



KENSINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

10940 San Pablo Avenue ▪ El Cerrito ▪ CA ▪ 94530

(510) 526-4141

www.kppcsd.org

DATE: December 1st, 2024

TO: David Aranda: General Manager

FROM: M. Gancasz, Chief of Police

RE: Police Chief's Monthly Report, November 2024

Patrol Operations

The Kensington Police Department continued its commitment to maintaining public safety, managing 1,319 incidents—an increase from the 1,296 incidents recorded in October. Our officers were proactive, completing 1,123 actions, including 131 traffic stops, resulting in 98 citations focused on enhancing road safety.

Officers responded to 196 dispatched calls for service, a decrease from 271 in October. This reflects both our proactive efforts and the overall decline in reported incidents. Additionally, the department filed 20 investigative reports with the District Attorney, showing a notable increase from the 15 reports in the previous month. This increase highlights our effective case resolution and reduced crime trends.

Our investigative work included several significant felony cases, including a strong-arm robbery, felony vehicle burglary, grand theft, and vehicle theft. Officers made one felony arrest for robbery and a misdemeanor arrest for public intoxication.

Crime pattern analysis indicated that most NIBRS-reportable offenses occurred on Tuesdays and Fridays, with a higher concentration of incidents during the early morning hours (12:00 AM to 5:59 AM) and the afternoon (12:00 PM to 5:59 PM).

Our response times improved, with the average dropping to 4.41 minutes in November from 5.72 minutes in October. This demonstrates the department's efficient service to the community.

Our officers' dedication to proactive policing and public safety ensures that Kensington remains safe and secure for all residents.

Case Volume Analysis

Time	Day of the Week							Total
	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU	
0-559	1	1	1	0	1	3	0	7
600-1159	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	3
1200-1759	1	2	0	1	1	0	1	6
1800-2359	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Total	2	5	1	1	4	3	2	18

Table 1. Date and Time Heatmap

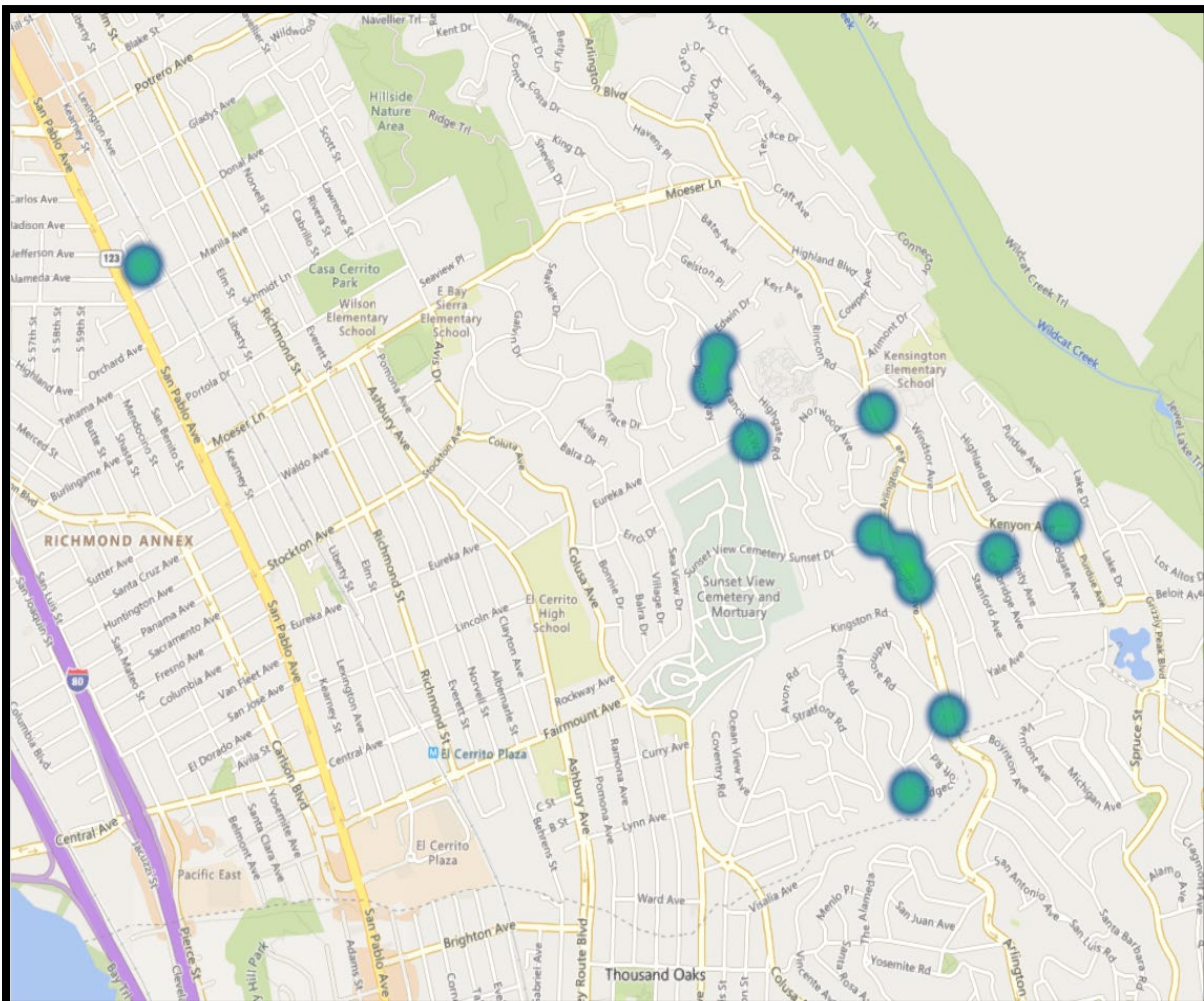
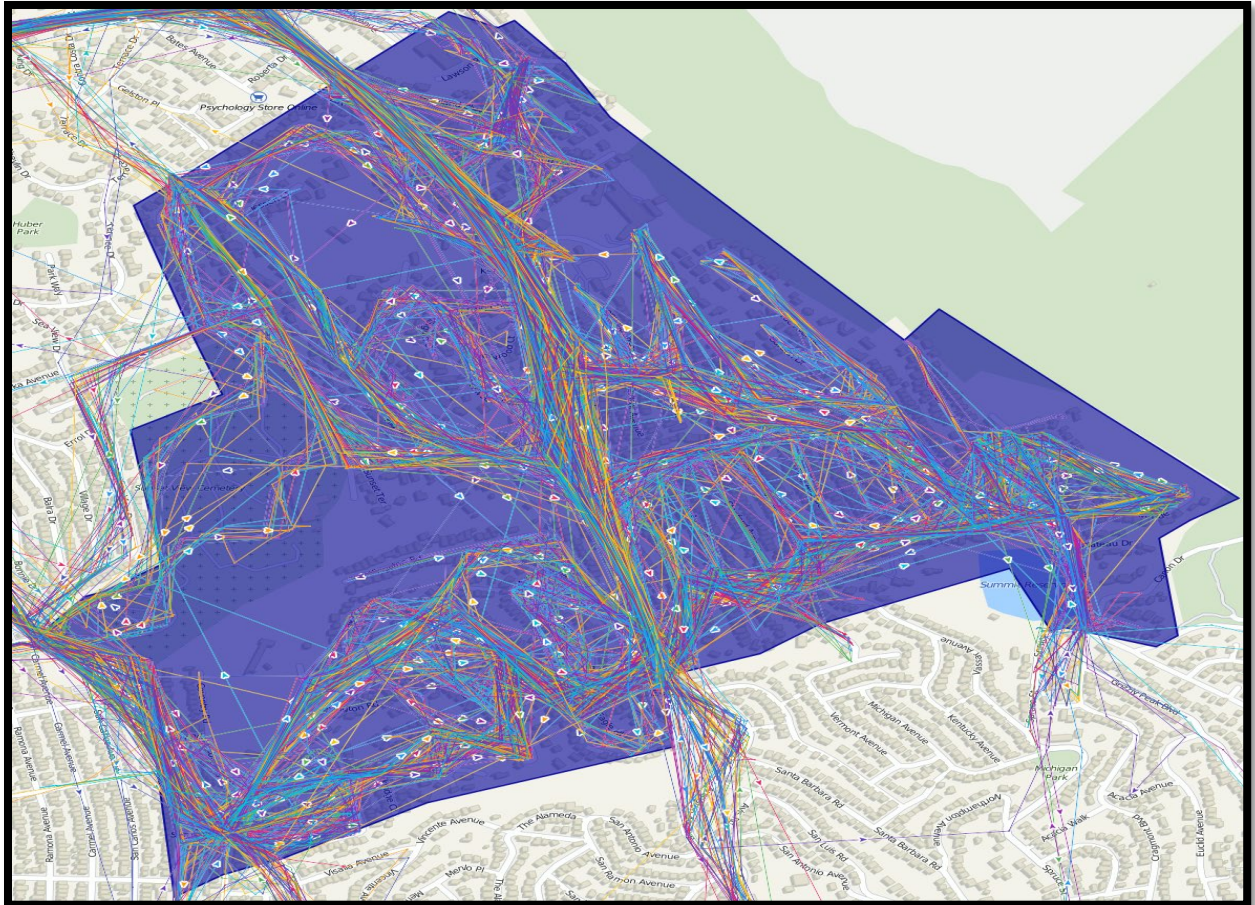


Figure 4. Patrol fleet mapping

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.



Patrol Activity Log

Nov 3: Officers responded to a medical emergency on Anson Way. A report was taken.

Nov 3: Officers were dispatched to Purdue Avenue for a report of license plate theft. A report was taken.

Nov 4: Officers responded to Coventry Road to investigate a credit card fraud incident. A report was taken.

Nov 5: Officers were called to Eureka Avenue for a medical emergency. Kensington Fire personnel transported the individual to a local hospital.

Nov 5: Officers responded to Arlington Avenue and Sunset Drive for an injured person in the street. The individual was cited for public intoxication and transported to a local hospital.

Nov 7: Officers responded to Kenyon Avenue for a medical emergency. A report was taken.

Nov 8: Officers were dispatched to Sunset Terrace for a report of license plate theft. A report was taken.

Nov 8: Officers responded to Stratford Road to investigate an abandoned vehicle that had been previously marked with a warning tag. After completing the appropriate paperwork, the vehicle was impounded.

Nov 10: Officers responded to Coventry Road for a report of two stolen bicycles. A report was taken.

Nov 12: Officers responded to Arlington Avenue for a vehicle burglary report. A report was taken.

Nov 13: Officers were dispatched to Sunset Drive for a bicycle theft. A report was taken.

Nov 15: Officers responded to the Kensington Police Department for a Service to Citizen detail. A report was taken.

Nov 16: Officers were dispatched to Lake Drive to investigate a PayPal fraud scheme. A report was taken.

Nov 17: Officers responded to Cambridge Avenue for a medical emergency. Kensington Fire personnel transported the individual to a local hospital.

Nov 18: Officers responded to Arlington Avenue for a report of a stolen vehicle, which was later recovered in the City of Oakland.

Nov 19: Officers responded to Sunset Drive and Arlington Avenue for a robbery report. The suspect was apprehended and transported to the Martinez Detention Facility.

Nov 22: Albany/Kensington PD Dispatch received multiple calls from residents who reported receiving telephone calls from a police impersonator. The investigation is ongoing.

Community Safety Cameras

The number of stolen vehicles reported stolen in Kensington was 1. Flock was used to assist in multiple investigations.



August Data Captured – five (5) cameras			
Type	Stolen Plates	Stolen Vehicle	Felony Warrant
Count	139	1	0

Training

Officers participated in Advanced Officer Training at the El Cerrito Police Department. The training included enhanced Taser instruction, arrest and control techniques, and practical "sustained resistance" scenarios. These scenarios allowed officers to apply their skills in a controlled but challenging environment, with role players (wearing protective padding) simulating active resistance. The primary objective of this training was to "pressure test" officers' abilities to respond effectively in real-world situations involving resistance.

Additionally, Sergeants Lande and Rivera attended the WRAP Restraint Instructor course, which certified them to teach the proper application of The Wrap system. The Wrap is a restraint technique designed to safely immobilize a subject, reducing the risk of injury to the individual and officers. It prevents the subject from kicking or causing harm while facilitating a quicker and more efficient restraint process. The system allows the subject to be secured upright, ready for transport or further movement.

This training reflects the department's ongoing commitment to ensuring that all personnel are equipped with the latest tools and techniques to handle various situations safely and effectively.

Traffic Safety

There were no traffic collisions, hit-and-runs, or DUIs in November, and officers engaged in a high level of proactive traffic enforcement.

Chief of Police

Community

There were no community events scheduled this month.

Kensington was asked to support crime prevention efforts in the city of Antioch. Our officers provided patrol support in the form of directed enforcement and prevention of gun violence, narcotics sales, and crime reduction. Our officers, along with other agencies, participated in this effort, and the results of the operation were:

- 54 Traffic Stops
- 7 Citations Issued
- 4 felony Arrests
- 4 Stolen Vehicles Recovered
- 1 vehicle pursuit (stolen vehicle recovered)
- 16.2 Grams of Methamphetamine Seized



No injuries or uses of force occurred during the multijurisdictional operation. The Chief of Antioch distributed a press release that complimented the task force's efforts, including the two officers from the Kensington Police Department.

Letter of Appreciation

The department received a letter of appreciation from a citizen wishing to compliment Officer David Payne:

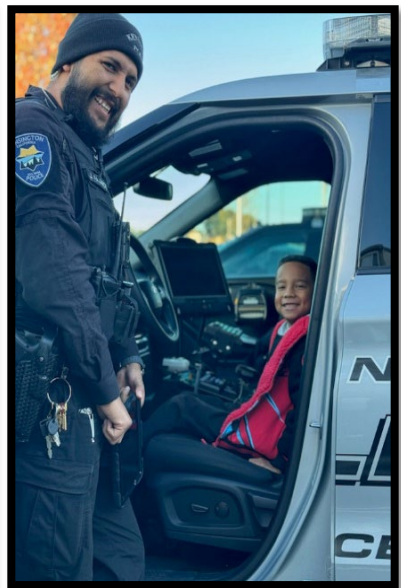
"Dear Chief, Gancasz: We were on vacation from our Kensington residence in October, and three people using an electronic device from a car opened my wife's car doors. From our Ring videos, it appeared that they attempted to start the car but could not; they took some small items from the car and departed. Fortunately, we had advised the Kensington Police Department via their online form that we would be on vacation. Officer Payne of the Kensington Police Force responded immediately to my Ring notification. He investigated the incident and contacted me by cell phone. Thereafter, he and other members of the Kensington Police Force checked in on the house to see if the suspects later decided to try to break into our home while we were gone. My wife and I were very happy at both the response to the initial incident and the follow-up by Officer Payne and the

Kensington Police Force. I doubt this is the sort of response that a homeowner would receive from a larger metropolitan police department, and we are very grateful to live in Kensington and have such wonderful and responsive officers. Thank you very much."

We are proud of how our officers interact with the public and community members, but more importantly, we are proud of their genuine care for our residents. This case is still being investigated.

Father's son visits the PD

Lieutenant Nath's seven-year-old son, Donovan, visited the PD and got to experience what it's like to be a police officer. We were thrilled to have him tour the police department and his dad's office, where he learned about never-ending paperwork! Donovan also met Officer Jose Fajardo and Harjot Gill, who gave him a tour of their police cars, where he activated the lights and sirens in the parking lot. We had a great time visiting with Donovan and welcome him back soon.





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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%
Total	16.67%	16.67%	16.67%	50.00%	100.00%

Figure 1. NIBRS Offense Data

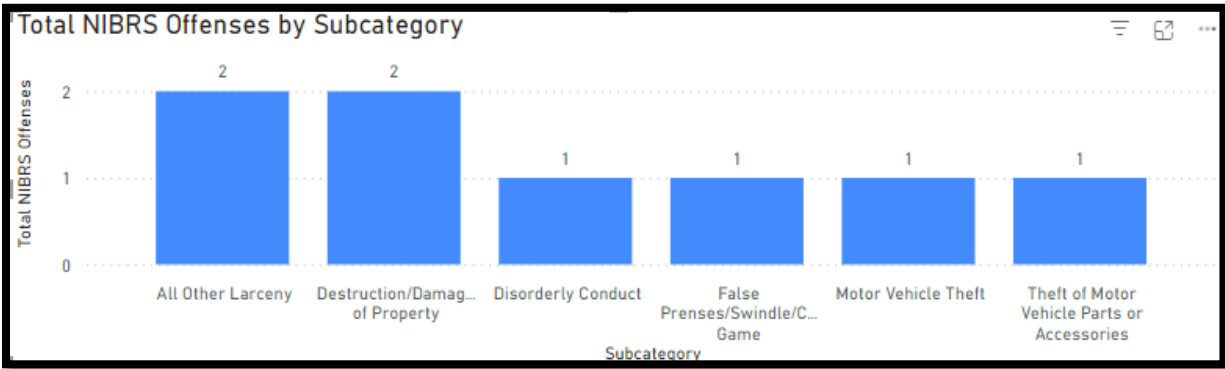


Figure 2. Crime Trend Mapping

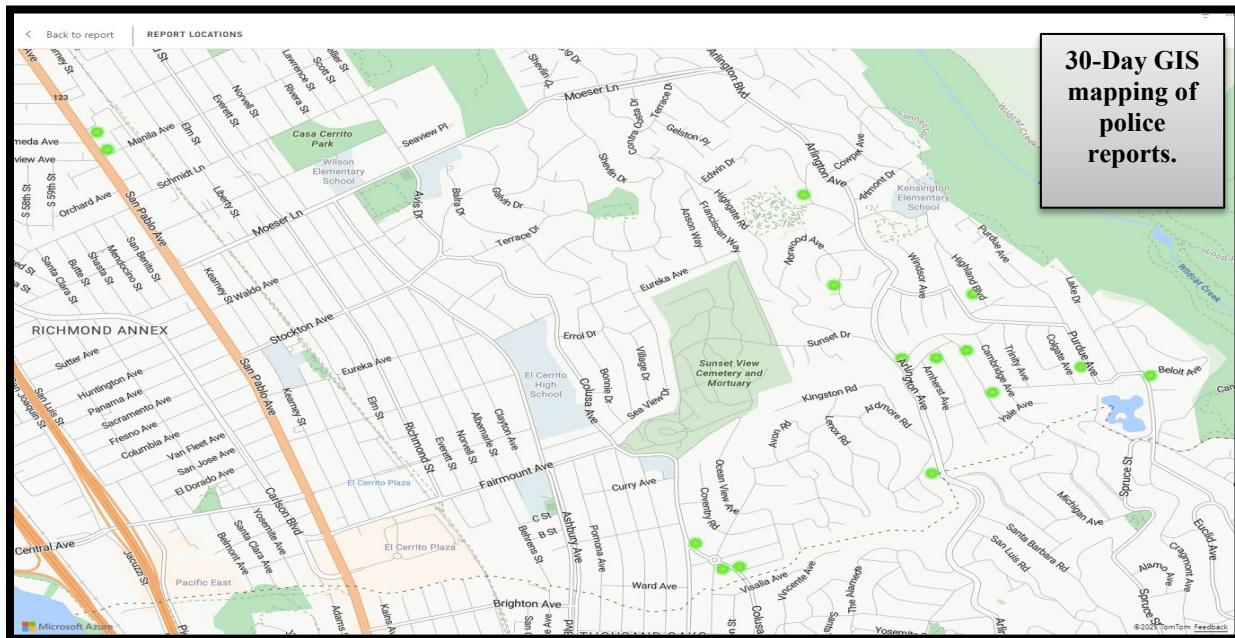
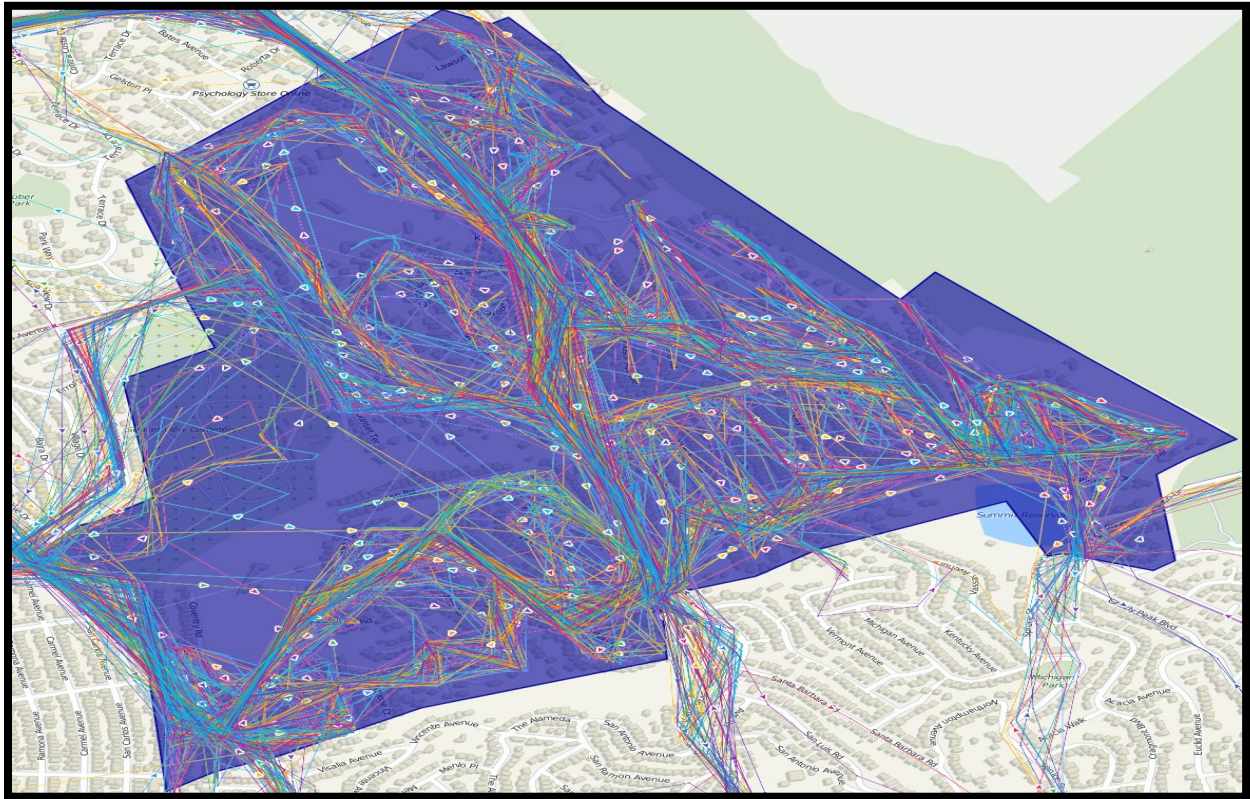


Figure 4. Patrol fleet mapping

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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.

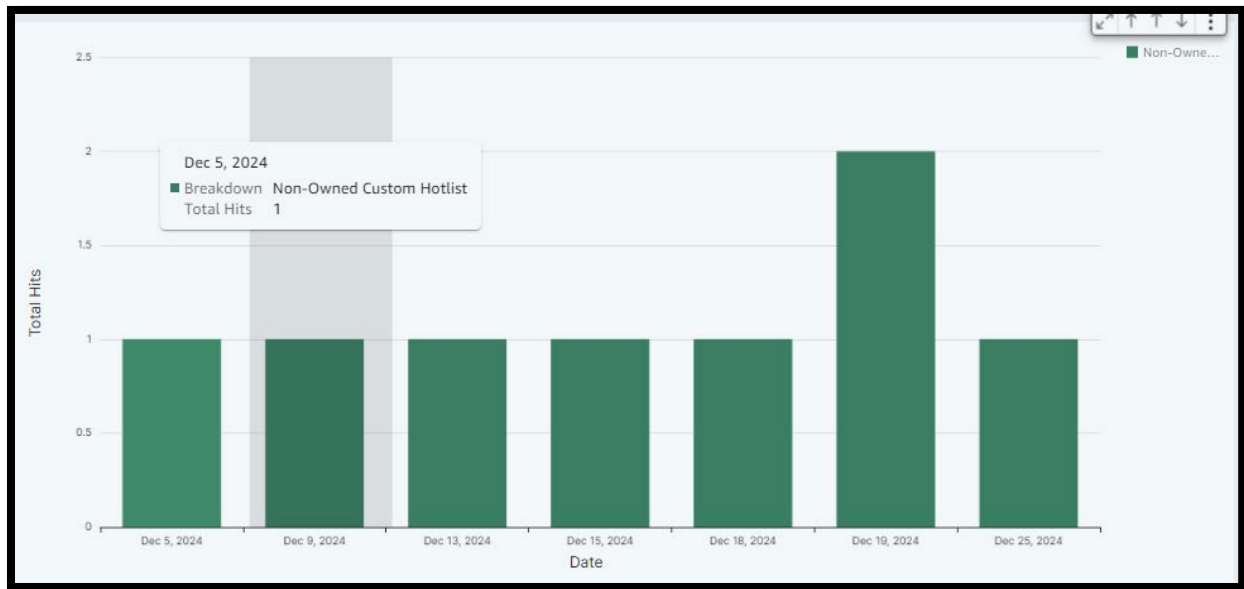
Dec 31: New Years Eve, additional officers were deployed to work patrol. KPD received multiple calls regarding a large party on Kenilworth Drive. With the assistance of El Cerrito and Albany PD, the party was dispersed with no damage to property and no injuries.

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

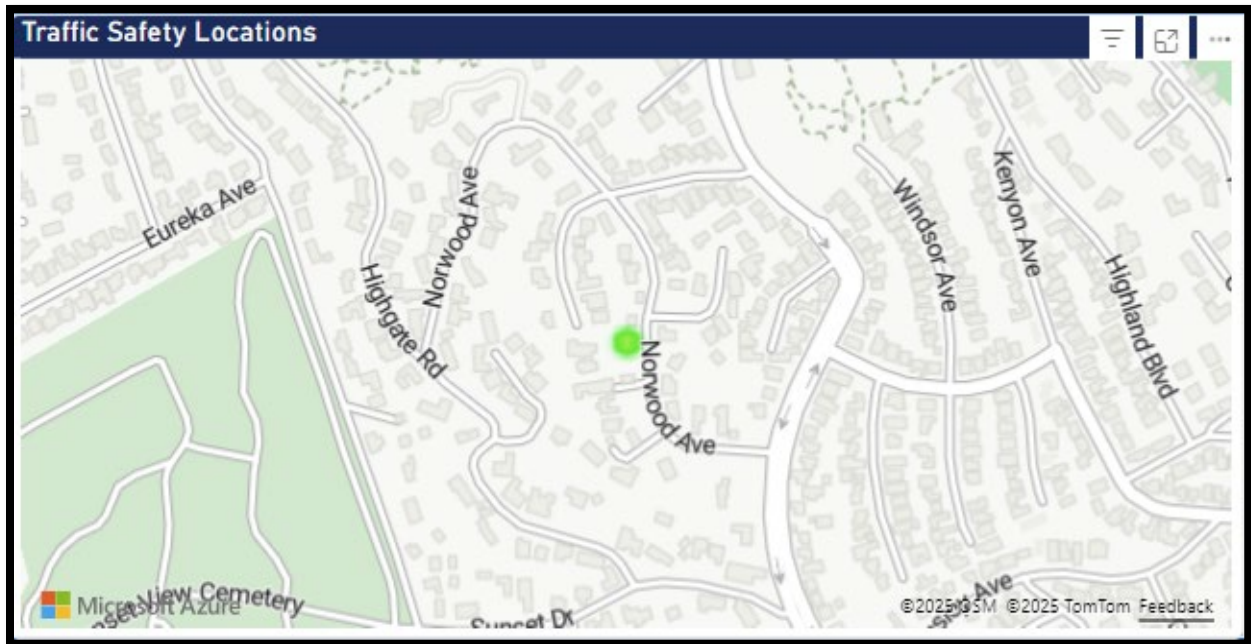
Officer Payne has been selected to become a new Field Training Officer (FTO) and attended Field Training Officer School this month. This rigorous, state-mandated program covers various topics related to training new officers, including performance evaluations, ethics, liability, instructional methods, 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.



