funded the purchase of an electronic traffic citation program, which includes equipment, software, and training. We will use this funding to modernize and improve the efficiency of our traffic safety program. We anticipate the components to be operational in February 2024. The police department replaced its aging (2016) administrative fleet vehicle with a new one and anticipate it being field ready by the end of the month.

Training

Department training focused on perishable skills. Sgt. Lande provided Advanced Arrest and Control/De-Escalation courses with a focus on positional control. Sgt. Lande, Thota, and Payne also completed an Advance Patrol Tactics course. Ofc. Farley completed an investigations course, Initial Child Interview Training for Law Enforcement. Sgt. Lande, Ofc. Payne, Ofc. Fajardo, and Ofc. Farley also completed Naloxone Training for Law Enforcement.

October Patrol Log

- On Monday, November 1, at 1856 hours, officers took a phone report of possible fraud and Elder Abuse. The loss was approximately \$20,000.00. The investigation is ongoing.
- On Thursday, November 2, at 1733 hours, officers were dispatched to the 1600 block of Ocean View Avenue for an assault. After an initial investigation, it was confirmed one of the involved parties was suffering from a mental health crisis and transported to the hospital. This case has been referred to the Contra Costa County Mental Health Team (MHET).
- On Friday, November 3, at 1124 hours, officers were dispatched to the 200 block of Purdue Avenue for a suspicious circumstance referencing unwanted calls. No crime was identified, and the reporting party was provided resources to prevent the continued calls.
- On Friday, November 3, at 1711 hours, officers were dispatched to the zero hundred block of Anson Way for a Coroner's case. This case is closed.
- On Friday, November 3, at 2002 hours, officers contacted an individual at the police department lobby regarding a violation of civil order report. A report was taken, and the individual was given a new court date for their outstanding misdemeanor warrant.
- On Saturday, November 4, at 2058 hours, officers responded to the area of Kenyon Avenue and Purdue Avenue for a non-injury traffic collision.
- On Monday, November 6, at 2139 hours, officers responded to the seven hundred block of Coventry Road for a report of a Catalytic Converter theft. The investigation is ongoing.
- On Wednesday, November 8, at 0945 hours, officers responded to the eight hundred block of Coventry Road for a report of a Catalytic Converter theft. The investigation is ongoing.
- On Wednesday, November 8, at 1036 hours, officers responded to the five hundred block of Coventry Road for a report of a Catalytic Converter theft. The investigation is ongoing.
- On Saturday, November 11, at 0130 hours, officers contacted an individual near Mosser Lane and Terrace Drive. Officers determined the driver had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant and was in possession of narcotics. After admitting to ingesting Fentanyl, an ambulance was called, and he was released with a court date for his warrant. A separate possession case was forwarded to the DA for prosecution.

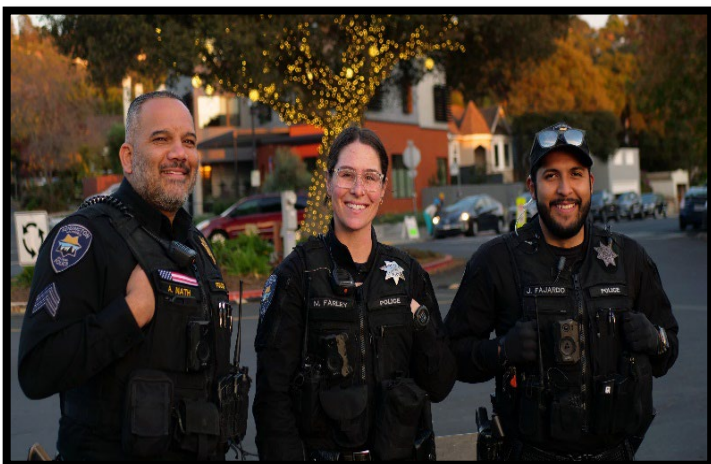
- On Saturday, November 11, at 2024 hours, officers contacted a man experiencing a mental health crisis. The subject was transported to the hospital for treatment.
- On Thursday, November 16, at 1917 hours, officers were dispatched to the two hundred block of Princeton Avenue for a hit and run property only collision. The investigation is ongoing.
- On Friday, November 17, at 0800 hours, officers were dispatched to the one hundred block of Ardmore Road on a report of an abandoned vehicle marked by officers on November 13. The vehicle was towed for the violation.
- On Friday, November 17, at 0945 hours, officers took a report of a stolen license plate on Stratford Road.
- On Saturday, November 18, at 0852 hours, officers were dispatched to Highgate Road for an auto burglary.
- On Monday, November 20, at 1046 hours, officers were dispatched to the four hundred block of Colusa Avenue for a hit-and-run collision that occurred on November 17, 2023.
- On Tuesday, November 21, at 1033 hours, offices were dispatched to Highgate Road for a report of a missing elderly person. The individual had been missing for at least one hour at the original time of call. After an extensive search of the area the individual was located unharmed. They were reunited with their family.
- On Thursday, November 23, at 1251 hours, officers were dispatched to the seven hundred block of Coventry Road for a Coroner's case. This case is closed.
- On Friday, November 24, at 0515 hours, officers responded to the two hundred block of Columbia Avenue for a missing person report. Through a multi-jurisdictional investigation involving Kensington, East Bay Regional Parks, and Oakland Police Department the subject was located and provided medical treatment.
- On Sunday, November 26, at 2349 hours, officers responded to Sunset Dr, to investigate a domestic battery. The investigation is ongoing.
- On Thursday, November 30, at 1318 hours, officers were conducting routine traffic enforcement in the four hundred block of Beloit Avenue, when they contacted a subject with multiple out-of-county warrants. The suspect was arrested without incident and released with a citation to appear on the warrants.

Traffic Safety Grant Patrol Operations

On Thursday, November 16, Kensington Officers were out-and-about looking for impaired drivers as they took part in grant funded saturation patrols. Inclement weather kept motorists inside resulting in lower vehicle traffic than usual, fortunately there were no traffic collisions reported. Seven traffic stops were completed, six citations were issued, and one warning was given.

Community

On Sunday, November 26, Sgt. Nath, Officer Fajardo, and Officer Farley attended the Colusa Circle Holiday Fair held by the Colusa Circle Merchants Association. The event was well attended with no issues reported.



Check out our new traffic enforcement Car funded by the California Highway Patrol!

KPD Officers chose the colors and graphics scheme which we really like. We've received lots of positive feedback from community members and law enforcement agencies about our new car. We are very happy with the clean, modern, and professional appearance.



KPD Hosts California Highway Patrol Training at the Kensington Community Center

Kensington PD hosted a two-day law enforcement training course presented by the California Highway Patrol on identifying impaired drivers. The class, held at the Kensington Community Center on December 2 & 3, was attended by more than 25 law enforcement officers from across the bay area including three Kensington Officers. The Highway Patrol was very pleased with the facility and inquired about us hosting future training.

