



Date: July 13, 2023
To: Board of Directors
From: Mike Gancasz, Chief of Police
Subject: Retirement of Lieutenant B. Harms

Recommendation

Recognize Lieutenant Brad Harms on his retirement from the Kensington Police Department (KPD) after 33 years of distinguished service in law enforcement.

Background

Officer Brad Harms joined law enforcement in 1990. Prior to joining the KPD, Officer Harms served with the Contra Costa County Sheriff Department and the Dixon Police Department. Throughout his distinguished career, Officer Brad Harms served with unwavering dedication and an unparalleled commitment to upholding the law. He embodied the essence of being a police officer, demonstrating courage, integrity, and a relentless pursuit of justice.

One area in which Officer Harms truly excelled was traffic enforcement. Through his efforts, he made our roads safer, ensuring a smooth traffic flow and safeguarding countless individuals' lives. Beyond his professional achievements, Officer Harms was a true friend to everyone he encountered. His genuine warmth, empathy, and compassion created lasting bonds within the department and throughout the community.

To commemorate Lieutenant Brad Harm's remarkable career, we will present him with two plaques as tokens of our gratitude and admiration. The first plaque will be awarded on behalf of the Kensington Police Department, recognizing his exemplary service, commitment to excellence, and unwavering dedication to safeguarding our community. The second plaque will be presented on behalf of the Kensington Police Officers Association, expressing their heartfelt appreciation for his mentorship, guidance, and genuine friendship.



KENSINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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DATE: June 31, 2023
TO: David Aranda: General Manager
FROM: M. Gancasz, Chief of Police
RE: Police Chief's Report, June 2023

Patrol Operations

The Kensington Police Department handled 845 incidents during the month of June (up from 804). 657 were officer-initiated events including 52 traffic enforcement stops resulting in the issuance of 23 citations. Officers responded to 188 dispatched calls for service and took 20 reports. Officers focused their patrols on looking for evidence of vandalism and catalytic converter theft. **No new vandalisms** were reported in June. Two felony arrests and one misdemeanor arrest were made in June. Officers received two reports of catalytic converter, two stolen vehicle reports, and four vehicle burglary reports, 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 reduced in June compared to May by 2.5 minutes. (June 5.6 minutes vs May 6.1 minutes).

Traffic Safety

Community members provided several online submissions with concerns about out-of-state vehicle registration, speeding vehicles, unlawful parking in the 1600 block of Ocean View Ave., and a significant road closure for Eldridge Ct. Officers researched and followed up on every submission. They completed parking enforcement and coordinated with the CHP and Contra Costa County Public Works to find solutions for the issues. There were no traffic collisions during the month allowing officers to focus on speed on Berkeley Park Blvd. Average speeds of 21.62 MPH below the 25MPH posted speed limit were observed and remained consistent throughout the month. Saturation patrols around Yale Ave. and Rugby Ave. resulted in speeds safe for the area and under the speed limit. There are no obvious speeding trends associated with days of the week.

Administration

There are two applicants for police officer currently in the background process, both lateral officers from the bay area. Chief Gancasz sat on a panel of Chiefs for the City of San Ramon to help them select their next Police Captain.

Training

Officer Jose Fajardo attended a 40-hour Basic Traffic Collision Investigations training, a foundational course for traffic enforcement. Officers also continued attending four-hour blocks of Advanced Officer Training focusing on perishable skills like de-escalation tactics and arrest and control techniques offered by our partners at the El Cerrito Police Department. KPD hosted two-hour blocks of arrest and control/de-escalation training with Sgt. Lande who is a certified instructor. Officer Payne completed the Field Training Officer

program and is now a solo officer. His professional development included attending an 8-hour class on authoring Search Warrants. Sgt. Nath is graduating on July 14 from the POST Supervisory Leadership Institute. Chief Gancasz will be in attendance for his graduation ceremony being held in San Diego.

June Patrol Log

- On Thursday, June 1, at 1412 hours, officers responded to a stolen catalytic converter report in the 100 block of Stratford Avenue.
- On Sunday, June 4, at 1022 hours, officers responded to a stolen catalytic converter report in the 200 block of Yale Avenue. The registered owners contacted police after returning from vacation.
- On Monday, June 5, officers observed a suspicious vehicle in the parking lot of the Exxon Gas station and contacted both occupants. Records revealed misdemeanor and felony warrants for which both were arrested. During the investigation officers located stolen property including banking information, personal identifying information, and narcotics. The items were collected, and the two suspects were transported to the Martinez Detention Facility. The investigation is ongoing.
- On Wednesday, June 14, KPD received a Suspected Child Abuse Report (SCAR) from Contra Costa County Child Protective Services. The reported incident occurred within the past year and the investigation is ongoing.
- On Wednesday, June 14, at 2200 hours, Officers were pro-actively patrolling the park to put a stop to the recent vandalism found in the restrooms. Officers observed and contacted several juveniles in the area and after a brief investigation, and collection of a large felt tip pen, the juveniles were released to their parents. The investigation is being forwarded to the District Attorneys Office for Review. Since the contact, there have been no more reports of vandalism at the park.
- On Thursday, June 15, at 1105 hours, officers responded to a stolen vehicle report in the 100 block of Sunset Drive. The vehicle was recovered two weeks later in the city of Richmond.
- On Saturday, June 17, at 1015 hours, officers responded to an auto burglary in the 100 block of Ardmore Road. \$450.00 worth of tools had been stolen. Officers are pursuing all investigative leads including checking the surrounding homes for any available security camera footage.
- On Saturday, June 17, at 2100 hours, officers received a parking complaint in the 100 block of Anson Way. The vehicle impounded for blocking the road.
- On Monday, June 25, at 0827 hours, officers responded to a report of an auto-burglary at Grizzly Peak Blvd. While taking the report, two additional reports of auto burglaries were broadcast. After home surveillance video footage was recovered from neighboring homes, Officers established the three crimes were probably committed by the same suspects. Officers also found the suspect vehicle had stolen license plates affixed to the bumper. Officers are working with allied agencies to develop a pattern for this group.
- On Wednesday, June 28, at 0049 hours, officers impounded a vehicle near Edgcroft Road and Coventry Rd. for overdue registration of more than one year.
- On Thursday, June 29, at 1024 hours, officers responded to a suspicious person in the 300 block of Colusa Ave. Records of the detained individual revealed an outstanding felony warrant for which he was arrested.
- On Friday, June 30, at 1024 hours, officers received a report of a missing person from the 100 block of Highland Blvd. An area check was conducted with the assistance from the caregiver and the individual was located unharmed.

West County Crime Patrols

- Officers Smith and 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 Pinole. More than fourteen officers patrolled Pinole 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 Richmond.

Community

Staff is preparing for the annual National Night out on Tuesday, August 1. Officers plan to be out in full force to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime efforts, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police/community partnerships, and to meet members of the community. We are working closely with the Kensington Fire Department to coordinate our efforts.