



KENSINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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DATE: April 30, 2023

TO: David Aranda: General Manager

FROM: Mike Gancasz: Chief of Police

RE: **Police Chief's Monthly Report, April 2023**

Patrol Operations

The Kensington Police Department handled 701 incidents during April. Five hundred fifteen were officer-initiated events, including 36 traffic enforcement stops resulting in 32 citations. Officers responded to 186 dispatched calls for service and took 29 criminal reports. Officers took twelve theft reports, including two stolen vehicle reports. Officers continue pursuing leads on these crimes and are working directly with our partner agencies to prevent further theft. Response time for officers increased in April compared to March by 2 minutes. Two officers in the field training program during the month and two supervisors attending training may have contributed to the increase in response time. Officers provided extra patrol at the request of citizens more than one hundred times throughout the District.

Traffic Safety

Traffic collisions were down 100% from the previous month, and no hit-and-run crashes were reported. Officers focused on monitoring speed on Franciscan Way and observed average speeds of 21.079 MPH. The average vehicle speed on Franciscan is below the 25MPH posted speed limit. There is a minor fluctuation between average and peak speeds, with most speed violations occurring between 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm. Officers issued several speeding citations on Franciscan Way and more on Grizzly Peak between Wildcat Canyon Road and Beliot Ave for speeding and failing to stop at a marked stop sign. Road closures initiated by utility companies were steady, with the underground pipeline work on Beloit the most active.

Administration

Newly hired officers Payne and Smith are progressing well in the Field Training Program. Training responsibilities were supervised and shared by Officers J. Fajardo, Sgt. A. Nath, and Sgt. B. Lande, giving the officers a broad range of teaching styles and perspectives to promote a well-rounded learning environment. Chief Gancasz worked on the budget closely with Interim General Manager D. Aranda and the Eide Bailly Team. The group meets every Wednesday to ensure goals and deadlines are achieved. Sgt. A. Nath submitted a grant application to the California Highway Patrol for funding and equipment. Awards have yet to be announced. Implementing a software bridge for payroll processing has begun, and estimates are the program will be successfully operational by September. Lieutenant Brad Harms announced he was retiring, and his last day of employment with the Kensington Police Department will be July 29. On April 29, Officer Smith, Payne, and Volunteer Luke Stokes supervised our drug take-back event at 59 Arlington Ave. Several pounds of old medication were collected and given to the DOJ for proper disposal.

Training

Sergeant Nath completed session #6 of the POST-approved Supervisory Leadership Institute and is on track to graduate in July. Sgt. Lande attended a one-week arrest and control instructor course at the Criminal Justice Training Center at Napa Community College. The system is required by the state for Instructor Certification and was taught by a recognized expert in de-escalation procedures. Sgt. Lande reviews BWC video for patrol and provides feedback to staff on proper tactics, response to calls, and use of force/de-escalation tactics.

Patrol Log

- On April 5, at 1611 hours, officers were dispatched to the 100 block of Arlington Avenue for a report of an intoxicated person in the street. The individual was arrested and transported to the hospital via ambulance.
- On April 6, at 1320 hours, officers impounded an abandoned vehicle in the 200 block of Columbia.
- On April 8, at 0936 hours, officers responded to the 100 block of Franciscan Way for a court order violation. A report was forwarded to the DA for review; no arrests were made.
- On April 11, at 0845 hours, officers responded to a collision in the 200 block of Arlington Avenue. Officers arrested the intoxicated driver. Officers also linked the vehicle to three crashes in Berkeley.
- On April 13, at 0230 hours, officers responded to the 100 block of Cowper Avenue for a report of a catalytic converter theft.
- On April 13, at 0630 hours, officers took a stolen vehicle report from the 200 block of Willamette Avenue. The vehicle was recovered in Berkeley approximately two weeks later.
- On April 14, officers were dispatched to an auto burglary in the 100 block of Purdue Avenue.
- On April 17, officers responded to an identity theft report in the 100 block of Jessen Court.
- On April 17, officers responded to a stolen vehicle report from the 200 block of Los Altos Drive.
- On April 19, at 1555 hours, officers responded to an intoxicated female in the 100 Block of Colusa Ave. The woman was arrested and transported to the hospital via ambulance.
- On April 25, at 0447 hours, officers responded to a vehicle burglary on Yale Avenue. More than \$2,300 worth of power tools were reported stolen.
- On April 26, at 1650 hours, officers were dispatched to a report of fraudulent activity in the 100 block of York Avenue. An investigation revealed the suspects presented themselves as Microsoft security employees. They ultimately defrauded the victims of \$1,560.
- On April 29, officers responded to a report of malicious mischief at the Hilltop Elementary School. Officers determined unknown suspect(s) vandalized the landscaping, threw traffic cones on the roof, and set fire to a pile of trash. Officers are following up on leads.