

CITY OF KENT POLICE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



2023 was a trying year for the law enforcement profession. We have seen unprecedented staffing shortages across the United States. Although we have done better than some other departments, we have not dodged this problem entirely. Our officers and dispatchers have been asked to work long hours and overtime to fill some of our staffing shortages. To help address the problem, we implemented a lateral transfer program which allows us to hire experienced police officers and dispatchers. As we have worked through the year, I am proud of the performance of our employees. Although they have been asked to work longer hours, they have risen to the challenge and still provided high quality law enforcement services to the community.

Throughout the year, we had several major incidents that involved quality information obtained by our dispatchers, a quality response from our patrol officers, and quality investigations by our detectives. The response and collaboration between our patrol division and our detective bureau was an outstanding example of great teamwork. Although these incidents were unfortunate, I am proud of the hard work and dedication displayed by all our officers, detectives, and dispatchers who worked as a team to solve these violent crimes.

I would also like to take the time to point out the accomplishments we have made regarding community relations. We hosted our thirteenth Citizens' Police Academy under the leadership of our administrative lieutenant. This program teaches our community members about our profession and our department. In addition, it gives us a platform to get valuable feedback and input from members of the community. We have also been very successful in developing our Police Explorers program for youth between the ages of fourteen and twenty. It gives us a platform to teach and interact with the youth in our community and helps to promote the law enforcement profession to our young adults.

As we move forward into 2024, I am encouraged by the potential to realize full staffing within our department, and about our community engagement programs. I believe these programs will continue to be successful and help us build great relationships with the members of our community.

NOTABLE CASES IN 2023



On May 27, 2023, officers responded to a report of a robbery at 1444 E Main St. involving one suspect with a gun. The suspect fled the scene prior to the officers' arrival. Investigation led to the identity of a juvenile suspect who was charged with **Robbery**.



On June 9, 2023, officers responded to a report of a robbery at 247 N. Water St. involving two suspects armed with a gun. The suspects fled prior to the officers' arrival. Investigation led to the identity of three suspects that were involved in the robbery. Two suspects were charged with **Aggravated Robbery** and **Kidnapping** and one suspect was charged with **Complicity to Aggravated Robbery** and **Kidnapping**.



On July 21, 2023, officers responded to a report of a business at 1434 E Main St. that had been broken into by smashing out the front door. On November 4, 2023, officers responded to a report of a business that had been broken into at 706 S. Water St. Investigation led to the identity of a suspect responsible for both crimes and several other break-ins in another jurisdiction. The suspect was charged with two counts of **Breaking and Entering** for the two crimes committed in Kent.



On October 25, 2023 and November 14, 2023, threats were reported towards Roosevelt High School using the social media site, Snapchat. In both cases, the suspects were quickly identified. One suspect was charged with **Making Terroristic Threats** and the other suspect was charged with **Inducing Panic**.



On November 21, 2023, officers responded to a report of yelling and gunshots coming from 1323 S Water St. When officers arrived, they discovered a deceased female who had been shot. An investigation led to the identity of a suspect who was the victim's ex-boyfriend. The suspect was charged with **Aggravated Murder** and was later arrested in Texas and extradited back to Ohio. Additional investigation identified the driver of the vehicle who transported the primary suspect, and he was charged with **Complicity to Aggravated Murder**.

DETECTIVE BUREAU



The members of the detective bureau investigate felony cases, complex cases, provide support in crime scene processing, and process all of the department's evidence. A lieutenant and sergeant command this team consisting of two general case investigators, one drug task force agent, one juvenile investigator, one evidence detective, and an administrative assistant.

PATROL



Under the leadership of the patrol captain, the patrol division serves as the foundation of our department. These dedicated individuals in uniform promptly respond to calls for assistance, serving as the visible face of our department, and tirelessly ensure the safety of our community day and night. In addition to regular patrol duties, we have worked with Kent City Schools since 2014, providing a dedicated school resource officer to serve in the middle and high schools.

SUPPORT SERVICES



The support services division includes the communications section, otherwise known as Dispatch, where trained individuals answer the phones and coordinate emergency responses; records management, where public record requests are handled; equipment and inventory management; and facility maintenance. It is headed by the services captain.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER



Officer Dominic Poe has acted as the school resource officer (SRO) for the Kent middle and high schools since 2020. In 2022, K-9 Matous joined Ofc. Poe and their work has garnered much appreciation. In 2023, Officer Poe was recognized with a C.A.R.E. Award from the six-district vocation compact with the schools. This award recognizes an individual who goes above and beyond in making an impact in the lives of others in the school system. Officer Poe was selected for his work with K9 Matous in building relationships with students.

K-9 OFFICERS

In addition to Matous, KPD has 2 "dual purpose" K-9s, Janik and Shaw, who work the road and assist the Patrol Division.

DETENTION OFFICERS

KPD detention officers are responsible for prisoner processing and maintaining our jail facility. We operate a 12-day jail facility consisting of 4 temporary holding cells, as well as longer-term holding cells which are divided among two pods. These pods, which separate males and females, offer showers, TVs, tables and chairs, and telephones. Longer term holding has single, double, and and triple occupant cells, complete with toilets and sinks. A booking area for paperwork processing is located centrally in a large open space where detention officers are equipped with controls of doors and audio/video surveillance.



COMPLIANCE OFFICERS

The department has two full-time civilian positions which are responsible for both parking and animal compliance. While assigned to parking compliance, the officers will respond to parking complaints and patrol neighborhoods for parking violations. The majority of time is spent in the downtown area where metered parking is prominent.

Compliance officers are also responsible for animal complaints. Lost and found pets, dog bite complaints, dogs running-at-large, feral cats, and abandoned pets are a few of the persistent issues the officers handle regularly.

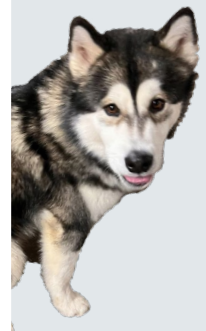
In 2023, there were 56 dogs impounded, with 31 redeemed, 8 adopted out, 5 taken to the Portage County APL, 3 taken to the county dog warden, and 9 with special circumstances. Ten cats were taken to the APL. \$440 in kennel fees was collected.

THE KENNEL



When an officer brings a dog or cat to the kennel, it is provided with food and water and we try to determine its identity through its ID tags or microchipping. If its identity can't be determined, pictures are taken and put on KPD's social media sites. If a dog's owner cannot be identified, we are required by law to hold the dog for 72 hours. After that, the dog can be offered for adoption or taken to the APL or dog warden. Cats are transported to the APL for health screening and placed for adoption.

There is an impound fee of \$10 for the first day of an animal's stay with us and \$5 for each day thereafter. The owner must show proof of license within 7 days and must be able to prove that the animal is vaccinated for rabies within 3 days. Cats are not required to be licensed in Ohio, but owners are required to show proof of rabies vaccination. These are city ordinances and apply only to domestic animals. We do not pick up wild life.



TRAINING

Training is an essential part of establishing and maintaining high professional standards, in any profession. The Kent Police Department is committed to providing quality training for all members of our agency, while operating within financial constraints. This is accomplished in a number of ways.

It is often necessary to send personnel to outside specialized training through academies, seminars, and workshops. In 2023, some of these trainings included professional and leadership development conferences, sexual assault investigations, internal investigations, force investigations, Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement, First Aid & CPR, K9 training, duty and care in suicidal situations, and Special Weapons and Tactics, just to name a few.

Kent PD efficiently manages training costs by having certified instructors on staff, conducting approximately 40 hours of in-service training every year, and utilizing online training whenever suitable. In-service training consists of firearms and less-lethal munitions training, defensive tactics, active threat training, and scenario training with de-escalation techniques. Officers are also required to complete daily online training scenarios that briefly highlight department policies and procedures, and have officers apply that knowledge in a hypothetical scenario. In 2023, Kent PD personnel completed online training in subjects such as legal updates, Arrest Search & Seizure, school threats, domestic violence, officer wellness, report writing, missing persons, cultural diversity, and ethics and professionalism, among many other courses.

There has been a great deal of discussion, and criticism, in recent years about police training and professional standards. The truth is that a cadet must complete 740 hours of academy training and then pass the state certification test, but there is very little mandated education required after that. While training and education varies quite significantly from department to department, Kent PD remains ahead of the curve, and often already satisfies any new legislative mandates. This has always been a great source of pride for our department and our community.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION



Lieutenant Jason Short
SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR



Officer Charles Ellis
OFFICER OF THE YEAR
ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
OF THE YEAR
OVI OFFICER
OF THE YEAR



Dispatcher Rachel Perry
CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR

FIREARM EXCELLENCE

Chief Nicholas Shearer
Lt. Ed Wheeler
Lt. Ryan Gaydosh
Sgt. Joe Hadaway
Det. John Gormsen
Det. Mike Domer
Officer Dominic Poe
Officer Neal Hilbruner
Officer Sean Driscoll
Officer Chuck Ellis

TOP SHOT

Officer Neal Hilbruner

25 YEAR SERVICE RIBBON

Sgt. Rich Soika

20 YEAR SERVICE RIBBON

Det. John Gormsen
C/D Rebecca Schneider

15 YEAR SERVICE AWARD

Chief Nicholas Shearer
Det. Dave Marino
C/D Nicole Watkins

10 YEAR SERVICE AWARD

Officer Kyle Auckland

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Officer Matt Brooks
Detective Mike Domer
Detention Officer Mark Burson

NEW FULL TIME HIRES

Officer Mary Bolgrin
Officer Grant Redeker
C/O Troy Loomis
C/D Elizabeth Krezczowski
C/D Sabrina Shackelford
C/D Niatoria Lough
C/D Laurie Saunier

RETIREMENTS

Officer Ben Darrah
Officer Matt Butcher
Officer Drake Oldham
C/O Ron Gardner

CONGRATULATIONS

On September 25, 2023, Officer Hadaway was sworn in as Sergeant. Hired in 2011, he was chosen as KPD Officer of the Year in 2013 and became a range instructor in 2015. Since 2017, he has been the Range Administrator for the department, as well as a Field Training Officer and an Officer for Dispatch, which means he is trained to act as a dispatcher. Sgt. Hadaway supervises the afternoon shift.



On February 14, 2023, four new police officers took their oath at Kent PD. Pictured from left are Ofc. Derek Knapp, Ofc. Mary Bolgrin, Ofc. David Walker, and Ofc. Steve Kern.



Chief Shearer administered the oath to our newest officer, Grant Redeker, on August 25, 2023 at Kent PD.

PRESCRIPTION DROP BOX

Our prescription drop box is located in the parking lot at 301 S. Depeyster St. near the wooden fenced in area. Anyone interested in turning in their unused, expired, or unwanted prescription medications may do so at any time (no syringes or liquids please). In 2023, 516 pounds of unused prescriptions were collected.



Prescription drop box in KPD parking lot

POLICE EXPLORERS PROGRAM



Officer Poe explains traffic stops to Explorers

Kent PD is the only police department in this area that offers an Explorers program, which allows youth to learn about law enforcement careers. Students from Maplewood, Southeast, Stow, Kent, Field, and Ravenna schools participated in classes which offered hands-on opportunities to participate in various officer-led scenarios. In 2023, there were over 20 students who regularly attended the sessions.

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

In 2023, KPD held the 13th Citizens Police Academy. Individuals from all over the community took time on Thursday evenings from February to May to participate in classes on various topics of police work, such as departmental operations, city and state laws, traffic enforcement, OVI investigations, police use of force, K9 units, SWAT, drugs and DEA, the detective bureau, sex crimes, juvenile programs, and more! In 2023, 16 people participated in this annual program.



CPA Class of 2023

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I received a letter from KPD about having a warrant. How can I find out more about this?

Any questions about your warrant can be addressed directly to the court at the phone number or address provided in the letter.

Email any requests for records to our Records Department at kpdrecords@kentohio.gov.

How can I get a copy of a police report?

What is the curfew for juveniles?

The curfew for juveniles is Sunday through Thursday 11pm - 6am, and Friday - Saturday 12:01am - 6am.

KPD does not provide that service. We suggest calling AAA, a full service tow company or a locksmith to assist you.

Can you get the keys I locked in my car?

How do I appeal a parking ticket?

Follow the link on the website to the page to Pay a Parking Ticket. On that page, there will be a link to appeal the ticket. Once your appeal has been reviewed, you will be notified of the outcome by email.

In residential areas, the noise ordinance is in effect from 9 pm to 8 am daily and applies to noise that can be heard past the property line. On a public roadway, the ordinance applies to noise that can be heard 30 feet away. It also applies to very large gatherings on private property at any time of day.

What are the rules for the noise ordinance?

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I need a copy of my accident report for insurance. How can I get that?

Accident reports are posted on the Kent website by date and case number, and can be downloaded from there. Please note that it may take a few days after the accident for the report to be posted.

We are required to hold evidence while the case is open in court **and** through the defendant's entire sentencing (including probation/parole). The items can be released sooner with a court order, which can be obtained by contacting the court, your attorney, or victim's advocate.

My case is closed. When can I get my items out of evidence?

Can you give me a ride?

KPD does not offer that service. It is usually not difficult to get an Uber or Lyft ride in Kent. PARTA offers bus service on and off campus within the area on a regular schedule as well.

Community events are posted on the City of Kent's website and social media. These resources are a better way to obtain such information about local happenings.

When is the parade / fireworks / festival?

Can I use your site as a pick up location for an internet purchase?

Yes! KPD has a designated spot in the parking lot just for that purpose. There is a green posted sign in the designated spot. The parking lot has live video recording 24 hours/day, 7 days/week.



STATISTICS

GENERAL OPERATIONAL DATA			
	2022	2023	% (+/-)
Personnel Employed	63	58	-7.9%
Calls for Service	21,475	20,373	-5.1%
Fire Department Calls	5,637	5,668	0.6%
Arrests, Total	1,649	1,571	-4.8%
Juvenile Arrests	124	119	-4.0%
OVI Arrests	179	180	0.6%
Traffic Citations	1,817	1,554	-14.5%
Parking Tickets	10,436	8,300	-20.5%

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT INFORMATION			
	2021	2022	2023
Total Accident Complaints	549	585	550
Property Damage Accidents	289	288	302
Injury Accidents	84	77	69
Private Property Accidents	98	134	98
Hit-Skip Accidents	49	59	62
OVI Related Accidents	23	17	14
Pedestrian Accidents	5	10	5
Fatal Accidents	1	0	0

TOP 20 INCIDENT TYPES	
Traffic Stop	3,922
Records Checks	1,334
Community Policing Activity	1,290
Suspicious Circumstances	1,110
Disorderly Conduct	1,097
Special Detail	694
Welfare Check	671
Follow-up	651
Animal Complaint	553
Alarms - Intrusion	531
911 Emergency Welfare Check	519
Traffic Complaint	494
Accident - Property Damage	491
Miscellaneous	441
Larceny-Theft	357
Premises Check	335
Domestic Situations	321
Warrant Service	306
Juvenile Complaints	275
Assist Other Agency	272

STATISTICS

CRIME TRENDS AND CLEARANCES - Major Ten Crimes				
	2022	2023	TREND	% CLEARED
Criminal Homicide	0	1	100%	0%
Rape	0	1	100%	100%
Robbery	5	4	-2%	125%
Assault, Total	171	191	12%	87%
Aggravated	17	26	53%	100%
Simple	154	165	7%	85%
Burglary	50	40	-20%	65%
Larceny	267	249	-7%	19%
Auto Theft	22	9	-59%	56%
Arson	1	3	200%	33%
Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts	0	0	0%	100%
Human Trafficking, Involuntary Servitude	0	0	0%	100%
Total	516	498	-4%	51%

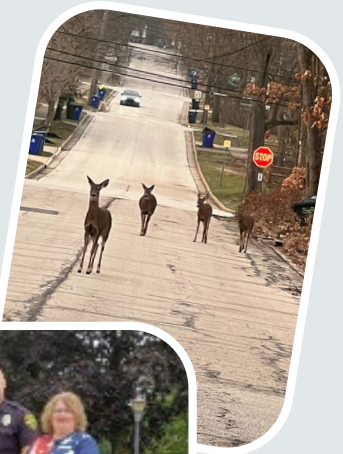
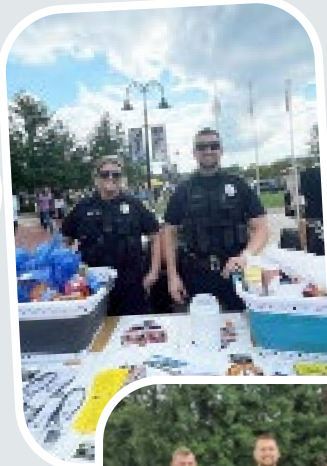
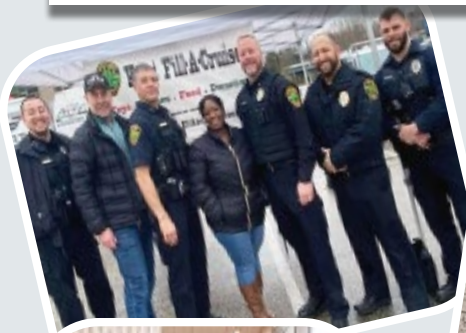
OHIO COLLABORATIVE TRAFFIC STOP STATISTICS		
	Female	Male
White	1,151	1,872
Black	285	573
Asian/Pacific Islander	22	40
Other	10	38
Unknown	2	2
American Indian/Alaskan Native	1	2

STATISTICS

CITY OF KENT 10 YEAR CRIME INDEX AND STATISTICS

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Murder	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Rape	2	2	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	1
Robbery	15	9	0	0	9	8	8	8	5	4
Assault	316	266	0	0	162	185	181	205	171	191
Burglary	103	127	0	0	79	58	62	58	50	40
Larceny	458	357	0	0	330	314	369	294	267	249
Auto Theft	17	7	0	0	12	13	21	8	22	9
Arson	10	4	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	3
Human Trafficking-Sex Acts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Human Trafficking-Servitude	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crime Index	921	773	0	0	598	582	642	573	516	498
Clearance Rate %	37%	39%	42%	37%	33%	42%	41%	43%	48%	49%
Domestic Violence Arrests	132	84	101	93	85	91	136	117	103	130
Accidents	815	1,067	1,015	753	705	713	493	549	585	550
Injury	110	104	114	96	105	149	75	84	77	69
Fatal	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Arrests	2,261	2,208	0	0	1,605	1,679	1,204	1,805	1,649	1,571
Juvenile Arrests	194	137	0	0	90	91	52	108	124	119
OVI Arrests	187	186	0	0	145	175	119	146	179	180
Citations	3,023	3,366	3,541	2,872	2,869	3,119	2,025	2,032	1,817	1,554
Calls	20,534	22,949	28,545	25,701	25,069	27,981	21,067	21,201	21,475	20,373

OUT AND ABOUT



A photograph of the Kent Police Department building at night. The building is a multi-story structure with a brick facade and large windows. A prominent vertical sign on the right side of the building reads "KENT POLICE" in illuminated letters. The ground floor features a glass entrance with a white brick interior. A streetlight with a glowing yellow light is positioned in the upper left, and a traffic light pole with a yellow light is in the foreground. The sky is a deep blue, and the overall scene is lit by the building's lights and the streetlights.

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