



KENSINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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DATE: March 1, 2026
TO: David Aranda: General Manager
FROM: M. Gancasz, Chief of Police
RE: Police Chief's Monthly Report for February 2026

Patrol Operations

Between February 1 and February 28, 2026, the Kensington Police Department handled 1,180 total incidents, a decrease from 1,547 incidents in January. Of these, 951 were officer-initiated activities and 229 were dispatched calls for service, which remained generally consistent with the 239 calls handled the prior month. Officer-initiated activity included 114 traffic stops, 260 building and security checks, and 11 vehicle or pedestrian checks. Officers issued 91 citations and 32 warnings, slightly fewer than the 97 citations issued in January.

The average response time to dispatched calls was 6.5 minutes, compared to 6.2 minutes in the previous reporting period.

Officers completed 17 investigative reports, including 11 NIBRS crime reports (10 related to incidents occurring during this reporting period and one for a prior incident). This represents a decrease from 28 reports filed in the previous month.

Officers made three arrests during the reporting period, including one felony arrest and two misdemeanor arrests, consistent with January.

Notable activity included officers apprehending a suspect at night who was wearing a ski mask and armed with a loaded firearm while committing thefts within the District. This incident underscores both the inherent risks officers face and the operational value of maintaining two-officer coverage during nighttime patrols. Officers also responded to vandalism at Kensington Elementary School, where evidence was collected and suspects were identified. The investigation remains ongoing.

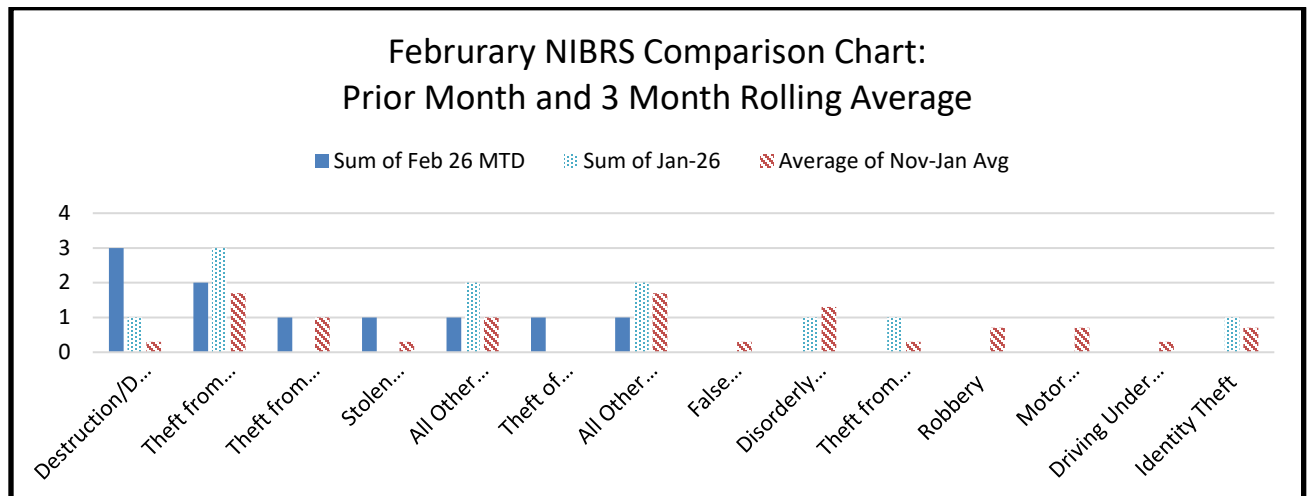
Table 1. Patrol Data Comparison by Month

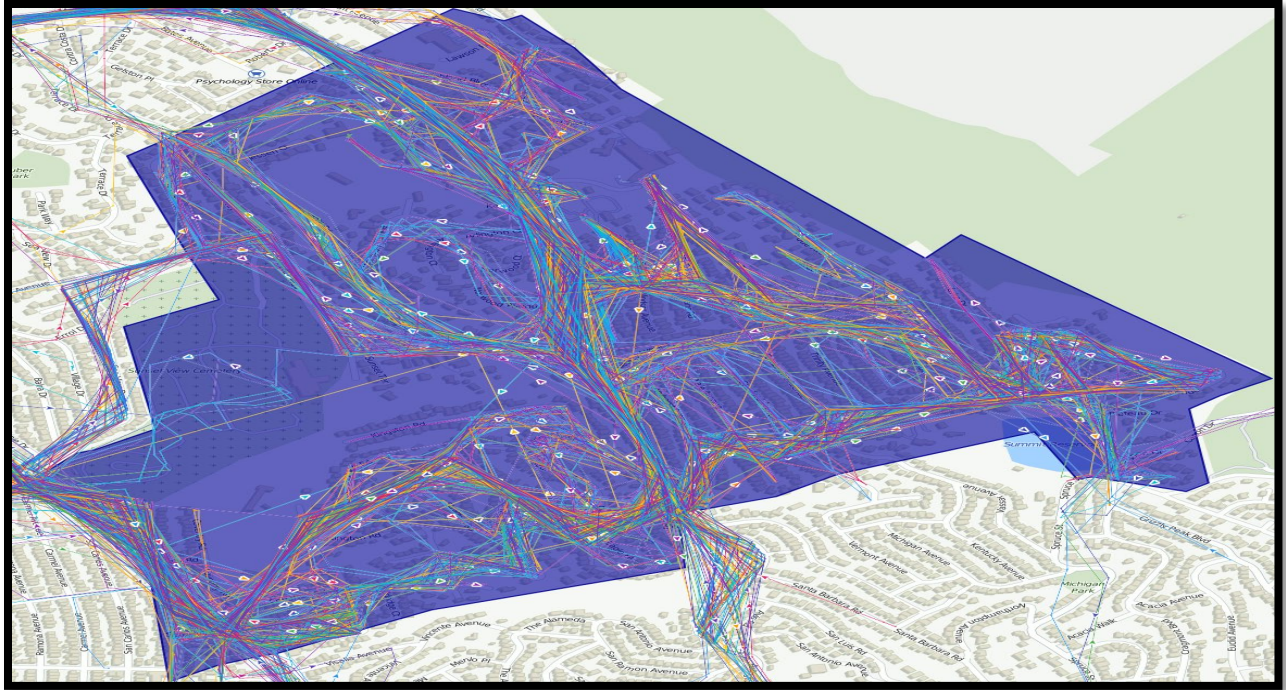
Metric	January 2026	February 2026	Change
Total Incidents	19	16	-15.79%
Dispatched Calls for Service	1,547	1,180	-23.72%
Traffic Stops	253	254	+0.40%
Citations Issued	76	91	+19.74%
Investigative Reports	19	16	-15.79%

Misdemeanor Arrests	2	2	0.00%
Felony Arrests	0	1	+1
Avg. Response Time	6.2 min	6.5 min	+0.3 min (+4.84%)

Table 2. January 2026 NIBRS Offense Data

NIBRS Code	Offense	Feb 26 MTD	Jan-26	% Change	Z-Score
290	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	3	1	200%	4.62
23F	Theft from Vehicle	2	3	-33.30%	0.26
280	Stolen Property Offenses	1	0	100%	1.15
23D	Theft from Building	1	0	100%	0
23G	Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories	1	0	100%	0
23H	All Other Larceny	1	2	-50%	-0.52
90Z	All Other Offenses	1	2	-50%	0
120	Robbery	0	0	0%	-0.82
240	Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	0%	-0.82
23E	Theft from Coin Coin-Operated Machine	0	1	-100%	-0.58
26A	False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence Game	0	0	0%	-0.58
26F	Identity Theft	0	1	-100%	-0.82
90C	Disorderly Conduct	0	1	-100%	-1.15
90D	Driving Under the Influence	0	0	0%	-0.58





Patrol Activity Log:

Feb 1: Traffic stop on Arlington Avenue & Westminster Avenue; Driver arrested for driving with a suspended license and cite released; report filed.

Feb 1: Stolen vehicle parts reported on Beloit Avenue; report filed.

Feb 4: Auto burglary reported on Anson Way; report filed.

Feb 7: Administrative report taken at the police station; report filed.

Feb 8: Officers responded to Beloit Avenue regarding a vehicle off the roadway; report filed.

Feb 10: Officers responded to Lenox Road regarding an attempted vehicle theft. An investigation resulted in an arrest for possession of stolen property, possession of burglary tools, vehicle burglary, and possession of a firearm-related offense; report filed.

Feb 10: Auto burglary reported on Kingston Road; report filed.

Feb 10: Misc Public Service Provided at the police station; report filed.

Feb 10: Auto burglary reported on Lexington Road; report filed.

Feb 13: Officers notified of vehicle striking a pedestrian on Edwin Drive; report filed.

Feb 17: Minor Injury vehicle collision reported on Highgate Court; report filed.

Feb 19: Vehicle vandalism reported on Arlington Avenue; report filed.

Feb 20: Tampered vehicle reported on Berkeley Park Boulevard; report filed.

Feb 20: Outside assistance for a stolen vehicle recovery; report filed.

Feb 22: Vandalism reported on Highland Boulevard; report filed.

Feb 23: Grand theft of vehicle parts reported on Arlington Avenue; report filed.

Feb 23: Grand theft from a vehicle reported on Norwood Avenue; report filed.

Feb 26: Non-Injury Hit & Run accident reported on Arlington Road; report filed.

Feb 28: Stolen vehicle parts reported on Arlington Avenue; report filed.

Blue Envelope Program

The Blue Envelope Program is a voluntary public safety initiative designed to improve interactions between law enforcement and drivers who have autism spectrum disorder or other communication or sensory-processing challenges. Participants are provided a blue envelope to store their driver's license, registration, and insurance, discreetly signaling to officers that the driver may benefit from additional time and clear, simplified communication during a traffic stop. The program promotes safer, more effective interactions by increasing officer awareness, reducing stress for drivers and families, and supporting professional, community-oriented policing through proactive accommodation.

During this reporting period, the following activity was recorded:

- 4 individuals were provided with program information and issued a Blue Envelope when officers determined it would be beneficial and appropriate.

Good Sam Program

The GoodSAM Enhanced Video Response (EVR) program is a secure, real-time communication platform that allows officers and dispatchers to conduct live video interactions with community members for non-emergency calls, phone reports, and general service requests. The system provides an effective alternative to in-person responses when physical deployment is unnecessary, allowing personnel to visually assess situations, clarify details, review evidence, and provide guidance in real time.

The program improves communication accuracy and service efficiency while preserving patrol resources and reducing response demands. It also supports modern, community-oriented policing by providing a convenient, transparent, and accessible method for the public to interact with law enforcement.

During this reporting period, GoodSAM EVR was utilized five times, including assisting a victim of a hit-and-run collision who was unable to remain at the scene.

Training: Professional Standards, Development & Readiness

Officer Led Decision Exercise

Officers participated in a scenario-based tactical decision-making training utilizing body-worn camera footage and publicly available video of a traffic stop that escalated into a critical incident. The training employed a cognitive decision-making format, pausing the video at key moments to allow officers to assess the situation, discuss options, and commit to decisions before outcomes were revealed.

The exercise focused on situational awareness, cue recognition, legal authority, communication, and tactical coordination, including vehicle extractions and coordination with cover officers. This training format reinforces critical thinking under stress, strengthens officers' ability to articulate lawful decision-making, and ensures alignment with department policy and constitutional standards through structured discussion and peer learning.

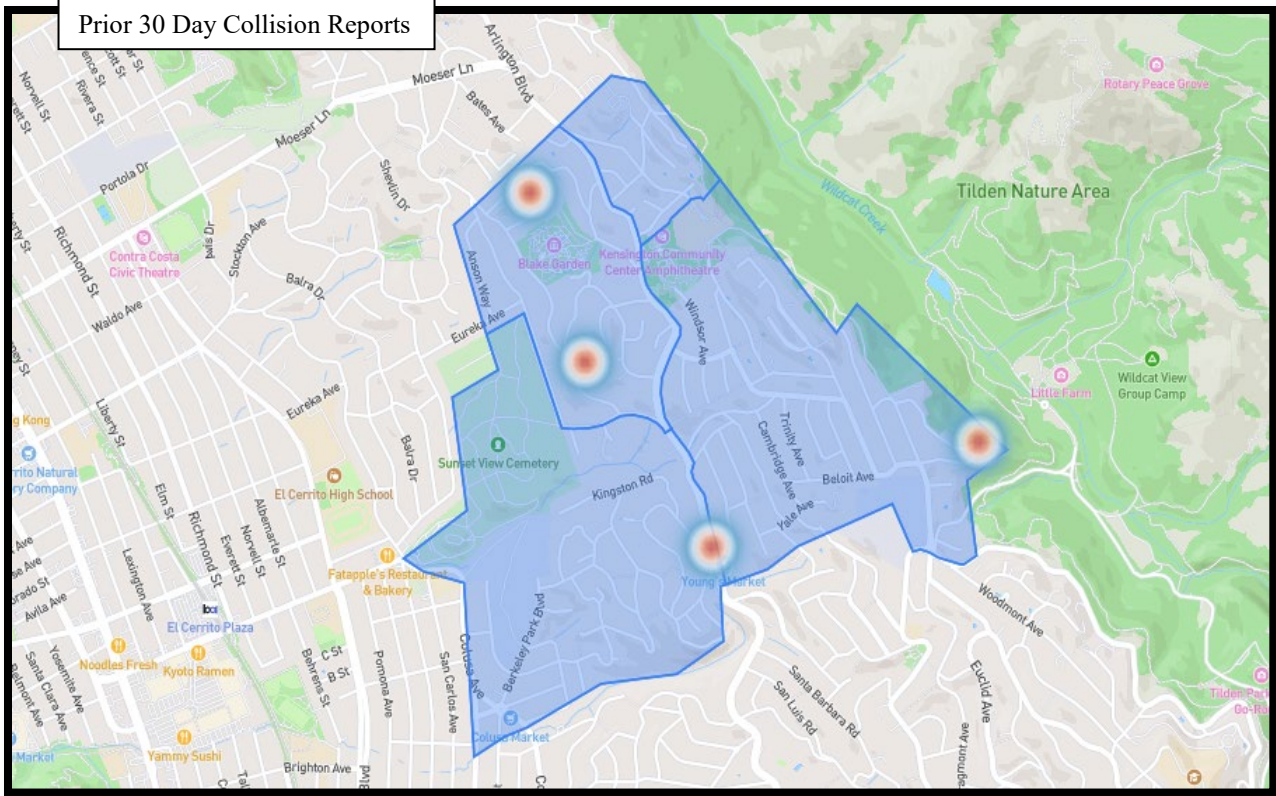
First Aid

During this reporting period, officers completed state-mandated First Aid refresher training focused on core emergency medical response skills. The training reviewed current protocols for initial patient assessment, enabling officers to quickly identify life-threatening conditions and provide immediate care.

Instruction included CPR for adults, children, and infants, as well as the management of traumatic injuries such as severe bleeding, fractures, burns, and shock, with emphasis on the use of tourniquets and wound packing when appropriate. Officers also received updated guidance on infectious disease risks and universal precautions, including proper use of protective equipment, hand hygiene, and safe handling of biohazard materials. The training also addressed legal considerations, including Good Samaritan protections and documentation requirements. Scenario-based exercises reinforced practical application, ensuring officers remain prepared to provide immediate care until advanced medical personnel arrive.

Traffic Safety

Four collisions were reported (3 non-injury, 1 injury), which was an increase from 2 in the prior period. Of these, one misdemeanor hit-and-run (CVC §20002) was reported. An unusual traffic collision in the area of Los Altos and Beloit happened after a vehicle left the roadway and descended down the hillside. Fortunately, the occupant did not sustain serious injuries but was taken to the hospital for evaluation. The recovery of the vehicle took some time. KCSD Volunteers responded with safety equipment and roadway signage to assist with traffic control. Volunteer support allowed officers to focus on in progress calls for service throughout the day.



Map of January 2026 Collisions

Chief of Police

Year-Round Prescription Drug Drop-Off Program

The Kensington Police Department implemented a year-round prescription drug drop-off option at both the Police Department and the City offices located at 217 Arlington. This provides residents with a safe and convenient way to dispose of unused or unwanted medications 7 days a week. The secure drop boxes are located in the lobbies of the Kensington Police Department and the Kensington Fire Department.

Both drop locations accept unused or expired prescription medications, including controlled substances; however, sharps or needles are not accepted. This initiative provides more access and reduces the risk associated with storing unused medications in the home.

CHP DUI/DUID Grant Activity

During the reporting month, officers conducted the 10th of 15 DUI saturation patrols, resulting in 25 traffic stops, 1 warning, 21 citations for various vehicle code violations, 2 Standard Field Sobriety Tests, and 1 Preliminary Alcohol Screening Test. KPD also deployed the 2 new grant-funded patrol cars to service, which were utilized during this operation per grant requirements.

Volunteers in Police Services VIPS

KCSD Volunteers, Logan, Gill, and Haynes, contributed 66 hours of service to the Police Department and the community. Their contributions included administrative support, fleet management, inspection of patrol fleet vehicles, and several special projects as assigned.

Prescription Drug Drop Off - The Police Department Lobby



Volunteers Assisting with Traffic Control



Grant Operation

