



KENSINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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DATE: December 1, 2025

TO: David Aranda: General Manager

FROM: M. Gancasz, Chief of Police

RE: Police Chief's Monthly Report for November 2025

Patrol Operations

In November, the Kensington Police Department handled 1,506 incidents, an increase from the 1,366 incidents reported in October. Our officers initiated 1,348 incidents, including 161 traffic stops—up from 136 in the previous month—resulting in 108 citations issued. Officers responded to 158 dispatched calls for service, a decrease from the 259 calls in October, and the department authored 28 investigative reports. Key investigations included a package theft on Franciscan Way, a stolen vehicle on Norwood Avenue, and a significant mail theft involving a USPS carrier vehicle on Arlington Avenue.

Some high-risk interactions this month included the arrest of a suspect for failing to register as a sex offender, the apprehension of a driver with an outstanding felony warrant on Arlington Ave, and providing mutual aid to El Cerrito officers responding to a man with a gun.

Table 1. Patrol Data Comparison by Month

Metric	October 2025	November 2025	% Change
Total Incidents	1,366	1,506	+10.25%
Dispatched Calls for Service	259	158	-39.00%
Traffic Stops	136	161	+18.38%
Citations Issued	129	108	-16.28%
Investigative Reports	34	28	-17.65%
Misdemeanor Arrests	3	1	N/A
Felony Arrests	0	2	N/A
Avg. Response Time	5.4 min	4.3 min	-1.1 min

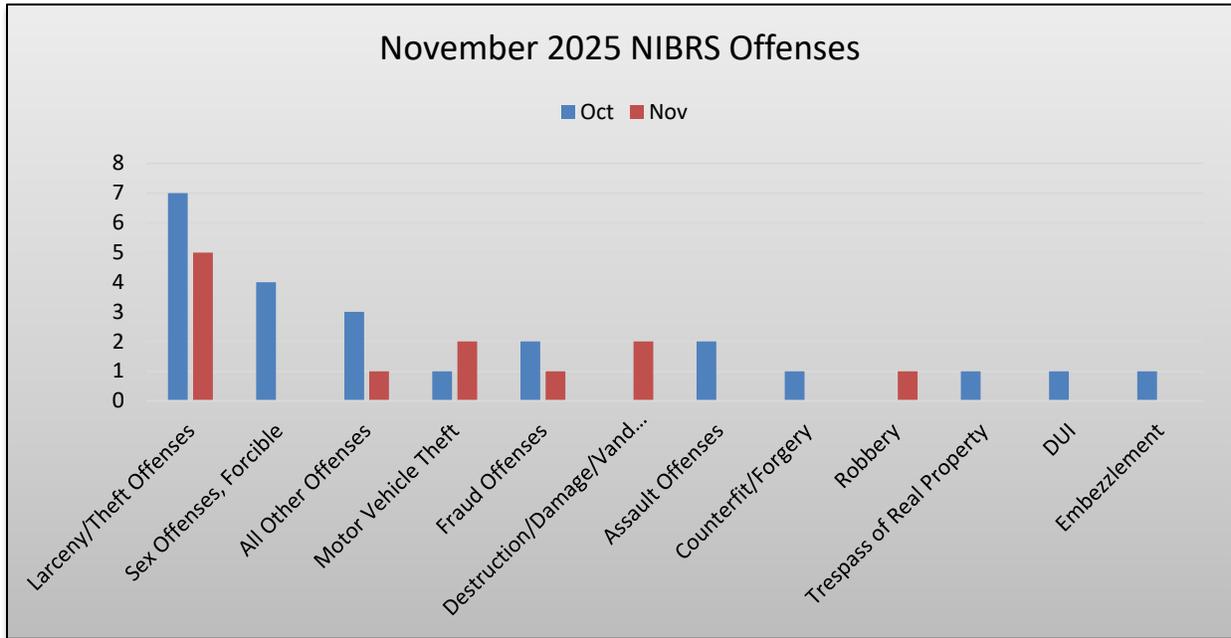
An analysis of crime data for November revealed a shift in temporal patterns from the previous month. Reported incidents were most frequent on **Saturdays**, accounting for **21%** of the month's total activity. This represents a distinct shift from October, where activity was concentrated on Tuesdays (26%) and Thursdays (24%).

While the peak time for activity remained in the afternoon—with the 1200–1559-time block accounting for 33% of all incidents—a new trend emerged in the late-night hours. The 0000-0359 (midnight to 4 AM) time block rose significantly, accounting for 21% of reported incidents. Consequently, the concentration of daytime activity (0800-1959) dropped to 67%, compared to 85% in October, indicating a broader spread of incidents into the overnight hours.

Table 2. NIBRS Offense Data

NIBRS Code	Description	Oct-25	Nov-25	Percent Change	Poisson Z-Score
11A	Rape	1	0	-100.00%	-0.41
11C	Sexual Assault with Object	1	0	-100.00%	-0.29
11D	Sexual Battery	2	0	-100.00%	-0.58
120	Robbery	0	1	N/A	3.18
13B	Simple Assault	2	0	-100.00%	-1.04
23D	Theft From Building	0	2	N/A	1.85
23F	Theft From Motor Vehicle	2	1	-50.00%	-0.52
23H	All Other Larceny	5	2	-60.00%	0.06
240	Motor Vehicle Theft	1	2	100.00%	1.44
250	Counterfeit/Forgery	1	0	-100.00%	-0.5
26A	False Pretenses/Swindle	2	0	-100.00%	-0.91
26F	Identity Theft	0	1	N/A	1.15
270	Embezzlement \$950+ (F)	1	0	-100.00%	-0.29
290	Vandalism	0	2	N/A	1.63
90D	Driving Under the Influence	1	0	-100.00%	-0.58
90J	Trespass	1	0	-100.00%	-0.29
90Z	All Other Offenses	3	1	-66.67%	0.18
TOTAL	Total Criminal Offenses	23	12	-47.83%	0.6

Table 3. November 2025 NIBRS Total Offense Count



A Poisson Z-score greater than +/- 3.00 indicates a significant trend.

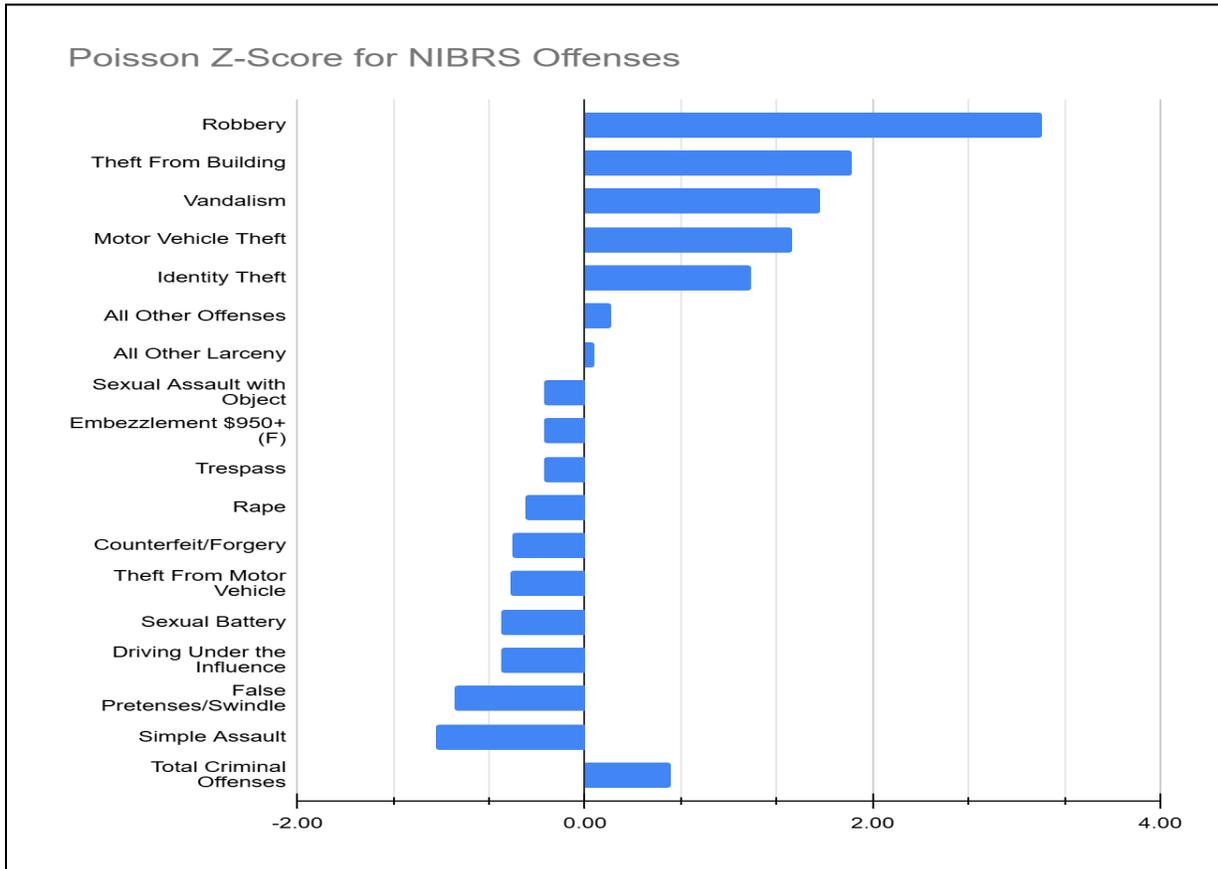


Table 4. Crime Trend Mapping

KPD is implementing Accurint Virtual Crime Center to support GIS analytics.

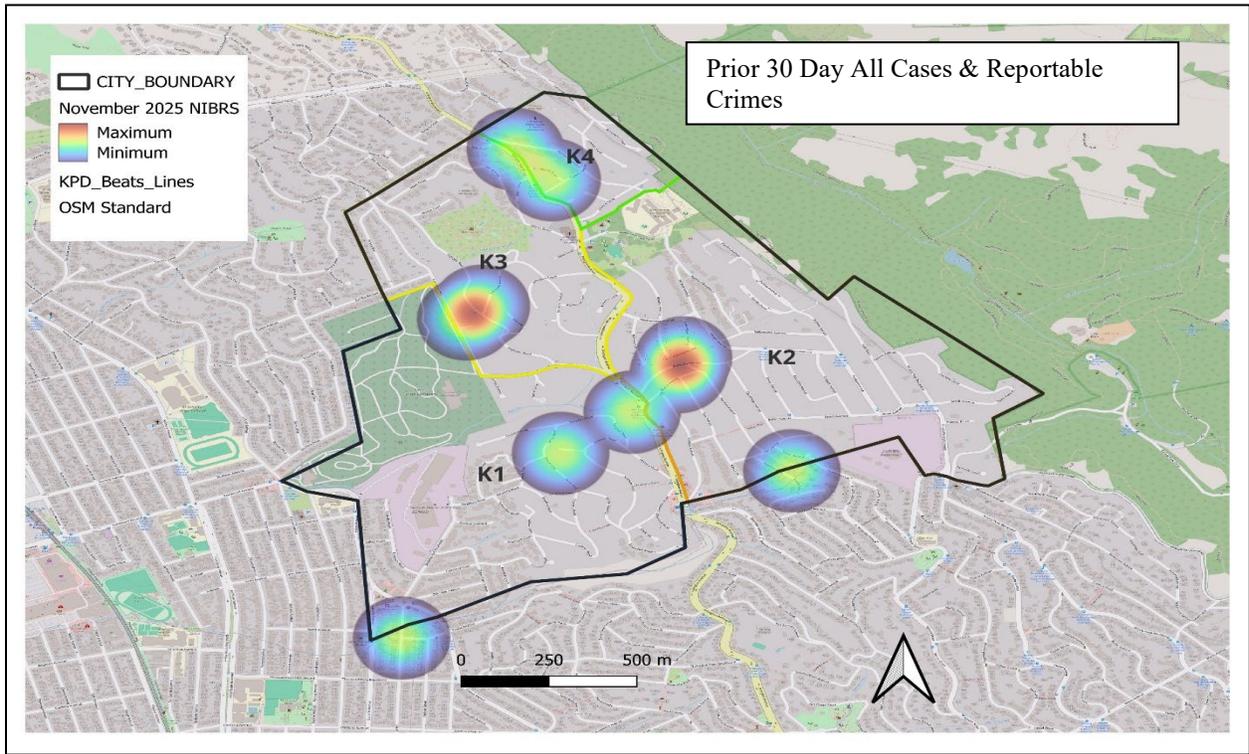
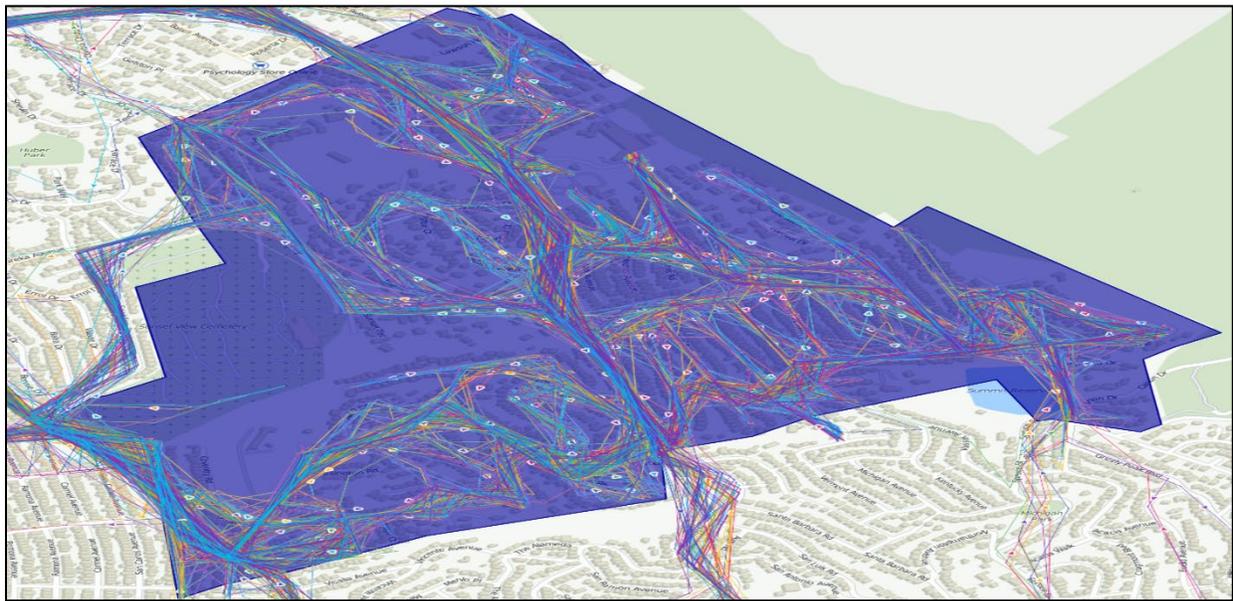


Table 5. Patrol Fleet Mapping

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.



Patrol Activity Log:

Nov 4: Stolen vehicle reported on Norwood Avenue; report filed. **Officers used the Flock community safety camera database to identify leads, including direction of travel, date and time, and the vehicle's location in real time.**

Nov 3: Suspect arrested for failing to register as a sex offender.

Nov 3: Attempted phone phishing scam reported on Beverly Court; report filed.

Nov 4: Non-injury traffic collision on Ocean View Avenue; report filed.

Nov 5: Suspicious circumstance report at the police station; report filed.

Nov 5: Suspicious circumstance report at the police station; report filed.

Nov 6: Package theft reported on Franciscan Way; report filed.

Nov 10: Suspect arrested for an outstanding felony warrant and transported to Martinez Detention Facility; report filed.

Nov 13: Outside assistance request for out-of-state agency; report filed.

Nov 13: Petty theft reported on Rugby Avenue; report filed.

Nov 14: Hit and Run reported on Grizzly Peak Boulevard and Spruce Street: report filed.

Nov 14: Stolen vehicle reported on Wellesley Avenue; report filed. **Officers used the Flock community safety camera database to identify leads, including direction of travel, date and time, and the vehicle's location in real time.**

Nov 15: Estes robbery reported on Kenyon Avenue; report filed. **Officers used the Flock community safety camera database to identify leads, including direction of travel, date and time, and the vehicle's location in real time.**

Nov 15: Petty theft reported on Arlington Avenue; report filed.

Nov 16: Traffic stop on Arlington Avenue & Amherst Avenue; driver cited for expired registration (2023) and vehicle impounded; report filed.

Nov 17: Suspicious circumstance reported at the police station; report filed.

Nov 19: Mutual Aid request for El Cerrito PD; Two individuals were contacted for vehicle code violations. KPD Officers responded to assist. One of the individuals was carrying a firearm illegally and was arrested. An outside assistance report was completed.

Nov 20: Courtesy report at the police station; report filed.

Nov 22: Mail theft from USPS carrier vehicle reported on Arlington Avenue; report filed.

Nov 22: Courtesy report at the police station; report file.

Nov 23: Vandalism reported on Kenilworth Drive; report filed.

Nov 25: Property for destruction report at the police station; report filed.

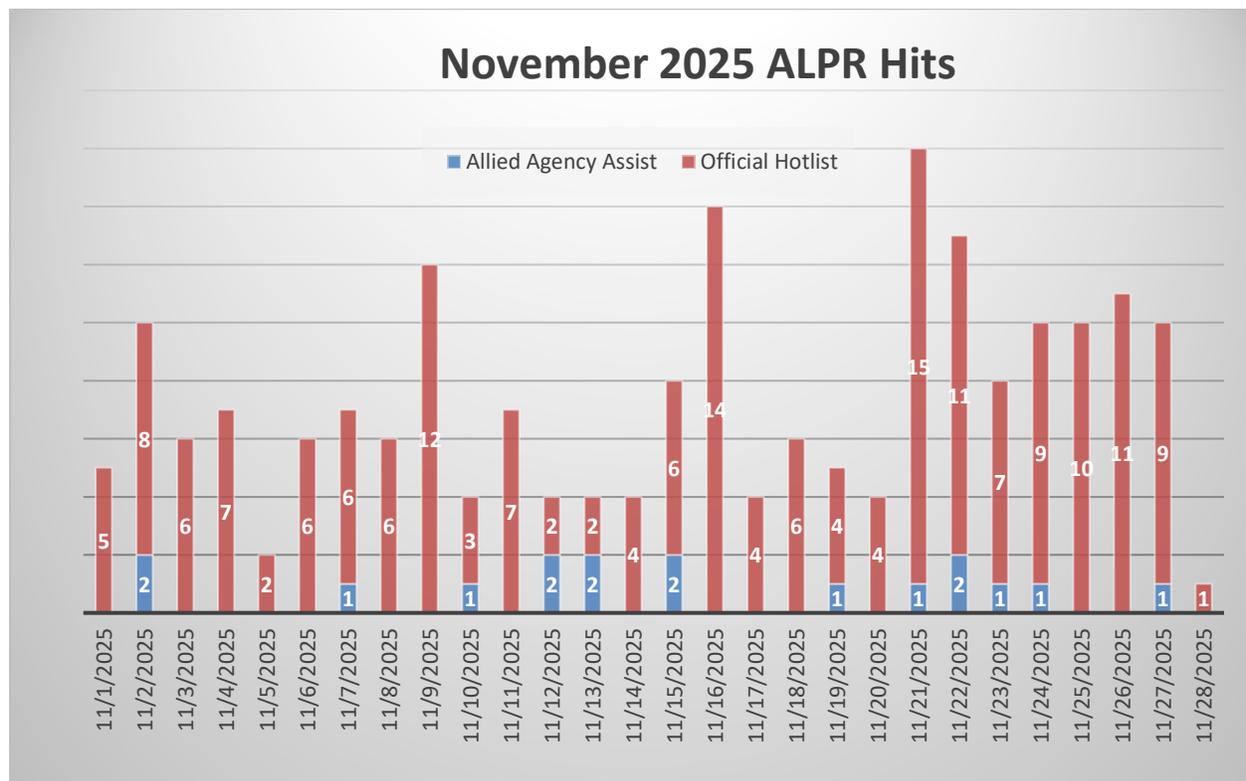
Nov 26: Civil issue reported on Willamette Avenue; report filed.

Community Safety Cameras – ALPR (automatic license plate reader)

In November, the District’s CSC’s were used to investigate a 2nd Degree Robbery, package and mail thefts, hit and run investigations, and stolen vehicle investigations.



ALPR DATA				
Type	Stolen Plates Captured	Stolen Vehicles Captured	KPD Investigative Plates Researched	Allied Agency Investigative Support
Count	187	0	8	17



Training

Officers participated in a range of essential training courses designed to enhance mandatory skills and professional development totaling 188 hours.

CLETS Level 3: Staff completed CLETS Level 3 training for California law enforcement officers, which provides advanced instruction on the secure and proper use of the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS). This training covers system access protocols, confidentiality requirements, and the handling of sensitive criminal justice information from federal, state, and local databases. Participants learn about the various databases available through CLETS, such as criminal history, restraining orders, stolen vehicles, and more, while emphasizing the importance of maintaining security, integrity, and privacy of all accessed data. Successful completion of CLETS Level 3 training ensures that users understand both the technical and legal responsibilities associated with using CLETS for official law enforcement purposes.

Arrest and Control & Building Searches: Officer's Payne, De Santiago, Gallo, and Thota attended ECPD's Advanced Officer Training (AOT) focused on searching buildings providing basic entry and arrest techniques, effective team communication, safe room clearing, apprehension, low visibility, adverse conditions, and legal considerations including search warrants, use-of-force, de-escalation and crisis intervention.

2025 Taser Operators Course Recertification: Taser Instructor, Ofc. Gill, taught the Taser 10 Operator Course to officers. The course is designed to certify law enforcement officers in the safe, effective, and legally sound deployment of the Taser. The training combines classroom instruction, hands-on exercises, and scenario-based drills to ensure officers are proficient in device operation, deployment tactics, and post-incident procedures. The training includes legal and policy review (including use-of-force laws and policies), practical deployment exercises, and critically, De-Escalation and Decision Making in high-risk scenarios, emphasizing proportionality and accountability.

CHP Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE): Sgt. Rivera, Officer Gallo, Officer De Santiago, and Ofc. Gill attended the CHP Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) program. ARIDE is a specialized training course developed to bridge the gap between Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) and the Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC/DRE) Program. ARIDE equips law enforcement officers with the skills to observe, identify, and articulate signs of impairment caused by drugs, alcohol, or a combination of both. The course covers proficiency in field sobriety tests, recognition of symptoms from seven drug categories, and the effects of drug combinations. By enhancing officers' ability to detect and document impaired driving, ARIDE aims to reduce impaired driving incidents and related traffic collisions, while also promoting the effective use of Drug Recognition Experts (DREs) in investigations.

All About Trespassing: The training provides a legal overview for law enforcement on the nuances of establishing and enforcing criminal trespass, with a central theme being the critical distinction between private property and areas "open to the public" (such as businesses during operating hours).

Identification of Suspects: Sgt. Lande attended investigations update training consisting of a comprehensive overview of identification procedures, including in-field show-ups, line-ups, and six-pack photo arrays. The course emphasizes the importance of due process and fairness, highlighting legal standards and best practices to minimize misidentification risks.

California Office of Emergency Services - Officer Safety and Field Tactics: Ofc. Gallo attended the well-regarded Officer Safety and Field Tactics course at the California Specialty Training Institute (part of California OES). The training focuses on equipping law enforcement officers with practical skills and strategies to enhance their safety and effectiveness in the field. This training covers situational awareness, tactical communication, threat recognition, and response protocols for various emergencies. Officers learn best practices for approaching potentially dangerous situations, managing high-risk encounters, and employing defensive tactics that prioritize both officer safety and the protection of the public. The course also emphasizes legal considerations and the importance of following agency policies during field operations, ensuring that officers are prepared to respond confidently and professionally to a wide range of scenarios.

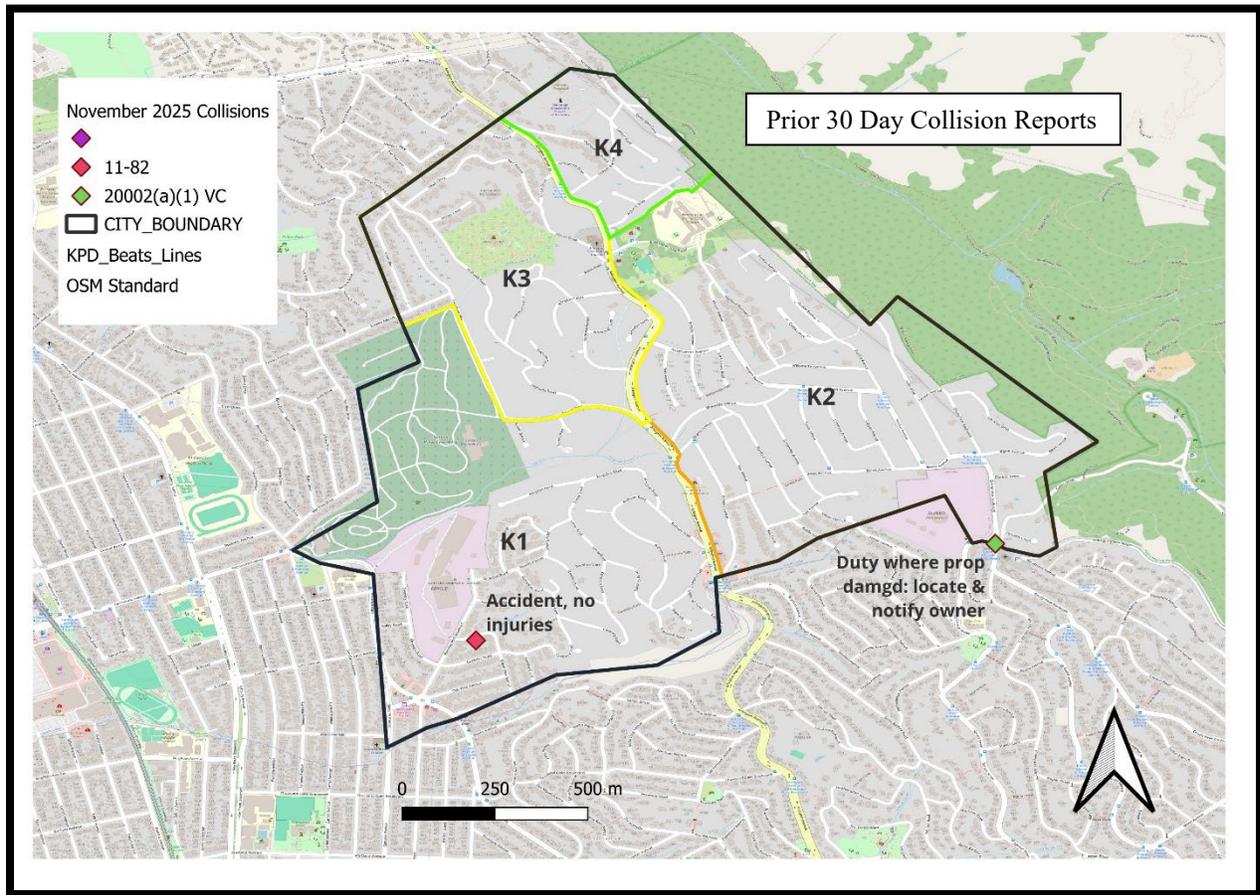
Vehicle Searches and Marijuana: Officers reviewed legal standards for vehicle searches involving marijuana and underage occupants. Under the automobile exception, a strong odor of burnt marijuana combined with occupants under 21 establishes probable cause for a warrantless search. The case *People v. Castro (2022)* confirmed that Prop 64 protections do not apply to individuals under 21, and searches based on odor plus age are lawful. Officers were reminded to distinguish between searches incident to arrest and probable cause searches, and to consider recent case law limiting odor-only searches when no other indicators exist.

SRO and Juvenile Justice Summit: Officers attended this free/contemporary training hosted by the Pittsburg Police Department, which brings together school resource officers, juvenile detectives, and supporting roles to collaborate on best practices for student safety and youth crime prevention. The event featured legal updates from the District Attorney's Office, discussions on gangs and fentanyl, challenges in working with youth, group sessions with school staff, juvenile crime trends, community engagement programs, and strategies for policing the teen brain.

Riverside County DA's Office - Strangulation: Recognition, Response and Risk Reduction: Sgt. Lande attended an investigation update on forensics related to strangulation. This specialized training equips professionals to identify, assess, and respond to strangulation incidents with urgency and precision.

Traffic Safety

Two non-injury collisions were reported, one being a hit-and-run. This is down from three collisions reported in October.



Map of November 2025 Collisions

Chief of Police

In early 2025, **Lieutenant Amit Nath** authored and secured a highly competitive CHP DUI/DUID grant, continuing his proven record of bringing outside funding into the Kensington community. This grant fully funded two brand-new 2026 Ford Police Interceptors delivered to the department this month. The vehicles are now undergoing the detailed conversion process required to transform factory models into fully outfitted police units. Volunteers Logan and Gill completed the initial inspections, signed the delivery documentation, and began the registration and equipment-verification process to ensure each vehicle meets our operational standards.

The total value of these two patrol vehicles is \$121,263.52—an amount covered entirely by the approved grant, resulting in no cost to Kensington taxpayers. This accomplishment reflects one of the Police Department’s core priorities: long-term forecasting and responsible procurement of essential equipment. By strategically leveraging grants, we reduce the financial burden on the community while securing high-quality, professional-grade assets that support modern policing.

Since 2021, KPD has systematically replaced its entire fleet through this and other innovative funding strategies. Notably, Lieutenant Nath has secured three fully grant-funded police vehicles totaling approximately \$180,000, significantly strengthening the department's budget and reducing long-term maintenance costs. These efforts enhance departmental professionalism, improve safety for officers and the public, and increase our ability to attract high-quality applicants who recognize the advantages of working with a well-maintained and modern fleet. Collectively, these results demonstrate our commitment to responsible stewardship, strategic planning, and maximizing every community dollar.

As part of the same grant, KPD officers completed mandatory saturation patrols this month focused on identifying impaired drivers. Officers conducted 22 traffic stops, issuing 17 citations for various violations. Additional DUI-focused patrols are scheduled monthly for the remainder of the grant cycle. Beyond enforcement, officers engaged residents in positive community contacts, providing education on traffic safety and DUI prevention. We also expanded our outreach through social media to reinforce the message that impaired driving will not be tolerated in Kensington. These combined efforts emphasize our balanced approach of education and enforcement to keep the community safe.

Additionally, **Sergeant Brian Lande** recently spoke at the Kensington Improvement Club Town Hall, highlighting several new community-focused initiatives, including the Blue Envelope Program for drivers with communication challenges and the GoodSAM video reporting tool for streamlined non-emergency service. Sgt. Lande encouraged residents to stay vigilant amid increased holiday package thefts and emerging phone scams, and he answered questions regarding common tactics used to target community members. His presentation reflects our continued commitment to transparency, engagement, and proactive public safety outreach.

Volunteers in Police Services VIPS

The Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) program represents a vital partnership between the Kensington Police Department and the community, enhancing public safety through active citizen involvement. Volunteers provide valuable support by assisting with non-enforcement duties such as administrative tasks and community outreach, enabling officers to focus on core law enforcement responsibilities. Their service strengthens efficiency, builds community trust, and advances the principles of community policing cost-effectively.

During this reporting period, Volunteers Logan, Gill, and Haynes collectively contributed over 57 hours of service to the community. Their contributions included administrative support, fleet management, initial inspection and acceptance of new patrol fleet DUI vehicles, and event coordination.

Colusa Circle Tree Lighting

The Kensington Inclusive Circle held its annual Tree Lighting event. As in years past, it was a festive and well-attended gathering featuring food, drinks, families, and community members. A sergeant and three officers were pre-assigned to the event to promote safety throughout the evening. Their presence not only supported event security but also provided an opportunity to

engage with numerous community members in a positive, welcoming environment. There were no reported injuries or incidents during the event.

KIC Townhall – Sgt. Lande



Traffic Safety Summit – Sgt Rivera, Officer Gill and Officer Fajardo





Officer Safety and Field Tactics Training – Officer G. Ruiz



 **CSTI Officer Safety and Field Tactics**
Camp San Luis Obispo, CA
November 3 - 7, 2025 

Colusa Circle Tree Lighting



New Grant Funded Patrol Cars

