



KENSINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

10940 San Pablo Avenue • El Cerrito • CA • 94530

(510) 526-4141

www.kppcsd.org

DATE: August 8, 2024
TO: David Aranda, Interim General Manager
FROM: M. Gancasz, Chief of Police
RE: Police Chief’s Monthly Report, July 2024

Patrol Operations

In July, the Kensington Police Department responded to 1,470 incidents, an increase from the 1,262 incidents recorded the previous month. Officers initiated 1,263 actions, including 85 traffic enforcement stops, which resulted in 39 citations. This reflects a decrease in traffic stops and citations compared to the previous month.

To address the rise in property crime, including increased burglaries, staff—comprising Officers, Reserve Officers, and KPD Volunteers—conducted enhanced patrols east of Arlington Avenue, completing over 40 additional patrol hours in that area.

Officers responded to 286 dispatched calls for service, a decrease from 339 in June, and authored 25 investigative reports, compared to 26 the previous month. During July, one felony and three misdemeanor arrests were made. Investigations included a residential burglary, vehicle theft, possession of a stolen vehicle, three auto burglaries, retail theft, a death investigation, and one case of public intoxication.

The average response time was 5.7 minutes, an increase of 0.6 minutes from the prior month.

Table 1. Date and Time Heatmap

Cases by Day and Time							
Weekday	0000-0259	0300-559	0900-1159	1200-1459	1500-1759	1800-2259	Total
Monday	3.85%	7.69%	11.54%	3.85%			26.92%
Tuesday	11.54%		15.38%	7.69%	7.69%		42.31%
Thursday				3.85%		3.85%	7.69%
Friday				3.85%			3.85%
Saturday					3.85%		3.85%
Sunday			15.38%				15.38%
Total	15.38%	7.69%	42.31%	19.23%	11.54%	3.85%	100.00%

Figure 1 NIBRS Offense Data

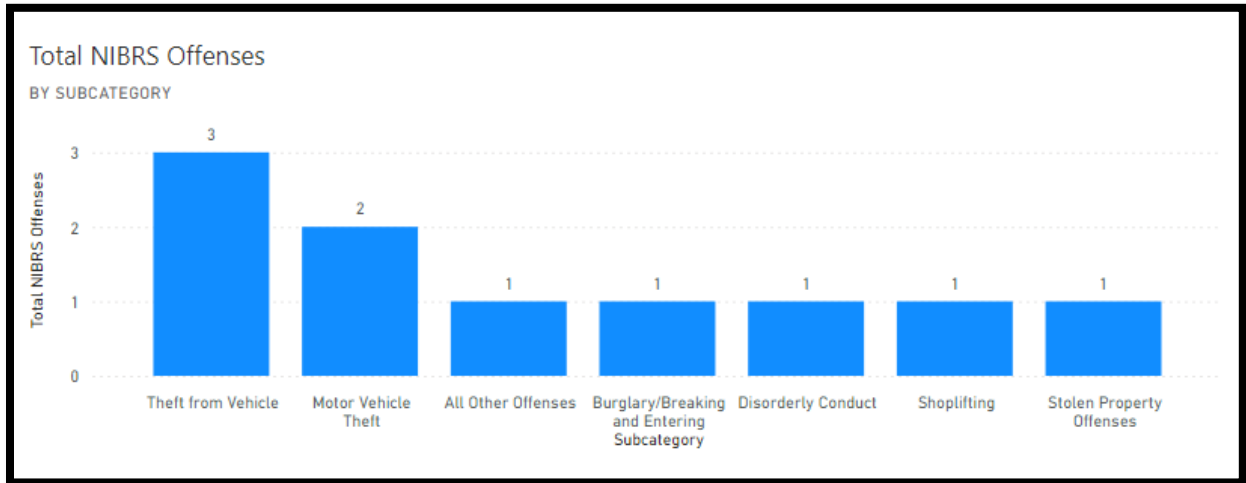


Figure 2. Month over Month

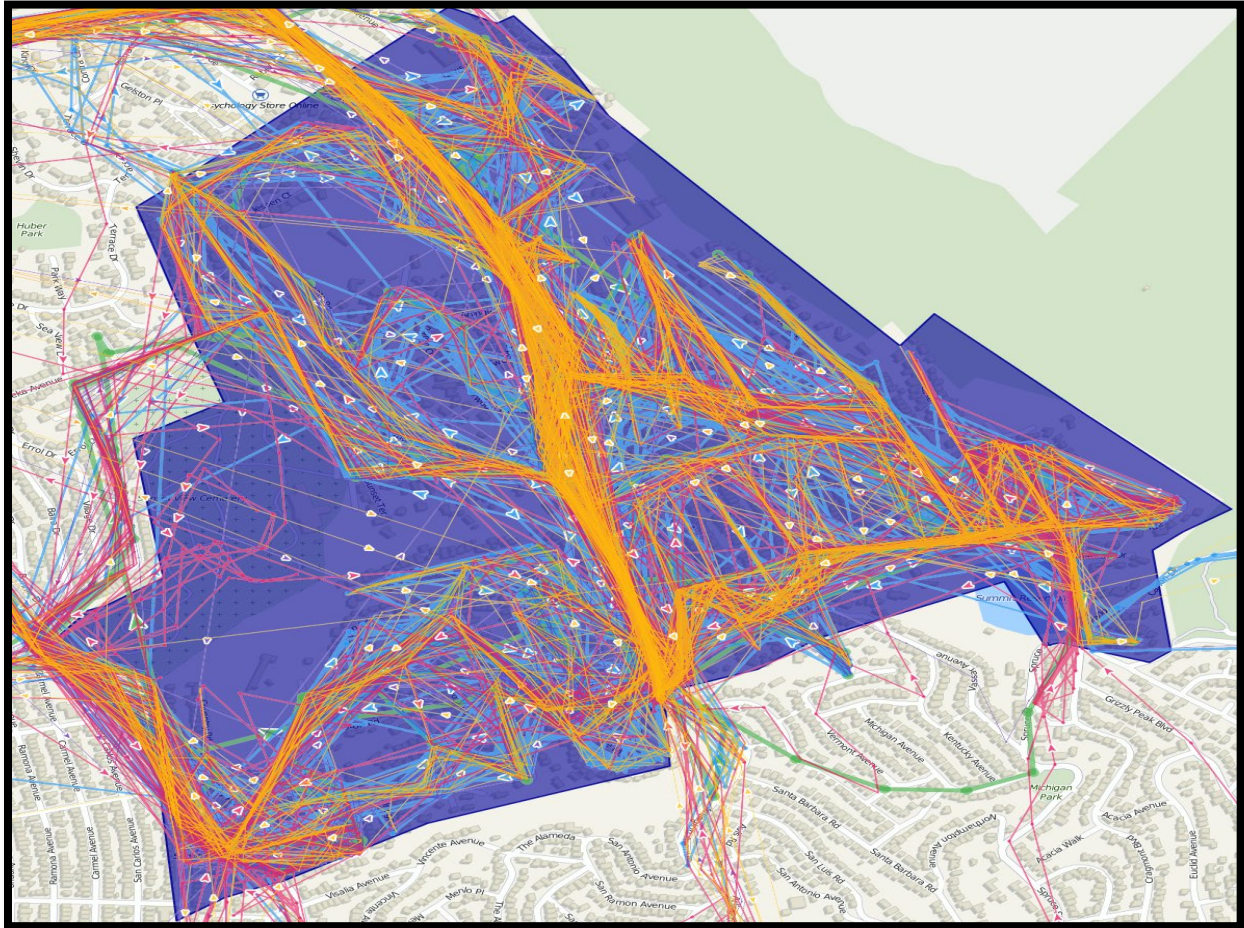
Subcategory	Month Case Count	Count of Case # MTD	Case Count LM	MoM%
Theft from Vehicle	3	3	1	↑ 200.00%
Burglary/Breaking and Entering	1	1	1	↔ 0.00%
Disorderly Conduct	1	1	1	↔ 0.00%
All Other Offenses	1	1		
Motor Vehicle Theft	2	2		
Shoplifting	1	1		
Stolen Property Offenses	1	2		
All Other Larceny			2	↓ -100.00%
Simple Assault			1	↓ -100.00%
Theft from Building			1	↓ -100.00%
Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories			1	↓ -100.00%
Total	10	11	8	25.00%

Figure 3. Crime Trend Mapping



Figure 4. Patrol fleet mapping

Kensington's patrol fleet was upgraded with GPS technology, allowing real-time tracking and 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

July 1: Officers investigated three auto burglaries on Lake Drive and a stolen vehicle on Amherst Avenue. The suspect vehicle and license plate were identified using **Flock cameras**, and the investigation is ongoing.

July 2: Report of lost property taken.

July 4: Officers assisted Kensington Fire with a combative, heavily intoxicated individual. The subject was restrained and transported to a medical facility. No injuries were reported.

July 5: A missing person report was taken; the individual was located in Albany later that day. A report was taken.

July 9: Proactive crime suppression officers working extra patrol in Kensington conducted a traffic stop. The driver was arrested for narcotics possession and driving an unreported stolen vehicle. The case was forwarded to the Contra Costa County District Attorney.

July 9: There was a parking complaint on Highland Boulevard, and a vehicle with an expired registration for over two years was impounded. A report was filed.

July 14: Directed traffic enforcement on Arlington Avenue was initiated, resulting in multiple citations being issued. Two vehicles were also impounded for expired registrations (one over a year and one over five years).

July 14: There was a stolen vehicle report on Sunset Drive. The suspect vehicle was identified using **Flock cameras**. The vehicle was recovered the next day. The investigation is ongoing.

July 15: There was a parking complaint on Highland Boulevard, and a vehicle with an expired registration for over two years was impounded. A report was filed.

July 15: A non-injury traffic collision was reported at Kensington Community Park. Officers conducted a thorough investigation and completed a collision report.

July 16: Officers contacted an individual on Cambridge Avenue and Beloit Avenue who had a no-bail felony warrant. The suspect was arrested and booked at Contra Costa County Martinez Detention Facility.

July 18: An intoxicated person was arrested on Arlington Avenue. The case was forwarded to the Contra Costa County District Attorney's office.

July 21: There was an auto burglary report on Cowper Avenue. The suspect vehicle was identified using **Flock cameras**. An alert bulletin (BOLO) was shared with allied agencies. The investigation is ongoing.

July 23: A parking complaint on Highland Boulevard was received. A vehicle with an expired registration of more than two years was impounded. A report was filed.

July 23: Police received an attempted theft report from an unlocked vehicle on Yale Avenue. The suspects fled before our arrival. The suspect vehicle was linked to multiple auto burglaries in Berkeley, El Cerrito, and Albany. We are working with them to identify the suspects.

July 23: Shoplifting report on Arlington Avenue; report taken.

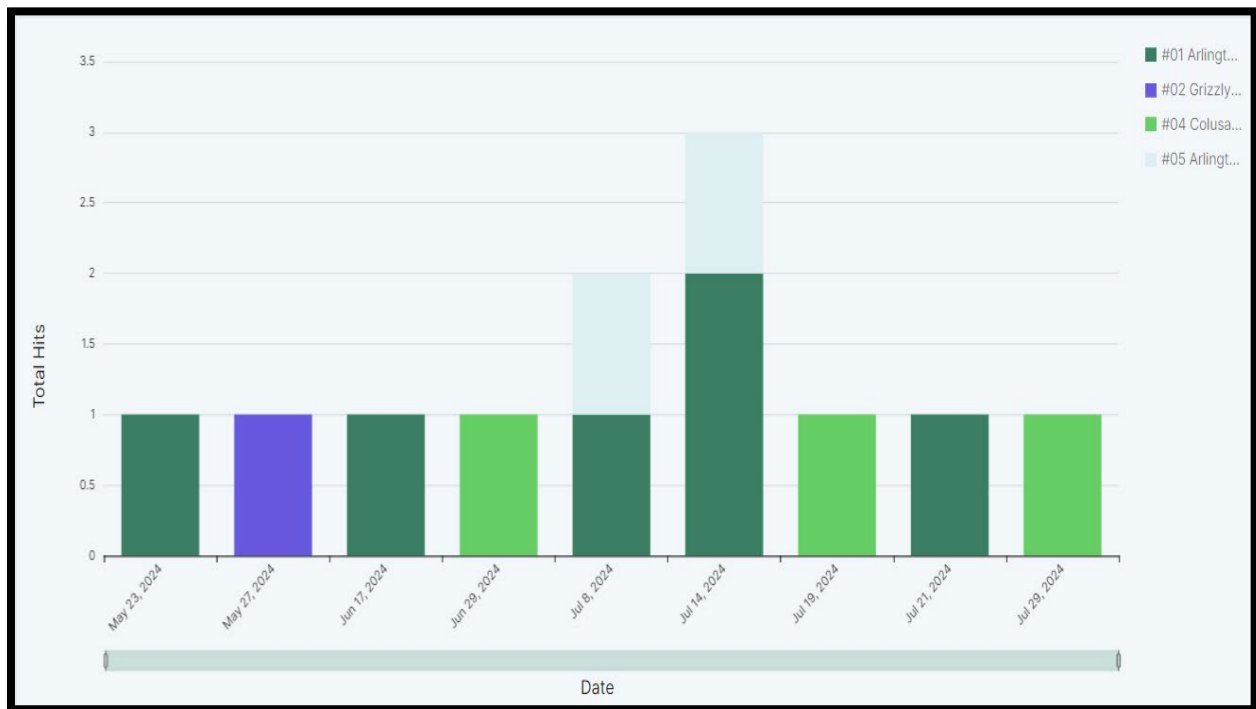
July 29: Parking complaint on Lawson Road. A vehicle with an expired registration of more than five years was impounded. A report was filed.

Community Safety Cameras



Officers received an alert for a stolen vehicle on Grizzly Peak Blvd. They responded to the area and located the vehicle; however, it fled at a high speed. Officers did not pursue the stolen car due to the risks associated with high-speed driving in Kensington.

July Data Captured – five (5) cameras		
Type	Stolen Plates	Stolen Vehicle
Count	190	8

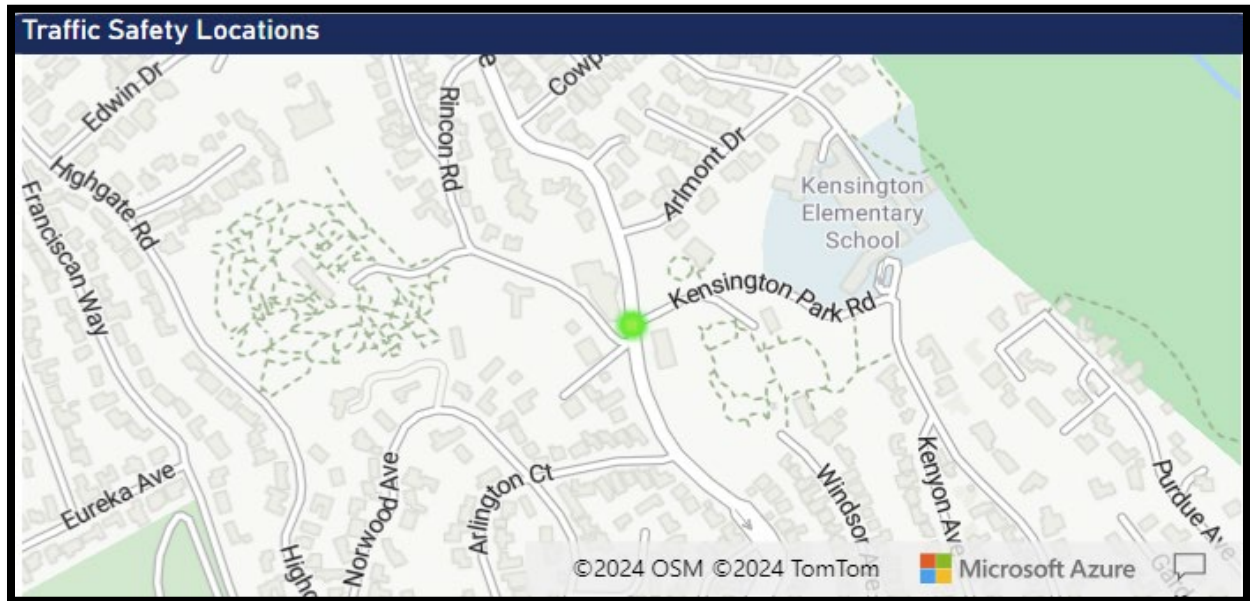


Training

The police department trained officers on Standard Operating Procedures for responding to Flock Alerts involving vehicles with felony warrants from the Department of Justice. The Chief of Police issued Department Directive 24-02 to define the procedures offices must follow when responding to Flock Camera alerts. Additionally, Sergeant Lande completed online training for the U.S. DOJ COPS Office training on "Place-Based Policing for Small and Rural Agencies" and the California POST course on the "California Public Records Act."

Traffic Safety

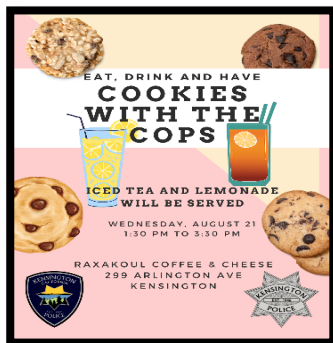
One non-injury collision was investigated.



Chief of Police

Auditors from the California Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) inspected and audited personnel background files to assess compliance. The results confirmed that the Kensington Police Department fully complies with POST standards. Lieutenant Nath, Sgt. Lande and Consultant J. Haynes received a commendation for making this possible. Sergeant Jose Rivera started his first day in patrol on July 16. His addition to the force brings our staff to 9.

Community



On July 17th at 9:00 a.m., the Kensington Police Department enjoyed participating in "Coffee with a Cop," hosted by Raxakoul Coffee & Cheese. This event was well-attended, with community members enjoying coffee and pastries and engaging in meaningful conversations with KPD officers and guest Deputies from the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office AC Transit Unit.

This successful gathering precedes our next event, "Cookies with the Cops," scheduled for August 21st from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Raxakoul Coffee & Cheese. We invite parents and children to join us to meet KPD personnel and volunteers, explore our police fleet vehicles, and enjoy cookies, lemonade, and iced tea. For more details on this and other upcoming events, please visit KPPCSD.org or follow us on Facebook and Instagram. We look forward to connecting with you.



COMMISSION ON
PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

ROB BONTA
ATTORNEY GENERAL

July 13, 2024

Michael Gancasz, Chief
Kensington Police Department
10940 San Pablo Ave
El Cerrito, CA 94530

Dear Chief Gancasz:

This correspondence reports the findings of the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) compliance inspection of your agency's adherence to minimum selection and training standards conducted on June 19, 2024.

AGENCY ROSTER

A roster of personnel in the POST Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) System was compared with your agency roster. All personnel have been appropriately documented in EDI. You can find your Agency Roster under the Reports tab in EDI.

Per Regulation 1003, effective January 1, 2023, the employing agency shall notify POST of a new appointment or termination within ten (10) days, via the POST EDI when peace officers (including reserves), public safety dispatchers, and records supervisors are appointed or terminated, change their legal names, have a rank/status change or any needed corrections.

SELECTION STANDARDS

I reviewed the files of 4 Peace Officers/Reserve Officers and/or Public Safety Dispatchers hired by your agency since your agency's last audit on March 01, 2023. The background files were examined and determined to be in compliance with established selection standards. Overall, the files were professionally assembled and well written.

I discussed the results of the files and the attached compliance list with your staff.

Commission Regulation 1204 allows for the cancellation of any peace officer appointment to the agency's POST roster in EDI if an audit reveals that the appointee did not meet the minimum hiring and selection standards required at the time of appointment. The regulation provides for an initial 30 days for an agency to remedy the deficiencies found in a compliance audit.

Chief Michael Gancasz
Kensington Police Department
July 13, 2024

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TRAINING STANDARDS

Training records for the previous two-year Continuing Professional Training (CPT) cycle, which ended on December 31, 2022, can be found in the Compliance Analysis Report in EDI under the Reports tab.

The current training cycle ends on December 31, 2024.

I would like to recognize Lt. Nath for the courtesies he extended to me in assisting with this review. He was responsive, professional, and helpful.

I appreciate your willingness and desire to partner with POST for the overall betterment of the Kensington Police Department. If I can answer any questions or assist in any other manner, please contact me by telephone at (916) 227-3918 or by e-mail at Gary.Clark@post.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Gary Clark
Law Enforcement Consultant, Region 5 Manager
Training Delivery and Compliance Bureau

Enclosure

GC/jp