



Date: May 9, 2024
To: Board of Directors
Submitted by: Mike Gancasz, Chief of Police
Subject: Swearing in Ceremony

Ceremony

The Kensington Police Department is proud to announce the appointment and swearing in of four officers:

- Police Officer Vijay Thota
- Police Officer Harjot Gill
- Police Officer Jesse De Santiago
- Reserve Officer Michael Tranate

Officer Biography

- Officer Thota is a Bay Area native who grew up in Berkeley, CA. He is of Indian American descent and is fluent in Telugu, both spoken and written. With over 13 years of experience, Vijay has actively participated in the management of his family's Indian restaurant in Stockton, CA, where he contributed to delivering authentic Indian cuisine to patrons. Vijay holds a certification in Medical Assisting and an associate degree in criminal justice from Carrington College. Currently, he is dedicated to advancing his education and aims to acquire a bachelor's degree in the field. Graduating from the San Joaquin Delta College Basic Peace Officer Academy, Vijay commenced his career with the Stockton Police Department before transitioning to the Kensington Police Department. He completed the Kensington Police Department Field Training Program and presently serves solo patrol during the graveyard shift on Thursdays through Saturdays. In addition to his professional commitments, Vijay finds fulfillment in his marriage and is enthusiastic about his role within the District of Kensington. He particularly values the community spirit, camaraderie among colleagues, and the favorable weather conditions.
- Officer Gill is a native of the Central Valley, and was raised in Redding, CA. As an individual of Indian American heritage, Harjot is fluent in Punjabi. Over the past 5 years, Harjot has played an integral role in managing and operating various gas stations/markets owned by his family in the Central Valley. Harjot graduated from Merced High School and pursued studies in psychology at Shasta College. His educational journey continues as he plans to enroll in California Coast University to pursue a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Having relocated to Modesto in 2021, Harjot completed the San Joaquin Delta College Basic Peace Officer Academy. He commenced his law enforcement career with the Gustine Police Department before joining the Kensington Police

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May 9, 2024

Page 2 of 2

Department. Harjot successfully completed the Kensington Police Department Lateral Field Training Program and is currently engaged in solo patrol duties during the graveyard shift on Sundays through Tuesdays. Harjot finds fulfillment in serving the District of Kensington, emphasizing his appreciation for community interaction during patrols, including befriending community pets. He values the collaborative atmosphere among colleagues and the provision of modern equipment and tools to enhance his effectiveness on duty.

- Officer De Santiago hails from the Bay Area, specifically Newark, CA. He is of Mexican American descent and is fluent in Spanish. Jesse's educational journey commenced at Ohlone College in Fremont, CA, where he earned two associate degrees in the administration of justice and social sciences. He furthered his studies at San Jose State University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in justice studies and a minor in Human Rights. During his college years, Jesse gained over ten years of experience in the Loss Prevention field, collaborating with various law enforcement agencies across the Bay Area. In 2023, he graduated from the Alameda County Sheriff's Office Regional Training Center's Basic Police Academy. Jesse's career path led him to the Menlo Park Police Department before he joined the Kensington Police Department. Jesse is committed to supporting his wife as she pursues her master's degree and teaching credentials. He also plans to pursue his own master's degree soon. Jesse is a devoted father to a seven-year-old daughter and an eleven-year-old son, actively participating in their extracurricular activities. In his leisure time, he enjoys exploring new dining experiences with his wife.
- Reserve Officer Tranate was born in the Philippines and raised in Concord, CA. Fluent in Tagalog, Michael feels honored to serve as a Reserve Officer with the Kensington Police Department, serving the District of Kensington. Michael attended Ygnacio Valley High School and obtained a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Kaplan University. Currently, he serves as a Campus Supervisor at a Bay Area High School while managing his own business ventures. His journey in law enforcement began in 2008 as a Volunteer in Police Services with the Concord Police Department. He later transitioned to serve as a Reserve Police Officer with the San Francisco Police Department, accumulating a decade of experience in patrol assignments, special events, and specialized units such as the Sexual Assaults Unit and Financial Crimes Unit. Married with three children, Michael enjoys the close-knit community atmosphere of Kensington. He appreciates the unwavering support for the Kensington Police Department, the amiable work environment, and the provision of state-of-the-art equipment and programs that enhance efficiency in policing duties.

Oath of Office

I, (individual will state name) do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California against all enemies foreign and domestic. That I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California, that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservations or purpose of evasion, and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties upon which I am about to enter.