



Date: February 13, 2025

To: Board of Directors

From: Mike Gancasz, Chief of Police

Subject: Conduct swearing in ceremony and introduce new officer and new volunteer for the Kensington Police Department

Background

The Police Chief is pleased to introduce additional staff to the Kensington Police Department. The backgrounds of these two individuals is attached. We are proud to announce that we are now fully staffed with ten dedicated officers serving our community. Our newest member of the Kensington Police Department, Officer Giovanni Gallo-Ruiz. Officer Gallo-Ruiz brings a wealth of experience and education to our department. A California native, he was born in Los Angeles County and raised in Sonoma County, where he graduated from Montgomery High School in 2013. His commitment to public service and understanding of social dynamics is evident in his academic pursuits. He holds an Associate Degree in Behavioral Science from Santa Rosa Junior College and a bachelor's degree in Sociology & Criminology from Sonoma State University.

Next, it is with great pride and enthusiasm that I introduce our second volunteer to join our program, Walter "Walt" Gill. Walt brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to our community that will undoubtedly enhance our department's capabilities and outreach efforts.

Exhibits

- Background for Officer Giovanni Gallo-Ruiz & Volunteer Walter "Walt" Gill

Officer Giovanni Gallo-Ruiz

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my great pleasure to introduce our newest member of the Kensington Police Department, Officer Giovanni Gallo-Ruiz. With his addition to our force, we are proud to announce that we are now fully staffed with ten dedicated officers serving our community.

Officer Gallo-Ruiz brings a wealth of experience and education to our department. A California native, he was born in Los Angeles County and raised in Sonoma County, where he graduated from Montgomery High School in 2013. His commitment to public service and understanding of social dynamics is evident in his academic pursuits.

He holds an Associate Degree in Behavioral Science from Santa Rosa Junior College and a bachelor's degree in Sociology & Criminology from Sonoma State University. Driven by his passion for law enforcement, Officer Gallo-Ruiz completed his training at the Santa Rosa Junior College Police Academy. His skills and dedication were quickly recognized, leading to his immediate hire by the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff, where he served with distinction for three years.

Officer Gallo-Ruiz's decision to join the Kensington Police Department reflects our growing reputation as a leading agency in Contra Costa County for true Community Policing. His choice to serve in our community demonstrates the appeal of our department's continued investment in the success and growth of our officers. Beyond his professional achievements, Officer Gallo-Ruiz's personal experiences have shaped his character and resilience. As a survivor of the 2017 Tubbs Fire, he understands firsthand the importance of community support during challenging times. His interests in physical fitness, vintage t-shirt collecting, and personal finance reflect a well-rounded individual who brings diverse perspectives to our force. We are confident that Officer Gallo-Ruiz's dedication, experience, and community-oriented approach will greatly benefit the Kensington Police Department and the citizens we serve.

Please join me in extending a warm welcome to Officer Giovanni Gallo-Ruiz as he embarks on this new chapter in his law enforcement career with us.

Volunteer Walt Gill

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I introduce our second volunteer to join our program, Walter "Walt" Gill. Walt brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to our community that will undoubtedly enhance our department's capabilities and outreach efforts.

Professional Background

Walt Gill is a seasoned professional with over three decades of experience in community relations and public communications. He holds a bachelor's degree in economics from UC Berkeley and an MBA in Finance from Santa Clara University. His distinguished career at Chevron Corporation, where he primarily served as a community communications coordinator and Public Information Officer, has equipped him with invaluable skills in liaising with government officials, public safety agencies, and local communities.

Community Ties

A dedicated resident of Kensington for more than 30 years, Walt has raised his family here alongside his wife, Wynne. His long-standing connection to our community provides him with a unique perspective and a genuine understanding of local needs and concerns.

Contributions to the Kensington Police Department

Walt has already demonstrated his commitment and efficiency by:

- Assisting in streamlining our operations through the indexing and logging of historical records
- Helping ensure our compliance with evolving state and federal regulations
- Planning to engage in community activities such as Coffee with a Cop and Pizza with the Police
- Aiming to provide a balanced community perspective to our department's internal culture

His well-honed ambassadorial skills, combined with his energy, personal organization, and communication abilities, make Walt an exceptional addition to our volunteer program. We are confident that his contributions will significantly benefit the Kensington Police Department and the community we serve.

We warmly welcome Walt Gill and look forward to the positive impact his involvement will bring to our department and the Kensington community.