



Annual Report

Kentwood

**POLICE
DEPARTMENT**



A photograph of three police officers in dark blue uniforms running on a paved track. The officer on the left is looking forward, the middle officer is looking towards the camera and giving a thumbs up, and the officer on the right is looking forward. The background features a chain-link fence, green trees, and a building under an overcast sky. The text 'PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK' is overlaid in the center of the image.

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LETTER FROM *Chief Litwin*

Mayor Kepley, City Commissioners and Citizens,

The year 2022 has been a very busy year for the Kentwood Police Department. I am honored to present our Annual Report for 2022, which highlights all the great things that our staff has done this past year.

Like many other law enforcement agencies, both locally and nationally, we continue to deal with the challenges presented to us by the large number of retirements we experienced over the last two years. Our officers have continually stepped up to work long hours and long weeks to ensure that our citizens have officers that can respond to their critical needs.

Our recruitment team has worked tirelessly over the last year to address our staffing issues. Thanks to their efforts, we have hired nine new recruits that have attended the police academy, and they are now either on solo patrol or in field training. Our team continues to push forward with multiple recruitment events to identify more candidates that we feel are qualified to wear the Kentwood Police Department badge. We believe 2023 is shaping up to be a great hiring year for us, as well.

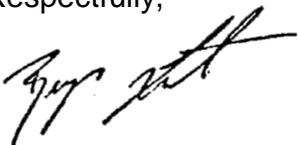
We have spent a large part of this year exploring multiple areas to improve our ability to provide great service to our residents and visitors. We have had several conversations about staffing levels and where our department needs to be to continue to provide safety and security for our growing community. With your support, I am excited to finalize and implement a plan to address these needs.

We have invested in new technology to better engage our citizens and improve our efficiency in delivering great service. We have installed our new training simulator, implemented a new automated citizen survey, and completed our first full year with our body worn cameras. Our team also continues to look at other technology innovations to keep us current with law enforcement best practices and standards.

Even with our limited staffing, our personnel still did a great job in engaging our community outside of normal law enforcement activities. Events such as National Night Out, Kentwood Police Youth Academy, and our Kentwood Police Open House, are just a few of these ways.

I feel very fortunate to lead such an amazing staff that continued to rise to the challenges that were presented to them this year. Their efforts, along with the support of our great community, make Kentwood a great place to live, work, and visit.

Respectfully,



BRYAN LITWIN
CHIEF OF POLICE





ABOUT THE *Kentwood Police Department*



The Kentwood Police Department is comprised of approximately 70 sworn officers. The Patrol Division operates with approximately 35 officers and six sergeants. These officers are responsible for the initial response to routine and emergency calls that occur in the City of Kentwood 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In addition, there are 11 sergeants who provide leadership, supervision and training for all sworn officers. Specialized positions and teams include: SRT, community services officer, school resource officer, traffic officer, training officer, Honor Guard, Special Investigations Unit, Combined Auto Theft Team, and pattern crime task force.

As a department, we work everyday to accomplish our mission by engaging with local community groups, schools, churches, and business leaders to make Kentwood a great place to live, visit and work. National Night Out, Small Business Showcase, birthday parades and ice cream socials are just a few of the various activities that the Kentwood Police Department engaged in last year to stay connected with our community amidst challenging times. We continually strive to represent the community in which we serve. Programs such as the Kentwood Police Department Youth Academy, ARCH, Kent Career Tech Center and our Police Cadet Program allow our officers to connect with our youth and invest in the future. Continually, the Kentwood Police Department strives to deliver professional police services and address community concerns as they develop.



ABOUT THE *City of Kentwood*

The City of Kentwood is located in the southwest corner of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Kentwood is a growing, diverse city best known for its cultural amenities, business and industry sectors, in-demand real estate market, and highly-ranked schools. The population of Kentwood has continued to grow over the past decade. The current estimated population is calculated at roughly 54,300. Geographically, the City of Kentwood stretches just over 20 square miles. Within the city, there are 15 parks, various trail systems and 22 schools.



POPULATION (2020 U.S. CENSUS BUREAU): 54,304



SPANS 21 SQUARE MILES



15 PARKS THAT COVER OVER 301 ACRES, 13 MILES OF MOTORIZED TRAILS



FOREST HILLS, KELLOGGSVILLE AND KENTWOOD SCHOOLS



GROWING ECONOMY WITH A 68% EMPLOYMENT RATE



KENTWOOD CONSISTENTLY RANKS AMONG THE TOP REAL ESTATE MARKETS



EXCELLENT ASSORTMENT OF RECREATION PROGRAMS



LARGE SHOPPING AND ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT

DEPARTMENT *Leadership*



**BRYAN LITWIN,
CHIEF OF POLICE**



**STEPHANIE
MORNINGSTAR,
DEPUTY CHIEF**



**CPT.
BOCKHEIM**



**CPT.
VANDERVEEN**



**CPT.
ROELOFS**



**SERGEANT
CONNELL**



**SERGEANT
DALZIEL**



**SERGEANT
UNSELD**



**SERGEANT
WIERENGA**



**SERGEANT
HARTMAN**



**SERGEANT
BELK**



**SERGEANT
TERPSTRA**



**SERGEANT
SMIGIEL**



**SERGEANT
DYKGRAAF**



**SERGEANT
VANDERBENT**

ORGANIZATIONAL Chart



The diagram below displays the organizational structure of the Kentwood Police Department. There are three main Divisions that function within the department: the Patrol Division, the Services Division, and the Professional Standards Division. Each Division is overseen by a captain. The Patrol Division is overseen by Captain Bockheim. It is comprised of Patrol Field Services and the Traffic Services Bureau. The Services Division is overseen by Captain Roelofs. It is comprised of the General Case Unit, Special Investigations Unit, as well as the Records Bureau. The Professional Standards Division is overseen by Captain VanderVeen. This Division includes the Staff Services Bureau and the Community Services Bureau. There are 17 non-sworn professional support staff who assist with various functions within the police department such as administrative, record keeping, property management, coordination of volunteers, analysis, record/data entry, and FOIA requests. In addition, there are seven police cadets who assist the department with various functions including filing, answering phones, and handling initial walk-in information requests at the front desk. Each member of the Kentwood Police Department plays a vital role in helping to achieve our mission of reducing violent crime, increasing traffic safety, and serving our community with excellence.

2022 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

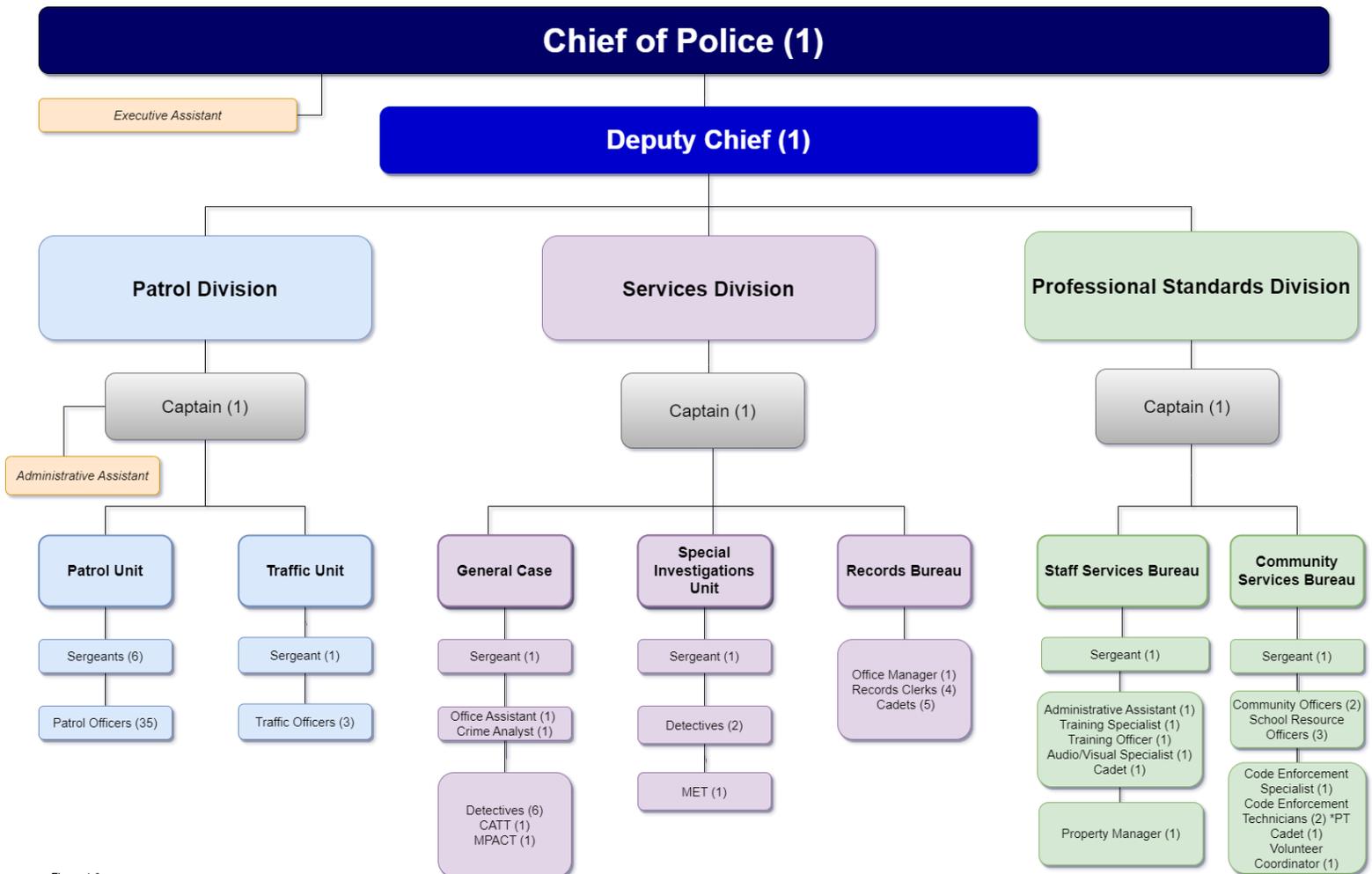


Figure 1.0

CORE Values

The Kentwood Police Department is committed to serve, protect and improve the quality of life for those who visit, work and reside in the City of Kentwood. It is our focus to safeguard the lives, property and rights of all people and enforce the law impartially. We strive by a commitment to our community to be a loyal partner and uphold our responsibility to be responsive to community needs and implement solutions that produce meaningful results.

The members of the Kentwood Police Department are guided by the highest ethical standards. We understand that on a daily basis we must earn the trust of the people we serve.

We embrace the values of character, integrity, and desire to build relationships with the citizens of Kentwood that are rooted in mutual trust, respect, and pride. We strive to always value the dignity and rights of all people with whom we interact, creating an environment where responsibility and service reflect justice and equity. To fulfill our mission, we pledge to consistently conduct ourselves with the highest degree of ethical behavior and professionalism.



THE KENTWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT WILL OPERATE IN A TRANSPARENT MANNER; MAINTAINING THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF INTEGRITY WHILE WORKING TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL THOSE WHO LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY IN KENTWOOD.

CHARACTER:

Good character is demonstrated by how we interact with the people we serve and those that we work with. Treating individuals fairly and with respect is just as important as having high integrity, courage, and reverence for the law.

INTEGRITY:

Integrity is a cornerstone of our profession. Having high standards of honesty and ethical behavior – both on and off duty – is vital for professional law enforcement. In order to serve our community effectively, we must have their trust. Holding ourselves accountable for our behavior, and being open and honest with the people we interact with is key to earning that trust.

DESIRE:

Desire involves the constant internal drive to safeguard our citizens and make a positive impact on the community in which we serve.



Our
MISSION:
Serving with Excellence

The mission of the Kentwood Police Department is to reduce serious crime, increase traffic safety and serve the community with excellence.

Providing excellent quality service to the community is our primary duty. We are committed to faithfully and selflessly perform our duties while striving to be responsive, effective, and dependable. We are dedicated to enhancing public safety and reducing the fear and the incidence of crime. We will work in partnership with the people in our community to solve problems that affect public safety and the quality of life in our community. We are dedicated to working in partnership with the public to achieve our goal of making our community a safe and inviting place.



Hiring & RECRUITMENT

2022 POLICE OFFICER RECRUITMENT EFFORTS

- 1 OPEN HOUSE RECRUITMENT EVENT HELD AT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT
- 20 RECRUITING EVENTS ATTENDED
- 184 APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED
- 35 SWORN BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED
- 9 SPONSORED POLICE RECRUITS HIRED



YEAR IN Review



Officers responded to 17,704 incidents in 2022. This is a slight 1% (-231) decrease in comparison to 2021 and a 3% (-529) decrease in comparison to the five-year average. Among the most frequent calls for service were suspicious activity, assist citizen or motorist, accident/property damage, residential alarm, and domestic disturbance.

In addition, officers conducted 6,013 traffic stops, responded to 2,079 traffic collisions, investigated approximately 6,300 cases and made over 1,500 custodial arrests. In addition, 821 reports were submitted online through our web based Coplogic reporting system.

INCIDENTS IN 2022	INCIDENTS PER MONTH	INCIDENTS PER WEEK	INCIDENTS PER DAY	INCIDENTS PER HOUR
17,704	1,475	340	49	2

Figure 1.1 *DATA IS A CALCULATED AVERAGE OF 12 MONTHS/YR, 52 WEEKS/YR, 365 DAYS/YR, AND 8,760 HRS/YR. CALLS ARE DIVIDED AMONG THREE MAIN SHIFTS IN A 24-HOUR PERIOD.

2022 PERSONNEL STATISTICS

In 2022, the Kentwood Police Department had 62 full-time sworn police employees. Of these sworn positions, approximately 35 were assigned to road patrol. Professional support staff employees amounted to 17. Of the professional support staff, three were employed part-time. In addition, the Kentwood Police Department employed six police cadets in 2022. The total number of police personnel in 2022 was 85.

The Kentwood Police Department added one new administrative professional support staff position in 2022. This position assists the staff services bureau with various aspects of training, hiring, documentation, scheduling and filing.

According to law enforcement employee data from the Criminal Justice Services Division of the United States, the national average of sworn police personnel per 1,000 residents is 2.4. Staffing levels for the Kentwood Police Department in 2022 indicate there were 62 sworn police personnel. This calculates to 1.41 sworn police personnel per 1,000 residents. (This data is based on a reported census population of 54,304 residents).

The size and policing style of a police department, as well as the variety of service it provides, reflects the character and demands of the community. Therefore, when it comes to the allocation of police officers, one city of 100,000 residents will not be the same as an identical size city. Many factors are considered – crime data, 9-1-1 calls for service, departmental philosophy on policing approach, budget, square miles, etc. Staffing decisions are based on a systematic analysis of an agency’s current and projected future workloads, as well as projected population growth.

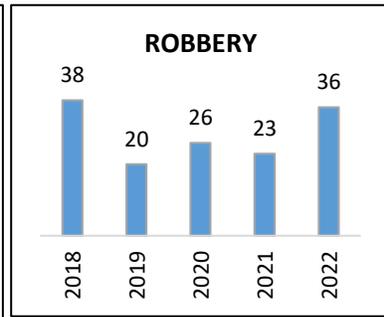
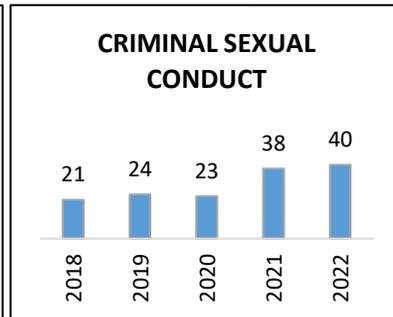
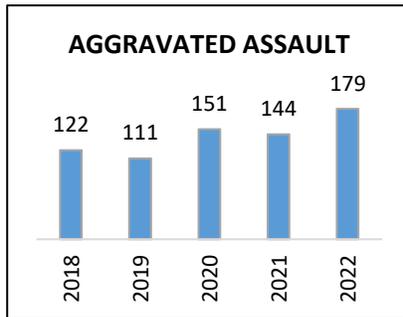
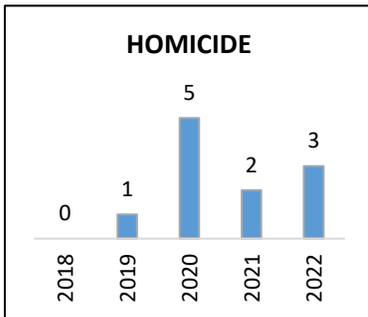
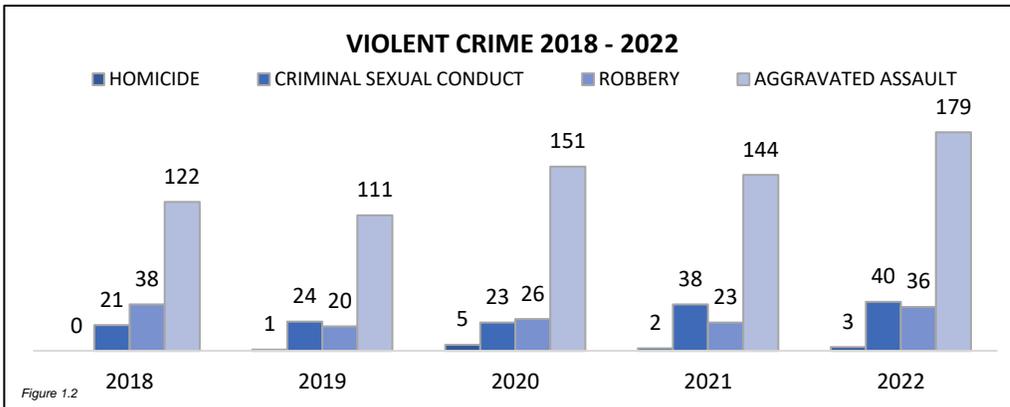


The Kentwood Police Department reports crime two different ways. Primarily, the department reports crimes that are defined in Michigan Incident Crime Reporting incident-based data (MICR). The MICR system collects crime data concerning 63 different data elements for 99 file classes. This is according to local law and is how officers classify offenses and make arrests. MICR offenses are included in this Annual Report in order to provide a clear picture of crime trends as they are occurring in the City of Kentwood, and because that is how crime is reported by residents.

Crime data is additionally generated using uniformly established guidelines that have been developed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as the 'Uniform Crime Reporting' System (UCR). This classifies offenses into part I and part II crimes, as shown below. To compare crime trends to other jurisdictions using UCR data, please visit the FBI website at www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm.

CRIME Statistics

UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING (UCR) IS A NATIONWIDE EFFORT TO COLLECT AND REPORT CRIME STATISTICS. LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUBMITTING STATISTICS TO THE FBI. STATISTICS ARE LIMITED TO REPORTED CRIME. UCR IS DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS: PART I COVERS VIOLENT AND PROPERTY CRIMES. PART II COVERS AN ARRAY OF LESS SERIOUS, PROPERTY-RELATED OFFENSES.



Figures 1.3 - 1.6

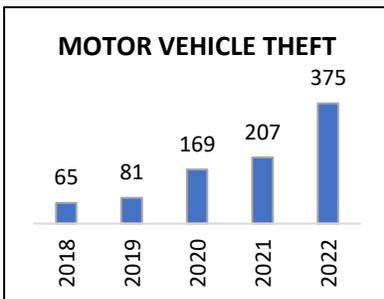
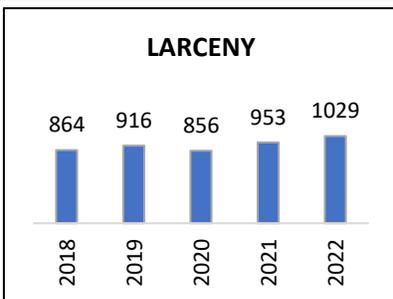
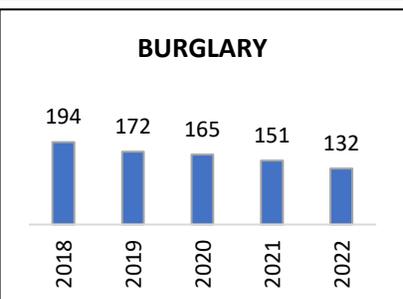
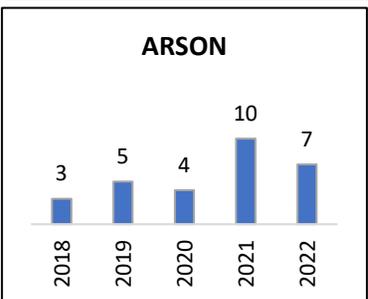
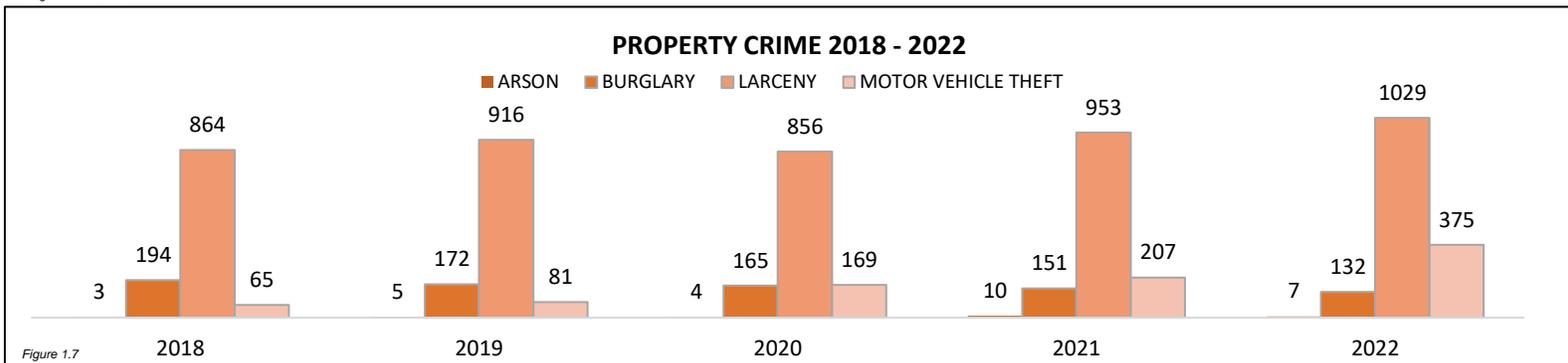


Figure 1.8 - 2.1

CALLS FOR Service

- Calls for service (CFS) include every incident that the Kentwood Police Department responds to, including both emergency calls and police-initiated events.
- The overall number of calls for service handled by the Kentwood Police Department in 2022 was 17,704.
- In 2022, there was a slight 1% decrease (-231 calls) in calls for service in comparison to 2021.
- There was a 3% decrease (-529.4 calls) in comparison to the five-year average.
- Data from 2022 indicates that the highest number of calls occurred between the months of May – August. The highest call volume in a given month was 1,750 calls in July and the lowest was 1,231 in February.
- Weekday data from 2022 indicates that the highest number of calls for service occurred on Friday (2,742 calls).
- Hourly data from 2022 demonstrates that the highest call volume occurred between 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM, with the highest number 1,184 occurring at 3:00 PM.
- The largest number of calls for service received in 2022 were for: Suspicious Activity (1,893), Assisting Citizen or Motorist (1,647), Accident Property Damage (1,357), Alarm Residential (1,088), Domestic Disturbance (1,002) and Check on Welfare (948).

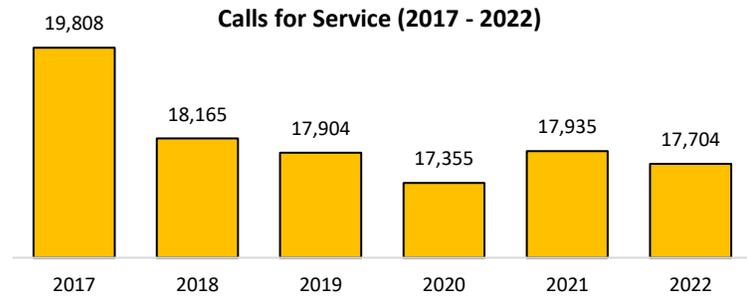


Figure 2.2

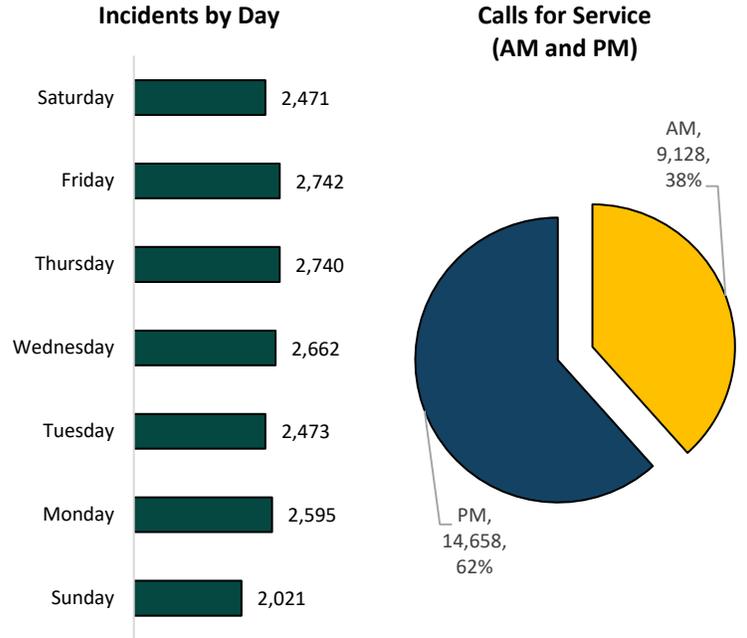


Figure 2.3

Figure 2.4

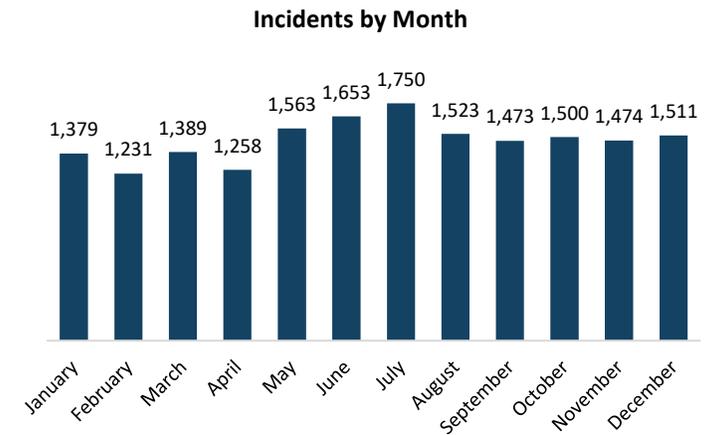


Figure 2.5

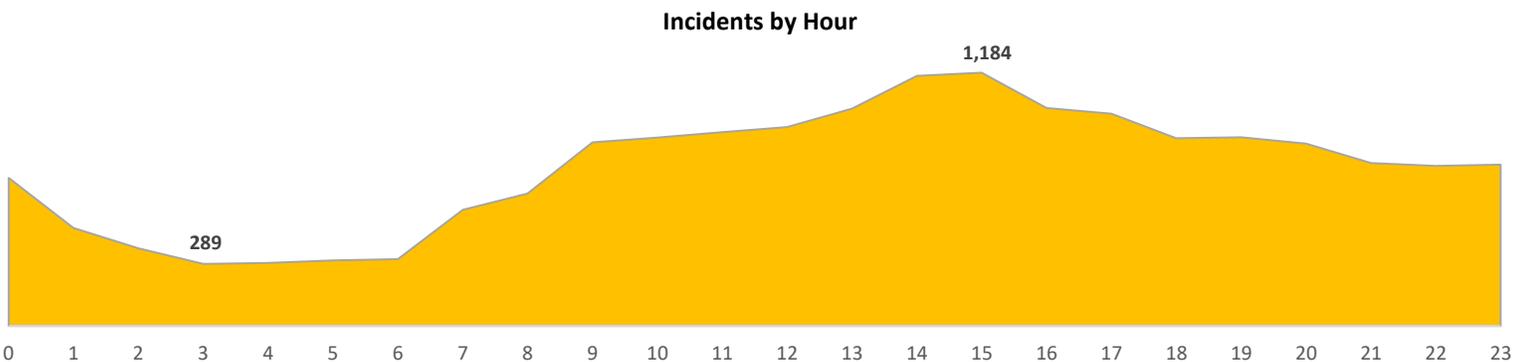


Figure 2.6

VIOLENT Crime

Violent Crime By Year

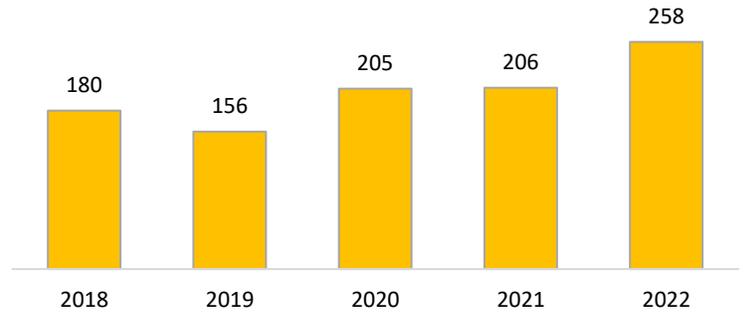


Figure 2.7

- Violent crime is composed of four offenses: homicide (murder and non-negligent manslaughter), rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Violent crimes involve force or the threat of force.
- There were 258 violent crimes that occurred in the City of Kentwood in 2022.
- This is a 25% increase in comparison to 2021 (+52 offenses) and a 41% increase (+76 cases) over the five-year average.
- Aggravated assault accounted for 69% of all violent crime in 2022, with 179 incidents reported. This is a 24% increase in comparison to 2021 and a 37% increase in comparison to the five-year average.
- Robbery accounts for 14% of total violent crime with 36 incidents in 2022. This is a 57% increase in comparison to 2021 and a 37% increase in comparison to the five-year average.
- The City of Kentwood's estimated violent crime rate per 1,000 inhabitants for data reported in 2022 is calculated at 4.95.

Monthly Violent Crime (2021 - 2022)

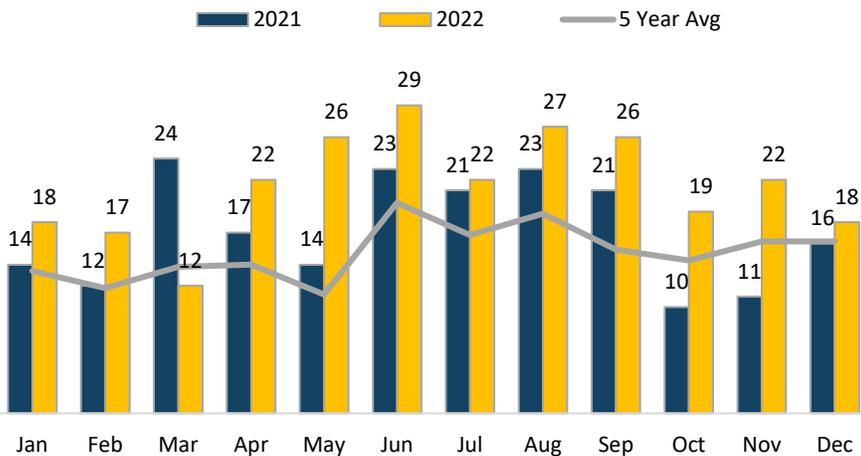


Figure 2.8

Violent Crime by Offense Type

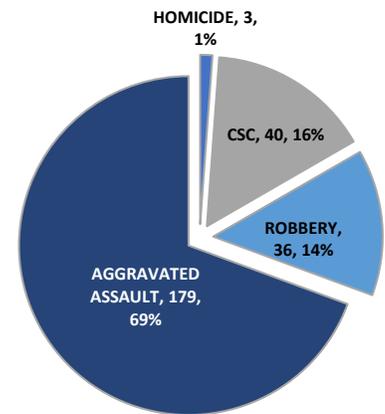


Figure 2.9

*2021 VIOLENT CRIME RATE BY CITY (PER 100,000 RESIDENTS)

CITY	POPULATION	HOMICIDE	CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT	ROBBERY	AGG. ASSAULT	TOTAL VIOLENT CRIME RATE
Portage	50,141	3	32	21	78	267.2
Kentwood	52,028	1	38	23	144	207
Battle Creek	60,134	7	53	38	516	1021.1
Kalamazoo	76,179	13	115	106	977	1589.7
Wyoming	77,094	2	80	57	280	543.5
Grand Rapids	201,280	17	250	295	1,467	1008.0

Figure 3.0 *The FBI's estimated violent crime rate is calculated based on 2021 data submitted to the Uniform Crime Reporting program.
 **Comparable by local cities in the Western Region of Michigan. Data is based on 2020 MICR reporting crime for the State of Michigan.
 ***To read more on the Data Declaration for UCR reporting please visit: <https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/ucr>

PROPERTY Crime

Property Crime (2018 - 2022)

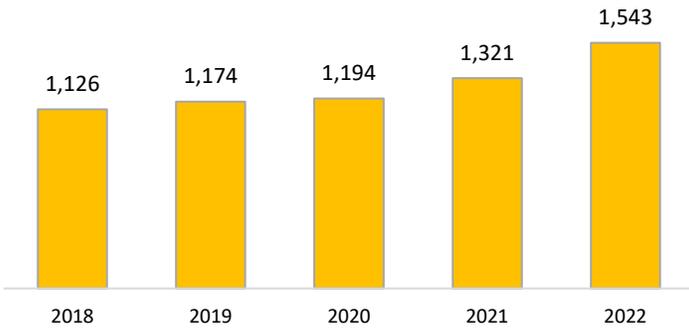


Figure 3.1

- In 2022, a total of 1,543 property crimes occurred in the City of Kentwood.
- This is a 17% increase in comparison to 2021 and a 27% increase in comparison to the five-year average.

- Larceny amounted to 66% of all property crimes in 2022. This is an 8% increase in comparison to 2021 and a 13% increase in comparison to the five-year average.
- Motor Vehicle Theft amounted to 25% of all property crime in the City of Kentwood in 2022. This is an 81% increase in comparison to 2021, and a 221% increase in comparison to the five-year average.
- Burglary amounted to 8% of property crime in 2022. This is a 13% decrease in comparison to 2021, and a 24% decrease in comparison to the five-year average.
- The City of Kentwood's estimated property crime rate per 1,000 inhabitants for 2022 is calculated at 2.96.

Monthly Property Crime (2021 - 2022)

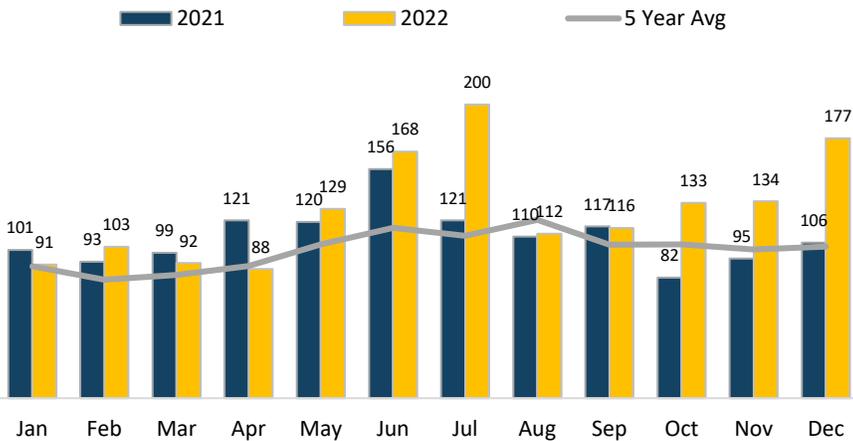


Figure 3.2

2022 Property Crime by Offense

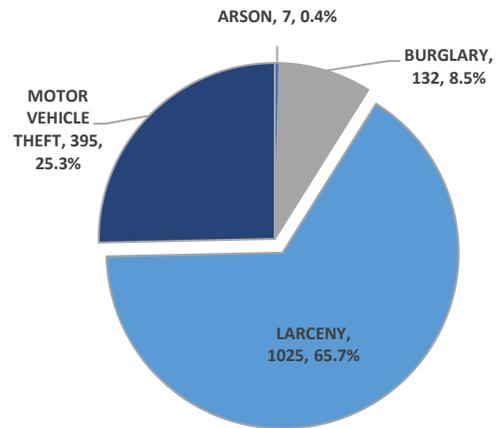


Figure 3.3

*2021 PROPERTY CRIME RATE BY CITY (PER 100,000 RESIDENTS)

CITY	POPULATION	ARSON	BURGLARY	LARCENY	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	TOTAL PROPERTY CRIME RATE
Portage	50,141	6	155	1,348	174	3,356.5
Kentwood	52,028	10	151	953	207	2,433.0
Battle Creek	60,134	14	337	1,052	167	2,610.8
Wyoming	77,094	13	137	604	381	1,472.2
Kalamazoo	76,179	36	679	2,170	586	4,556.3
Grand Rapids	201,280	52	569	3,563	928	2,539.7

Figure 3.4

*The FBI's estimated property crime rate is calculated based on 2021 data collected from the Uniform Crime Reporting program.
 **Comparable by local cities in the Western Region of Michigan. Data is based on 2020 MCR reporting crime for the State of Michigan.
 ***To read more on the Data Declaration for UCR reporting please visit: <https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/ucr>

NON-INDEX Crime

- There were of total of 2,465 non-index crimes in 2022. This is a 10% increase in comparison to 2021 (+233 incidents).
- Non-aggravated assault was the leading category of non-index crimes in 2022 with 894 offenses. This was a 9% increase (+74) in comparison to 2021.
- Vandalism was the second highest category of non-index crimes with 426 offenses. This is a 42% increase in comparison to 2021, with 127 additional incidents reported. This was due in large part to the vast increase of stolen vehicles in which a window was smashed out and ignition was damaged to attempt to override regular key ignition.
- Fraud was the third highest category of non-index crimes in 2022 with 266 offenses. This is a slight 1% decrease from 2021.
- Incidents involving disorderly conduct decreased 9% in comparison to 2021.
- Liquor laws decreased 27% in comparison to 2021.

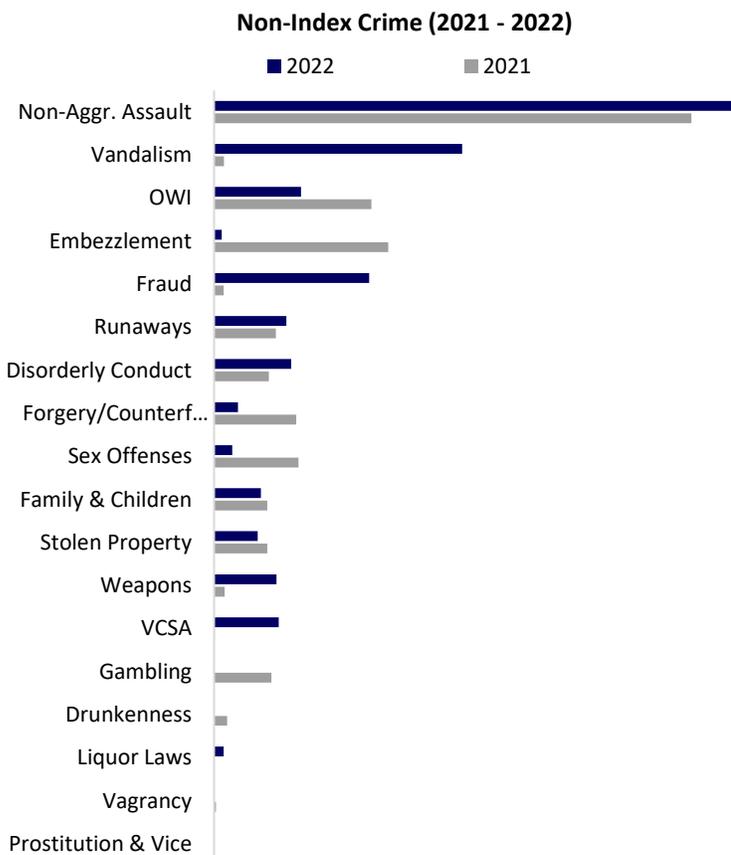
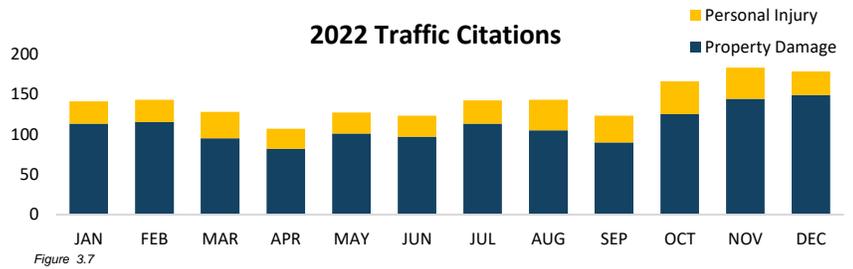


Figure 3.5

NON-INDEX OFFENSE	2021	2022	+ / -	% CHANGE
Non-Aggravated Assault	820	894	74	9%
Forgery/Counterfeit	17	41	24	141%
Embezzlement	16	13	-3	-19%
Fraud	270	266	-4	-1%
Stolen Property	94	75	-19	-20%
Weapons	106	107	1	1%
Prostitution & Vice	1	0	-1	-100%
Sex Offenses	18	31	13	72%
*VCSA	91	111	20	22%
Family & Children	91	80	-11	-12%
OWI	141	149	8	6%
Disorderly Conduct	145	132	-13	-9%
Drunkenness	0	0	0	N/C
Vandalism	299	426	127	42%
Gambling	0	0	0	N/C
Liquor Laws	22	16	-6	-27%
Runaways	98	124	26	27%
Vagrancy	3	0	-3	-100%
Totals	2,232	2,465	233	10%

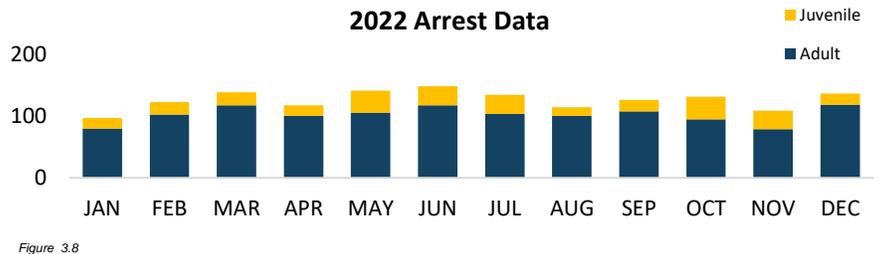
Figure 3.6

TRAFFIC Statistics



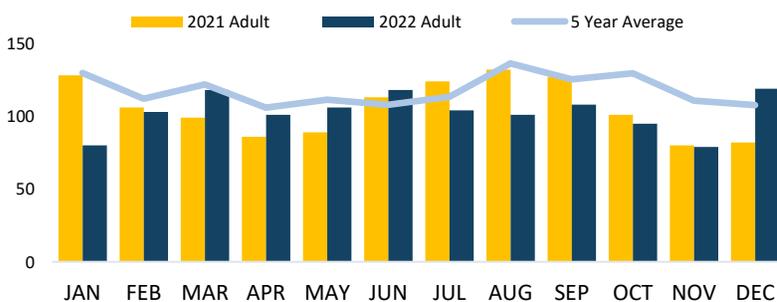
- In 2022, the Kentwood Police Department responded to 1,693 reportable traffic accidents.
- There were 1,326 accidents that reported only property damage. This is a 19% (+215) increase in comparison to 2021 and a 32% (+172) increase in comparison to the five-year average.
- There were 375 accidents that involved reported personal injury. This is a 4% (+13) increase in comparison to 2021 and a 14% (+47.2) increase in comparison to the five-year average.
- Data demonstrates that in 2022, more vehicle accidents occurred in the months of July, August, October November and December.
- In 2022, the Kentwood Police Department made 6,013 traffic stops. This is a 24% decrease (-1,923) in comparison to 2021, and a 32% decrease (-2,873) in comparison to the five-year average.
- In 2022, the Kentwood Police Department issued 3,449 traffic-related citations.
- This is a 23% decrease (-1,025) in comparison to 2021 and a 36% decrease (-1,977 citations) in comparison to the five-year average.

ARREST Statistics

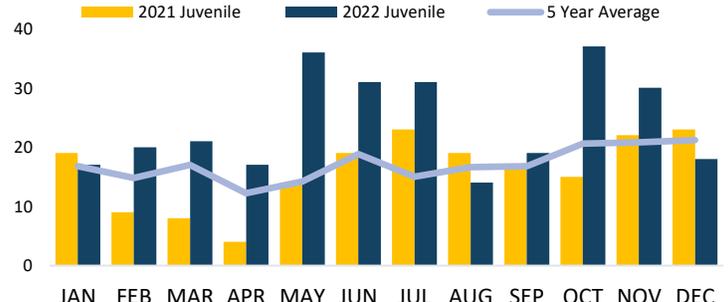


- In 2022, the Kentwood Police Department made approximately 1,523 custodial arrests.
- Of these arrests, 1,232 were adult arrests. This is a 3% decrease in comparison to 2021 (-35) and a 13% decrease (-180) in comparison to the five-year average.
- There were 291 juvenile (under the age of 17) arrests made. This is a 52% increase (+99) in comparison to 2021 and a 42% increase (+86) in comparison to the five-year average.
- Overall, 1,523 arrests were made in 2022. This is a 4% increase (+64) from 2021 and a 6% decrease (-94) from the five-year average.

Adult Arrest Comparison



Juvenile Arrest Comparison



PATROL Division



A TYPICAL KENTWOOD POLICE OFFICER SPENDS THEIR SHIFT ANSWERING CALLS FOR SERVICE, CONDUCTING TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT, INTERACTING WITH THE COMMUNITY, WRITING REPORTS, ISSUING CITATIONS, WORKING CRASHES, MAKING ARRESTS AND A VARIETY OF OTHER ACTIVITIES TYPICAL OF MOST POLICE DEPARTMENTS. OUR OFFICERS CONDUCT PROACTIVE PATROLS IN NEIGHBORHOODS, APARTMENTS AND IN OUR BUSINESS AREAS TO DETER CRIME AND IMPROVE OUR VISIBILITY.



The Kentwood Police Department Patrol Division is the most visible representation of the Kentwood Police Department. Officers assigned to the Patrol Division are fundamental in accomplishing our mission of reducing serious crime, increasing traffic safety and serving our community with excellence.

Comprised of approximately 35 road officers who are responsible for the initial response to all routine and emergency calls, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, patrol operations serve the community in various ways. Whether responding to 911 calls, assisting the public, providing proactive patrol, and facilitating the safe and efficient movement of traffic, patrol officers remain steadfast in their core function to protect our community.

Patrol sergeants are responsible for the daily operations of the department. Sergeants keep the officers apprised of daily events, provide information pertinent to their shift during briefings, supervise critical incidents, call additional resources to large scenes, and conduct monthly officer evaluations.

Community engagement is and will always be a main priority for members of the Patrol Division. Our shift goals are consistently catered so that our officers are visible amongst the citizens and businesses within the City of Kentwood. Examples of goals set forth for our officers include walking trail systems and checking parks, focusing on traffic enforcement in high speed/crash intersections, and increasing surveillance in residential areas where data indicated high occurrences of larcenies from vehicles. Each goal demonstrates our commitment to the mission of the Kentwood Police Department to ensure traffic safety, decrease serious crime and serve our community with excellence.

During 2022, the Patrol Division responded to more than 17,000 calls for service. This includes all dispatched emergency calls, as well as self-initiated contacts such as area checks, subject contacts, traffic stops, and alarm checks. Two life-saving awards were presented to officers in 2022 due to their quick actions and commitment to the protection and sanctity of life for those within the community we serve.

TRAFFIC Services Bureau



The Kentwood Police Department is very proud to have a dedicated Traffic Services Bureau that leads the way in enhancing safe driving practices. Officers assigned to the Traffic Bureau have a primary responsibility to proactively enforce traffic laws within the City of Kentwood. Violations include; speed, running red lights, and turn violations. Additional responsibilities include investigating serious and fatal traffic crashes, conducting traffic studies on primary and secondary roadways, processing abandoned vehicles, court and prisoner transfers, ensuring state compliance as it relates to alcohol detection equipment, motorcycle patrols, and placing and maintaining speed detection equipment.

CITATIONS ISSUED	685
TRAFFIC STOPS CONDUCTED	324
ABANDONED VEHICLES PROCESSED	180
ABANDONED VEHICLES AUCTIONED	74
PERSONAL INJURY ACCIDENTS INVESTIGATED	2
FATAL ACCIDENTS INVESTIGATED	1



The Traffic Services Bureau deployed two speed monitors and two speed signs in 2022. The total hours of deployment were 15,372 hours. The placement locations were a result of citizen received speed complaints and proactive use.

Traffic engineering is also a function of the Traffic Services Bureau. Each year, the unit conducts traffic studies for the Grand Valley Metro Council on a set number of roads within the city to comply with state law. This results in what is referred to as the “85th percentile” to establish and monitor set speed limits. Stop signs and other traffic control devices are also reviewed to determine proper placement and justification through approved Traffic Control Orders (TCO). The Traffic Services Bureau is tasked with the management of Office of Highway and Safety Planning (OHSP) grant processing. During 2022, 290 hours of overtime enforcement was conducted which resulted in 366 citations and 26 arrests. The 290 hours of overtime was reimbursed to the Kentwood Police Department.

The Traffic Services Bureau also includes the motorcycle unit which is comprised of two Traffic Services Bureau officers. This is a voluntary assignment and operates from April through November. The two trained motor officers are Officer Bachman and Sergeant Unseld. These officers receive highly-specialized training on a yearly basis. The unit’s primary function is traffic safety and enforcement. In addition, the unit is used for parades, static displays, public relations, crowd control, and dignitary escorts. Though not a primary function, motorcycle officers can, and will, respond to calls for service. Officers were able to dedicate 207.25 hours to motorcycle use. The hours of deployment decreased from 2021 due to the unit augmenting patrol staffing.



SPECIAL RESPONSE Team



The Special Response Team (SRT) is an integral part of the Kentwood Police Department. It is a part-time team with nine officers, three sergeants, and one captain. Assignment to the SRT is voluntary for all members and adds additional responsibility to everyone's normal duties. Each time the team is utilized, it is due to an increase of violence or potential of danger above what is normal in this line of work. These members train for high stress and dangerous situations and methods of achieving a resolution in the safest possible way. The team members strive to bring a well-prepared and professional response to demanding situations, both during callouts and normal daily activity.

During 2022, the Kentwood SRT was activated five times in which no injuries were sustained, and multiple arrests were made. In January, the SRT was activated in response to a shooting investigation involving multiple subjects. A search warrant was executed, the suspects were detained, and firearms were recovered. In May, the SRT was activated to execute a search warrant on an armed robbery suspect. The suspect was arrested and evidence from the armed robbery was recovered. In August, the SRT was activated to execute a search warrant at a Kentwood address, where narcotics and firearms were located. In September, the SRT was activated to assist MSP in apprehending two homicide suspects; both were arrested without incident. In October, the SRT was activated to execute an arrest/search warrant on a shooting suspect and his residence. The suspect was arrested, and multiple firearms/firearms accessories were recovered.

RESIGNATIONS AND PROMOTIONS:



Sgt. Tim Wierenga resigned from the team in 2021. Sergeant Wierenga served on the team for approximately nine years, being a sniper/observer and team leader. Officer Tyler Smith resigned from the department after being on the team for approximately four years. He held positions of entry team member and perimeter/containment while on the team. Sgt. Sam VanderBent was promoted to the position of assistant team leader in 2022. Ofc. Brandon Hulst was a newly appointed SRT member in 2022.

CAPTAIN BOCKHEIM – TEAM COMMANDER

SGT. SMIGIEL – TEAM LEADER

SGT. DYKGRAAF – ASST. TEAM LEADER

SGT. VANDERBENT – ASST. TEAM LEADER

DETECTIVE D. CLINE

OFFICER R. SMITH

OFFICER D. WOLTERINK

OFFICER J. BYLSMA

OFFICER K. MODDERMAN

OFFICER S. BEELEN

OFFICER L. MILLER

OFFICER R. WASILEWSKI

OFFICER B. HULST



SPECIAL RESPONSE Team

Special Response Team members train and prepare for high-stress situations multiple times throughout the year. The team conducted 90 hours of scheduled team training during 2022. There are records kept for each training session. These include lesson plans (objectives, outlines, and tentative schedule), and training after-action reports (members present, actual training conducted, and injuries).



TEAM TRAINING:

- Firearms live-fire training and qualification
- Warrant Service, Barricaded Subjects, Hostage Rescue, Building Searches & Officer Rescue Training
- Reality-Based Scenario Training
- Less-lethal training and qualification
- Physical Fitness Testing
- Sniper Team Training (70 additional hours)

INDIVIDUAL TRAINING:

- Leadership
- Chemical munitions
- BASIC SWAT school
- Breacher training
- Sniper training
- Tac Medic training

2022 NATIONAL TACTICAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION PHYSICAL FITNESS QUALIFICATION CHALLENGE

In 2022, three members of the SRT voluntarily participated in the National Tactical Officers Association (NTOA) Physical Fitness Qualification (PQT). This test is a NTOA recommended fitness standard for SWAT operators with the goal being to improve the longevity, safety and effectiveness of SWAT operators. The test consists of five exercises that must be completed in chronological order with a limited rest period between each exercise. Some of the exercises include wearing the operator's carrier vest, additional weight and a donned gas mask. The results from each participant are then submitted to the NTOA and top scorers from across the nation are recognized in the NTOA's quarterly publication. This year's participants were Sgt. Smigiel, Ofc. Bylsma and Ofc. Wasilewski.



**OFFICER BYLSMA AND OFFICER WASILEWSKI
COMPLETING A PQT EXERCISE**



METROPOLITAN HONOR Guard



The Kentwood Police Department’s Honor Guard is a volunteer squad of sworn members of the department who have been trained in ceremonial activities honoring the United States, the State of Michigan, the City of Kentwood, and their representatives.

Members additionally render appropriate honors to pay respects to fallen members of police, corrections, and fire departments at formal and solemn occasions. Participation in the Honor Guard is a commitment to train in a variety of protocols ranging from posting of the colors at city functions, to participating in funeral ceremonies for fallen officers. The Kentwood Police Department participates in the Kent County Metro Honor Guard, along with the Grand Rapids, Walker, and Grandville Police Departments, Kent County Sheriff’s Department, Wyoming and East Grand Rapids Departments of Public Safety and the Grand Rapids Community College Police Department.

METROPOLITAN FIELD FORCE Team

The Kentwood Police Department has nine members that are active members of the Kent County Metropolitan Field Force Team. The primary purpose of the team is to respond to potential civil disturbance situations. The team is made up of various local agencies including Kent County Sheriff’s Office, Walker Police Department, Grandville Police Department and East Grand Rapids Department of Public Safety. The team, as a whole, has roughly 40-50 officers assigned to it county-wide.

All nine members of the Kentwood Field Force Team have had additional specialized training provided by the federal government through FEMA – Homeland Security. The Kent County Field Force Team also conducts trainings twice annually for all team members.

The team was deployed five times in 2022 to assist with various planned protests in downtown Grand Rapids. No major incidents or injuries were reported during these activations.



PROFESSIONAL Standards

The Professional Standards Division is comprised of the Staff Services Bureau and the Community Services Bureau. This Division is overseen by Captain Ryan VanderVeen.

The focus of the Staff Services Bureau is guiding and assisting the Kentwood Police Department's staff. The Bureau consists of a captain, sergeant, recruiting officer, property management specialist, audio/video specialist, training specialist, administrative assistant and a part-time cadet. The Staff Services Bureau handles all the recruiting and hiring of both sworn and professional support staff for the department. In 2022, nine full-time police officers were hired. Three of these officers have completed the field training program and are performing their duties on solo patrol. Six of these officers are currently in the field training program. The Kentwood Police Department also hired two part-time cadets and one full-time records clerk and one full time administrative assistant. Every employee who is hired goes through a formal training program depending on the role for which they were hired. Police officers begin with a four-week orientation period before advancing to a 14-week field training program. After successfully completing training, they will advance to solo patrol as a police officer.

Coordinating training is another critical function of the Staff Services Bureau. To be proficient in their duties, officers attend ongoing training to refresh themselves and stay current with best practices in law enforcement. Officers receive training on topics including, but not limited to, communication skills, de-escalation, diversity, use of force, firearms, legal updates, subject control, precision driving, and police tactics. Officers who have specialized assignments must also receive training for those positions. These range from interview and interrogation, death investigations, crimes against children, basic SWAT training, leadership development, surveillance training, and crisis intervention.

Because of the on-going hiring and training that takes place at the Kentwood Police Department, the need arose to hire an administrative assistant that would be assigned to the Professional Standards Division. In 2022, Rachel Humphreys was hired for that position. Her role is to assist in multiple areas within the Staff Services Bureau, including tracking of all hiring and training, assistance with the accreditation process, and managing the false alarm billing process.

ACCREDITATION PROCESS:

The Kentwood Police Department strives to ensure that it is following the profession's best practices. It continues its work to become an accredited agency through the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (MLEAC). Throughout the year, the department spent much time reviewing and updating departmental policies, procedures, and practices to bring them in line with those set by the MLEAC. The intent is to seek approval for accreditation near the beginning of 2024.

CAPTAIN VANDERVEEN

**SERGEANT
Z. SMIGIEL**

**RECRUITING OFFICER
R. SMITH**

**PROPERTY SPECIALIST
B. NELSON**

**AUDIO/VIDEO SPECIALIST
P. FILIPSKI**

**TRAINING SPECIALIST
B. HAYES**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
R. HUMPHREYS**

**CADET
C. STEFFEN**



TRAINING Unit



Law enforcement is a complex and ever-changing profession. Responsibilities are constantly changing and being redefined. The Kentwood Police Department is dedicated to continually providing relevant and effective training to all officers. The areas of training that are of most importance include diversity, de-escalation, crisis intervention, use of force, and legal updates.

Every Kentwood police officer is required to attend, at a minimum, 40 hours of in-service training each year, which is hosted by the Kentwood Police Department and instructed by members from the community and various expert groups. The purpose of this training is to inform, educate, and train the officers in the areas of greatest importance.

In 2022, the Kentwood Police Department covered topics including legal update, physical control tactics, diversity, and CPR/First Aid. In addition, an entire day is spent participating in life-like scenarios (reality-based training), where communication and de-escalation is the intended goal.

MULTIPLE INTERACTIVE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (MILO) INDOOR SIMULATOR RANGE



In 2022, the Kentwood Police Department purchased an indoor MILO Simulator Range, which is an interactive decision-making simulator. The MILO system provides instructors with the ability to train and test officers through interactive simulations covering communication, de-escalation, use of force, and bias-based policing. The MILO range theater 180 system and control system allows for scenario videos to be projected on three screens.

Ongoing training equips officers with the knowledge and skills to perform their duties more efficiently and more safely and is essential in providing excellent service to the community. Technology is continually evolving, often adding new elements to the day-to-day operations. Due to this, Kentwood police officers must frequently attend various trainings that provide them with the tools necessary to perform their job in a professional, unbiased, and competent manner.

Training is intended to educate and update officers on current trends, best practices, and inform them of any law changes. Officers additionally need to practice their physical skills in areas such as firearms, subject control, precision driving, and police tactics to maintain proficiency, as well as improve their decision-making skills. Specialized assignments, such as in the Detective Bureau and drug investigations, require more specialized training, including interview and interrogation, death investigation, crime scene preservation, leadership development, surveillance training, and crisis intervention.

TRAINING *Unit*

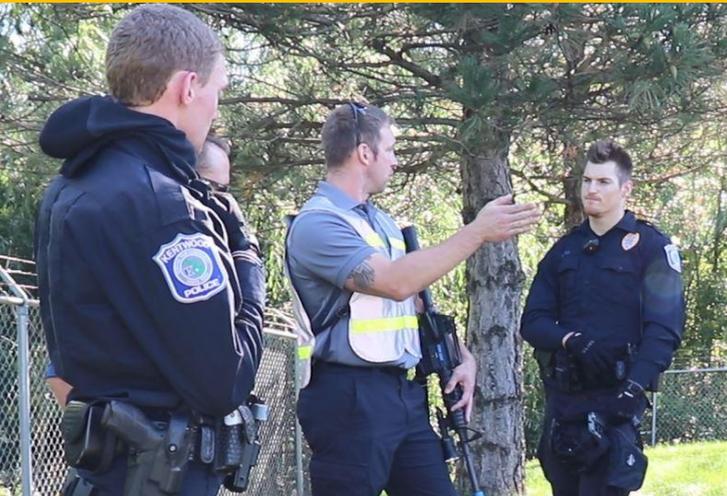


A critical aspect of our department is to provide highly-trained and professional police services to the community in which we serve. The men and women of our police department train with commitment, discipline, and determination each year to prepare for the unexpected. This preparedness ensures every incident is handled by extremely capable and well-trained police officers and civilian personnel. Moreover, training allows our officers to stay abreast of legal changes, ensuring they can effectively accomplish our mission in reducing serious crime, increasing traffic safety and serving the community with excellence. Members of the Kentwood Police Department logged over 5,600 hours of training during 2022.

In addition to providing instruction for our police department, various members of our department also serve as instructors in the Grand Valley State University Police Academy and the Grand Rapids Community College Police Academy. This is secondary employment for these instructors outside of their normal duties. Teaching in the academy provides firsthand exposure to the recruit class, which significantly aids in our recruiting efforts.

TRAINING IS THE FOUNDATION OF THE KENTWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT'S CURRENT AND FUTURE PERFORMANCE. TASK-SPECIFIC AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT TRAINING ASSURES THE DEPARTMENT MAINTAINS PERFORMANCE AT THE HIGHEST PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS.

TRAINING TOPICS



• VERBAL DE-ESCALATION	• FIELD FORCE
• DIVERSITY	• REPORT WRITING
• REALITY-BASED TRAINING/ SCENARIOS	• HAZARDOUS MATERIALS UPDATE
• CRISIS INTERVENTION	• FIREARMS STANDARDS
• VETERAN AFFAIRS/POST TRAUMATIC STRESS	• WELLNESS/FITNESS
• CONTROL TACTICS	• TASER
• LEGAL UPDATES	• PRECISION DRIVING
• ACTIVE SHOOTER RESPONSE	• CPR & BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS
• SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS/DRUGS	• LEADERSHIP

In 2022, Kentwood police officers responded to 78 incidents where one or more officers used force during an apprehension or investigation. This is a 13% decrease in use of force events from 2021, which totaled 90 incidents. Every incident involving force is carefully reviewed by supervisors and command staff. All incidents in 2022 were deemed to be justified by legal standards and department policy.

Of the 78 use of force incidents that occurred in 2022, 24% of the subjects were using or believed to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of the incident.

There were 11 incidents in which suspects communicated pain or injury resulting from the force used. Most injuries consisted of scratches and scrapes. None were serious or life threatening. The opportunity to seek treatment is given to any individual who is injured or complains of injury because of force used on them.

In 2022, 16 officers reported an injury because of using force. Most injuries were minor and included cuts and scrapes. Two officers sustained head injuries which rendered them temporarily unable to perform their duties. All officers have recovered from their injuries.

Force used in most incidents was minimal, with examples including guided takedowns, pressure point control, and joint manipulation. In 2022, officers deployed their TASERS seven times to gain control of individuals. No officers fired their duty weapon or rifle at an individual in 2022.

In 2022, Kentwood officers responded to 17,704 calls for service and made 6,013 traffic stops, amounting to 23,717 contacts with the public. This includes 1,523 custodial arrests. Of these contacts, force was used approximately 0.3% of the time.

REASON	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
ARREST	25	35	42	38	36
DEFEND SELF	10	22	9	12	12
DEFEND ANOTHER	5	3	0	6	2
PREVENT VIOLENT FELONY	0	0	1	2	0
FELONY CAR STOP	1	9	9	16	17
RESTRAIN FOR SUBJECT SAFETY	12	17	7	6	3
OTHER	0	1	1	3	1
CONTAIN/CALL OUT	0	0	0	7	7
TOTAL	53	87	69	90	78

Figure 4.1

USE OF FORCE Investigations

THE KENTWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING FAIR AND IMPARTIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES TO THE CITIZENS OF KENTWOOD. WE DEMONSTRATE THIS COMMITMENT BY HAVING AN INTERNAL PROCESS TO REVIEW ALL USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS BY A POLICE OFFICER AS WELL AS AN OPEN PROCESS FOR CITIZENS TO FILE A COMPLAINT IF NEEDED.

2022 Use of Force

■ Use of Force Incidents ■ Traffic Stops ■ Calls For Service

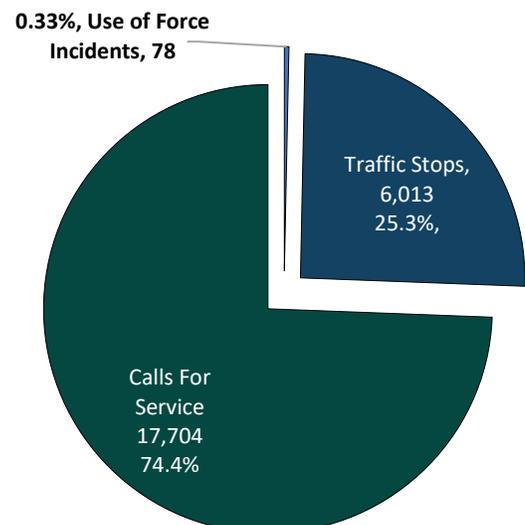


Figure 4.2

The Kentwood Police Department holds the law, its internal policies, and the conduct of its employees in high regard. There are many checks and balances built into our operations that assure quality, accuracy and consistency. One way to ensure that our level of integrity is maintained is by responding to, and thoroughly investigating, complaints made by citizens and our employees. We will continue to train, monitor, and expect excellence in regard to the performance of our employees as they carry out our mission and serve our community with excellence.

Internal investigations can be initiated by a citizen complaint, or they can be initiated by an employee or supervisor. The purpose of an internal investigation is to find facts related to an alleged wrongdoing so that the best corrective action can be taken to ensure this type of activity does not continue in the future. When an internal investigation is assigned and completed, the facts are reviewed by Command Staff. There are four types of dispositions that can be assigned to the investigation. These dispositions include “unfounded” (event did not occur), “not sustained” (insufficient evidence or information to make a determination), “exonerated” (event did occur but the employee acted within the law, policy and/or procedure), and “sustained” (event did occur and the employee was responsible for the improper act alleged or a different improper act).

Throughout 2022, we received inquiries, questions and concerns from the community we serve. These issues are often resolved by Kentwood Police Department supervisors to the satisfaction of the reporting parties. Many times, this just requires an explanation of our policies and procedures. In other cases, where a significant policy and/or procedure violation may have occurred, or some other form of inappropriate action is alleged, a formal internal investigation is assigned.

Regardless of the outcome, the original complainant will be notified of the outcome and if any corrective action was taken. Corrective action can be accomplished in several ways depending on the specific facts and circumstances of each case. Action taken may include re-training, counseling, discipline or even termination.

The Kentwood Police Department conducted sixteen (16) internal investigations during 2022. Three (3) of those complaints were originated by the Kentwood Police Department themselves due to standard review or supervisors conducting monthly review of video. Sergeants reviewed 867 videos in 2022. The breakdown of all 2022 complaints includes eight (8) abuse of position/authority, seven (7) rules/policy violations and one (1) racial profiling/intimidation.

Of these sixteen (16) investigations, four (4) were sustained and these all involved policy/procedure violations. Disciplinary action was taken to correct the behavior in these cases, or the policy/procedure of the department was improved upon so the issue would not occur again. Three (3) complaints were unfounded, and the officers were exonerated in the other nine (9) complaints.

The department also investigated a civil rights violation reference possible racial profiling. This complaint was dismissed by the Michigan Department of Civil Rights.



COMMUNITY Services

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES THAT OFFICERS PARTICIPATE IN IS WORKING WITH OUR COMMUNITY TO PROVIDE SERVICE AND PROMOTE SAFETY AWARENESS.

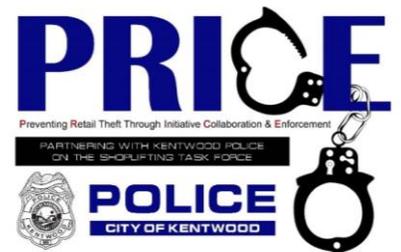
The overarching focus of the Community Services Bureau is to provide excellent service to the community and to improve quality of life for the citizens through outreach programs, problem solving, and connecting with students in the local school systems. The community services officers (CSO) participated in at least 56 community events throughout the year in an effort to build trust with citizens, provide safe venues for local events, and bring safety awareness to the residents and businesses within the City of Kentwood. The Code Enforcement Unit is a proactive division of the Community Services Bureau that seeks to maintain code compliance of both residential and commercial properties throughout the City of Kentwood.

TOUCH A TRUCK: This event was held on June 22, 2022, and, as always, was an overwhelming success. It allows many departments within the city to get out and interact with the citizens and answer questions, getting the community engagement that we strive for.

SANTA PARADE: Kentwood Police Department again assisted with Wyoming Police Department for the annual Santa Parade which was held on December 10, 2022. This parade is highly anticipated each year with great attendance from both the citizens and local area businesses.

TRUNK OR TREAT: Our community officers participated in four separate “Trunk or Treat” events with some of the best turnouts we have ever seen. In addition to the City of Kentwood event, we assisted and partnered with two local churches and one area business in similar events.

OPERATION P.R.I.C.E.: The P.R.I.C.E. program was developed in 2014 by the Kentwood Police Department as a collaborative initiative to build relationships with our growing business community, as well as respond to crime patterns more effectively. In 2022, P.R.I.C.E. began on November 28, 2022, and continued through December 30, 2022. During P.R.I.C.E., patrol officers are assigned to various businesses along 28th and 29th Streets to initiate business contacts. Officers distribute P.R.I.C.E. posters allowing the business to declare their partnership with the Kentwood Police Department, as well as informational pamphlets on indicators of theft, legal actions, contact information and methods of filing a report. Community officers were also available to connect directly with businesses and their employees upon request on how to handle specific fraud situations and best practices. P.R.I.C.E. has surpassed the intended goal, demonstrating to be a highly-successful initiative not only for the department, but for the community as a whole. Our goal in initiating this program is to reduce crime, increase traffic safety, and increase service to our community. It is our intent to help create a positive and safe shopping experience for those who live in and visit our city during the holiday season.



NO SHAVE NOVEMBER

In November 2022, officers and professional support staff had the opportunity to participate in ‘No Shave November’. Male employees were given the opportunity to grow a beard for the month or, for those without a designated uniform, wear blue jeans for a month. For females, they were given the opportunity to dye their hair pink or, for those without a designated uniform, wear blue jeans for a month. Participation included a \$50 donation towards Parks and Recreation Department’s Little Free Pantry. Almost \$600 was raised during this event.

COMMUNITY Events

Our community officers wear many hats within the department, and they always try to make themselves available for our community and events in which they may be able to assist. In addition to the previously discussed events, our officers also brought numerous "Vehicle Showcase" events to our area schools and programs, hosted several senior safety classes along with the Kentwood Parks and Recreation Department, assisted local colleges with training and interviews, countless security walk-throughs at our local businesses, assisted in the Metro Police Academy, met with our local girl scout troops, participated in Metro Cruise, and countless other contacts that they make on a weekly basis.



NATIONAL NIGHT Out



National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods a safer and more caring place to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

Community Services Officer Wolterink collaborated with 17 neighborhoods and three churches to host National Night Out parties in 2022. All parties were very well attended by the Kentwood Police Department, Department of Public Works and Kentwood Fire Department. New this year was a large event hosted by Ada Bible Church. With various bounce houses, inflatable slides, fire trucks, police fleet vehicles, giveaways and a free hot dog dinner, this event was a definite favorite among community members.

We anxiously look forward to National Night Out 2023 and hope to have even more neighbors and community groups join us in the event. Thank you to all of those who have participated in the past, we could not make this event happen without you!



HIGH SCHOOL *Youth Academy*

In 2022, the Kentwood Police Department was thrilled to host its third annual high school youth academy. This year had the largest turn out, with 14 recruits in attendance.

Sergeant Wierenga, Officer Willshire, Officer Wolterink, Officer Bylsma and Officer Smith assisted in the planning, organization and instruction of the 40-hour high school police academy.

The academy began on July 25 and went through July 28, 2022. Students received basic training and participated in various hands-on scenarios covering topics such as taser deployment, drunk driving, use of force, de-escalation, traffic stops and physical fitness.

As a department, we always look forward to the opportunity to mentor these individuals each year. They stay focused and work hard all week, we enjoy watching the teamwork among the recruits.



CODE Enforcement

Code enforcement is part of the Community Services Bureau of the Kentwood Police Department. The code enforcement staff are responsible for the oversight and enforcement of city ordinances adopted by the City of Kentwood to maintain the health, safety, and welfare of those individuals living, working, and doing business within the city. Code enforcement collaborates with other city departments to obtain code compliance on properties throughout the city. They are also active in assisting to educate the community and raise awareness concerning ordinance violations by meeting with property owners, landlords, and other community organizations. The code enforcement staff is comprised of one full-time specialist and two part-time technicians.

CODE COMPLAINTS	2021	2022	+/-	%
ANIMAL NUISANCE/KEEPING	21	23	2	9%
AUTO REPAIR/SALES/ CONSP. DISPLAY	37	22	-15	-68%
BUILDING MAINTENANCE/ FENCE DISREPAIR/BLIGHT	119	123	4	3%
COMMERCIAL VEHICLE VIOLATION	24	41	17	41%
EXTERIOR NUISANCE/TRASH CONTAINERS	137	124	-13	-10%
GARBAGE/TRASH/JUNK	385	393	8	2%
JUNK/UNLICENSED VEH	228	253	25	10%
PARKING LOT HAZARD	2	2	0	0%
PARKING VIOLATIONS	319	307	-12	-4%
RV & EQUIPMENT STORAGE	121	107	-14	-13%
SIDEWALK HAZARD/ OBSTRUCTION	39	52	13	25%
SIGN VIOLATION	52	88	36	41%
SNOW/ICE	347	485	138	28%
STAGNANT WATER	9	9	0	0%
VISION OBSTRUCTION	3	2	-1	-50%
GRASS/WEEDS	386	536	150	28%
YARD WASTE/DEBRIS/TREE LIMBS	55	49	-6	-12%
OTHER MINOR VIOLATIONS	12	10	-2	-20%
ZONING	5	1	-4	-400%
TOTALS	2301	2627	326	12%

Figure 4.3

TOP CODE COMPLAINTS OF 2022:

GRASS/WEEDS	536
SNOW/ICE	485
GARBAGE/TRASH/JUNK	393
PARKING VIOLATIONS	307
JUNK/UNLICENSED VEHICLES	253
EXTERIOR NUISANCE	124



The code enforcement staff investigates complaints of property maintenance violations within the city. Our main focus is to eliminate outside nuisances, to improve and preserve the appearance of the city's residential and business areas, and create a community where those who live, work, or visit can experience a sense of pride. In 2022, the unit goal was to focus on sidewalk obstructions (particularly vegetation overgrowth – tree branches, shrubs or weeds overhanging sidewalks) throughout the City of Kentwood. Over 170 violations were addressed. To file a code complaint, you may contact our code enforcement team in person at 4742 Walma Ave SE, by telephone at (616) 656-6574, or you may file a complaint online at www.kentwood.us/police.

SERGEANT WIERENGA

CODE ENFORCEMENT SPECIALIST GENRICH

CODE ENFORCEMENT TECHNICIAN MASON

CODE ENFORCEMENT TECHNICIAN NOVAKOSKI

POLICE Cadet Program

Police cadets are an integral part of the Kentwood Police Department. They are assigned to different Bureaus throughout the department to aid sworn and professional support staff with various duties, as well as serve the citizens of Kentwood. They are often the first face you see when you visit the police department.

The main responsibilities of a police cadet include data entry, handling walk-in non-emergency reports, minor crash reports, fingerprinting and processing firearm purchase permits. In addition, we have cadets assigned to specific roles within code enforcement, Traffic Services Bureau, and Staff Services Bureau.

The Kentwood Police Department cadet program has launched many careers in law enforcement and related fields for various young, talented men and women throughout West Michigan. Currently, eight of our sworn personnel started their careers in law enforcement as cadets with our department. This unique program provides eligible students from local universities, studying in the field of criminal justice, the opportunity to gain hands-on experience with the Kentwood Police Department. Additionally, cadets ride along with officers, observing the real time day-to-day functions of a law enforcement officer. Each cadet must maintain full-time enrollment status, as well as high academic standards.

In 2022, Cadet Cheyenne Steffen was awarded the first Grand Rapids Community College Police Academy sponsorship. Cadet Steffen started with us as a cadet in October 2020 with previous experience in our local Metro High School Academy and as a cadet with the Lowell Police Department. Her drive and determination has earned the respect of her peers and a police officer position which will begin upon the completion of her police academy training in the spring of 2023.



NEW CADETS IN 2022

SAVANNAH ASHBROOK



Savannah started as a police cadet in August of 2022. She is currently attending Grand Valley State University where she is studying criminal justice. She plans to attend the GVSU police academy in the spring of 2023. She is currently assigned to the front desk.

BRENNA POOLE



Brenna started as a police cadet in May 2022. She is currently attending Aquinas College where she is studying business. Brenna plans to attend the GVSU police academy in the fall of 2023. She is currently assigned to the Community Services Bureau.

DARREN HERMAN



Darren started as a police cadet in May 2022. Darren is currently attending Grand Valley State University where he is studying criminal justice. Darren plans to attend the police academy in the fall of 2023. Darren is currently assigned to the front desk.

HUNTER DEHATE



Hunter started as a police cadet in October 2022. Hunter attended the Kentwood Police Department Youth Academy in the summer of 2022. Hunter accepted an internship with the Michigan State Police shortly after he started. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

VOLUNTEERS in Police Services



The Community Services Bureau also directs the department's Volunteers In Police Service (VIPs) program which is overseen by our part-time professional support staff coordinator, Vicki Highland. Volunteers assist the police department in serving the community through road and trail patrol, chaplain programs, records and clerical duties, special events, and parking enforcement. Volunteers are well trained and prepared for their various roles. Citizens of Kentwood and the volunteers themselves tremendously benefit from the VIPs program.

In addition to their regular assigned duties, volunteers participate in various community events and events organized by Parks & Recreation, City Hall, and Retired & Senior Volunteer Program of Kent County. In 2022, volunteers participated in the 4th of July parade, National Night Out, two Spotlight On Seniors Expos, two DEA's Take Drugs Back events, Annual Appreciation Banquet, Holiday Potluck, and Holiday Lights parade. Several informal meetings and trainings took place in 2022. Multiple well-visits were made, and two memorial services were attended.

At the end of 2022, we had 38 volunteers. This is a slight increase in the number of volunteers from the previous year. The number of road patrol volunteers remained at 11 with two volunteers leaving and two joining the program. The number of trail patrol volunteers increased to 20 as seven new volunteers joined the program with three volunteers leaving. The number of clerical volunteers remained at 4. The number of chaplains remained the same.

VIPS ACTIVITIES	2020	2021	2022
HANDICAP CITATION	86	146	374
FIRE LANE CITATION	4	8	21
TOTAL CITATIONS	90	154	395
WARNINGS	61	116	276
CODE ENFORCEMENT	3	3	10
SITE INSPECTIONS	54	25	47
VACATION HOUSE CHECKS	54	19	106
SIGN CONFISCATIONS	5	10	77
HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS REPORT	0	0	1
PUBLIC RELATIONS	121	446	645
CHAPLAIN CALL OUT	5	2	2
MEDS COLLECTED (LBS)	16.5	198	102
VICTIM SURVEYS MAILED OUT	591	685	269
TRAIL PATROL REPORTS	452	308	690
INFORMAL COURT HEARINGS	5	3	7

Figure 4.4



“EACH PATROL VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTES TOWARDS INCREASING BOTH COMMUNITY SAFETY AND DEPARTMENT EFFECTIVENESS BY ADDING MORE EYES AND EARS ON THE ROAD, AND BY FREEING UP SWORN POLICE OFFICERS TO COMPLETE OTHER CRITICAL TASKS. THIS HELPS TO ENSURE THE CITY OF KENTWOOD REMAINS A SAFE PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE AND WORK”.

- CHIEF OF POLICE BRYAN LITWIN

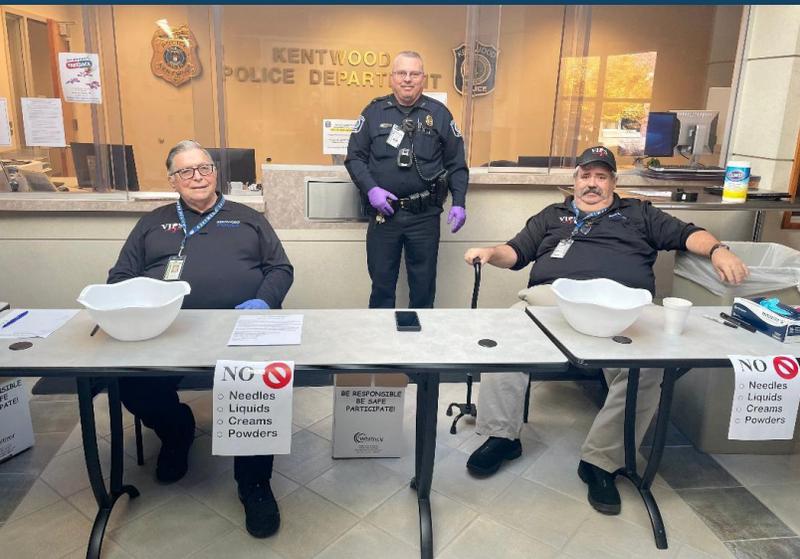
VOLUNTEERS in Police Services



Based on the most recent data (April 2022) from Independentsector.org** (leadership network for nonprofits, foundations, and corporations), the current estimated national value of each volunteer hour is \$29.95 – up 5% from a previous year at \$28.54 per hour. Therefore, the monetary value of VIPS program hours contributed by volunteers in 2022 was **\$81,134.55**. Even though putting numbers to volunteer hours doesn't do justice, it shows the contributions our volunteers made to our department and the community.



DRUG TAKE BACK Event



On Saturday, October 22, 2022, the Kentwood Police Department hosted a Drug Take Back event which resulted in the collection of 102 pounds of unwanted medications for safe disposal. Two volunteers, Charles Rossman and Calvin Stroud, joined Ofc. Bachman to facilitate the event.

The Kentwood Police Department recognizes the need for community members to have a secure location to safely dispose of unused and/or unwanted prescription medications. In 2022, the Volunteers in Police Service program (VIPS) facilitated in the organization of two National Drug Take Back Day events. By providing a secure location for medication disposal, we can help in reducing the amount of unused and/or expired prescription drugs from being accidentally or intentionally ingested by children. Moreover, doing so reduces the likelihood that these drugs will be bought and sold illegally, and it additionally reduces disposal of these drugs into landfills and sewer systems that can be harmful to the environment. We continuously accept unused and/or expired prescription medications at the drop-off location in the Kentwood Police Department lobby located at 4742 Walma Ave SE. You are welcome to bring any unused and/or expired prescription drugs to the lobby for safe disposal during regular business hours, Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM. Please note that we do not accept any liquids or sharp objects.

CRIMINAL Investigations



The Detective Bureau falls under the Services Division of the Kentwood Police Department. The Detective Bureau is divided into two investigative units: General Case and Special Investigations. The Detective Bureau is staffed with two sergeants, seven detectives, one crime analyst, and one clerk. Five of the detectives in the unit are assigned to general and major case investigations. One detective is assigned to a multi-agency Combined Auto Theft Team (CATT), and another is assigned to the Metropolitan Pattern Crime Task Force Team (MPACT). Individuals assigned to the Detective Bureau are carefully selected based on demonstrated dedication and excellence in conducting thorough and complete criminal investigations.

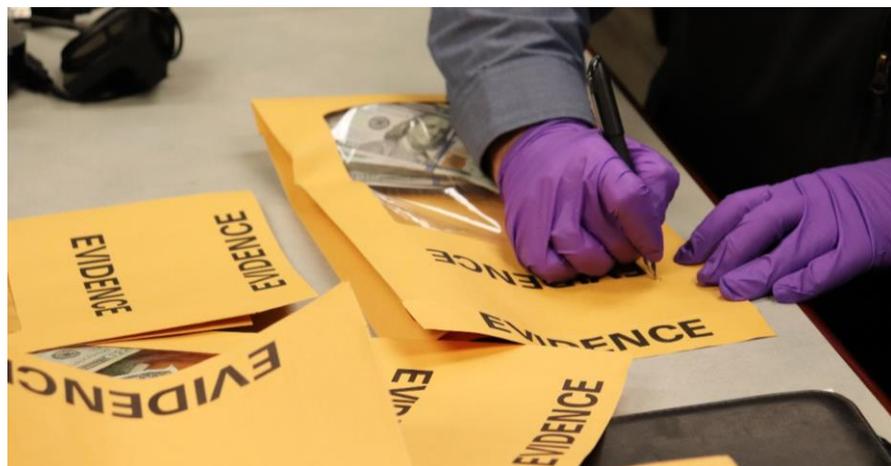
Managing this highly skilled team of investigators is Captain Jason Roelofs and Detective Sergeant Nichole Dalziel. These supervisors rely on their experience and knowledge to assign and manage the cases assigned to members of the unit. They review each case generated by the department and assign cases to the team of investigators based upon a variety of factors. If a case does not meet those factors, it may be closed or filed for further information or developments.

Taking a case from initial complaint to prosecution is one of the many responsibilities of the detectives within the unit. When a case is assigned to a detective, a myriad of other tasks must be accomplished. Investigators conduct follow up interviews, seek additional information and leads, and collect additional evidence. Since Kentwood detectives handle every type of criminal investigation in the city, the variety of skills and knowledge they must maintain is expansive. These skills range from fingerprint and DNA processing to forensic examinations of computers and cellular phones.

While detectives handle the majority of complaints generated by the Patrol Division, the specialized units offer a unique service to our community. Officers assigned to task force teams actively seek out information and suspects associated with crime in Kentwood and the surrounding metropolitan area. The additional resources these teams offer our department can expand the investigative arm of the unit tremendously. In 2022, the Metropolitan Pattern Crime Task Force was formed to help collaborate among agencies and investigate cross jurisdictional crime patterns.

The crime analyst is tasked with collecting and interpreting crime data to assist in determining department-wide operational needs. The analyst also maintains internal department statistics related to overall organizational performance. She additionally utilizes mapping technologies that keeps officers informed as to the latest crime trends and the frequency in which these crimes happen at specific locations. Using a data focused approach is critical to maximizing the efficiency of our resources.

One area where detectives are specifically responsible for initiating an investigation is in the area of child abuse. Three of the detectives in the General Case Unit have specialized training in the interviewing and investigation of child abuse, both physical and sexual. One general case detective is the primary investigator in this specialized field. Most of these cases are referred to us by Children's Protective Services (CPS). Detectives work these cases in cooperation with CPS and specially-trained personnel at the Children's Assessment Center.



CAPTAIN ROELOFS

DETECTIVE SGT. DALZIEL

DETECTIVE CLINE

DETECTIVE FOSTER

DETECTIVE NELSON

DETECTIVE SCHUDEL

DETECTIVE D'ASCENZO

DETECTIVE CHAPMAN

DETECTIVE WOOLLAM

ANALYST OLIVER

CLERK MORRIS

**SPECIAL
INVESTIGATIONS UNIT**

MAJOR Cases

CASE NUMBER: 22-10883
OFFENSE: Homicide
DETECTIVE: Det. D'ascenzo and Det. Nelson

Officers responded to an address with a child not breathing. Detectives also responded for preliminary investigations. Through additional interviews, medical records, and MSP forensic testing, the child's biological parents were arrested and charged with Homicide-Manslaughter-Involuntary. Currently awaiting trial.

CASE NUMBER: 22-1170
OFFENSE: Death
DETECTIVE: Special Investigations Unit

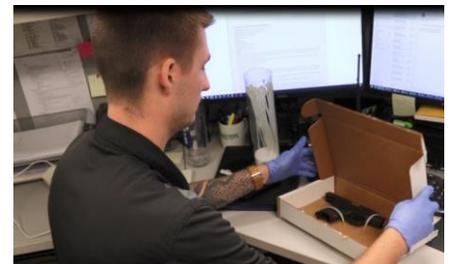
Officers responded to a welfare check on a subject residing in Kentwood. Upon contact, the person was found unresponsive and not breathing. A Special Investigations Unit detective was notified by the family of text messages on the deceased cell phone referencing a narcotic purchase/ exchange. An item taken from the home also showed positive results for the narcotic fentanyl. Additional investigations took place with the execution of search warrants for phone records. Subsequently, a suspect was identified, located, and interviewed. The suspect was charged with a Felony for Controlled Substance Delivery/ Manufacture. Currently awaiting trial.

CASE NUMBER: 22-4353
OFFENSE: Homicide
DETECTIVE: Det. VanderBent and Det. Cline

Officers responded to a shooting at Radcliff Ave and 29th St. Upon arrival, there was one subject deceased from a single gun shot wound. One person of interest was detained. Detectives responded, conducted interviews, collected evidence, and arrested a subject for Homicide. Continuous efforts were made by detectives to collect additional evidence, capture scene imagery, video surveillance, and forensics for the case. Suspect was convicted of second degree murder.

CASE NUMBER: 22-9892
OFFENSE: Stalking/Death Investigation
DETECTIVE: Det. Woollam

The Metropolitan Pattern Crime Task Force (MPACT) conducted surveillance on a known suspect for aggravated stalking who also held outstanding warrants. MPACT located the suspect vehicle, located the suspect inside a building, and later found a handgun tied to the suspect. While conducting an inventory of the suspect vehicle, a deceased person was located inside. The investigation was turned over to Grand Rapids Police Department for a Homicide Investigation.



RECORDS Bureau



The Kentwood Police Department Records Bureau continues to provide the community with excellent customer service. The front desk staff works with an appointment-based system which has continued to improve the wait times and efficiency of the services provided. Four, full-time clerical staff and six police cadets continue to work hard to meet the needs of the public as well as the department. The police cadets are responsible for many of the walk-in requests that the department receives, taking the time to help determine the best avenue of assistance for each person who comes into our lobby. They assist citizens with processing requests for copies of reports, filing accident reports, requesting assistance from officers, processing gun permits and licenses to purchase permits, registering sex offenders, and taking fingerprints. They additionally answer the inbound phone calls to the department front desk, assist the records clerks and the remainder of the department with various tasks. Each cadet has continued to work hard, and their positions here are a great opportunity to learn and grow toward their future career goals in law enforcement.

The Records Bureau continues to utilize technology to accomplish the daily tasks of the department, with an ongoing commitment to implementing processes that improve the efficiency and accuracy of the items processed. The Coplogic system has allowed citizens to submit reports online with a total of 821 reports filed. This has saved the officers over 750 hours, and a total value of time saved of \$20,000. The online system assists with capturing reports that are minor in nature and do not require officer intervention or follow up. This frees officers up to respond to more serious crimes, traffic activity, and proactive police work with the community. It is also a valuable tool for the department to get a clearer picture of the crime happening within the community, regardless of how minor. You can view the online reporting system at www.kwpdonline.com. The Records Bureau looks forward to continuing to grow and work as a team to provide excellent customer service to the community as well as the department. This past year, we upgraded our Records Management System (RMS), which has increased the efficiency in our workflow as well as improved the communication between our existing systems. We look forward to serving the community in the year to come, and we continue to look for ways to improve and grow as a team and as a Bureau.

SERVICES CAPTAIN, JASON ROELOFS	
RECORDS MANAGER, DEB GINEBAUGH	
RECORDS CLERKS	ERIN BROERSMA
	ADAM YANKEE
	HILARY KUIPERS
	AMY PAYNE

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	SALES
ACCIDENT REPORT SALES	461	\$ 2,766.00
FINGERPRINTING	1295	\$ 19,425.00
POLICE REPORT COPIES	84	\$ 504.00
RECORD CHECKS	60	\$ 360.00
FOIA FEES	680	\$ 6,743.03
NOTARY FEES	75	\$ 375.00
LIQUOR LICENSE FEES	0	\$ -
ONLINE ACCIDENT REPORTS	7	\$ 1,699.50
SEX OFFENDER FEES	115	\$ 2,300.00
BOND HANDLING FEES	94	\$ 940.00
MISCELLANEOUS FEES	9	\$ 17.00
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION FEES		\$ 35,129.53
MANDATED STATE FEES COLLECTED (SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION)	115	\$ 3,450.00
MANDATED STATE FEES COLLECTED (FINGERPRINTS)	721	\$ 21,630.00
MANDATED FBI FEES COLLECTED (FINGERPRINTS)	721	\$ 9,553.25
INCOME GRAND TOTAL		\$ 69,762.78

Figure 4.5

NEW HIRES

Police Officers



OFC. LUCAS PARKER

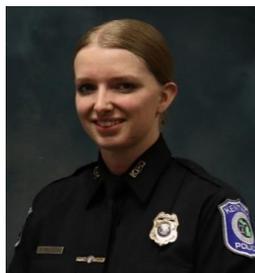
2022 SPONSORED POLICE RECRUIT



Lucas Parker is from Sandusky, Michigan. Lucas attended Michigan State University and studied criminal justice. During college, Lucas worked as a police cadet for the Meridian Township Police Department. Lucas has been interested in law enforcement since high school. He has helped to organize police and first responder appreciation events while at Sandusky High School. Lucas was selected as an employed police recruit and graduated from the Grand Valley State University Police Academy in December 2022. He is currently serving as a road patrol officer in the Patrol Division.

OFC. KAILEY FELLOWS

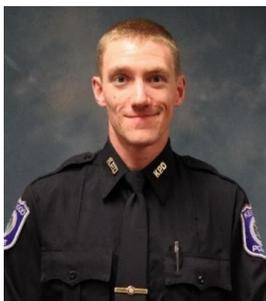
2022 SPONSORED POLICE RECRUIT



Kailey Fellows is from Muskegon, Michigan and graduated from Mona Shores High School. After high school, she enlisted in the U.S. Army and was stationed in Fort Bliss, Texas. She specialized in the Javelin anti-tank weapon system and was the second female to be promoted to an infantry sergeant at Fort Bliss. Kailey returned to Michigan after she left active duty. She attended Grand Valley State University and began her studies in nursing; however, she chose to switch into law enforcement. Kailey was selected as an employed police recruit and graduated from the Grand Valley State Police Academy in December 2022. She is currently serving as a road patrol officer in the Patrol Division.

OFC. CALEB KIEFER

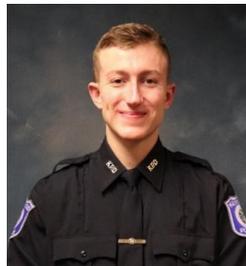
2022 SPONSORED POLICE RECRUIT



Caleb is originally from Pennsylvania and attended Penn State University, Behrend College. Caleb graduated with a bachelor's degree in plastics engineering. After college, Caleb moved to Michigan for his first job at Innotec in Zeeland. He then went to work for Medbio in Grand Rapids. Caleb has always had a desire for public service. He is an Eagle Scout and has been a volunteer firefighter for the Leighton Fire Department. Caleb was selected as an employed police recruit and graduated from the Grand Valley State University Police Academy in August of 2022. Caleb was awarded the top recruit for fitness in this summer's academy. He is currently serving as a road patrol officer in the Patrol Division.

OFC. BRENNON MCGUIRE

2022 SPONSORED POLICE RECRUIT



Brennon is from Ionia, Michigan where he attended Ionia High School and Ionia County Career Center. Brennon attended Michigan State University and then transferred to Grand Rapids Community College to get his associate degree in criminal justice. During college, Brennon worked as a loss prevention officer for Von Maur at Woodland Mall. Our officers had many positive contacts working with him on calls. Brennon was selected as an employed police recruit and graduated from the Grand Valley State University Police Academy in August 2022. He is currently serving as a road patrol officer in the Patrol Division.

OFC. WEI CHEN

2022 SPONSORED POLICE RECRUIT



Wei Chen grew up in Fremont, Michigan, and graduated from Fremont High School. He attended Muskegon Community College, then transferred to Grand Rapids Community College where he attended and graduated from the Corrections Academy. Wei worked for the Allegan County Sheriff's Office as a corrections deputy. He felt that this position helped him to gain the experience he needed to fulfill his goal of becoming a police officer. He was selected as one of our employed police recruits and graduated from Grand Valley State University Police Academy in December 2022. Wei was selected as a squad leader for the police academy. He is currently serving as a road patrol officer in the Patrol Division.

NEW HIRES

Police Officers



OFC. HAEDEN HEIBEL

2022 SPONSORED POLICE RECRUIT



Haeden Heibel grew up in Leslie, Michigan, where he attended Leslie High School. After high school, he went to Albion College where he played collegiate baseball and football. He then transferred to Grand Valley State University to finish his bachelor's degree in business. Haeden has always had a passion for law enforcement. His father is a former police officer, and his mother is a former corrections officer. Their influence was very important in his decision to become a police officer for Kentwood. Haeden was selected as an employed police recruit and graduated from the Grand Valley State Police Academy in December 2022. He is currently serving as a road patrol officer in the Patrol Division.

OFC. LOGAN BYLSMA

2022 SPONSORED POLICE RECRUIT



Logan Bylsma grew up in West Michigan and graduated from Hudsonville High School. He attended Hope College, where he played collegiate soccer and graduated with a bachelor's degree in accounting. Logan was the team captain and a two-time academic All-American while on the soccer team. After college, Logan began working at CapinCrouse, an accounting firm specializing in nonprofit organizations. After working there for a few years, he decided that his real passion was in law enforcement. He decided to apply for the sponsored police recruit position and was selected by our department to attend the Grand Valley State University Police Academy, graduating in August 2022. While in the academy Logan was awarded the top recruit for firearms in this summer's academy. He is currently serving as a road patrol officer in the Patrol Division.

OFC. RYAN LUYK

2022 SPONSORED POLICE RECRUIT



Ryan Luyk grew up in Hudsonville, Michigan, and graduated from Hudsonville High School. After high school, Ryan looked into becoming a firefighter and took his basic firefighter courses. He chose to switch paths and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, where he served our country for eight years. His primary assignment was intelligence and he deployed multiple times overseas during his career. Ryan was a Staff Sergeant and oversaw a team of 17 intelligence analysts at his last assignment. Ryan is currently an active member of the Michigan Air National Guard. Ryan has always had a passion for service. Ryan's father is a retired Kentwood firefighter. During his time in the Air Force, Ryan decided to go into law enforcement. He continues to take classes towards his bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Ryan was selected as an employed police recruit and graduated from the Grand Valley State University Police Academy in December 2022. He is currently serving as a road patrol officer in the Patrol Division.

OFC. TONY BECK

2022 SPONSORED POLICE RECRUIT



Tony grew up in Big Rapids, Michigan, and graduated from Big Rapids High School. He attended Ferris State University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in recreation leadership and management. Tony also attended New Hampshire University, where he obtained a master's degree in sports management. Tony brings a wide range of experience to our police department. He has worked as an athletic director for Grand Rapids Public Schools as well as in adult foster care, and as a home inspector. One of his great qualities is his ability to connect and communicate effectively with people. Tony was selected as an employed police recruit, and he graduated from Grand Valley State University Police Academy in December 2022. Tony was awarded the most improved recruit in physical fitness in the academy. He is currently serving as a road patrol officer in the Patrol Division.



PROFESSIONAL Support Staff

Just as important as our uniformed officers is our dedicated team of professional support staff. The Kentwood Police Department has 17 professional support staff who provide administrative support and assist in various ongoing functions of the police department. These positions include records clerks, training specialist, audio/video specialist, administrative office staff, volunteer coordinator, code enforcement specialists/technicians, property management specialist, crime analyst, and police cadets. Our administrative staff and office clerks are responsible for managing records and reports generated within various divisions of the department, which entails precise record keeping of both physical and computer files. These staff members are also responsible for developing systems to compile and maintain statistical records, and the analysis of crime reports as required by Federal, State, County and Local mandates.

The administrative staff and clerks also maintain personnel and payroll records, inventories of equipment, records of departmental revenues, and assist in the preparation of departmental budgets. In addition, we have a dedicated property management specialist who works diligently to ensure the essential functions of property management are met and evidence is accurately entered, organized, secured. Moreover, there is a crime analyst who assists the Detective Bureau in investigations, as well as organizes and analyzes data for the creation of reports and directed patrol functions.

AMY PAYNE RECORDS CLERK



Amy Payne is the department's newest records clerk, working in the Records Bureau. She recently moved to Michigan from Florida, where she was a dispatcher and records clerk with St. Cloud Police Department for 14 years. In her role, Amy will perform a wide variety of office support duties including review, preparation and input for various police reports.

RACHEL HUMPHREYS STAFF SERVICES ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



Rachel Humphreys is the Kentwood Police Department's new administrative assistant and will be working within the Staff Services Bureau. Rachel previously worked with Grand Rapids Public Schools for eleven years as an administrative assistant and head secretary at a Pre-K through 5th grade elementary school. Rachel also works part time with the University of Michigan Health--West answering after hours medical calls for local doctors' offices. Rachel has two adult sons and thoroughly enjoys being a "Nonna" in her spare time chasing after her two younger grandchildren, Grayson and Nora Lee. She loves shopping, reading, walking trails, beaches, and traveling as hobbies and is super excited "to make a difference with the KPD in years to come".

EMPLOYEE SERVICE Awards

LIFE SAVING AWARDS

On January 14, 2022, Officers Joslyn and Wills responded to a suicide attempt incident. The individual had locked herself in a bathroom and cut her arm in an attempt to kill herself. The officers forced their way into the bathroom, carried the individual out into the living area, and Officer Joslyn applied a tourniquet to her arm to stop the bleeding. The individual had lost consciousness, and quite possibly would have bled to death before more advanced medical assistance arrived if not for their quick actions. The officers' performance in a stressful and life-threatening situation brings great credit to themselves and the department.



On February 22, 2022, Officer Fonger responded to a medical assistance call at a worksite for an unresponsive employee who had collapsed. Officer Fonger performed CPR and sternum rubs on the subject for five minutes until more advanced medical care arrived on scene. Kentwood Fire and EMS personnel worked on the subject for approximately 15 minutes, and they were able to revive him. The subject was transported to the hospital where he was listed in stable condition. The Kentwood Fire Department stated that if Officer Fonger had not performed CPR on the individual before they arrived, it is very likely that he would have died. Officer Fonger's performance in a stressful situation brings great credit to himself and the department.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

On October 24, 2021, Officer Beelen responded to a report of a subject who had just stabbed one roommate and was a potential threat to others in the residence. Officer Beelen immediately approached and secured an unknown subject when he was entering the residence with other officers. This action cleared the way for another officer to enter the residence and engage the suspect, who was fighting with another victim. Once the officer shot the suspect, Officer Beelen entered the residence and began securing the scene and checking victims. Officer Colin responded to a report of a subject who had just stabbed one roommate and was a potential threat to others in the residence. Officer Colin accompanied her training officer into the residence, without hesitation, where two subjects were fighting over a large knife, and two other individuals were on the floor just a few feet away. Once the suspect was shot by her training officer, Officer Colin immediately moved towards the suspect to secure him, and then render first-aid. Their courage and bravery in a volatile situation brings great credit upon themselves and the department. These awards are presented on behalf of a grateful community and department for a job well done.





POLICE EMPLOYEES of the Year

SGT. TIM WIERENGA SWORN EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Sgt. Tim Wierenga was recognized as the 2022 sworn employee of the year. Sgt. Wierenga has been recognized by his peers for his dedication to the Kentwood Police Department and the City of Kentwood, as well as his willingness to always lend a helping hand. Sgt. Wierenga began his career at the Kentwood Police Department in 2011. He has served as a patrol officer, field training officer, patrol sergeant, community services sergeant, special response team leader and reality-based training instructor.

Sgt. Wierenga currently oversees the Community Services Bureau. He has made a major impact within the community in 2022 through the implementation and organization of various community events, youth academies, active shooter training, recruiting events, and overseeing the P.R.I.C.E. program. We appreciate the hard work and dedication put forth each day by Tim and look forward to the progression of his law enforcement career here at Kentwood.



TERRY NOVAKOSKI CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR



Code Enforcement Technician Terry Novakoski was recognized as the 2022 non-sworn employee of the year for the Kentwood Police Department. Terry was nominated by his peers for his dedication to the code enforcement unit and his willingness to always lend a helping hand and do so with a smile on his face. Terry has an incredible work ethic and overall genuine kindness.

Terry began his career in law enforcement at the Kent County Sheriff's Department in 1978. Upon retirement, he transitioned to the Kentwood Police Department to work in the code enforcement unit part time. He has been an outstanding addition to the team. He is described as incredibly diligent, hardworking and professional, as well as a master of the BBQ! We appreciate Terry's dedication and professionalism and are very appreciative to have him as an employee.

PROMOTIONS

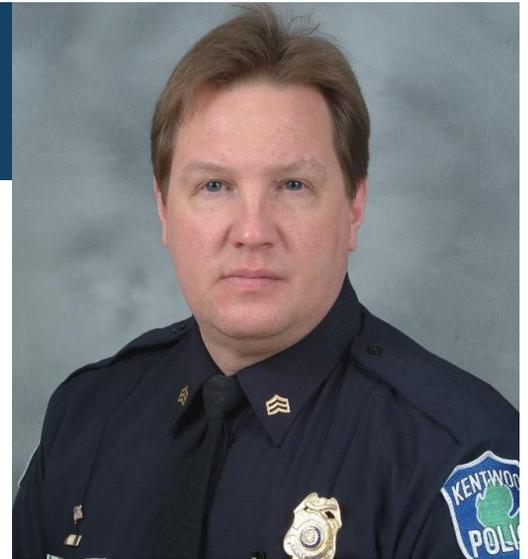


**PATROL SERGEANT
SAM VANDERBENT**

Sergeant VanderBent began his journey into the law enforcement profession while in high school as part of the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety Explorer Program. He attended Kalamazoo Valley Community College for two years before transferring to Grand Valley State University where he obtained his bachelor's degree in criminal justice and attended the Grand Valley State University Police Academy. Upon graduation from the academy in 2014, he was hired by the Kentwood Police Department. During his career, Sergeant VanderBent has served as a patrol officer, as well as a detective in the Detective Bureau's general case unit. Throughout 2022, he served as the lead detective on two major incidents. He is additionally a firearms instructor and a Standardized Field Sobriety Test instructor. Moreover, he has also been a member of the department's Special Response Team since 2016. In his new role as a patrol sergeant, he will supervise one of our patrol squads.

RETIREMENTS

Sgt. Leach began his career with the Kentwood Police Department in 1992. Throughout his career, he has served as a patrol officer, field training officer, firearms instructor and Special Response Team member. In December 1999, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant, where he served on patrol. Sgt. Leach took over supervision of the department's field training program for 13 years. He also became the assistant team leader for the Special Response Team and served on the team for 16 years. Sgt. Leach continued to be a firearms instructor and had 26 years of service in that role when he retired. He also supervised the department's Community Services Bureau for six years. He received numerous awards and commendations over his career and has had a tremendous positive impact on the community of Kentwood and its police department. The Kentwood Police Department and the City of Kentwood thank Sgt. Leach for his dedicated service, and we wish him a long and happy retirement!



30 Years of Service
**PATROL SERGEANT
PETER LEACH**



RETIREMENTS



28 Years of Service **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER** **JEFFRY AUGUSTYN**



The Kentwood Police Department would like to recognize Officer Jeffry (Gus) Augustyn on over 28 dedicated years of service to the Kentwood community. Officer Augustyn began his career with the Kentwood Police Department on December 29, 1993. During his career, he served as a patrol officer, community services officer, and school resource officer. Jeff was a member of the department's Special Response Team and was also a subject control and reality-based training instructor. Jeff was an integral part of the police department's Citizens Academies, Youth Police Academies, and community engagement efforts. He also worked closely with other area police departments to put on various events, specifically the Metro High School Police Academy. His commitment to being a positive role model for Kentwood's youth was very evident in his passion for his role as a school resource officer. Jeff did a great job of connecting with students, and he was respected by both students and staff. Jeff's knowledge and passion for this job will be hard to replace. We wish him and his family the best of luck in his retirement!

24 Years of Service **TRAFFIC OFFICER** **DAVID BACHMAN**



The Kentwood Police Department would like to recognize Officer David Bachman for almost 25 years of dedicated service to the Kentwood community. Officer Bachman began his career with the Kentwood Police Department on March 2, 1998. He spent the last 22 years serving in the Kentwood Police Department's Traffic Unit. Through this role, he worked as the department's accident re-constructionist and assisted with the city's traffic engineering. Officer Bachman has also been a member of the department's motorcycle unit since its inception and a member of the Metropolitan Honor Guard since 2000. He has participated in several community events and has helped to keep students safe by monitoring crossing areas. We thank Officer Bachman for his dedication and service to the community and police department and wish him the best in his retirement and future endeavors!



For the first part of the 2022 calendar year, quality-assurance surveys were sent out through the U.S. Postal Service to random citizens in the community who interacted with the Kentwood Police Department. The questionnaire allowed respondents to respond to various questions, voice community concerns and rate their overall experience with the Kentwood Police Department. Respondents are asked to rate the department based on their experience as 'Poor', 'Fair', 'Adequate', 'Good' or 'Excellent'. There were 269 surveys sent out and 24 of those were returned.

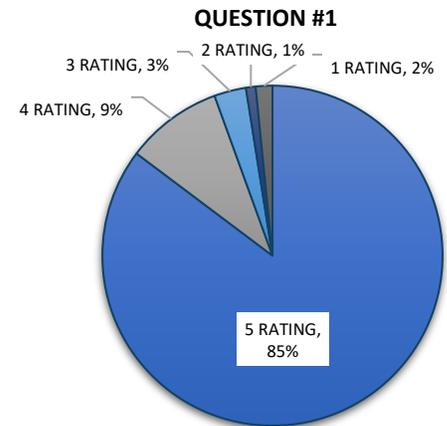
In September of 2022, the department upgraded the evaluation system to a new system called Power Engage through Power DMS. This program sends automatic text message surveys after certain calls for service are responded to by Kentwood police officers and helps to accurately measure satisfaction with the police department. This system replaces the previous method of sending out surveys through the mail. For the questions, they are given a scale of 1-5. One (1) being very unsatisfied, very unprofessional, and not very well. Then five (5) being very satisfied, very professional, and very well.

The department sent out 1,983 surveys from mid-September, (when the system launched) through December 31, 2022. We received 805 responses in return. This is a return rate of 41.5%, which is a significant increase from response rates we received in previous years.

1. How satisfied are you with the service you received from the department? (Rate 1-5)

1	2	3	4	5
2%	1%	3%	9%	85%

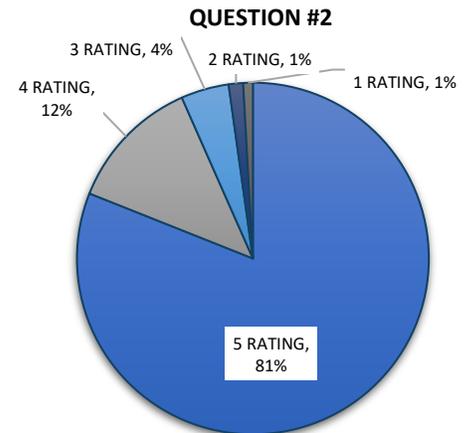
For question #1 we had a 94% response of either a 4 or 5 rating.



2. Was the police employee professional? (Rate 1-5)

1	2	3	4	5
1%	1%	4%	12%	81%

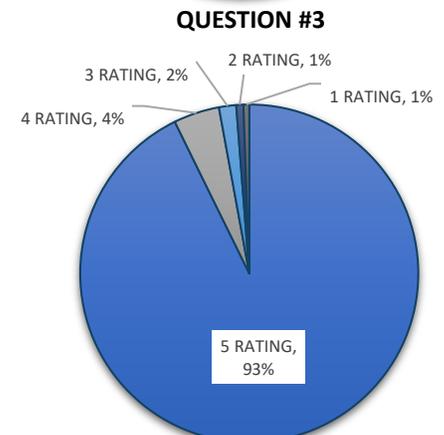
For question #2 we had a 93% response of either a 4 or 5 rating.



3. How well did the police employee explain what is to happen next and/or what is expected of you? (Rate 1-5)

1	2	3	4	5
1%	1%	2%	4%	93%

For question #3 we had a 97% response of either a 4 or 5 rating.

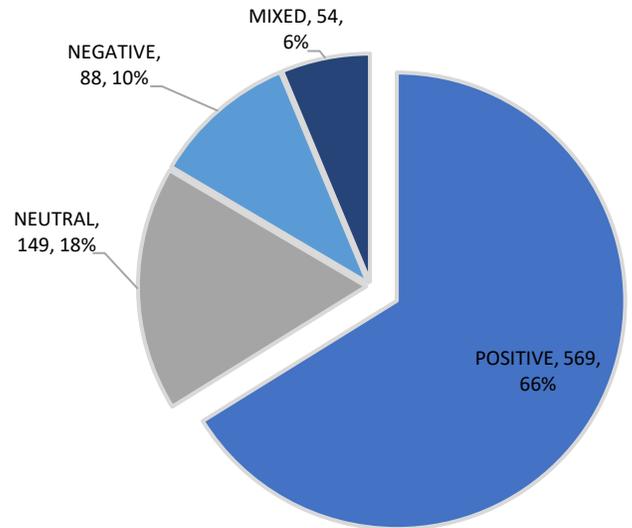


Respondents are additionally provided an opportunity to leave comments regarding the service they received. Of the 1,983 surveys sent out, 860 were completed with a comment or 'sentiment' attached. Of these 860 comments, 569 were categorized as being 'positive', 149 were categorized as 'neutral', 54 as 'mixed', and 88 were categorized as negative. Overall, less than 10% of surveys returned considered their experience with Kentwood officers as being negative.

Comment Summary:

Positive	Neutral	Mixed	Negative
569	149	54	88
66%	17%	6%	10%

Comment Summary 2022



CITIZEN FEEDBACK

"They were very concerning about my situation. Very professional in every way. Like to thank all of the officers."

"Officer Miller was very respectful and professional, he went above and beyond with every question I had, definitely blessed to have such amazing 3rd shift staff in our area, thank you for all your team does, and sacrifices they make."

"I appreciated the calm way he spoke and sent a tow truck to help - I was afraid with it being an area that was very busy for both angry people and causing an accident. Thank you so much!!"

"He was great. I personally feel the most comfortable when anyone interacts both professionally and personally. Personality is important. Non robotic, you can tell they really enjoy their job."

"Very kind and understanding and was pleased with the response time!"

"I thought the officer was wonderful. Very respectful and took my concerns seriously. I am very appreciative."

"She was very patient in answering our questions. She knows the department, the process and the people. Such that her instructions were clear and not overwhelming. She was courteous too."

"All the officers who came to my house today were very nice. Officer Keaton explained how to get the police report and asked if there was anything else we needed or any questions we had! It was a different situation and they all were very professional and kind..."

"HE WAS ABSOLUTELY AMAZING!!!! He explained everything he was saying so I understood. He was very kind and in my opinion went above and beyond. Kudos to you Officer Mendez for giving this scared mom some very needed reassurance. We need more kind officers like you."

"He was a great detective and helped me with my issue and came back with the results before the end of the day. I really appreciate how he spoke to my daughter and explained to her what she was doing was wrong and gave her a little pep talk that helped a lot."

"The police officers were so professional and easy to understand! We are lucky to have such police officers around us!"

"Very much appreciate the professional and thorough service I received. Thank you!"

"Officer DeJong was friendly and helpful. He is an extremely good asset for your department."



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