



## KENSINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

10940 San Pablo Avenue • El Cerrito • CA • 94530

(510) 526-4141

[www.kppcsd.org](http://www.kppcsd.org)

**DATE:** July 31, 2023

**TO:** David Aranda: General Manager

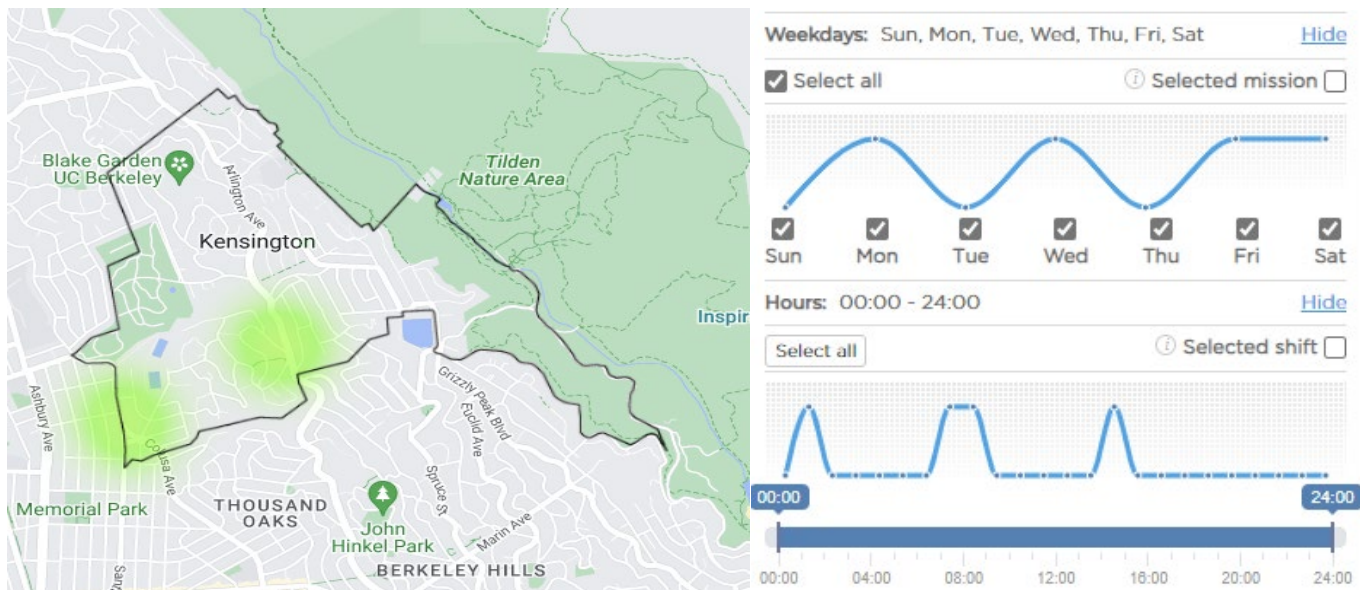
**FROM:** M. Gancasz, Chief of Police

**RE:** Police Chief's Report, July 2023

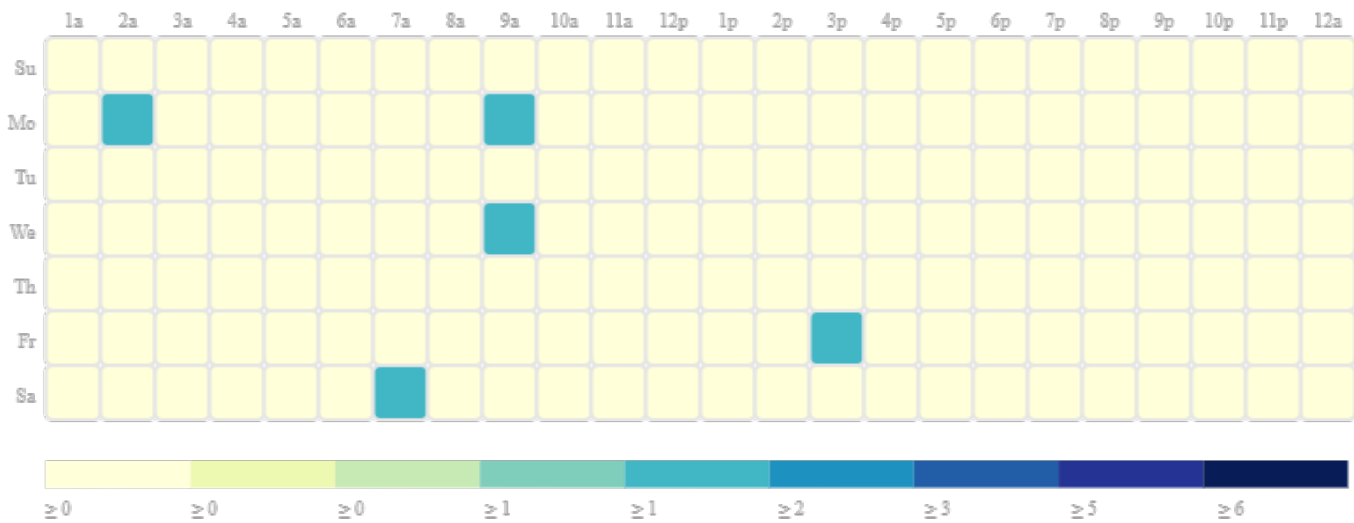
### Patrol Operations

The Kensington Police Department handled 748 incidents during the month of June (down from 845). 506 were officer-initiated events including 34 traffic enforcement stops resulting in the issuance of 27 citations (up from 23 in the prior month). Officers responded to 242 dispatched calls for service (up from 188 the prior month) and took 27 reports (up from 20 the prior month). Officers focused their patrols on looking for evidence of vandalism at the community park and vehicle theft prevention. One felony arrest and three misdemeanor arrests were made in July. Officers received two reports of catalytic converter theft, four stolen vehicle reports, and one vehicle burglary report, all of which are being investigated. Officers are pursuing leads and working directly with our partner agencies to reduce and prevent similar crimes. Response time for officers was increased slightly compared to June by .7 minutes to 6.33 minutes (compared to 5.6 minutes in June).

Our new crime analysis software is working well. We are analyzing the calls for service information to map vehicle theft locations. This allows us to immediately identify areas of concern, identify crime trends, and deploy our officers and resources where they need to be to prevent crime and apprehend criminals.



Incidents Heatmap



### Traffic Safety

Community members provided one online traffic submission with concerns about large trucks driving through the district. KPD requested assistance from Contra Costa County Public Works to help resolve the issue. There were two traffic collisions during the month, a hit and run on Valley Rd and a Driving Under the Influence on Arlington Ave/Rincon Rd. There were no significant road hazards or closures affecting traffic safety other than the ongoing EBMUD work. There are no speed analyses for July. We are exploring new modern signs to enhance our ability to capture this type of information.

### Administration

Lt. Harms last day of employment was Saturday, July 30, 2023. Sergeant A. Nath was appointed Acting Lieutenant to assume the responsibilities of former Lieutenant B. Harms. Officer M. Smith was authorized to participate in the Kensington Police Department’s in-house Acting Sergeant Training Program to prepare him for a future leadership role with Kensington PD. We have three applicants for police officer in the background process. Three new software applications were implemented to enhance and modernize our day-to-day operations, establish exceptional reporting procedures, provide greater accountability and transparency, and create a secure repository for critical information. Sergeant Nath attended a Contra Costa County Second-in-Command Meeting with Chief Gancasz on July 26<sup>th</sup>. Attendees included the Contra Costa County Chiefs Association., the FBI, Secret Service, and the San Francisco Police Department Command Staff.

Our Volunteers worked more than 30 hours on special projects. Volunteer Logan and Sgt. Lande built a custom website for the Kensington Police Department titled [Join Kensington Police Department \(www.joinkensingtonpd.com\)](http://www.joinkensingtonpd.com). The Website’s mission is to describe working for the Kensington Police Department and our Community while at the same time creating a contemporary conduit for employees to apply.

## **Training**

Officer Jose Fajardo attended an 8-hour course focused on leadership. He also participated in our in-house Advanced Officer Training focusing on perishable skills, de-escalation, and arrest and control techniques. KPD hosted a two-hour arrest and control course supervised by Sgt. Lande. Officer Farley attended advanced officer firearms training. Sgt. Nath graduated from the POST Supervisory Leadership Institute. Chief Gancasz and Police Consultant Jason Haynes attended the event. Sgt. Nath is the first KPD officer to attend and graduate from SLI in more than 14 years. The POST approved course was implemented in 1988 to prepare employees for leadership roles.

## **July Patrol Log**

- On Friday, July 7, at 1730 hours, officers responded to a report of a stolen catalytic converter in the 100 block of Ardmore Road.
- On Tuesday, July 11, at 1833 hours, officers responded to the 100 block of Edwin Drive for a residential burglary report. The scene was processed, evidence collected, and sent to the Contra Costa County Crime Lab for analysis. The loss was estimated to be approximately \$6,775.00, and the investigation is ongoing.
- On Wednesday, July 12, at 1210 hours, officers responded to deceased male in the 100 block of Highland Blvd. Officers found no evidence of foul play and the case was handed over to the Contra Costa County Coroner's Office.
- On Monday, July 17, at 0210 hours, officers responded to the Park-N-Ride at Arlington Avenue and Ardmore Road for a stolen vehicle report. The resident returned from a one-week vacation and found their car missing. Officers located the vehicle in the area and returned it to the owner. There is no suspect information, and the investigation is ongoing.
- On Monday, July 18, at 0913 hours, officers responded to the 100 block of Arlington Avenue for a theft report. Unknown suspects stole the wheels from the car and fled the scene. The loss was estimated to be approximately \$1,700.00. The Contra Costa County Crime Lab is processing the evidence collected by officers.
- On Wednesday, July 19, at 1949 hours, officers responded to a suspicious vehicle with no plates on Colusa Avenue at Valley Road. Officers determined the car was reported stolen from the City of Oakland five days earlier. The vehicle was recovered and returned to the owner.
- On Wednesday, July 19, officers took a stolen vehicle report from the same location. It is believed the suspects who abandoned the vehicle from Oakland, may be responsible for unlawfully taking this car. Officers are following up in investigative leads.
- On Saturday, July 22, at 0940 hours, officers were dispatched to calls of a suspicious person loitering and ringing doorbells in the 1600 block of Oak View Avenue. Officers contacted and arrested the suspect for being under the influence of narcotics. Officers identified a home in the area where the suspect slept throughout the night. He was in possession of stolen property from the City of Oakland. The suspect was transported to the Contra Costa County Martinez Detention Facility where he assaulted a KPD officer. Additional charges have been filed with the District Attorney's Office. The officer is recovering from the incident.
- On Friday, July 27, at 0919 hours, officers were dispatched to a traffic collision at Arlington Avenue and Rincon Road. Officers determined the driver was intoxicated and was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and child endangerment. The driver was transported to the hospital for treatment related to the traffic collision, and the case forwarded to the District Attorney's Office.

## **West County Crime Patrols**

Officers Fajardo participated with West Contra Costa County police departments in a multi-agency crime suppression operation. Each West County agency combines resources to complete saturation patrols in every jurisdiction throughout the summer. This month, patrols were completed in Richmond. More than twenty officers patrolled Richmond for ten hours making over 50 vehicle enforcement stops, conducting numerous probation and parole compliance checks, and making multiple arrests. The next joint operation in July will be held in the City of Hercules.

## **Community**

Extra officers were on duty this July 4 to address any issues. Celebrations were quiet with no reports of arrests or confiscations of illegal fireworks. No fires were reported and there were no instances of damage to property. A ceremony for retiring Lieutenant Brad Harms took place during the regular Board Meeting on July 13. Community members attended to wish him well. Brad was presented with two shadow boxes that incorporated items from his time with KPD. Attendees included Brads wife and former KPD Interim Chief S. Simpkins. Brad thanked the community and the Board for their tireless support, and we wished him well in his future endeavors.