



## KENSINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

10940 San Pablo Avenue ▪ El Cerrito ▪ CA ▪ 94530

(510) 526-4141

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

**DATE:** December 31, 2023

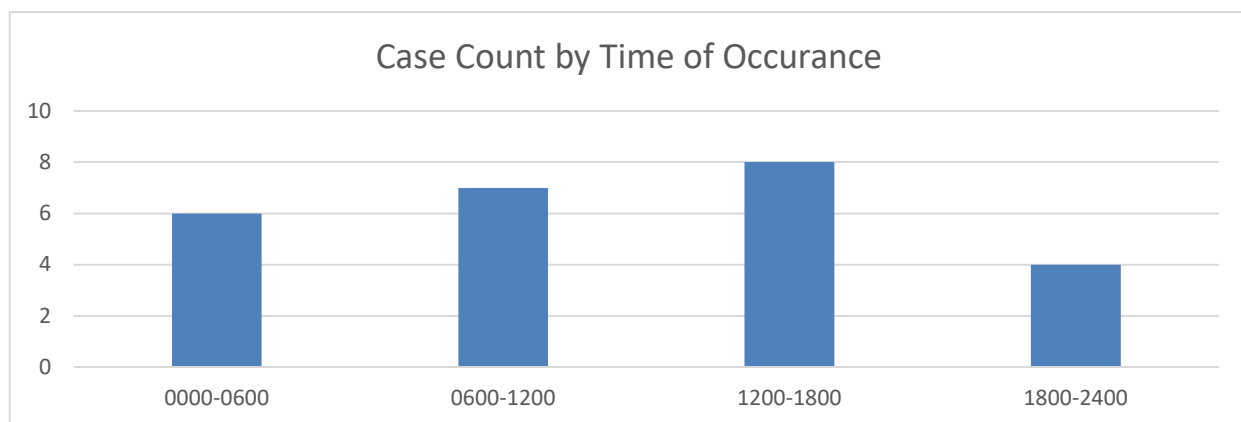
**TO:** David Aranda: General Manager

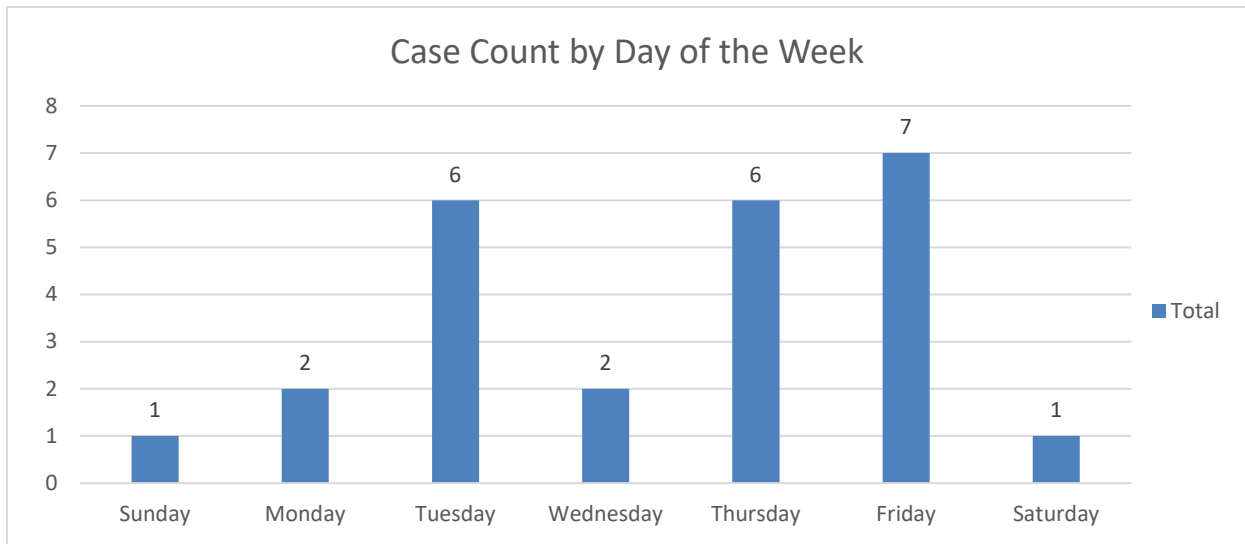
**FROM:** M. Gancasz, Chief of Police

**RE:** Police Chief's Monthly Report, December 2023

The Kensington Police Department handled 665 incidents during December (down from 684). 415 were officer-initiated events, including 53 traffic enforcement stops resulting in 23 citations (down from 30 in the prior month). Officers responded to 251 dispatched calls for service (up from 212) and took 26 reports (down from 29 in November). During December, one misdemeanor arrest was made. Officers investigated one catalytic converter theft, one stolen vehicle report, two vehicle burglaries, one sexual assault, three missing persons, one elder abuse case, and one carjacking, all of which are still being investigated. Thirty-eight percent of this month's investigations were felony crimes. Officers are pursuing leads and working with our partner agencies to investigate these incidents. Average response times for officers increased from 5.7 minutes to 5.9 minutes.

At approximately 10:30 a.m., Kensington officers responded to an armed carjacking. The investigation revealed that at approximately 10:25 a.m., an adult female victim was getting into her BMW when two masked suspects exited a white KIA Sol vehicle, approached the victim brandishing a shotgun, and ordered the victim to hand over her keys and her purse. The victim followed the suspects' demands. One of the suspects got in the BMW and left the scene while the other suspect ran back to the white Kia and drove away. The suspects were described as males of unknown age or race wearing all-black clothing. The victim was physically unharmed and immediately notified the police. Kensington Officers tracked the stolen vehicle using GPS and camera technology to the city of Oakland until the signals were lost. Later that day, the vehicle was found abandoned by Oakland police and recovered. El Cerrito Police Department Flock cameras were used to develop investigative leads. Officers from the Kensington Police Department are continuing to investigate the crime and have authored search warrants to identify the suspects in this case.

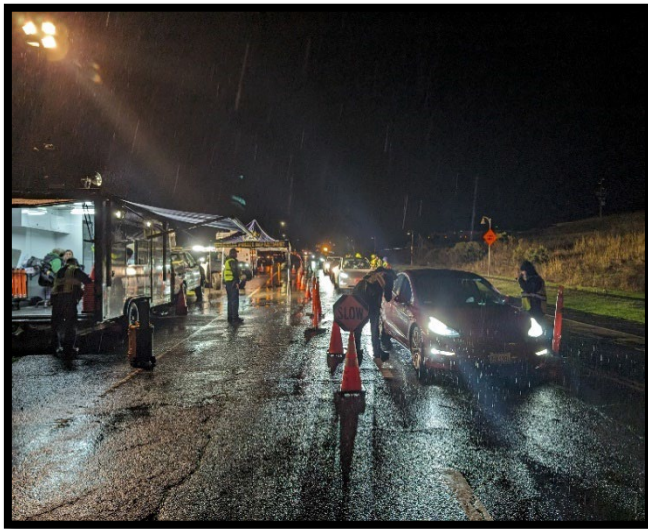




## Traffic Safety

There were three traffic collisions reported in December. All collisions were non-injury, and one was hit-and-run. There was one online supplemental traffic report that was resolved by patrol officers.

On 12/29/23 Ofc. Fajardo and Ofc. Thota participated in an Office of Traffic Safety funded DUI Checkpoint in Hercules. The officers recently completed Standardized Field Sobriety Training and were asked by the Hercules Police Department to assist in their DUI Checkpoint Operation. Kensington PD is scheduling a DUI Checkpoint for 2024 and will be inviting our neighboring agencies to participate.



## Traffic Safety Grant Patrol Operations

On Friday, December 15th, Kensington Officers were out and about looking for impaired drivers as they took part in grant-funded saturation patrols. Inclement weather kept motorists inside, resulting in lower vehicle traffic than usual. Fortunately, there were no traffic collisions reported. Nine traffic stops were completed, six citations were issued, and three warnings were given.

## **Administration**

Four candidates for Police Officer were interviewed and their files reviewed. One of the three applicants is eligible to move forward in the process. After a lengthy background completed by Jason Haynes, we extended an offer of employment to a Reserve Police Officer. Applicant M. Tranate comes to us with more than a decade of reserve police officer experience with the City of San Francisco. After attending some mandatory training in the first week of January, Officer Tranate will be fully outfitted and equipped and hit the streets with our graveyard officers providing a welcome addition to the force.

Officers visited the Danville Police Department to study their Volunteers in Police Service Program. Sgt. Nath, Jason Haynes, and Volunteer Mike Logan spent the day exploring ways to emulate their systems and processes into Kensington's program. Additionally, an all-new Volunteers in Police Service Manual was produced for the Kensington VIPS program.

The PD renewed its Body Worn Camera contract for another five years. We've been very happy with the equipment and service provided by the vendor and anticipate instituting new technology to improve its automatic tagging feature, making for more accurate reporting and improving the user experience.

## **Training**

Reserve Officer Tranate and Sgt. Lande completed KPDs tactical firearms training and qualifications at the Contra Costa County Marsh Creek Range.

## **October Patrol Log**

- On Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, at 1156 hours, officers took a report of a stolen car on Arlington Ave. The investigation is ongoing.
- On Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 1254 hours, officers responded to the 300 Block of Arlington Ave for a report of a non-injury hit-and-run collision. The investigation revealed the hit-and-run did not occur and the responsible driver was cited and released.
- On Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, at 1148 hours, officers recovered an unoccupied stolen vehicle near the intersection of Arlington Ct/Norwood Ave. No suspects or evidence were located.
- On Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, officers responded to an auto burglary in the 200 Block of Princeton Ave. No suspect or suspect vehicle information was found during the investigation.
- On Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, a theft of property from a vehicle was reported in the 400 Block of Beloit Ave. The crime was discovered when several items were reported as found property to KPD. Ofc. Payne identified the owner of the property who discovered the items were stolen from heir vehicle.
- On Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, officers responded to a stolen vehicle report on Estates Rd. The investigation is ongoing.
- On Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, officers responded to a theft of property taken from a vehicle on Kerr Ave.

- On Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, officers responded to the 200 Block of Cambridge Ave for a report of a theft of a catalytic converter from a vehicle.
- On Monday December 11<sup>th</sup>, at 1030 hours, officers responded to a carjacking near Colusa Circle. The suspects arrived in a getaway car, brandished a shotgun, and threatened the owner. The suspects left in the getaway vehicle and the victim's vehicle. ECPD's Flock Camera's were used to obtain leads on the suspects. KPD's investigation is ongoing and search warrants have been authored by investigating officers.
- On Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, officers responded to a report of a suspected sexual assault. The investigation is ongoing.
- On Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, a non-injury hit-and-run collision occurred in the 100 Block of Arlington Ave. The suspect fled the scene, and the investigation is ongoing.
- On Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, a vehicle burglary was reported in the 200 Block of Amherst Ave. The suspects broke the vehicle's windows and took \$1,100 worth of tools from the vehicle.
- On Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, officers responded to the 400 Block of Coventry for a coroner's case. No foul play is suspected, and the case is closed.
- On Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, officers investigated a missing juvenile who returned home later in the day.
- On Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, officers responded to a non-injury collision on Arlington Ave.
- On Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, officers responded to a non-injury collision in the 300 Block of Arlington Ave.
- On Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, officers took a report of a runaway juvenile.
- On Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, officers responded to the 200 Block of Purdue for a report of fraud. The crime was interrupted by an employee of the bank. The case has been referred to the appropriate agency for further investigation.
- On Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, officers participated in a DUI checkpoint with the Hercules Police Department. One arrest was made for driving under the influence.

## **Community**

There were no community events this month.

### **KPD to Host California Highway Patrol Training at the Kensington Community Center**

Kensington PD is set to host a two-day law enforcement training course presented by the California Highway Patrol on identifying impaired drivers. The class, Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE), is part of the education section of the CHP Grant, and will be held at the Kensington Community Center on January 20 & 21. We anticipate more than 25 law enforcement officers from across the Bay Area, including three Kensington Officers in attendance.

### **Passing of former Kensington Police Officer R. Hull**

It is with deep regret and sadness that I inform you of the passing of former Kensington Police Officer Ricky Hull who passed away at his home in Fairfield. The courtesy notification was made to us by the Fairfield Police Department on Tuesday, December 12, at 2:30 pm.

Ricky Hull, a Fairfield native, joined the Kensington Police Force in October 1997 and served with dedication until his retirement in December 2020. Throughout his career, Ricky rose through the ranks, from Officer to Master Sergeant to Interim Chief. His contributions to the Kensington Police Department were significant, and he will be remembered for his commitment to public service.

Ricky grew up in Fairfield and had an extended family in Richmond and West Oakland. His journey in law enforcement began in the city of Concord, where he initially worked as a civilian jailer. He attended the police academy in Pittsburg and eventually found a home in Kensington.

This news comes as a shock to all of us, and we extend our deepest condolences to Ricky's family and loved ones during this difficult time. Funeral Services are scheduled for January 3, 2023, at 10:00 in the morning in Fairfield CA. The information has been posted on the KPD Social Media pages.

Please join us in remembering Ricky Hull and the positive impact he had on our community.