



KENSINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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DATE: February 1, 2025
TO: David Aranda: General Manager
FROM: M. Gancasz, Chief of Police
RE: Police Chief’s Monthly Report, January 2025

Patrol Operations

In January, the Kensington Police Department demonstrated its ongoing commitment to public safety by managing 1633 incidents, an increase from the 1472 incidents reported in December. Our officers took 1395 proactive actions, including 215 traffic stops, resulting in 144 citations to enhance roadway safety, up from 79 in December. Officers responded to 238 dispatched calls for service, a decrease from the 327 calls in December. The department produced 20 investigative reports, an increase from 18 the previous month. Officers investigated a felony commercial burglary and several misdemeanor crimes, including two hit-and-run collisions, petty theft, criminal threats, and a restraining order violation. Officers made three misdemeanor arrests, including the service of a bench warrant, a restraining order violation, and driving while suspended for DUI.

Analysis of crime patterns revealed that 50% of NIBRS reportable crimes occurred between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Wednesday, prompting us to enhance patrols during these peak times. Sunday evening and early morning were responsible for 33% of reportable crimes.

The average response time rose to 5.71 minutes from 5.51 minutes in December, still below the 2024 average. As always, we remain committed to improving our efficiency and customer service.

Table 1. Date and Time Heatmap

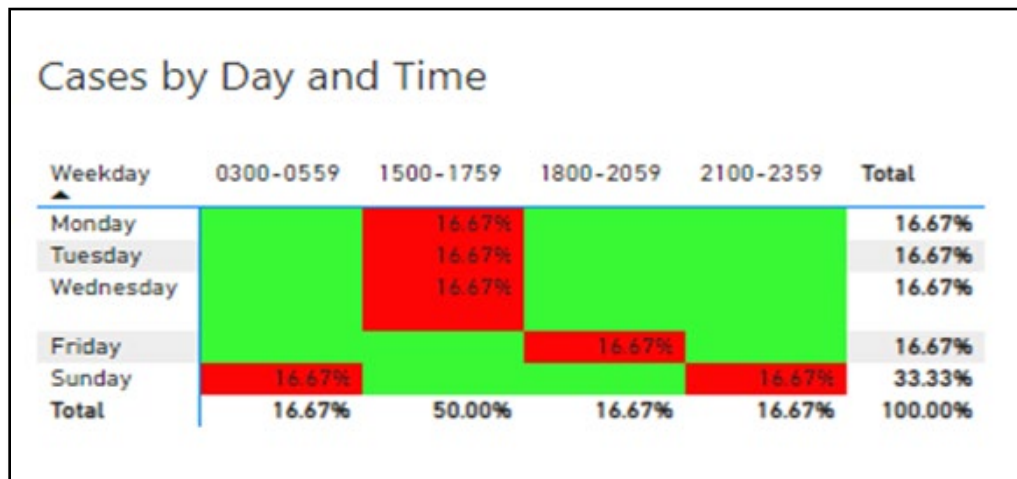


Figure 1. NIBRS Offense Data

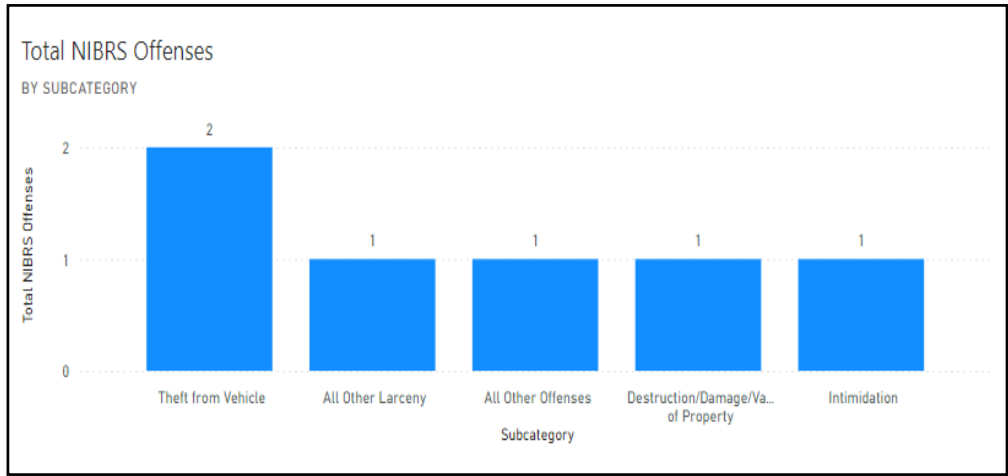


Figure 2. Crime Trend Mapping

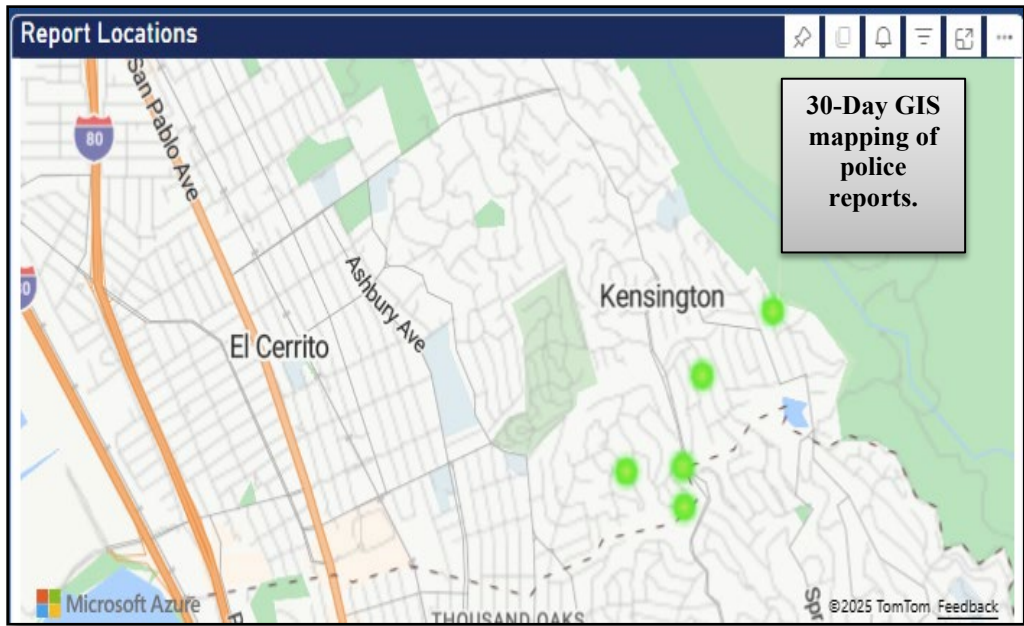
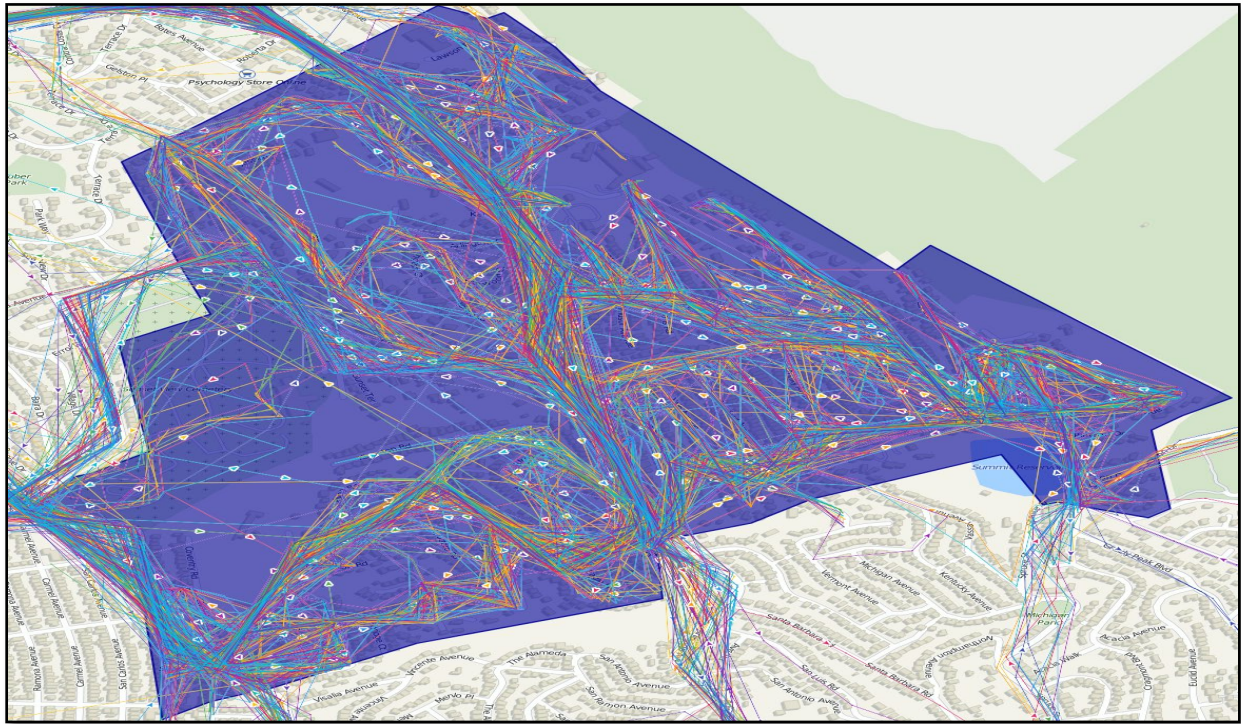


Figure 4. Patrol fleet mapping

Kensington's patrol fleet is tracked with GPS technology, allowing real-time mapping. The map 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.



Jan 1: Officers responded to a deceased person in a residence; no foul play was suspected. Officers handled a loud party on Kenilworth Drive; the situation was resolved.

Jan 3: Hit-and-run collision on Kingston Road; report filed.

Jan 7: Verbal argument on Stratford Road; report taken.

Jan 8: Hit-and-run on Arlington Avenue; suspect vehicle identified via community cameras and located. Report filed.

Jan 10: Medical emergency on Lawson Road; report was taken.

Jan 11: Vehicle tampering on Lake Drive; report filed.

Jan 12: Traffic stop on San Pablo Avenue for non-moving violation; driver arrested for violating court order.

Jan 13: Suspicious vehicle on Edwin Drive; expired registration, impounded. Report filed.

Jan 13: Petty theft from a vehicle on Edgcroft Road; report filed.

Jan 14: Traffic stop for non-moving violation; unlicensed driver arrested; motorcycle impounded.

Jan 16: Petty theft on Stanford Avenue; report filed.

Jan 16: Deceased person in residence; no foul play suspected, report filed.

Jan 17: Hit-and-run on Arlington Avenue; report filed.

Jan 19: Commercial burglary on Arlington Avenue; suspect identified and arrested.

Jan 22: Petty theft on Ocean View Avenue; report filed.

Jan 24: Petty theft of vehicle parts on Ardmore Road; report filed.

Jan 24: Fugitive with active warrant arrested on Berkeley Park Blvd.

Jan 26: Suspicious circumstance at police station; report filed.

Jan 28: Traffic stop on San Pablo Avenue; driver cited for suspended license.

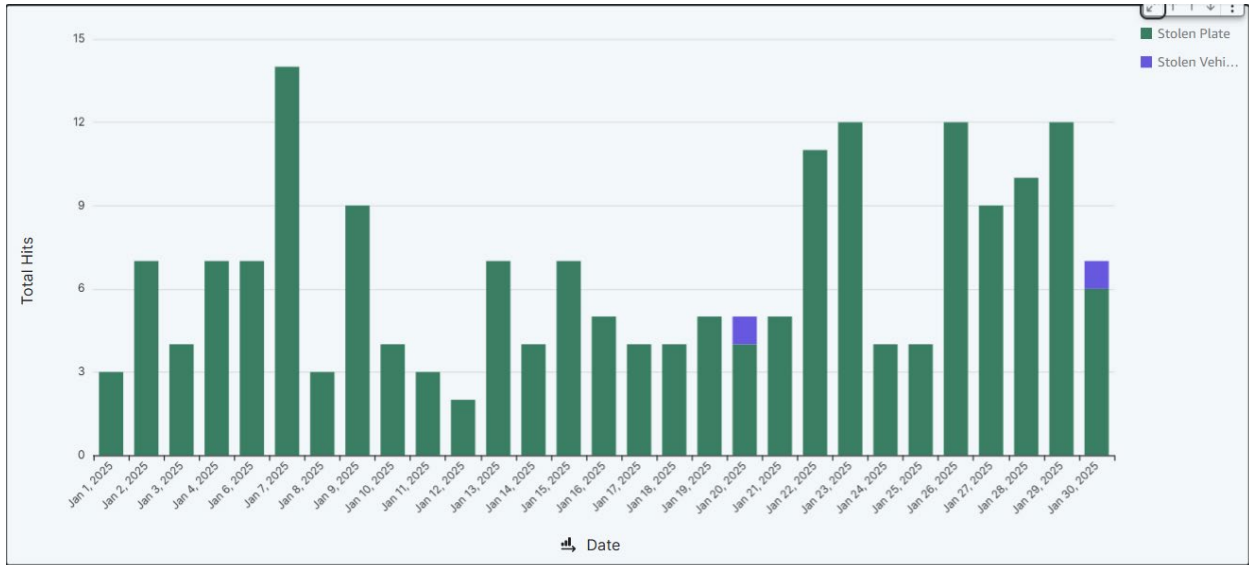
Jan 29: Grand theft report on Coventry Road; investigation ongoing.

Community Safety Cameras

The number of stolen vehicles detected in Kensington increased to 2 for January. Our community safety cameras helped identify a suspect wanted in a commercial burglary. The cameras continue to provide critical leads for law enforcement to act upon and since their introduction, many cases have been solved and suspects identified.



January Data Captured – five (5) cameras			
Type	Stolen Plates	Stolen Vehicle	Other Agency Hotlist
Count	188	2	24



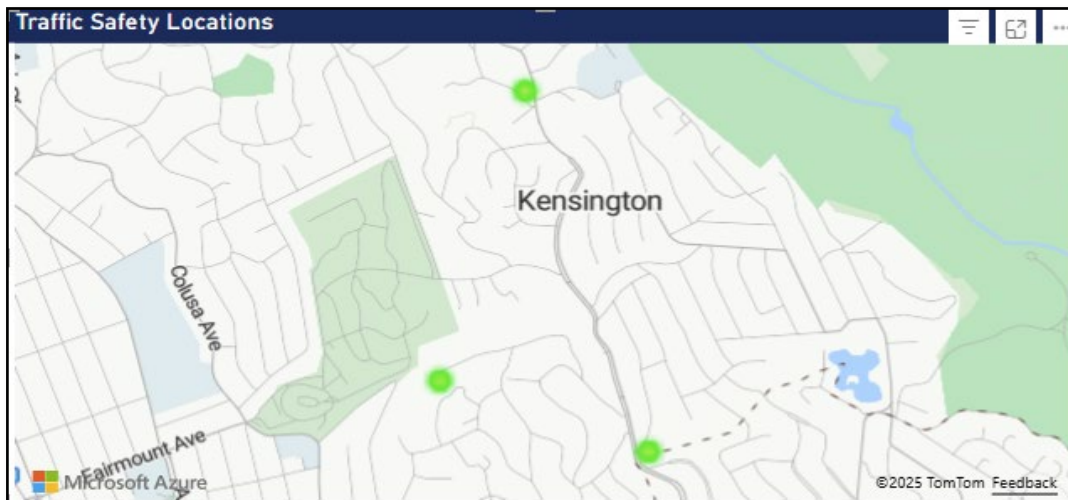
Training

Our newest officer, Giovanni Ruiz, started his 16-week Field Training Program with two weeks of orientation with Sergeant Lande. Ofc. Ruiz also completed firearms, Taser 10, and arrest and control training before deploying to the field in uniform under the supervision of Field Training Officer David Payne. We are confident Officer Ruiz will complete his training and become a solo police officer early this summer.

Officer Payne and De Santiago attended Active Shooter Training with El Cerrito PD at a unique facility in Concord. The officers practiced safe building entry and contact with active assailants. This is the first of two Active Shooter training courses every KPD officer will attend.

Traffic Safety

Traffic collisions increased to 3, compared to 1 in December. The reported collisions were all non-injury; one was an off-highway collision, and another was a vehicle collision against a roadside object. A suspect was contacted in one of the collisions, and the investigation is ongoing.



Chief of Police

Maintaining our low response time is a key priority for our team. To enhance our operations, we are testing the GoodSAM public safety app; a tool initially developed in the UK for rapid video response to medical and fire emergencies. Now used by police in the UK, Canada, and the US, GoodSAM allows officers to assess and evaluate incidents quickly before being on-site.

The system sends a text or email to community members, who can then use a link to start a remote video session via a web-based app on their phone, tablet, or computer. It also supports evidence uploads and video sharing with other officers.

GoodSAM has been shown to improve response times, victim satisfaction, and arrest rates, particularly in domestic violence cases. It includes real-time translation, transcription, and live digital evidence storage system integration.

By piloting GoodSAM, KPD aims to enhance response times and community satisfaction, gather better information faster, and offer citizens another option to report incidents.



Community Safety Cameras.

On January 19, 2025, Exxon Gas station reported the theft of ten propane tanks valued at \$760. Surveillance footage showed a white, early-90s Chevrolet pickup truck with a lumber rack arriving at 3:24 AM. A male suspect, assisted by two females, used bolt cutters to steal the tanks.

Thanks to the recently installed Flock Community Safety cameras, officers quickly identified the vehicle through camera data and traced the license plate to a male suspect from Alameda County. Within 24 hours, the suspect was arrested after confessing to the crime. His female accomplices are still under investigation.

The case, now filed by the DA with felony charges, highlights the effectiveness of the Flock camera system in improving our investigative capabilities, leading to swift arrests and ensuring safety in our community. This technology is a key tool in our ongoing commitment to public safety.

Community

For New Year's Eve, Kensington patrol was enhanced with additional staffing through 0200 hours. There were no incidents to report, and the evening was relatively quiet. There were no additional community events scheduled this month.

New Kensington Police Officer Giovanni Ruiz

Our newest Officer, Giovanni Ruiz, was born in Los Angeles, CA, and grew up in Sonoma. He attended Santa Rosa Junior College, graduating with a degree in Psychology and Sociology, and later Sonoma State University, earning a degree in Economics and Sociology. Officer Ruiz worked as a deputy in various assignments at the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office for three years before joining KPD. He lives locally and enjoys working out, cycling, and spending time with his family. He feels privileged to work for Kensington, which strongly supports its police department.

Congratulations Officer Ruiz!



Officer Ruiz with FTO D. Payne



1st. Day in Uniform