



KENSINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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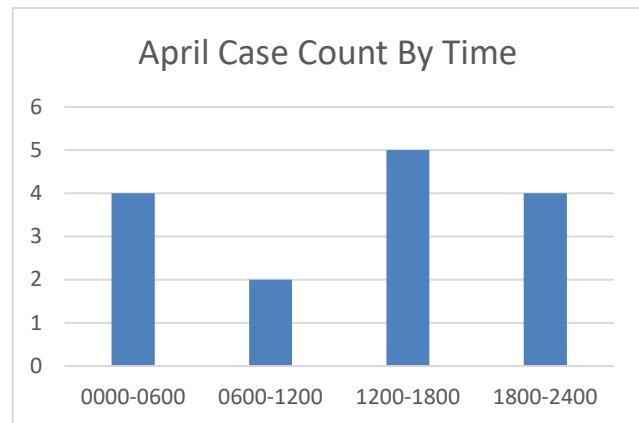
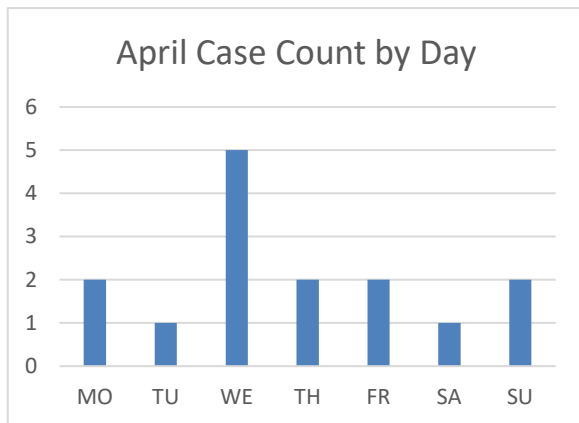
www.kppcsd.org

DATE: April 30th, 2024
TO: David Aranda: General Manager
FROM: M. Gancasz, Chief of Police
RE: Police Chief's Monthly Report, April 2024

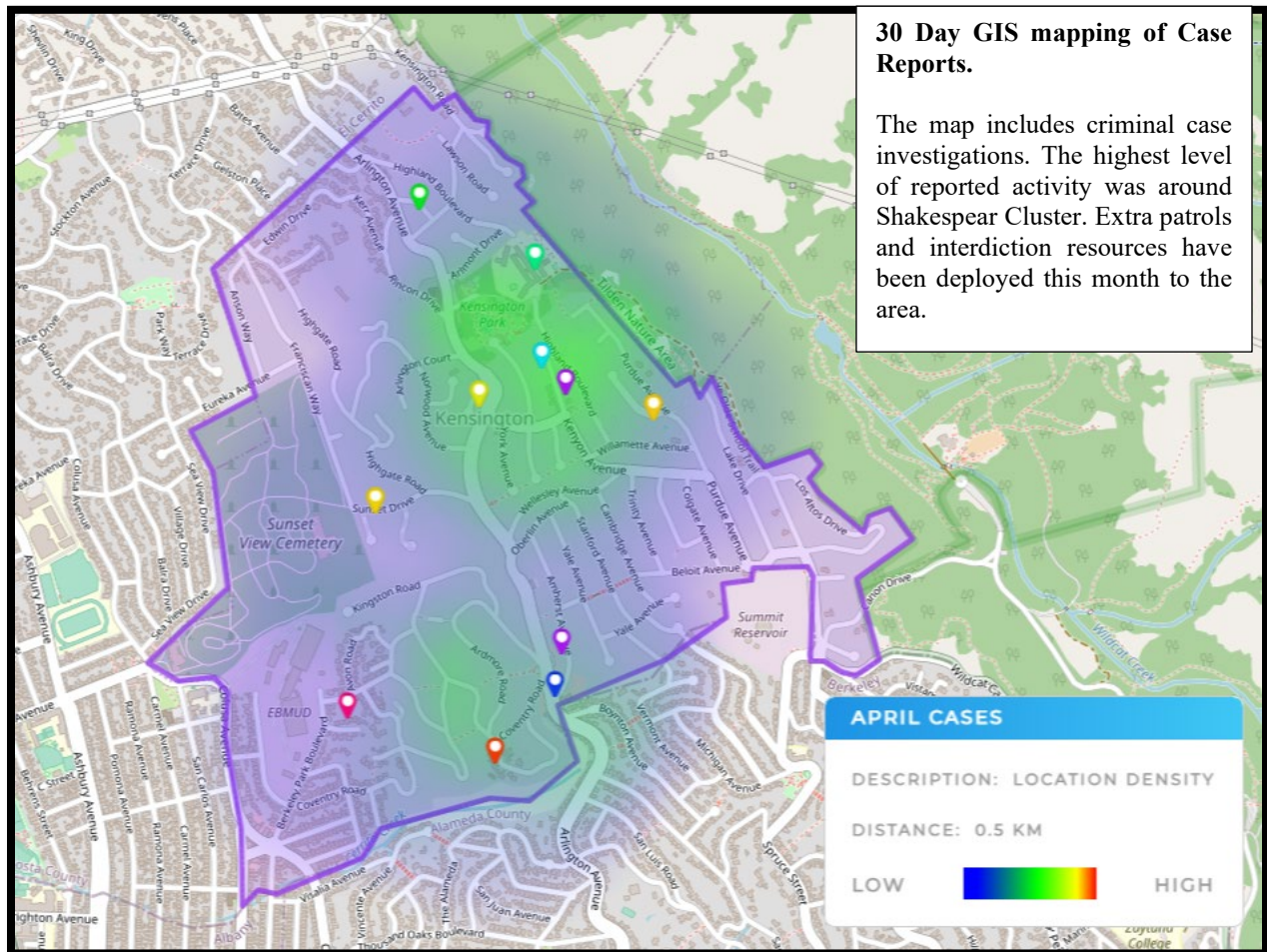
Patrol Operations

In April, the Kensington Police Department handled a total of 1,217 incidents, which is an increase from 996 incidents in the prior month. Out of the total number of incidents, 987 were initiated by officers, which included 94 traffic enforcement stops, resulting in 47 citations being issued. This is an increase from 53 traffic enforcement stops and 26 citations in the prior month. Additionally, the officers responded to 230 dispatched calls for service, which is a decrease from 244 in the prior month. They also took 19 reports, which is a decrease from 21 reports in March. One misdemeanor arrest was made. The officers investigated one case each of sexual assault, auto burglary, petty theft from a vehicle, theft of telecommunication wire, identity theft, and three cases of vandalism.

The average response time of the officers decreased from 5.4 minutes to 4.1 minutes. There was a staffing shortage in April due to illness and other leaves of absence.



Crime Trend Mapping April 1-31, 2024



Administration

The maintenance team successfully executed repairs on the bus stop bench at Colusa Circle, replacing deteriorated boards deemed unsalvageable. New boards, matching the previous ones in color, were installed to restore functionality and aesthetics.

Throughout this month, I actively participated in various meetings, including the weekly budget sessions with the administrative team, a county chiefs' assembly in Martinez, the CalPERS audit discussions, and a session addressing public safety concerns raised by a citizen.

Flock Cameras are slated for installation in May, with Sgt. B. Lande overseeing the program implementation. Progression of the Taser program entails the adoption of an industry-standard policy from Lexipol, subsequent training and compliance verification among staff, anticipated Taser delivery tentatively scheduled for late August or possibly October, comprehensive training on usage and reporting protocols, and eventual deployment later this year.

Sgt. A. Nath manages all aspects of our traffic/equipment grant programs, including those funded by OTS and CHP. The grant-funded patrol car has been outfitted and is poised for imminent deployment into the field. Additionally, four newly recruited police officers are set to be formally sworn in during the upcoming May 9th board meeting, with Sgt. Nath organizing community engagement events throughout the summer to introduce the new officers.

Scheduled events include:

- Coffee With A Cop on Wednesday, May 15 at 9:00 am (location TBD)
- Pizza With The Police on Wednesday, June 15, at 12:00 pm – Benchmark Pizzeria

Furthermore, two additional gatherings are in the pipeline, with announcements coming on the Police Department's website and social media platforms. The payroll implementation project continues to progress, with our target completion date set for May 30th.

Training

The police department prioritized de-escalation training and crisis intervention strategies. Sergeant Lande and Officer Payne underwent comprehensive instruction in two courses covering de-escalation techniques, intervention methods, and force mitigation, facilitated respectively by Calibre Press and Lexipol. Officer Payne further participated in two additional courses addressing Implicit Bias and Response to Non-Criminal Barricade Incidents. Moreover, Officer Gill underwent defensive tactics training in collaboration with the Hercules Police Department as part of our ongoing perishable skills program. Sergeant Lande also completed a specialized training program focused on Crash Investigation Case Law.

April Patrol Log

- On Tuesday, April 2nd, law enforcement officers responded to Arlington Court to conduct a thorough investigation into a deceased individual. No evidence suggesting foul play was discovered, and subsequently, the case was forwarded to the Coroner's office for further examination.
- On Wednesday, April 3rd, officers were notified at the KPD lobby regarding a reported sexual assault. An investigation has been initiated, with paramount focus on providing necessary resources and support to the victim.
- On Sunday, April 7th, 2024, law enforcement personnel promptly responded to Sunset Drive to investigate instances of vandalism and grand theft. The investigation remains ongoing to ascertain pertinent details.
- On Wednesday, April 10th, officers were dispatched to Kenyon Avenue to investigate a report of an auto burglary.

- On Friday, April 12th, officers responded to a report of a residential burglary on Amherst Avenue. Notably, the residence in question was unoccupied and under construction. The investigation into this matter is currently ongoing.
- On Tuesday, April 16th, officers responded to Garden Drive to address a suspicious circumstance, possibly indicating a residential burglary of an unoccupied residence. A formal report was documented, and the investigation continues to progress.
- On Wednesday, April 17th, officers were alerted to a bomb threat at Kensington Hilltop School. Collaborative efforts with school authorities and West Contra Costa County Unified School District ensued, ultimately determining the threat to be non-credible. A comprehensive walkthrough of the school premises yielded no suspicious findings. A detailed report was filed to document the incident.
- On Thursday, April 18th, officers responded to a non-injury traffic collision in the vicinity of Westminster Avenue and York Avenue.
- On Thursday, April 18th, officers responded to Lexington Road following a report of petty theft from a motor vehicle. Investigations into this incident remain ongoing.
- On Thursday, April 23rd, law enforcement personnel responded to Kenilworth Drive regarding a reported stolen vehicle. Investigations into the matter are ongoing.
- On Saturday, April 25th, officers were dispatched to Kenyon Avenue to investigate a report of identity theft. A report was filed, resources were extended to the victim, and investigations are currently underway.

Traffic Safety

Throughout April, Kensington observed a single non-injury collision and zero hit-and-run occurrences. Operating within the framework of an Office of Traffic Safety grant, KPD officers diligently implemented targeted traffic enforcement measures throughout the District.

On Thursday, April 11th, Kensington Officers initiated the first of two grant-funded saturation patrols aimed at curbing impaired driving. In total, sixteen traffic enforcement stops were conducted, resulting in the issuance of eleven citations, five warnings, and the impoundment of one vehicle.

Subsequently, on Friday, April 12th, Kensington Officers undertook the second grant-funded saturation patrol of the month targeting impaired drivers. Thirteen traffic enforcement stops were executed, yielding eight citations, five warnings, and the impoundment of one vehicle. Each of these additional traffic enforcement operations is funded by the Office of Traffic Safety.

Community

The Zip Code East Bay Annual Colusa Circle 5K Run, hosted on Saturday, April 13th, garnered significant community engagement. With a notable turnout of 122 registered runners, the event generated a commendable donation amounting to \$4,185.00. These funds have been designated to fortify the 'Growing Together' garden program at El Cerrito High School. Remarkably, the event transpired without any reported incidents or injuries, with diligent oversight from two Kensington officers ensuring its seamless execution.

Volunteer Mike Logan's active involvement in the Town of Danville Citizen Academy, slated to conclude on Wednesday, May 8th, 2024, underscores his invaluable service to both the community and the Police Department. Spanning seven weeks, the academy curriculum encompasses an array of pertinent subjects including patrol procedures, traffic enforcement, investigations, and crime prevention. Volunteer Logan's unwavering dedication epitomizes his steadfast commitment to community welfare and public safety. The Scouts of America were honored for their dedication and service to the District by the Board of Directors at the April Board Meeting.

Citizens Academy/ Mike Logan Graduation



Colusa Circle 5K Run





Scouts of America Presentation

