

COMMITTED TO SERVICE
DEDICATED TO EXCELLENCE



KENTWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT



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THIS REPORT IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT PERMISSION

The numerical data provided herein is intended for informational purposes only. While diligent efforts have been made to ensure accuracy and reliability, the Kentwood Police Department does not guarantee the completeness, correctness, or timeliness of the data. The Kentwood Police Department reserves the right to update, modify, or remove the numerical data at any time without prior notice

FOREWARD

Mayor Kepley, City Commissioners and Citizens,

The year 2023 brought a great deal of challenges and exciting new opportunities to the Kentwood Police Department. There have been a lot of personnel changes as well as implementation of new technology and equipment to improve how we deliver service to our community and make our citizens and officers safer.

Our team did an amazing job of hiring 13 new officers and one full-time support staff member in 2023. With police officers this can be a long process. It can take up to 12 months to get a new police officer on solo patrol from the time we start the hiring process. Our staff invests a lot of time and effort into this development, and it is evident when you see the outstanding, professional officers that we have.

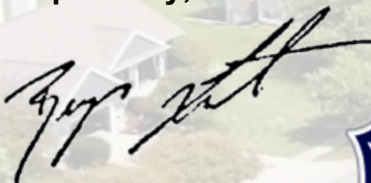
The department handled slightly fewer violent felony and property crime complaints in 2023 compared to 2022, but we were still above our five-year average in those categories. Even with those lower numbers our officers still handled about the same number of calls as they did in 2022. With increases in mental health related incidents and more serious crime violations, we have seen a need for more multiple officer responses to our calls for service.

We have seen an increase in traffic stops this past year with our officers targeting some areas of traffic complaints in Kentwood. We plan to improve on this trend in 2024. Along with normal complaints of speeding, we are also focusing our attention on distracted driving this upcoming year.

The Kentwood Police Department has worked to implement new programs, equipment, and technology over the past year, as well. The department created a drone program and invested in a new automatic license plate reader system in 2023. We also began working on re-introducing our K-9 program this year. All of these will be fully implemented in 2024. These are just a few of the things that we have added to the department in the last year to help our officers be safer and more efficient.

Without the support of the City Commission, Mayor, and other City Departments, we could not have been as successful as we were in implementing all these changes and providing the excellent service that we do. I want to thank all of you for helping to make these things happen. Most importantly, I want to thank the men and women of the Kentwood Police Department, police officers and professional support staff, for their continued dedication to making this a great department to be a part of.

Respectfully,



BRYAN LITWIN
CHIEF OF POLICE



TABLE OF CONTENTS



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POLICE](http://WWW.KENTWOOD.US/POLICE)



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KENTWOOD POLICE
DEPARTMENT

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF | 1 |
| TABLE OF CONTENTS | 2 |
| ABOUT US | 3-5 |
| DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP & STRUCTURE | 7-8 |
| DEPARTMENT VALUES & MISSION | 9-10 |
| HIRING & RECRUITMENT | 11 |
| 2023: A YEAR IN REVIEW | 12 - 13 |
| DATA & STATISTICS | 14 - 19 |
| PATROL DIVISION | 20 - 24 |
| PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DIVISION | 25 - 29 |
| COMMUNITY SERVICES BUREAU | 30 - 33 |
| CODE ENFORCEMENT UNIT | 34 |
| POLICE CADET PROGRAM | 35 |
| VOLUNTEER PROGRAM | 36 - 37 |
| SERVICES DIVISION | 38 - 39 |
| RECORDS BUREAU | 40 - 41 |
| PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT STAFF | 42 |
| NEW HIRES - SWORN OFFICERS | 43 - 47 |
| NEW HIRES - SPONSORED POLICE RECRUITS | 48 |
| PROMOTIONS | 49 |
| AWARDS & COMMENDATIONS | 50 - 51 |
| EDUCATION & TRAINING | 52 |
| PROMOTIONS & RETIREMENTS | 53 - 54 |
| CITIZEN EVALUATIONS | 55 - 56 |

AREA SECTION MAP

POPULATION: 54,300+

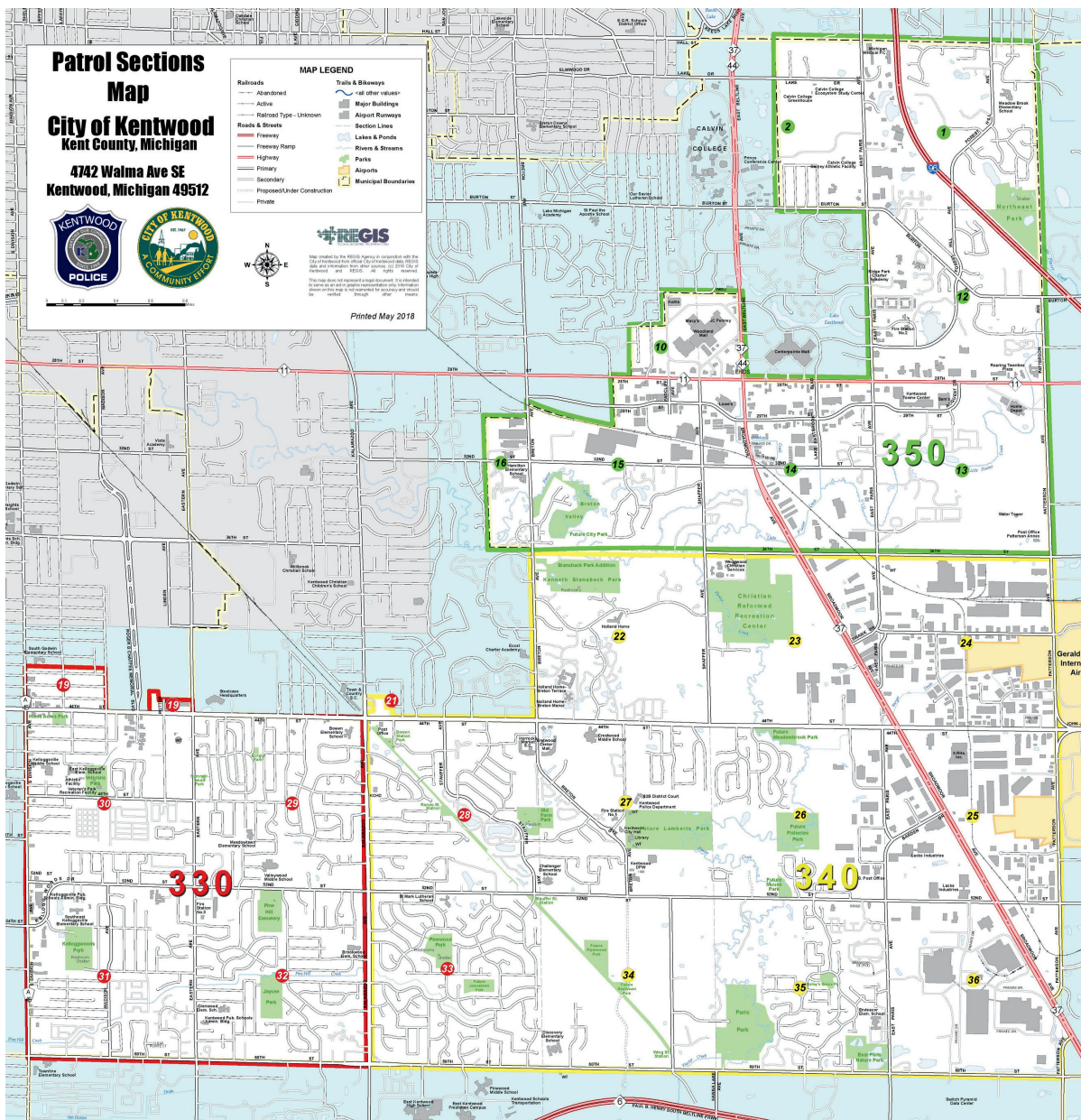
LAND AREA: 21 SQUARE MILES

BUSINESSES: 1,300+

PATROL AREAS: 3 (330, 340, 350)

COMMUNITY SERVICE AREAS: 2

Connected through the Gerald R. Ford International Airport, major highways, passenger and freight rail and bus routes, the city of Kentwood serves as an intersection to many West Michigan communities. Kentwood is bordered by the City of Wyoming to the west, City of Grand Rapids to the north, Cascade Township to the east and Gaines Township to the south.



Kentwood ranks in the upper quartile for Population Density and Diversity Index when compared to the other cities, towns and Census Designated Places (CDPs) in Michigan

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 are tasked with patrolling the city, responding to emergency calls, investigating crimes, and enforcing local ordinances and state laws. In addition, there are 11 sergeants who provide leadership, supervision and training for all sworn officers. Specialized positions and teams include: Special Response Team, K9 Unit, community services officer, school resource officer, traffic officer, training officer, Special Investigations Unit, Combined Auto Theft Team, and pattern crime task force.

In addition to law enforcement duties, the Kentwood Police Department is committed to maintaining the safety and well-being of residents through various programs and initiatives. Officers are involved in various community outreach and engagement efforts. This may include educational programs, neighborhood watch initiatives, and events aimed at building positive relationships between law enforcement and the community. 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.

As with any police department, the Kentwood Police Department operates under the guidance of local laws, policies, and regulations, with a focus on reducing violent crime, increasing traffic safety and serving our community with excellence.



WATCH VIDEO



ABOUT THE CITY OF KENTWOOD

The City of Kentwood is located in the southwest corner of Grand Rapids, Michigan. What began once as a small agricultural township, has grown into a thriving suburban city. Reports after the 2020 census indicated that Kentwood was one of the fastest-growing communities in Michigan, with a 11.5% increase in population, growing from 48,707 to 54,304.

As one of the fastest-growing cities in the state, it is no surprise Kentwood is known for its neighborly and culturally diverse community. Kentwood's dynamic neighborhoods, businesses, parks and organizations make for a vibrant, welcoming, and inclusive community to call home. In addition, Kentwood is home to several manufacturing and distribution companies, contributing to its growing economy.

Kentwood has become a regional destination for shopping, dining, lodging and recreation. Kentwood is best known for its business and industry sectors, in-demand real estate market, and highly-ranked schools. Overall, Kentwood is a growing community with a range of amenities and services for its residents, making it a desirable place to live in the greater Grand Rapids area.



- **POPULATION: 54,304 (APPROX.)**
- **SIZE: 21 SQUARE MILES**
- **15 PARKS**
- **13+ MILES OF TRAILS**
- **QUALITY RANKED SCHOOLS**
- **GROWING ECONOMY WITH A 68% EMPLOYMENT RATE**
- **AMONG THE TOP REAL ESTATE MARKETS**
- **MEDIAN HOME VALUE: \$293,250**
- **EXCELLENT PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAMS**
- **WOODLAND MALL SHOPPING MALL**





CHIEF OF POLICE

**BRYAN
LITWIN**



DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

**STEPHANIE
MORNINGSTAR**



PROFESSIONAL
STANDARDS
DIVISION

**CPT. RYAN
VANDERVEEN**



SERVICES
DIVISION

**CPT. JASON
ROELOFS**



PATROL
DIVISION

**CPT. TIMOTHY
WIERENGA**



PATROL SERGEANT

**MATTHEW
BELK**



PATROL SERGEANT

**ALEX
CAREY**



PATROL SERGEANT

**JIM
CONNELL**



DETECTIVE SERGEANT

**NICHOLE
DALZIEL**



PATROL SERGEANT

**QUINN
DASCENZO**



PATROL SERGEANT

**JARED
HUNDEY**



DETECTIVE SERGEANT

**MARK
TERPSTRA**



STAFF SERVICES SERGEANT

**ZACH
SMIGIEL**



PATROL SERGEANT

**DAVE
UNSELD**



PATROL SERGEANT

**DERRICK
WOLTERINK**

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

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.

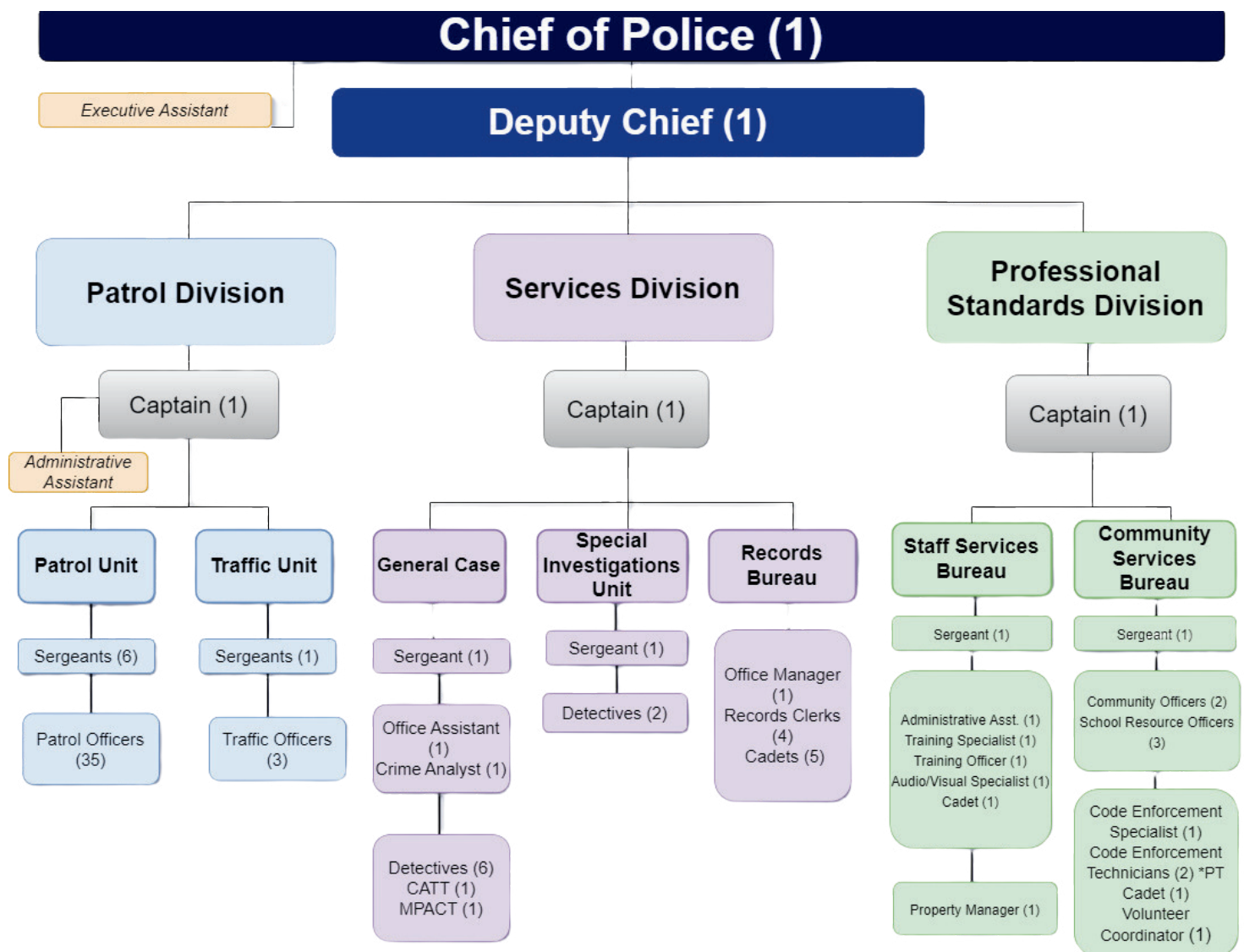


Figure 1.0

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 to fulfill 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.

Character is demonstrated by the moral and ethical qualities our employees possess and how we interact with the people we serve and those that we work with. Treating individuals fairly and with respect and kindness is just as important as having high integrity, courage, and reverence for the law.

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

THE MISSION OF THE KENTWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT IS TO REDUCE SERIOUS CRIME, INCREASE TRAFFIC SAFETY AND SERVE THE COMMUNITY WITH EXCELLENCE.

HIRING & RECRUITMENT

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, despite an increase in the raw number of law enforcement jobs, there has been a more considerable growth in U.S. population. This has led to a slow decline in the ratio of residents to police officers. As a result, officers are responsible for serving more people—often with fewer resources. In order for police agencies to match an adequate number of officers to the growing population, many agencies are routinely looking to hire additional individuals. Recruitment in law enforcement is a crucial process aimed at attracting qualified candidates who possess the necessary skills, abilities, and characteristics to effectively serve as police officers.

The Kentwood Police Department has a dedicated team of recruiters who consistently strive to stay ahead of changes and remain knowledgeable on various recruitment and retention techniques. This team frequents colleges and universities, police academies, career fairs, event expos, and recruitment open houses. In 2023, there were various new approaches taken to increase recruitment. These included incorporating web-based outreach via social media, use of new technology and equipment, and accepting lateral transfers. The team attended approximately 15 additional outside recruitment events at local colleges and universities. We had 303 applications for the Sponsored Police Recruit positions, Police Officer, and Cadet positions in 2023 which in turn accounted for 36 background investigations completed and 13 Police Officers hired.

- **TWO OPEN HOUSE RECRUITMENT EVENT HELD AT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**
- **13 RECRUITING EVENTS ATTENDED**
- **303 APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED**
- **36 SWORN BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED**
- **13 POLICE OFFICERS HIRED**



The Kentwood Police Department Recruitment Team held two open house recruiting events in 2023. These events were tailored for those seeking to learn more about our organization and our employment opportunities. Each event held two informational sessions in which participants had the opportunity to learn about our sponsored police recruit position, the MCOLES physical fitness and reading standards, as well as the entire hiring process. In addition, attendees were able to walk around and talk one on one with staff, ask questions about different career opportunities, view equipment and take a personalized tour of the department.



YEAR 2023 IN REVIEW

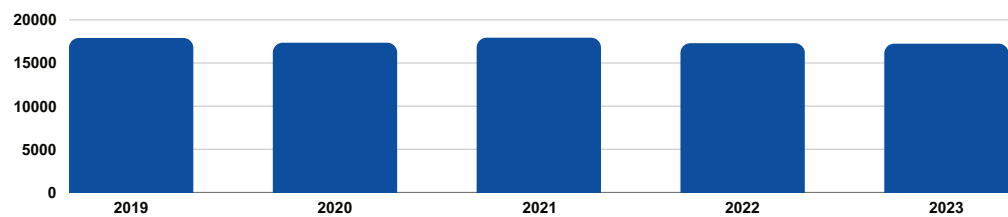


Figure 1.1

Officers responded to 17,242 incidents in 2023. This is a 2.5% (-444) decrease in comparison to 2022 and a 3% (-529) decrease in comparison to the five-year average. Among the most frequent calls for service were: suspicious activity (1,857), assist citizen or motorist (1,484), accident property damage (1,156), domestic disturbance (1,005), check on welfare (985), and disorderly conduct (798).

In addition, officers conducted 7,039 traffic stops, responded to 1,392 traffic collisions, investigated approximately 2,000 cases and made over 1,560 custodial arrests. In addition, 771 reports were submitted online through our web based Coplogic reporting system.

| INCIDENTS IN 2023 | INCIDENTS PER MONTH | INCIDENTS PER WEEK | INCIDENTS PER DAY | INCIDENTS PER HOUR |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 17,242 | 1,437 | 332 | 47.2 | 1.97 |

*DATA IS A CALCULATED AVG OF 12 MO/YR, 52 WKS/YR, 365 DAYS/YR, 8,760 HRS/YR. CALLS ARE DIVIDED AMONG THREE MAIN SHIFTS.

Figure 1.2

2023 PERSONNEL STATISTICS

At the close of 2023, the Kentwood Police Department had 62 full-time sworn police employees. Of these sworn positions, approximately 36 (including sergeants) were assigned to road patrol. Professional support staff employees amounted to 16. Of the professional support staff, three were employed part-time. In addition, the Kentwood Police Department employed four police cadets and two police recruits who were attending local police academies. The total number of police personnel in 2023 amounted to 84.

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 2023 indicate there were 62 sworn police personnel. This calculates to 1.4 sworn police personnel per 1,000 residents. (According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population estimate of Kentwood, Michigan as of July 1, 2022 was 54,077).

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.

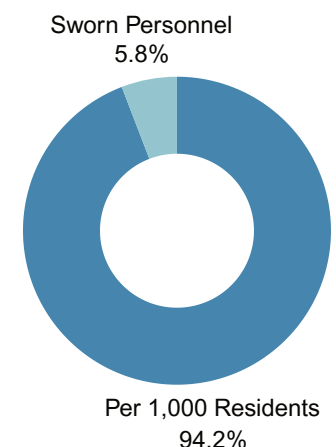


Figure 1.3

NEW IN 2023



NEW FLEET OF VEHICLES

In 2023 the Kentwood police Department upgraded our fleet of vehicles from the Dodge Charger to the Dodge Durango. The Durango is a popular choice for police departments as a law enforcement vehicle. It offers a combination of power, versatility, and interior space suitable for various police duties. The Durango's spacious interior allows for comfortable seating for officers and equipment storage. This is important for police departments that need to carry a significant amount of gear during patrols or emergencies.



EXTERNAL CARRIERS

In 2023, the Kentwood Police Department issued all officers an external vest carrier manufactured by Armor Express. Officers are now able to place their body armor inside the external carrier. The vest and carriers are worn on the outside of their uniform. This allows them to move much of their equipment from their duty belt to the vest, increasing comfort to their back and hips. As part of the transition, each officer participated in a training course to familiarize themselves with the new vest and equipment placement.



UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE (DRONES)

In 2023 the Kentwood Police Department purchased its first drone. Police drones, also known as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) are used for various investigative purposes, including search and rescue operations, location of fleeing subjects, accident reconstruction, crime scene photo and video and more. These drones are equipped with cameras and sensors that can capture high-resolution images, video footage, thermal imaging, night vision, and other advanced features. Police drones are a valuable tool for law enforcement agencies, providing them with an additional perspective and enhancing their ability to monitor and respond to various situations effectively. The Kentwood Drone Unit currently has six members that are pilot trained, and a total of 10 team members.



FLOCK SAFETY LICENSE PLATE READERS

Flock is a public safety investigative tool that utilizes Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology to detect potential threats in the community. Statistics show that seven out of every 10 crimes are committed with a vehicle. License plates offer police a piece of objective evidence that can be transformed into actionable leads. Using ALPR cameras, detectives can pinpoint a suspect's last known location which significantly narrows down the search radius. Flock users can filter their search based on the vehicle's specific characteristics, including body type, make, color, and more. This is key in producing an investigative lead for agencies when a suspect vehicle has no visible plates. The cameras take photographs of vehicle license plates, not occupants. The Kentwood Police Department has contracted with Flock to provide 10 cameras throughout the city.



flock safety

**TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT FLOCK PLEASE VISIT:
WWW.FLOCKSAFETY.COM**

CRIME STATISTICS

The Kentwood Police Department reports crime two different ways. Primarily, the department reports crimes that are defined in Michigan Incident Crime Reporting data (MICR). The MICR system collects crime data concerning 63 different data elements for 99 different file classes. This is according to local law which guides 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.

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.

Crime data is additionally generated using uniformly established guidelines that have been developed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). This is known as the 'Uniform Crime Reporting' System (UCR). This system classifies offenses into part I and part II crimes. To compare crime data to other cities, please visit the FBI website at www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm and navigate to documents and data. For the purposes of this report, only part I offense data is displayed below.

| Part I Offenses | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-------------------------|---------|--------------------|------------|----------|---------------|---------------------|
| | (Violent) | | | | (Property) | | | |
| | Homicide | Criminal Sexual Conduct | Robbery | Aggravated Assault | Arson | Burglary | Larceny Theft | Motor Vehicle Theft |
| 2019 | 1 | 24 | 20 | 111 | 5 | 172 | 916 | 81 |
| 2020 | 5 | 23 | 26 | 151 | 4 | 172 | 916 | 81 |
| 2021 | 2 | 38 | 23 | 144 | 10 | 151 | 953 | 207 |
| 2022 | 3 | 40 | 36 | 179 | 7 | 132 | 1029 | 375 |
| 2023 | 4 | 34 | 31 | 167 | 5 | 131 | 1048 | 324 |
| 5 Year Avg. | 2 | 26.8 | 28 | 143.2 | 5.8 | 162.8 | 923.6 | 179.4 |
| Change | 100% | 27% | 11% | 17% | 21% | -19% | 11% | 109 |

The numerical data provided herein is intended for informational purposes only. While diligent efforts have been made to ensure accuracy and reliability, the BOJ does not guarantee the completeness, correctness, or timeliness of the data.

Figure 1.4

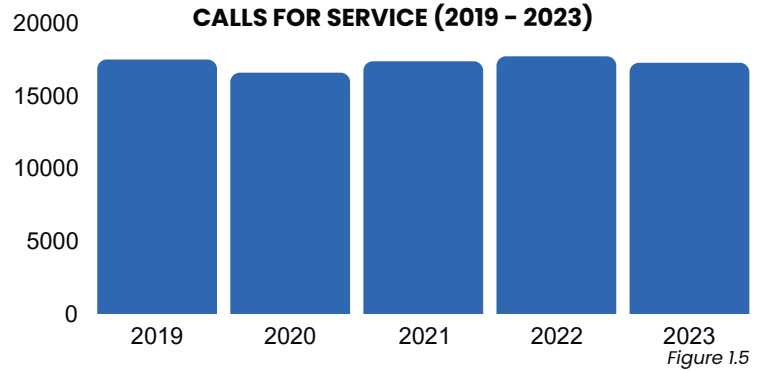
PART I CRIME OFFENSE DEFINITIONS

- **Homicide:** the willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another.
- **Criminal Sexual Conduct:** The carnal knowledge of another individual forcibly and against their will.
- **Robbery:** The taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence.
- **Aggravated assault:** An unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault usually is accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce great bodily harm.
- **Burglary:** The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or a theft.
- **Larceny-theft:** The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another. Examples are thefts of bicycles, motor vehicle parts and accessories, shoplifting, pocket-picking, or the stealing of any property or article that is not taken by force and violence or by fraud.
- **Motor vehicle theft:** The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle.
- **Arson:** Any willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling house, public building, motor vehicle/ aircraft, personal property of another, etc.

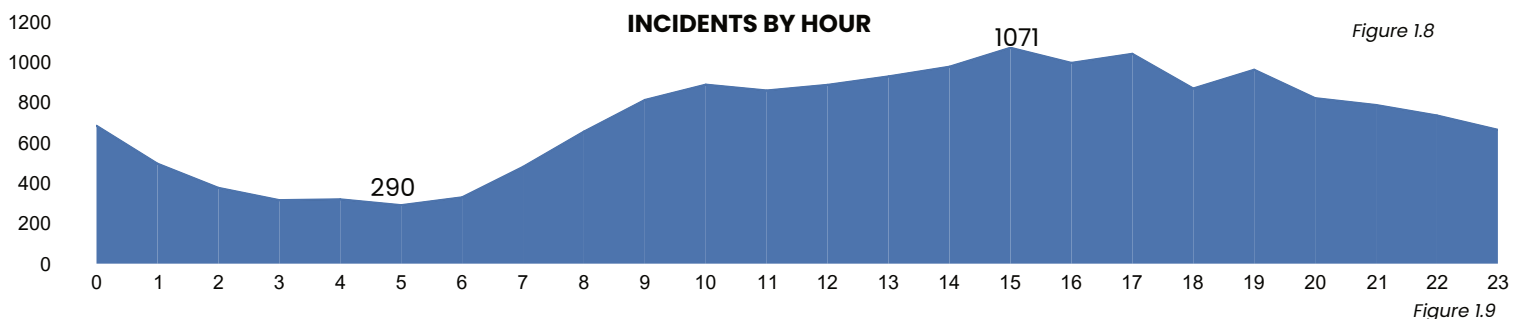
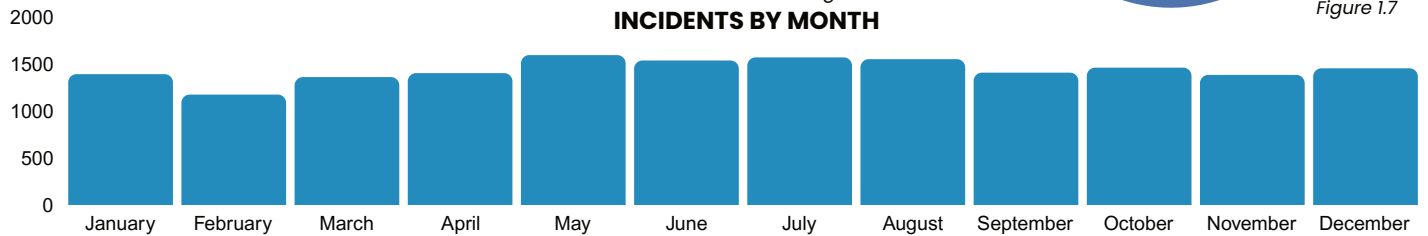
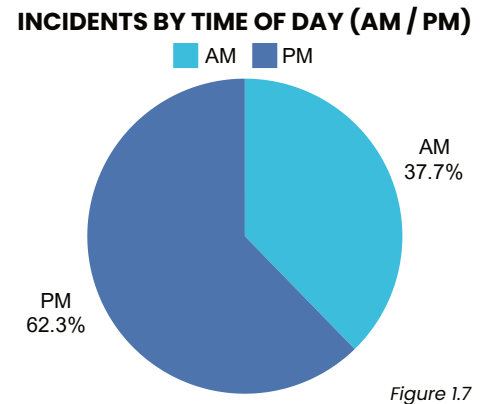
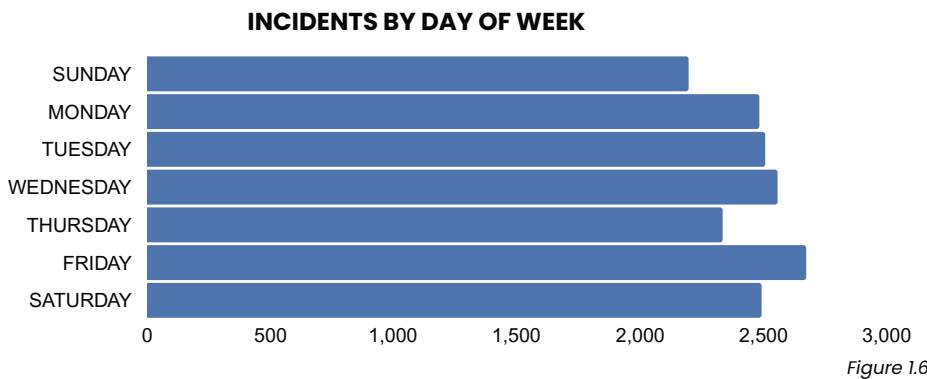
CALLS FOR SERVICE

- The overall number of calls for service handled by the Kentwood Police Department in 2023 was 17,424.
- In 2023, there was a slight 2% decrease (-441 calls) in calls for service in comparison to 2022.
- There was a 3% decrease (-529.4 calls) in comparison to the five-year average.

CALLS FOR SERVICE (CFS) INCLUDE EVERY INCIDENT THAT THE KENTWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT IS DISPATCHED TO, AS WELL AS SELECT POLICE-INITIATED EVENTS.



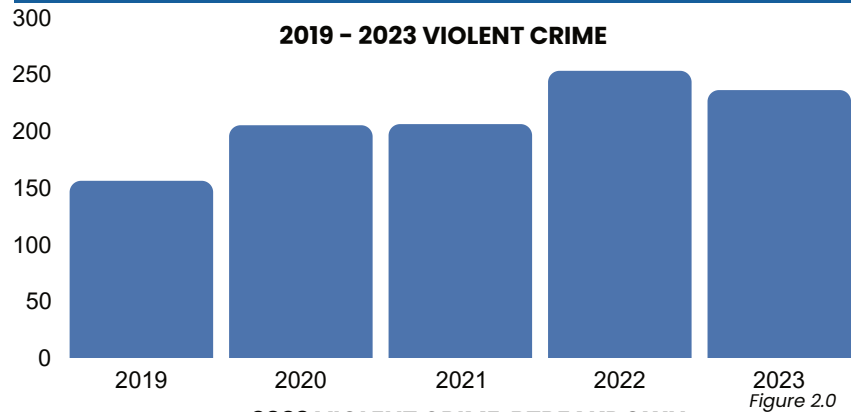
- Data from 2023 indicates that the highest number of calls occurred between the months of May – August. The highest call volume in a given month was 1,590 calls in May and the lowest was 1,173 calls in February.
- Weekday data from 2023 indicates that the highest number of calls for service occurred on Friday (2,675 calls).
- Hourly data from 2023 demonstrates that the highest call volume occurred between 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM, with the highest number 1,071 occurring at 4:00 PM.
- The largest number of calls for service received in 2023 were for: Suspicious Activity (1,857), Assisting Citizen or Motorist (1,484), Accident Property Damage (1,156), Domestic Disturbance (1,005), Check on Welfare (985), and Alarm Residential (983).



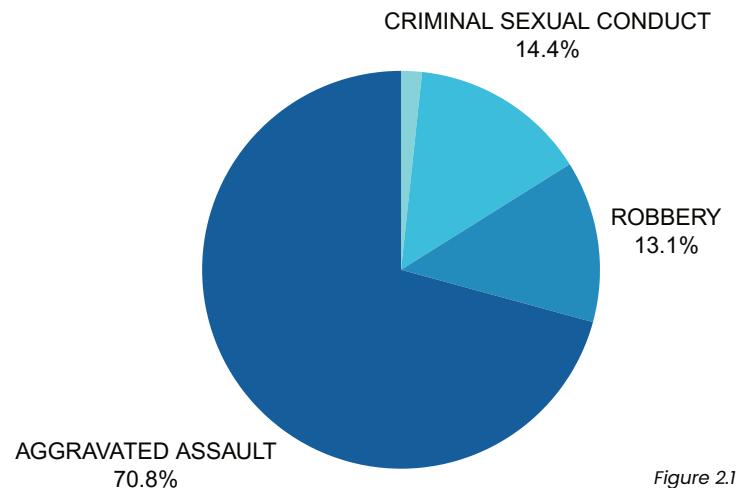
VIOLENT CRIME

- There were 246 violent crimes that occurred in the City of Kentwood in 2023.
- This is a 7% decrease in comparison to 2022 (+17 offenses) and a 18% increase (+36 cases) over the five-year average.
- Aggravated assault accounted for 71% of all violent crime in 2022, with 167 incidents reported. This is a 13% decrease in comparison to 2022 and a 17% increase in comparison to the five-year average.
- Robbery accounts for 13% of total violent crime with 31 incidents in 2023. This is a 6% decrease in comparison to 2022 and a 11% increase in comparison to the five-year average.

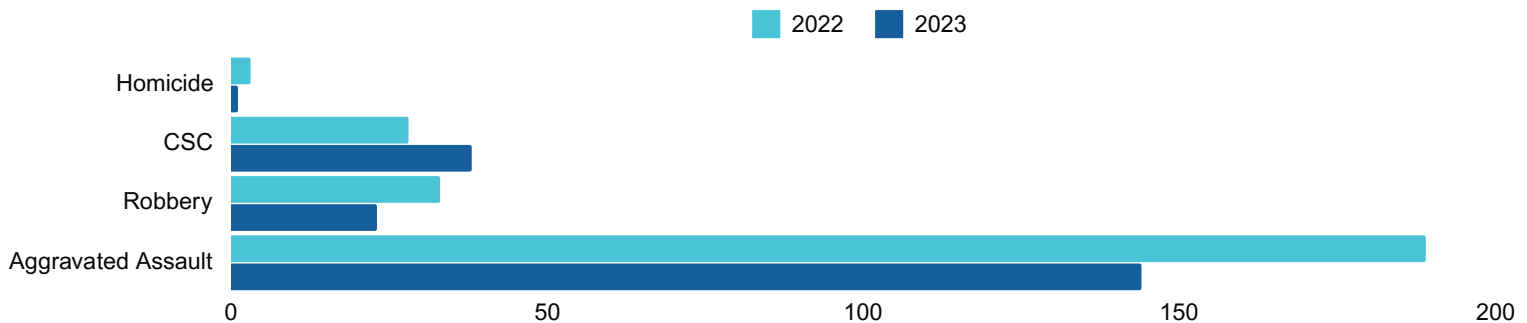
VIOLENT CRIME IS COMPOSED OF FOUR CRIMINAL OFFENSES: HOMICIDE, RAPE, ROBBERY, AND AGGRAVATED ASSAULT. VIOLENT CRIMES INVOLVE FORCE OR THE THREAT OF FORCE.



2023 VIOLENT CRIME BTREKDOWN



YEARY VIOLENT CRIME COMPARISON



***2022 VIOLENT CRIME RATE BY CITY (PER 100,000 RESIDENTS)**

| CITY | POPULATION | HOMICIDE | CSC | ROBBERY | AGG. ASSAULT | TOTAL |
|--------------|------------|----------|-----|---------|--------------|-------|
| Portage | 48811 | 8 | 26 | 10 | 106 | 150 |
| Kentwood | 54077 | 2 | 20 | 25 | 182 | 229 |
| Battle Creek | 61347 | 10 | 60 | 33 | 585 | 668 |
| Kalamazoo | 72810 | 10 | 70 | 125 | 866 | 1071 |
| Wyoming | 76726 | 12 | 43 | 61 | 243 | 359 |
| Grand Rapids | 196662 | 20 | 139 | 267 | 1453 | 1879 |

*The FBI's estimated violent crime rate is calculated based on available data (2022) submitted to the Uniform Crime Reporting program.

**Comparable by local cities in the Western Region of Michigan. Data is based on 2022 MCR reporting crime for the State of Michigan.

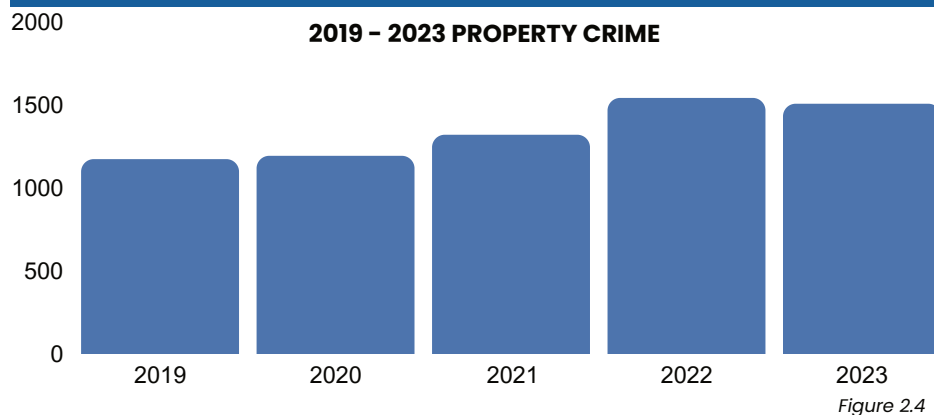
***To read more on the Data Declaration for UCR reporting please visit: <https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/ucr>

Figure 2.3

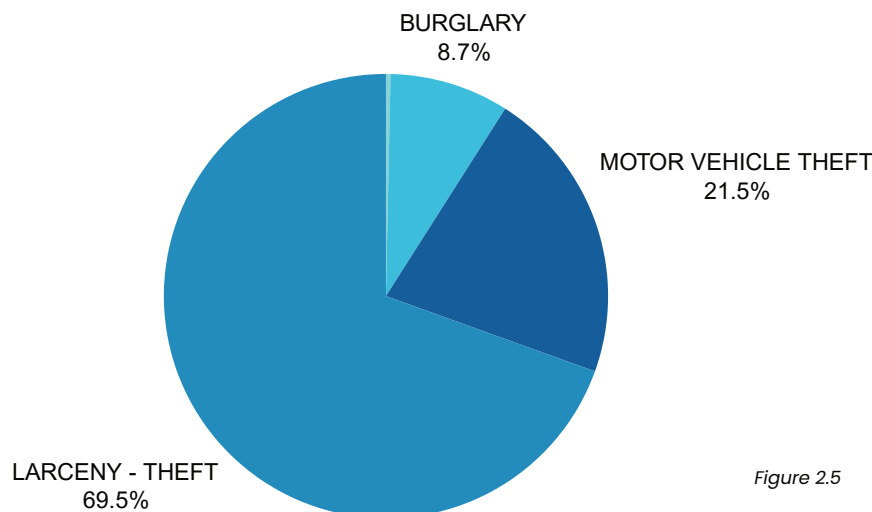
PROPERTY CRIME

- In 2023, a total of 1,508 property crimes occurred in the City of Kentwood.
- This is a 2% decrease (-35 cases) in comparison to 2022 and a 19% increase (+271 cases) in comparison to the five-year average.
- Larceny amounted to 69% of all property crimes in 2023 with 1,048 offenses. This is a 2% increase in comparison to 2022 and a 13% increase in comparison to the five-year average.
- Motor Vehicle Theft amounted to 21% of all property crime in 2023 with 324 offenses. This is an 14% decrease in comparison to 2022, and a 81% increase in comparison to the five-year average.
- Burglary amounted to 9% of property crime in 2023 with 131 offenses. This is a 1% decrease in comparison to 2022, and a 20% decrease in comparison to the five-year average.

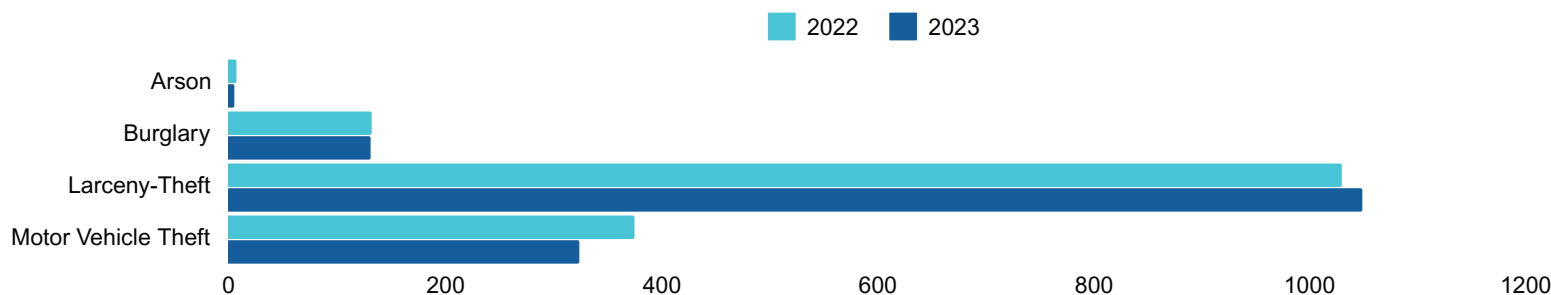
COMPOSED OF FOUR OFFENSES: BURGLARY, LARCENY, MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT, AND ARSON. LARCENY OFFENSES INVOLVE THE TAKING OF MONEY OR PROPERTY WITHOUT FORCE OR THREAT OF FORCE AGAINST THE VICTIM.



2023 PROPERTY CRIME BREAKDOWN



2022 TO 2023 PROPERTY CRIME COMPARISON



*2022 PROPERTY CRIME RATE BY CITY (PER 100,000 RESIDENTS)

| CITY | POPULATION | ARSON | BURGLARY | LARCENY | MVT | TOTAL |
|--------------|------------|-------|----------|---------|------|-------|
| Portage | 48811 | 1 | 116 | 1403 | 111 | 1631 |
| Kentwood | 54077 | 3 | 117 | 821 | 290 | 1231 |
| Battle Creek | 61347 | 15 | 345 | 1158 | 145 | 1663 |
| Kalamazoo | 72810 | 43 | 633 | 2280 | 391 | 3347 |
| Wyoming | 76726 | 6 | 122 | 874 | 311 | 1313 |
| Grand Rapids | 196662 | 58 | 512 | 3905 | 1401 | 5876 |

*The FBI's estimated property crime rate is calculated based on available data (2022) submitted to the Uniform Crime Reporting program.

**Comparable by local cities in the Western Region of Michigan. Data is based on 2022 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>

Figure 2.7

NON-INDEX OFFENSES

- There were a total of 2,272 non-index crimes (Part II Crimes) in 2023. This is a slight 1% decrease in comparison to 2022 (-23 incidents).
- Non-aggravated assault was the leading category of non-index crimes in 2023 with 831 offenses. This was a 7% decrease (-63) in comparison to 2022.
- Vandalism was the second highest category of non-index crimes with 4356 offenses. This is a 2% increase in comparison to 2022, with 9 additional incidents reported.
- Fraud was the third highest category of non-index crimes in 2023 with 343 offenses. This is 29% increase from 2022 with 77 additional incidents.
- Drug Offenses (VCSA) decreased 21% in comparison to 2022.
- Weapons offenses decreased 70% in 2023 in comparison to 2022.
- Forgery/Counterfeit decreased 61% in comparison to 2022.
- Embezzlement increased 38% in comparison to 2022.
- Liquor law violations increased 81% in comparison to 2022.

| OFFENSE | 2022 | 2023 | + / - | % CHANGE |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| Non-Aggravated Assault | 894 | 831 | -63 | -7% |
| Forgery/Counterfeit | 41 | 16 | -25 | -61% |
| Embezzlement | 13 | 18 | 5 | 38% |
| Fraudulent Activity | 266 | 343 | 77 | 29% |
| Stolen Property | 75 | 98 | 23 | 31% |
| Weapons | 107 | 32 | -75 | -70% |
| Prostitution & Vice | 0 | 1 | 1 | N/C |
| Sex Offenses | 31 | 47 | 16 | 52% |
| *VCSA | 111 | 88 | -23 | -21% |
| Family & Children | 80 | 76 | -4 | -5% |
| OWI | 149 | 156 | 7 | 5% |
| Disorderly Conduct | 132 | 157 | 25 | 19% |
| Drunkenness | 0 | 0 | 0 | N/C |
| Vandalism | 426 | 435 | 9 | 2% |
| Gambling | 0 | 0 | 0 | N/C |
| Liquor Laws | 16 | 29 | 13 | 81% |
| Runaways | 124 | 114 | -10 | -8% |
| Vagrancy | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Totals | 2465 | 2442 | -23 | -1% |

Figure 2.8

TRAFFIC STATISTICS

2019 - 2023 ACCIDENT DATA

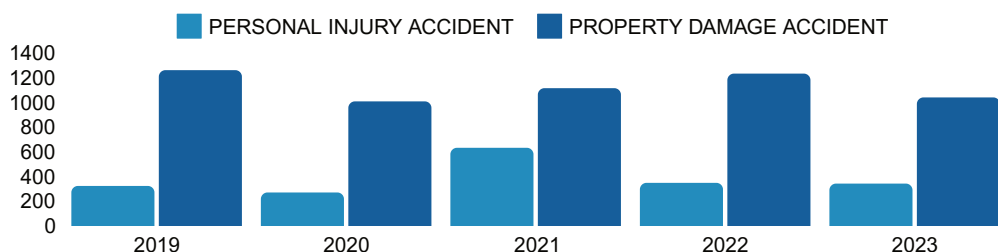


Figure 2.9

- In 2023, the Kentwood Police Department responded to 1,382 reportable traffic accidents.
- There were 1,040 accidents that reported only property damage. This is a 16% (-193) decrease in comparison to 2022 and a 11% (-124) decrease in comparison to the five-year average.
- There were 342 accidents that involved reported personal injury. This is a 2% (-6) decrease in comparison to 2022 and a 2% (+6) increase in comparison to the five-year average.
- Data demonstrates that in 2023, more vehicle accidents occurred in the months of July, August, October November and December.
- In 2023, the Kentwood Police Department made 7,039 traffic stops. This is a 18% increase (+1,073) in comparison to 2022, and a 11% decrease (-886) in comparison to the five-year average.
- In 2023, the Kentwood Police Department issued 3,349 traffic-related citations.
- This is a slight 2% decrease (-63) in comparison to 2022 and a 30% decrease (-1,443) in comparison to the five-year average.

ARREST STATISTICS

2023 ARREST DATA

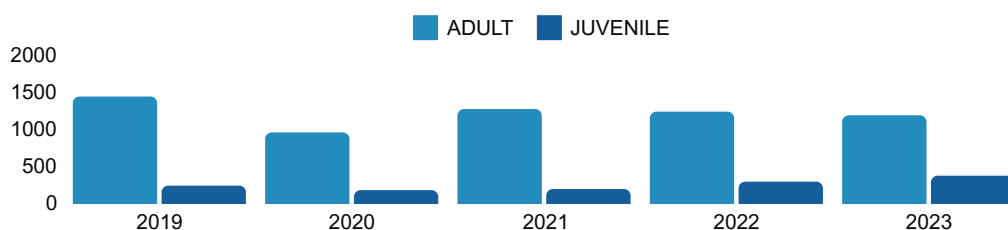


Figure 3.0

- In 2023, the Kentwood Police Department made approximately 1,563 custodial arrests.
- Of these arrests, 1,183 were adult arrests. This is a 4% decrease in comparison to 2022 (-49) and a 9% decrease (-114) in comparison to the five-year average.
- There were 371 juvenile (under the age of 18) arrests made. This is a 27% increase (+80) in comparison to 2022 and a 71% increase (+155) in comparison to the five-year average.
- Overall, 1,563 arrests were made in 2022. This is a 3% increase (+40) from 2022 and a 3% increase (+50) from the five-year average.

2023 ADULT ARREST DATA

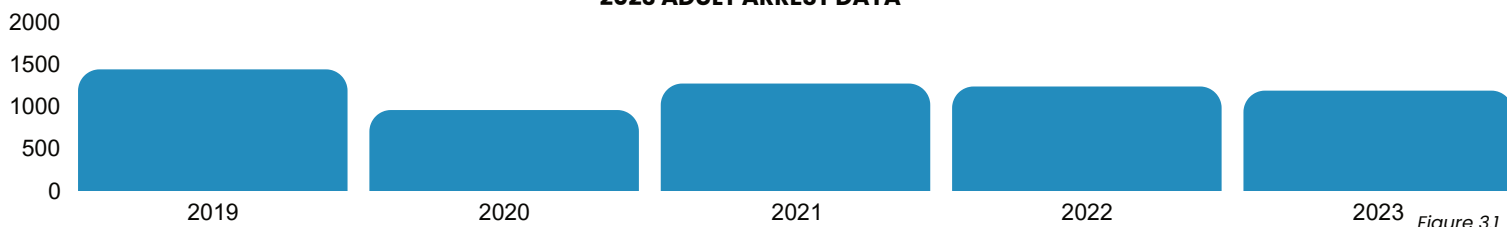


Figure 3.1

2023 JUVENILE ARREST DATA

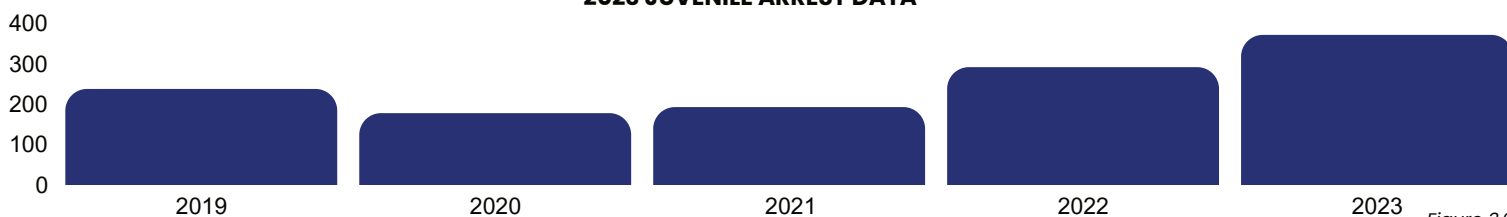


Figure 3.2

PATROL DIVISION



**DIVISION COMMANDER
CPT. TIM WIERENGA**

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 and schools, focusing on traffic enforcement in high speed/crash intersections, and increasing surveillance in residential areas. 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 2023, the Patrol Division responded to more than 17,300 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.

Five life-saving awards were presented to officers in 2023 due to their quick actions and commitment to the protection and sanctity of life for those within the community we serve.

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.



TRAFFIC SERVICES



**BUREAU SUPERVISOR
SERGEANT UNSELD**

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 Services Bureau have a primary responsibility to proactively enforce traffic violations within the City of Kentwood. These violations include but are not limited to speed, red light, and turn violations. Additional responsibilities include investigating serious and fatal traffic crashes, conducting traffic studies on primary and secondary roadways to determine posted speed limits along with necessary traffic control devices, processing abandoned vehicles and auctions as needed, court and prisoner transfers, ensuring state compliance as it relates to alcohol detection equipment, and maintaining speed detection equipment.

Traffic Engineering is also a function of the Traffic Services Bureau. Though not a highly publicized function, its importance cannot be overlooked. 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 speed limits. Stop signs and other traffic control devices are also reviewed to determine proper placement and justification through approved Traffic Control Orders. The Traffic Services Bureau is also tasked with the management of Office of Highway and Safety Planning (OHSP) grant processing.

| TRAFFIC UNIT DUTIES | AMOUNT |
|--|--------|
| CITATIONS ISSUED | 549 |
| TRAFFIC STOPS CONDUCTED | 634 |
| ABANDONED VEHICLES PROCESSED | 347 |
| ABANDONED VEHICLES AUCTIONED | 129 |
| PERSONAL INJURY ACCIDENTS INVESTIGATED | 342 |
| FATAL ACCIDENTS INVESTIGATED | 3 |

Figure 3.3



**IN 2023 THE TRAFFIC SERVICES BUREAU DEPLOYED TWO SPEED MONITORS
AND TWO POLE MOUNTED DETECTION SIGNS FOR A TOTAL OF 9,960 HOURS.**

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 2023, the Kentwood SRT was activated six times in which no injuries were sustained, and multiple arrests were made. In February, SRT was called to assist the fugitive task force in apprehending a homicide suspect. The suspect was apprehended without incident and a stolen firearm was recovered. In March, SRT was called to assist MPACT in apprehending a breaking and entering suspect that was known to be armed. The suspect was arrested without incident and a firearm was recovered on his person. In May, SRT was called to assist a neighboring agency in apprehending a homicide suspect from a residence. The suspect was arrested without incident. In July, SRT executed a search warrant on a shooting suspects residence to render safe for investigators. In July, SRT was activated to apprehend suspects involved in an armed robbery. One suspect was apprehended without incident. In September, SRT was activated to assist another agency with an attempt murder suspect who was residing in a Kentwood residence. The suspect was apprehended without incident.

TEAM RESIGNATIONS AND PROMOTIONS:

Cpt. Tim Wierenga was promoted and assigned as Team Commander. Cpt. Wierenga previously served as a team leader and sniper on the special response team. Sgt. Sam VanderBent, Sgt. Dykgraaf, Ofc. Bylsma and Ofc. Cline resigned from the team in 2023. All four have contributed many years of service and dedication to the special response team and will be missed. Ofc Garrett Tremaine and Ofc. Jon Tabor are newly appointed SRT members in 2023.



SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM

Special Response Team members train and prepare for high-stress situations multiple times throughout the year. The team conducted 130 hours of scheduled team training during 2023.

TEAM TRAINING:

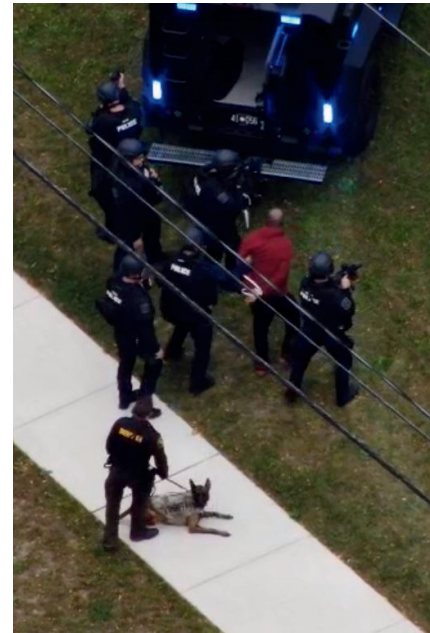
- Firearms live-fire training and qualification
- Warrant Service, Barricaded Subjects, Hostage Rescue, Building Searches & Officer Rescue Training
- Reality-Based Scenario Training
- Less-lethal training and qualification
- Physical Fitness Testing
- Sniper Team Training (70 additional hours)
- Subject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

WMTOA TACTICAL SHOOT:

In 2023, eight SRT operators competed against several other SWAT teams in a tactical shooting competition that involves precision, endurance and speed. Ofc. Smith and Ofc. Bylsma were partners and took 1st place overall in one of the courses, beating over 40 other teams.

2023 NTOA PFQ CHALLENGE

In 2023, Sgt. Smigiel 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. Sgt. Smigiel placed in the top ten overall scorers in the nation for entries made



UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE (UAV)

Police drones, also known as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) are used for various investigative purposes, including search and rescue operations, locating fleeing subjects, accident reconstruction, crime scene photo and video and more. These drones are equipped with cameras and sensors that can capture high-resolution images, video footage, thermal imaging, night vision, and other advanced features. Police drones are a valuable tool for law enforcement agencies, providing them with an additional perspective and enhancing their ability to monitor and respond to various situations effectively. The Kentwood Police Department currently has one drone. The Drone Unit consists of 10 team members.



Drone Pilots

CPT. TIM WIERENGA

SGT. QUINN D'ASCENZO

DET. SARAH SCHUDEL

OFC. MATT MCAPLINE

OFC. BILL MENDEZ

OFC. BRANDYN WESTEN

OFC. DAVID ROBERTSON

OFC. RYAN SMITH

OFC. TYCEN NIENHUIS

OFC. CALEB KIEFER

OFC. KAM RASMUSSEN

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DIVISION



DIVISION COMMANDER
CPT. RYAN VANDERVEEN

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 2023, 13 full-time police officers were hired. Seven 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 property manager. 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.



TRAINING UNIT



BUREAU SUPERVISOR
SGT. ZACH SMIGIEL

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 2023, the Kentwood Police Department covered topics including legal update, physical control tactics, wellness, HAZMAT, firearms, mental illness, less lethal tools, etc. In addition, an entire day is spent participating in life-like scenarios (reality-based training), where communication and de-escalation is the intended goal.

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



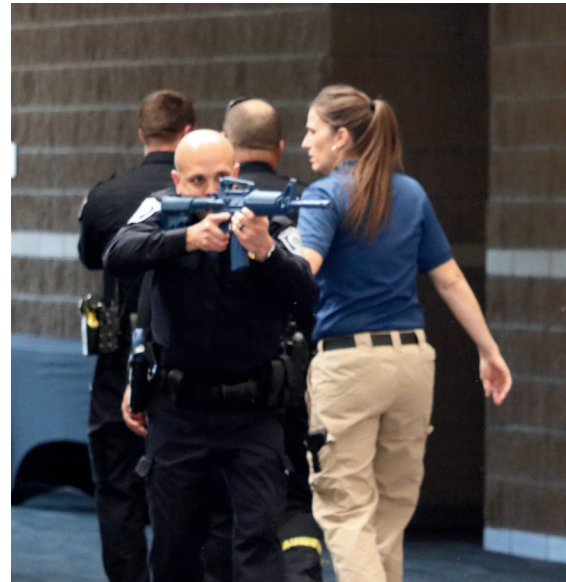
BUREAU SUPERVISOR
SGT. ZACH SMIGIEL

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.

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. Members of the Kentwood Police Department logged over 9,181 hours of training during 2023.

ACTIVE VIOLENCE TRAINING

In 2023 all sworn members of the police department completed a full day of training geared towards the proper response to active violence situations. This training is now required by the Michigan Commission of Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) for all active law enforcement personnel. The training included a lecture portion, tabletop exercises, and reality based scenarios. Such training is essential as it educates and prepares officers to react to active assailant responses quickly and swiftly to eliminate the threat. Thank you to all instructors that helped to make this training possible: Sgt. Dalziel, Sgt. Smigiel, Ofc. Smith, Det. Nelson, Ofc. Barger, and Det. Cline.



**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.**



USE OF FORCE INVESTIGATIONS



**DIVISION COMMANDER
CPT. RYAN VANDERVEEN**

In 2023, Kentwood police officers responded to 65 incidents where one or more officer used force during an apprehension or investigation. This is a 16 percent decrease in use of force events from 2022, which totaled 78 incidents. Every incident involving force is carefully reviewed by supervisors and command staff. All incidents in 2023 were deemed to be justified by legal standards and department policy.

Of the 65 use of force incidents that occurred in 2023, 29 percent of the subjects were using or believed to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of the incident. There were seven incidents in which suspects communicated pain or injury resulting from the force used. Most injuries consisted of scratches, scrapes, and abrasions. None were serious or life threatening. The opportunity to seek treatment was given to each individual who was injured or complained of injury because of force used on them.

In 2023, six officers reported an injury that occurred during an incident in which force was used. Most injuries were minor and included cuts and scrapes, and general complaints of pain.

Force used in most incidents was minimal, with examples including guided takedowns, pressure point control, and joint manipulation. In 2023, officers deployed their TASERS three times to gain control of individuals. A less lethal shotgun, a firearm that is only intended to inflict pain and temporarily stop a suspect, was fired one time at a subject that claimed to have a gun and was threatening to kill others. No officers fired their duty weapon or rifle at an individual in 2023.

IN 2023, KENTWOOD POLICE OFFICERS RESPONDED TO 17,732 CALLS FOR SERVICE AND MADE 7,039 TRAFFIC STOPS, AMOUNTING TO 24,771 CONTACTS WITH THE PUBLIC. OF THE TOTAL CONTACTS, FORCE WAS USED APPROXIMATELY 0.26 PERCENT OF THE TIME.

| REASON | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| ARREST | 25 | 35 | 42 | 38 | 34 |
| DEFEND SELF | 10 | 22 | 9 | 12 | 2 |
| DEFEND ANOTHER | 5 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 3 |
| PREVENT VIOLENT FELONY | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| FELONY CAR STOP | 1 | 9 | 9 | 16 | 13 |
| RESTRAIN FOR SUBJECTS SAFETY | 12 | 17 | 7 | 6 | 3 |
| OTHER | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| CONTAIN/CALL OUT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 8 |
| TOTAL | 53 | 87 | 69 | 90 | 65 |

Figure 3.4

2023 USE OF FORCE SUMMARY

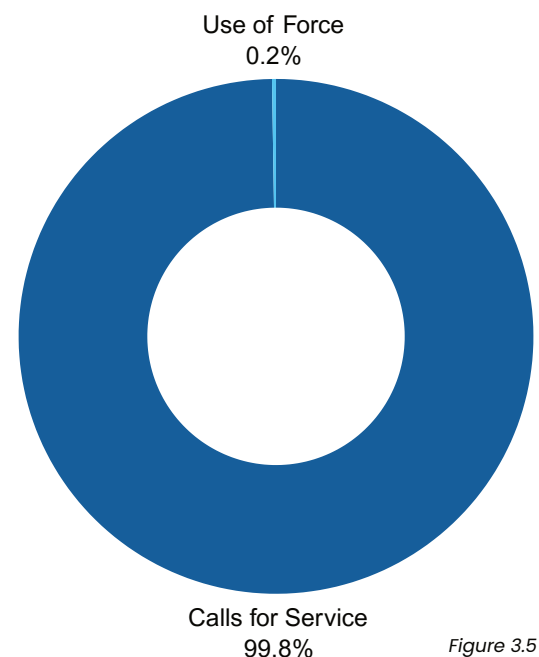


Figure 3.5

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

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.

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 and determine if it actually occurred. If the alleged misconduct is determined to have happened, the department will take the best corrective action 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 2023, 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 completed eleven (11) internal investigations during 2023. Two (2) of these complaints were originated by the Kentwood Police Department themselves due to standard review or supervisors conducting monthly review of video. The breakdown of all 2023 complaints includes eight (8) rules of conduct, one (1) neglect of duty, one (1) vehicle operations and one (1) harassment.

Of these eleven (11) investigations, five (5) 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. Six (6) of the officers were exonerated.

COMMUNITY SERVICES



BUREAU SUPERVISOR
CPT. WIERENGA

The overarching focus of the Community Services Bureau is to improve the quality of life for citizen through a range of outreach programs, problem solving initiatives, and activities undertaken by officers that aim to build trust, foster positive relationships, and address the specific needs and concerns of the community. Kentwood Police Department community officers participated in six C.R.A.S.E active shooter training sessions, three de-escalation training courses, three cyber security training courses, and two armed robbery training courses. In addition they attended several school career days, five trunk or treats, and were an active participant in March is reading month throughout our schools. Our main goal is to provide safe venues for local events, and bring safety awareness to the residents and businesses within the City of Kentwood.



A COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER, ALSO KNOWN AS A COMMUNITY POLICING OFFICER OR NEIGHBORHOOD POLICING OFFICER, IS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER WHO IS SPECIFICALLY ASSIGNED TO WORK WITHIN A PARTICULAR COMMUNITY OR NEIGHBORHOOD. THE PRIMARY ROLE OF A COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER IS TO BUILD POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS, ADDRESS LOCAL CONCERNS, AND COLLABORATE WITH RESIDENTS TO PREVENT CRIME AND IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY.

OPERATION P.R.I.C.E.

This past year marked the 9th year the police department has partnered with its businesses for operation P.R.I.C.E (Preventing Retail Theft Through Initiative, Collaboration, and Enforcement). 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. P.R.I.C.E ran from November 28th, 2023, through December 31st, 2023. 77 businesses participated, 452 business contacts were made, and officers worked 97 shifts. Officers wrote 49 reports, made 24 traffic contacts, and arrested a total of 26 subjects. We are thankful for the support and partnership with our retail businesses. Their collaboration helps make holiday shopping safe and enjoyable for all who visit. This partnership, along with increased patrols, helps reduce serious crime and increase traffic safety.





COMMUNITY SERVICES



BUREAU SUPERVISOR
CPT. WIERENGA

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.

Community Events

- Community Expos
- Farmers Market
- Food Truck Festivals
- Fourth of July Celebration
- National Night Out
- Summer and Winter Concert Series
- Seasonal 5K Races and Fun Runs
- Holiday Tree Lighting and Parade
- Taste of Kentwood
- Touch-a-Truck
- Trunk-or-Treat
- Battle of the Badges
- Fraud Prevention and Safety
- Armed Robbery Training
- C.R.A.S.E Training
- Cyber Security Training



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 Bureau collaborated with 10 neighborhoods and 2 churches to host National Night Out parties in 2023. All parties were very well attended by community members, the Kentwood Police Department, and the Kentwood Fire Department. This year had 3 public events that included Ada Bible Church, The Pentecostals Church, and Morena's Event Venue. 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!



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.

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 2023, 2,574 complaints were addressed by the code enforcement staff. Of these complaints, 2,188 were ultimately corrected by the property owner., 136 were corrected by the city, 26 were found not to be in violation, 125 citations were issued, and 99 complaints were referred to other departments for a resolution. The overall compliance rate of the code enforcement unit was 85%.

| Code Violation | 2022 | 2023 | +/- | % |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| Animal Nuisance/Keeping | 23 | 29 | 6 | 26% |
| Auto Repair/Sales/Consp. Display | 22 | 56 | 34 | 155% |
| Building Maintenance | 123 | 128 | 5 | 4% |
| Commercial Vehicle Violation | 41 | 50 | 9 | 22% |
| Exterior Nuisance/Trash Bins | 124 | 138 | 14 | 11% |
| Garbage/Trash/Junk | 393 | 463 | 70 | 18% |
| Junk/Unlicensed Veh | 253 | 322 | 69 | 27% |
| Parking Lot Hazard | 2 | 29 | 27 | 1350% |
| Parking Violations | 307 | 261 | -46 | -15% |
| RV & Equipment Storage | 107 | 84 | -23 | -21% |
| Sidewalk Hazard/Obstruction | 52 | 123 | 71 | 137% |
| Sign Violation | 88 | 68 | -20 | -23% |
| Snow/Ice | 485 | 107 | -378 | -78% |
| Stagnant Water | 9 | 18 | 9 | 100% |
| Vision Obstruction | 2 | 6 | 4 | 200% |
| Grass/Weeds/Leaves | 536 | 622 | 86 | 16% |
| Yard Waste/Debris/Tree Limbs | 49 | 59 | 10 | 20% |
| Other Minor Violations | 10 | 9 | -1 | -10% |
| Zoning | 1 | 2 | 1 | 100% |
| TOTALS | 2627 | 2574 | -53 | -2% |

Figure 3.6

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. 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.

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 police personnel started their careers 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.

2023 Police Cadets



**MACY
RUNDELL**

Cadet Rundell started with the Kentwood Police Department in June 2023. She is currently studying criminal justice at GRCC and has been offered a police sponsorship through KPD for the upcoming spring academy. In her spare time she enjoys working out and hiking outdoors. Her favorite part about being a cadet is always learning something new.



**TAYLOR
KYLE**

Cadet Kyle started with the Kentwood Police Department in July 2023. Prior to this she was a member of our highschool youth academy in 2021. Taylor is currently attending GVSU and plans to go to the police academy in 2026. She is an avid runner and competes in track and field. Her favorite part about being a cadet is learning all the different jobs and doing ride-alongs.



**RYAN
SCHULTZ**

Cadet Schultz started at the Kentwood police Department in July 2023. He is currently studying criminal justice at GRCC. He plans to attend the fall 2024 police academy. In his spare time he enjoys going to the beach, spending time with friends and family, and his duties in the GRPD explorers program. His favorite part about being a cadet is helping people.



**ARMAN
HUSEJDIC**

Cadet Husejdic started with the Kentwood Police Department in July 2023. He is currently attending GRCC where he is studying criminal justice. He plans to attend the GRCC police academy in Fall 2024. In his free time he enjoys playing soccer and golf. His favorite part about being a cadet is learning from officers and staff.



**MATT
ZAIGER**

Cadet Zaiger started with the Kentwood Police Department in July 2023. He is currently in the GRCC police academy as a sponsored recruit with an anticipated graduation date of April 2024. In his free time he enjoys playing hockey and baseball. His favorite part about being a cadet is the opportunities to gain hands on experience and doing ride-alongs with officers.

VOLUNTEERS IN POLICE SERVICES

The Community Services Bureau also directs the department's Volunteers In Police Service (VIPS) program. This program is overseen and made successful through the assistance of our hardworking volunteer coordinator, Vicki Highland. Volunteers (VIPS) assist the police department in serving the community through road and trail patrol, chaplain programs, records and clerical duties, assisting with special events, and parking enforcement. Volunteers are well trained and prepared for their various roles. The Kentwood Police Department is beyond grateful for our volunteers' time, expertise, talents, energy, services, and contributions to our community.



In addition to their regular assigned duties, volunteers participate in various police community events, as well as events organized by the City of Kentwood's. In 2023, volunteers participated in KBL parade, 4th of July parade, National Night Out, two Spotlight On Seniors Expos, two DEA's Take Drugs Back events, Annual Appreciation banquet, Holiday Lights parade, Santa parade, and VIPS Holiday celebration. Several well-visits, informal meetings and training sessions took place in 2023.



Based on the most recent data from Independentsector.org** (leadership network for nonprofits, foundations, and corporations) the current estimated national value of each volunteer hour is \$31.80 – 6% higher from the previous year at \$29.95 per hour. Therefore, the monetary value of the VIPS program hours contributed by volunteers in 2023 was \$107,038.80. Even though putting numbers to volunteer hours doesn't do justice, it shows the contributions our volunteers made to our department and the community.



New Volunteers in 2023

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Michael Burton Road Patrol | Michael Hadding Trail Patrol | Larry Newman Trail Patrol | Becky TenHoor Trail Patrol | Thomas Trost Trail Patrol |
|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

VOLUNTEERS IN POLICE SERVICES



SERVICES DIVISION DETECTIVE BUREAU

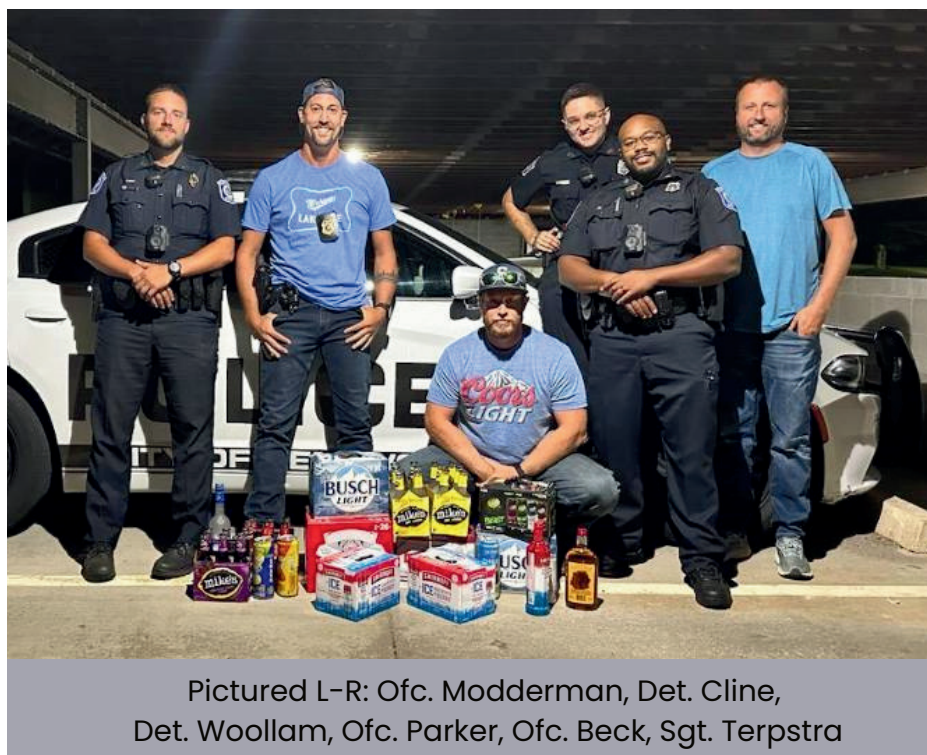


DIVISION COMMANDER
CPT. JASON ROELOFS

The Detective Bureau falls under the Services Division of the Kentwood Police Department. The Detective Bureau is responsible for performing the majority of the investigative duties carried out by the Kentwood Police Department. In addition to six general case detectives, the bureau has several specialty detectives. These include multiple Special Investigations Unit detectives (SIU), a Combined Auto Theft Team detective (CATT), and a Metro Pattern Crimes Task Force detective (MPACT). The unit also has a non-sworn crime analyst and secretary who perform a multitude of functions that assist the department. 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, Detective Sergeant Nichole Dalziel and Detective Sergeant Mark Terpstra. 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.



Pictured L-R: Ofc. Modderman, Det. Cline,
Det. Woollam, Ofc. Parker, Ofc. Beck, Sgt. Terpstra

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

| CASE NUMBER | OFFENSE | DETECTIVE IN CHARGE | STATUS |
|-------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 23-3643 | SHOOTING/HOMICIDE | D'ASCENZO | OPEN - AWAITING TRIAL |

Officers responded to a local hotel with reports of a shooting with one victim. Upon arrival the victim was beyond life saving measures and declared deceased at the scene. Detectives responded to begin the investigation as a homicide. The suspect was identified via social media posts and was found to have fled the state. Utilizing Michigan Department of Corrections and local law enforcement mutual aid, the suspect was located out of state, detained, and extradited to stand trial for his alleged crimes of Homicide – Open Murder, Gang Membership Felonies, and Weapons – Felony Firearm. The suspect is currently awaiting trial.

| CASE NUMBER | OFFENSE | DETECTIVE IN CHARGE | STATUS |
|-------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 23-6877 | ATTEMPTED MURDER | FOSTER | OPEN - AWAITING TRIAL |

Officers and Detectives responded to a report of shots fired where a male was located with several gunshot wounds. The suspect fled the scene prior to police arrival. The suspect vehicle description and license plate were noted by witnesses and the victim was able to identify the shooter by name. Detectives responded to the last known address of the suspect locating the suspect vehicle. The suspect was eventually detained later in the day and a search warrant was conducted at his home. Evidence of the crime was located in the suspect's home as well as several statements taken from witnesses on scene and by Det. Foster at a later time. The victim received emergency medical treatment and has survived his injuries. The suspect has been charged with Assault with Intent to Murder, Weapons- Carrying Concealed, and Weapons – Felony Firearm.

| CASE NUMBER | OFFENSE | DETECTIVE IN CHARGE | STATUS |
|-------------|----------------|---------------------|--------|
| 23-8276 | SHOOTING/DEATH | D'ASCENZO/NELSON | CLOSED |

Officers responded to a call of a child shot. Upon arrival the child received life saving measures and was transported to the hospital where he later died from his injury. A suspect was detained on scene and an investigation had begun for Homicide. Through the investigation the suspect was charged with Homicide – Manslaughter- Involuntary. With follow up proceedings, detectives and the prosecutor found that the suspect was negligent in the location of his firearm which caused access by the child. In October 2023, the suspect agreed to a plea deal of Child Abuse 2nd Degree and was sentenced to 18-120 months.

| CASE NUMBER | OFFENSE | DETECTIVE IN CHARGE | STATUS |
|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------|
| 23-19433 | CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE | DET. CHAPMAN | CLOSED |

Detective Chapman was contacted by a local car dealership requesting assistance in investigating fraudulent transactions that had been taking place regarding the act of purchasing vehicles. Through investigation, search warrants, video surveillance, documentation, and much more, Detective Chapman located two suspects that have been committing fraudulent crimes since October 2022 resulting in approximately \$160,000 in loss. He was able to secure a Criminal Enterprise charge for both suspects who are awaiting detainment and judicial proceedings.

RECORDS BUREAU

The Kentwood Police Department Records Bureau is a specialized unit within the police department that is responsible for managing and maintaining records related to law enforcement activities. This department plays a crucial role in the documentation, storage, retrieval, and dissemination of various types of police records. The police records department serves as a central repository for important information used by law enforcement agencies, courts, and other stakeholders in the criminal justice system.

Effective management of police records is essential for maintaining transparency, accountability, and public trust in law enforcement operations. A non-sworn manager oversees the operations of this unit, which is comprised of four records clerks and four police cadets. In addition to the maintenance and retention of police records, the unit assists all citizens that may come to the police department for a variety of reasons, including fingerprinting, records checks, gun registry, filing of police and crash reports, and answering general police-related inquiries.



RECORDS MANAGER
DEB GINEBUAGH

| Description | Amount | Sales |
|---|--------|-------------|
| Accident Report Sales | 530 | \$3,180.00 |
| Fingerprinting | 1254 | \$18,810.00 |
| Police Report Copies | 87 | \$522.00 |
| Records Checks | 67 | \$402.00 |
| Notary Fees | 98 | \$490.00 |
| Liquor License Fees | 2 | \$100 |
| Online Accident Reports | 5 | \$1,706.00 |
| Sex Offender Fees | 107 | \$2,140.00 |
| Bond Handling Fees | 64 | \$640.00 |
| Miscellaneous Fees | 1 | \$10.00 |
| Total Administration Fees | | \$28,000.00 |
| Mandated State Fees (sex offender reg.) | 107 | \$3,210.00 |
| Mandated State Fees (Fingerprints) | 816 | \$24,480.00 |
| Mandated FBI Fees (Fingerprints) | 815 | \$10,798.75 |
| Income Grand Total | | \$66,488.75 |



Figure 3.7

RECORDS BUREAU



RECORDS MANAGER
DEB GINEBUAGH

The Record 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 five police cadets continue to work hard to meet the needs of the public as well as the Department.

The Records Bureau utilizes 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 Online reporting system has allowed citizens to submit reports online with a total of 730 reports filed. This has saved the officers over 750 hours. The online system assists with capturing reports that are minor in nature and do not require officer intervention or follow up. This frees officers 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.

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 have ensured that our error rates with the state are less than 1%, and have continued our journey in efficiency and accuracy with our department's records and responses to record requests. We look forward to serving the community in the year to come and continue to look for ways to improve and grow as a team and as a bureau.



Online Reporting

If you have an emergency, you should always call 9-1-1.

Non-emergency police reports can be taken in three (3) ways:

- At your request, an officer will be sent to your location to take a report. You must be within the City of Kentwood to make a report.
- You can reach our non-emergency number by calling [\(616\)-698-6580](tel:(616)698-6580).
- If you are near the Police Department, you may stop in and an officer will be dispatched to the office.
- For your convenience, citizens can self-report online through out CopLogic reporting system. To be directed to this system please click [here](http://www.kentwood.us/onlinepolicereporting).

WWW.KENTWOOD.US/ONLINEPOLICEREPORTING



Please Note: All cases filed using the Citizen Online Police Reporting Tool will be reviewed. Upon review, if further investigation of your case is needed, you may be contacted. Filing a false police report is a crime.



PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT STAFF



DIVISION COMMANDER
CPT. RYAN VANDERVEEN

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 and 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.



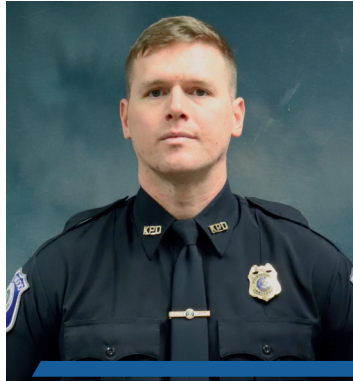
Marti Horrman

PROPERTY MANAGER, QUARTERMASTER

Marti Horrman started in August 2023 as the Property Manager and Quartermaster for the Kentwood Police Department. She recently retired after 25 years as a Sheriff's Deputy for the Barry County Sheriff's Office. Marti worked in several roles throughout her career including school resource officer. Marti has been married for 23 years, has three children and several fur-babies, most of which were rescues. She enjoys motorcycle rides, traveling, reading, golfing, and spending time with her friends and family. Marti is excited to work with the officers and professional staff at the Kentwood Police Department.



NEW HIRES POLICE OFFICERS

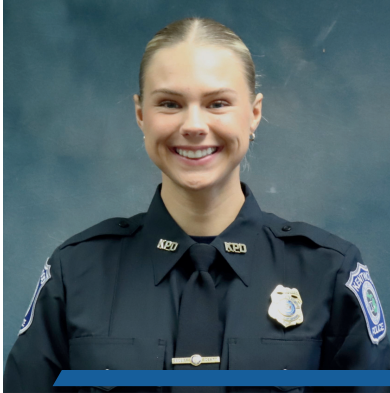
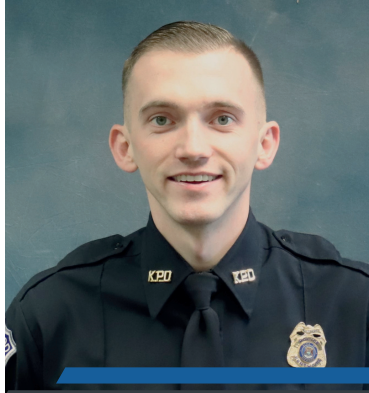
**AAKASH NANJAPPA****AARON HUDSON****DARREN HERMAN**

Aakash is a graduate of Grand River Preparatory High School where he enjoyed playing several sports. He was sponsored by the Kentwood Police Department as a police recruit in the Fall 2023 GVSU Police Academy. We look forward to watching Aakash grow in his law enforcement career and the positive impact he will make on the citizens of Kentwood.

Aaron served in the Marine Corps from 2018 - 2022. He was sponsored by the Kentwood Police Department as a police recruit in the Fall 2023 GVSU Police Academy. We look forward to the unique experience Aaron will bring to our department and the positive impact he will make on the citizens of Kentwood.

Darren started as a police cadet with the Kentwood Police Department in May of 2022. He was sponsored by our Department as a police recruit in the Fall 2023 GVSU Police Academy. We look forward to watching Darren grow and develop in his law enforcement career and the positive impact that he will make on the citizens of Kentwood.

NEW HIRES POLICE OFFICERS

**BRENNA POOLE****RENTON JOLING****RICH FRAZER**

Brenna started as a police cadet with the Kentwood Police Department in May 2022. She was sponsored by our department as a police recruit in the Fall 2023 GVSU Police Academy. Brenna is a recent graduate of Aquinas College where she played volleyball. We look forward to watching Brenna grow in her law enforcement career and the positive impact she will make on the citizens of Kentwood.

Renton is a lateral transfer from the Lake Odessa Police Department where he obtained 1.5 years of patrol experience. He attended Ferris State University where he obtained his Bachelors in Criminal Justice and attended the Police Academy. We look forward to the experience that Renton brings, and the positive impact that he will make on the citizens of Kentwood.

Rich is a lateral transfer from Barry County Sherriff's Office. He joins our department with 17 years of law enforcement experience. Rich attended the police academy at Kellogg Community College. We look forward to the experience that he brings, as well as the positive impact that he will make on the citizens of Kentwood.

NEW HIRES POLICE OFFICERS

**DAISY STEWART****ZACH VANCOMPERNOLLE****ANTHONY CRADLEBAUGH**

Daisy started working in the criminal justice field as a corrections officer. She chose to switch paths and applied for our sponsorship program. She was accepted and sponsored as a police recruit in the Fall 2023 GVSU Police Academy.

We look forward to watching Daisy grow in her law enforcement career and the positive impact she will make on the citizens of Kentwood.

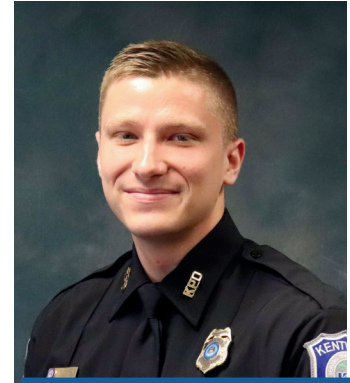
Zach was sponsored by the Kentwood police Department as a police recruit in the Fall 2023 GVSU Police Academy. Zach is a recent graduate of Trine University where he obtained his masters degree in business and played collegiate hockey.

We look forward to watching Zach grow in his law enforcement career and the positive impact he will make on the citizens of Kentwood.

Anthony (Tony) was sponsored by the Kentwood Police Department as a police recruit in the Fall 2023 GVSU Police Academy.

Previous to his law enforcement career he worked in a supervisory role at Michigan Adventures. We look forward to watching Tony grow in her law enforcement career and the positive impact he will make on the citizens of Kentwood.

NEW HIRES POLICE OFFICERS

**CHEYENNE STEFFEN****BENJAMIN JOSEFF****BRENDEN CASWELL**

Cheyenne started as a police with the Kentwood Police Department in 2020. She was sponsored as a police recruit in the Fall 2023 GRCC Police Academy. We look forward to watching Cheyenne grow in her law enforcement career and the positive impact she will make on the citizens of Kentwood.



Ben interned with the Kentwood Police Department in the summer of 2022. After completing the 2023 Ferris State Police Academy he was hired by our department. We look forward to watching Ben grow in his law enforcement career and the positive impact he will make on the citizens of Kentwood.



Brendan is a graduate of Ferris State University. After completing the 2023 Ferris State Police Academy he was hired by our department. We look forward to watching Brenden grow in his law enforcement career and the positive impact he will make on the citizens of Kentwood.

NEW HIRES POLICE OFFICERS



JEREMIAH KIMBEL



"HIRING GOOD PEOPLE IS ARGUABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT THING THAT WE DO. MAKING SURE THAT WE HIRE PEOPLE WITH GOOD CHARACTER, INTEGRITY, THE DESIRE TO SERVE OTHERS, AND HAVING A POSITIVE ATTITUDE ARE VITAL TO OUR SUCCESS. WE CANNOT TEACH SOMEONE THESE TRAITS. THEY MUST ALREADY HAVE THEM. AND THESE QUALITIES ARE A MAJOR REASON WHY OUR STAFF PROVIDE A GREAT SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY."

**CHIEF OF POLICE
BRYAN LITWIN**

Jeremiah has 17 years of experience in law enforcement from Barry County Sheriffs' Office, including detective experience. We look forward to the diverse skill set Jeremiah brings to our department and the positive impact he will make on the citizens of Kentwood.



POLICE RECRUITS

A police recruit sponsorship is a unique program where a law enforcement agency sponsors a qualified individual through the police academy training program to become a police officer. This sponsorship can take various forms but generally involves an agency providing financial support, training resources, and a guaranteed job upon successful completion of the training program.

In exchange for the sponsorship, the individual may be required to commit to working for the sponsoring agency for a certain period of time after completing their training. This commitment helps the agency ensure a return on their investment in the recruit's training and helps address staffing needs within the department.

Police recruit sponsorships can be beneficial for both the individual and the sponsoring agency. For the individual, it provides an opportunity to receive training and education without incurring the full cost themselves. For the agency, it helps attract and retain qualified candidates, particularly in areas where recruiting and retaining police officers may be challenging.



TYLER MORNINGSTAR

Tyler is a recent graduate of the University of Dubuque where he played football and studying aviation. Tyler will be sponsored by the Kentwood police Department in the 2024 Grand Rapids Community College Police Academy. We look forward to watching Tyler develop through the police academy and the positive impact he will make on the citizens of Kentwood.



MATT ZAIGER

Matt Zaiger was hired as a Police Cadet in August of 2023 as he was attending GRCC with intentions of attending the GRCC Police Academy. Cadet Zaiger quickly proved himself as an employee and valuable team member and has since applied for and was hired as a Sponsored Police Recruit. He anticipates graduating from the GRCC Police Academy in the spring of 2024 and continuing his employment as a Police Officer for the City of Kentwood.

PROMOTIONS



PATROL CAPTAIN



**TIM
WIERENGA**

Captain Tim Wierenga began his career with the Kentwood Police Department in 2011. During his time as an officer, Tim served on patrol, and as our Training Officer. He was promoted to sergeant in 2017. During this time, he served as a patrol supervisor, and as our Community Services sergeant. He has been heavily involved in our recruitment and hiring efforts over the last few years. Tim also took the lead on researching and developing our drone program. Tim has been a Field Training Officer, Firearms Instructor, a member of our Special Response Team, as well as the team leader. In his new role as our Patrol Commander, Captain Wierenga will oversee the Patrol Division along with multiple other specialized units. We are very excited to have Tim as a part of our Command Team, and we feel that his experience and leadership ability will be a huge benefit to our department and the members of our community.



PATROL SERGEANT



**JARED
HUNDEY**

Sergeant Jared Hundey grew up in Wyoming, MI, and graduated from Grand Rapids Catholic Central High School. He began his career with the Kentwood Police Department as a Police Cadet in May of 2015. He attended Grand Rapids Community College and graduated from their police academy in 2016. He became a police officer with our department in November of 2016.

Jared has been a patrol officer with our department, as well as serving in multiple secondary assignments. He has been a Field Training Officer, a Firearms Instructor, and MILO Simulator Instructor. He is also a member of our Peer Support Team and Recruitment Team.



PATROL SERGEANT



**ALEX
CAREY**

Sergeant Alex Carey began his career with the Kentwood Police Department in April of 2017. Alex graduated from Kenowa Hills High School. He then attended Grand Valley State University where he obtained his bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Alex attended GVSU's Police Academy in 2016.

During Alex's time with our department, he has served as a patrol officer, and most recently he was assigned to the Traffic Bureau where he completed training to be a Traffic Crash Reconstructionist. Alex is a member of our Peer Support Team, as well as a Fitness Instructor, Subject Control Instructor and Reality Based Training Instructor. Alex also instructs at GVSU's Police Academy.



PATROL SERGEANT



**QUINN
DASCENZO**

Sergeant Quinn D'Ascenzo began his career with the Kentwood Police Department in November of 2017. Quinn grew up in Livonia, MI and attended Spring Arbor University where he obtained his bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Quinn attended the Wayne Regional Police Academy in 2017.

Quinn has been a patrol officer and detective with our department. During his time in the Detective Bureau, he served as a member of the Metro Fraud and Identity Theft Team in Wyoming, and as a general case detective at our department. Quinn is a less-lethal munitions instructor, a member of the Metro Field Force Team, and is assigned to the department's Award and Commendation Committee.



PATROL SERGEANT



**DERRICK
WOLTERINK**

Sergeant Derrick Wolterink grew up in Jenison, MI, and graduated from Jenison High School. He attended Grand Rapids Community College and then Grand Valley State University where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and attended the police academy in 2013. He became a police officer with our department in December of that year.

Derrick was a patrol officer, and most recently a Community Service Officer where he oversaw many community concerns and events, including National Night Out. He has served in many secondary roles. He has been a Field Training Officer, a member of the Special Response Team, and a Precision Driving Instructor. He is also a member of our Recruitment Team.

EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

Life Saving Awards

A LIFE SAVING AWARD was presented to DETECTIVE JEFFREY WOOLLAM for his outstanding and prompt performance on January 14, 2023, during a traffic incident. He immediately noticed the driver having a medical emergency, instantly took control of the scene and removed the driver from the vehicle and began life saving measures. He continued CPR until the Fire Department arrived.



A LIFE SAVING AWARD was presented to DETECTIVE JEFFREY WOOLLAM and OFFICER HAEDEN HEIBEL for their outstanding and prompt performance on February 27, 2023, during an medical incident where both officers were dispatched to a local business for a subject who had collapsed. The subject had a history of seizures and was foaming at the mouth. Upon arrival, officers immediately began CPR. They continued with these life saving measures until the Fire Department and EMS arrived.

A LIFE SAVING AWARD was presented to OFFICER BRENDAN CASWELL for his outstanding and quick performance on August 9, 2023, during a drug overdose incident. Officer Caswell responded with another officer to a medical assist/drug overdose call where the individual was inside a local gas station and unresponsive. Officer Caswell and his partner arrived on the scene to locate an individual who had fallen and was unresponsive on the floor. Officer Caswell immediately grabbed his Narcan from his bag and quickly administered the Narcan to the subject while waiting for medical crews to arrive. During this stressful situation, Officer Caswell kept his composure and performed his duties well.

A LIFE SAVING AWARD was presented to OFFICER HAEDEN HEIBEL AND OFFICER BRANDYN WESTEN for their outstanding performance on June 27, 2023, when they responded to a suicide attempt incident. The individual attempted to hang himself from a second-floor balcony. Both officers talked with the individual for an extended period of time, and when the individual lowered themselves to hang, Officer Heibel ran to the lower location and held the person up while Officer Westen ran to the suspect and removed his tie that he was using to strangle himself. The individual could have lost consciousness, and quite possibly stopped breathing if not for both of their quick actions.

THESE OFFICERS' PERFORMANCE IN A STRESSFUL AND LIFE-THREATENING SITUATION BRINGS GREAT CREDIT TO THEMSELVES AND THE DEPARTMENT. THESE AWARDS ARE PRESENTED ON BEHALF OF A GRATEFUL COMMUNITY AND DEPARTMENT FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

Certificate of Appreciation

A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION was presented to OFFICER RYAN BARGER for his outstanding and professional performance on November 13, 2023, in an attempted homicide investigation. Officer Barger and his partner were dispatched to a stabbing that led them to searching, locating, and arresting a suspect who still had the knife in his possession when apprehended.

A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION was presented to OFFICER DAISY STEWART for her outstanding and professional performance on November 13, 2023, in an attempted homicide investigation. Officer Stewart and her partner were dispatched to a stabbing that led them to searching, locating, and arresting a suspect who still had the knife in his possession when apprehended. Officer Stewart's determination and professionalism brings great credit upon herself and the Department. This award is presented on behalf of a grateful community and Department for a job well done.

A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION was presented to DETECTIVE TIM NELSON for his outstanding and professional performance on January 7, 2021, in an investigation of a CSC 1st, Assault with Intent Great Bodily Harm, and Domestic Assault 3rd case. For over two years, Detective Nelson continued to work on the case and made it stronger throughout the investigation. The case eventually went to trial in September 2023. Due to Detective Nelson's hard work the suspect was found guilty of all charges, and he was sentenced to 37-80 years in prison. Detective Nelson's diligence and professionalism bring great credit upon himself and the Department. This award is presented on behalf of a grateful community and Department for a job well done.

A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION was presented to DETECTIVE DARRIN CLINE for his outstanding and professional performance on March 12, 2022, in a homicide investigation. Detective Cline participated in the investigation of a homicide where the victim was shot by the suspect after running away from a stolen vehicle. His dedication to the investigation of this case helped achieve a 2nd Degree Murder conviction in this case. Detective Cline's investigative skills and professionalism bring great credit upon himself and the Department. This award is presented on behalf of a grateful community and Department for a job well done.

**THESE AWARDS ARE PRESENTED ON BEHALF OF
A GRATEFUL COMMUNITY AND DEPARTMENT FOR A JOB WELL DONE.**



EDUCATION & TRAINING

DET. SGT. NICHOLE DALZIEL

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF STAFF AND COMMAND



Detective Sergeant Dalziel graduated from Eastern Michigan University's School of Police Staff and Command - Executive Leadership Program in October 2023. During this five month training, Sgt. Dalziel completed her research project on the importance of Recognition and Awards within police agencies. In addition she completed several group projects on the topics of hiring, budgeting, management, and problem-solving. She achieved her certificate all while conducting her primary duties as a General Case Detective Supervisor.

This intensive training is designed to assist with career development for department members interested in advancing into management roles. The program required out of classroom instruction, preparation of papers, projects, and examinations. This program takes the officer beyond traditional operational methods and strategic thinking. It purposefully promotes creative and innovative problem-solving skills for current and future law enforcement executives, paving the way for further advancement in leadership within their department. The instruction was comprised of several leaders within the Public Safety community such as Police Chiefs, a County Sheriff, several persons of administrative rank, as well as lawyers and MCOLES accredited staff from all over the state of Michigan. In addition to classroom, the class had two site visits for risk management that were conducted at Van Andel Arena and LMCU Ball field.



SGT. ZACHARY SMIGIEL

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY FIRST LINE SUPERVISOR SCHOOL

From September - October 2023, Sgt. Smigiel attended First Line Supervisor School facilitated through Michigan State University. This 80-hour course was centered around problem-based learning which involves instructing through the use of 'real world' problems as a context for individuals to learn critical thinking and problem solving skills. The instructor provides the learning environment and then relinquishes spotlight and allows the student to learn the material at their own pace and through the method that works best for him/her. The instructor switches from instruction, where they provide the material, to facilitation, during which time the facilitator guides the student through learning and understanding.



EMPLOYEE AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Sworn Employee of the Year

OFFICER BRANDYN WESTEN

Officer Westen is a patrol officer assigned to second shift. He has been with the Kentwood Police Department since 2018. He is a graduate of the 2018 Grand Valley State University police academy. Officer Westen is a Field Training Officer that has a passion for training and developing new officers. He is extremely dedicated to the department and works many extra shifts to help provide service to our community. Officer Westen cares immensely about his fellow officers and does his best to boost morale. Officer Westen is also an instructor with the GRCC Police Academy where he teaches tactical first-aid. Officer Westen is additionally a veteran of the United States Army where he served 3 years prior to his law enforcement career. We thank Officer Westen on his dedicated service and congratulate him on being selected as the 2023 Police Officer of the Year.



Civilian Employee of the Year

PAIGE FILIPSKI

Paige Filipski is the Audio / Video Specialist with the Kentwood Police Department. She has been with the department since 2021. Her primary responsibilities include processing all Freedom of Information (FOIA) Requests. This includes reviewing hundreds of hours of officer body cam footage, reviewing and exporting police reports, and completing data requests to fulfill such requests. Paige has additionally assisted with the planning and organizing of specific events within the department. She assists with onboarding of new employees, and with training of officers during reality based scenarios. Paige always has a positive attitude and a smile of her face. She goes above and beyond to complete tasks and take on additional assignments. We thank Paige for her ongoing dedication to serving the community and congratulate Paige on being selected as the 2023 Non-sworn Police Department Employee of the Year.



Retirements

OFFICER BRANDON ARMSTRONG

Brandon Armstrong began his career with the Kentwood Police Department in February of 1995. During his time with the department, he has served as a patrol officer, a detective with the Combined Auto Theft Team (CATT), and as a Community Service Officer. He was also a member of the Department's Special Response Team, and a defensive tactics instructor. Brandon retired on December 15, 2023, after almost 28 years of dedicated service. We appreciate his service to the community, and we wish him the best of luck in his retirement.



CAPTAIN MIKE BOCKHEIM

Mike Bockheim joined the Kentwood Police Department in December 1994. He started out his career as a patrol officer. In 1996, Mike became the 2nd Canine Handler in the history of Kentwood. He also served as a Field Training Officer and a member of the Special Response Team. In 2004, he stepped away from the canine position, and in 2007 he became a School Resource Officer. In 2009, he moved to a Community Service Officer role, and in 2012 he went back to road patrol. Mike was promoted to Patrol Sergeant in 2013, and during that time he supervised the Field Training Officer Program and was an assistant team leader on the Special Response Team. Then in 2017, Mike was promoted to Patrol Captain where he served for the last 6 years. Mike has done an outstanding job throughout his career and we wish him well in his retirement!



OFFICER PAUL SCHAFF

Paul Schaaf began his career with the Kentwood Police Department in July of 1999. Paul served as a patrol officer during his entire career with the Department. He was also a member of the Special Response Team and a Field Training Officer during his time here. Paul retired from the department on October 25, 2023. We would like to thank him for his service to our department and community, and we wish him well in retirement.



CINDY STEVENS

Cindy Stevens began her career with the Kentwood Police Department on July 31, 2000. During her career, she has been the executive assistant to four police chiefs. Cindy has done a multitude of tasks over her 23 years of service that have kept the police department running smoothly. Her dedication to the department is unmatched. She touched many lives throughout her time at Kentwood and will be missed dearly. The department would like to thank Cindy for her dedication and immense kindness to all of our staff. We wish her the best in her retirement.



CITIZEN EVALUATIONS

PowerEngage by PowerDMS is the complete citizen engagement software and feedback solution for law enforcement, emergency communications, fire, and EMS. It keeps citizens informed, measures citizen satisfaction, and boosts morale. In addition, it allows for measurable insights into how your citizens feel about your level of service with automated text surveys.

The Kentwood Police Department sent out 6,765 automated text surveys in 2023. We received 2,741 responses in return. This is a return rate of 40.5%. This is a significant increase from response rates we received in previous years with mailing out paper surveys.

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

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|----|----|-----|-----|------|
| 24 | 20 | 117 | 215 | 2172 |
| 1% | 1% | 5% | 8% | 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 |
|----|----|----|-----|------|
| 13 | 5 | 52 | 111 | 2292 |
| 1% | 0% | 2% | 4% | 93% |

For question #2 we had a 97% 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 |
|----|----|-----|-----|------|
| 38 | 30 | 152 | 277 | 1839 |
| 2% | 1% | 7% | 12% | 79% |

For question #3 we had a 91% response of either a 4 or 5 rating

CITIZEN FEEDBACK

Respondents are additionally provided an opportunity to leave comments regarding the service they received. Of the 7,357 total comments citizens made in 2023, 6,906 were categorized as being 'positive'. Sample sentiments are shown below.

"Ofc. Fellows was very nice and polite. She explained everything with detail and asked if I had any questions." KPD# 23-22104

"I really appreciate the immediate response. They were professional, respectful and helpful. I feel relieved and so comfortable. God bless them! Officers Bylsma, Parker and Caswell." KPD# 23-22126

"Great response time. Ofc. Heibel was very kind. I appreciate all that you and your team do to keep our community safe." KPD# 23-22002

"What a wonderful officer! She was kind, respectful. She answered all my questions. Guided me in what I should do next. 10/10 I think this lady deserves a raise." Officer Brooke Lowe. KPD #23-19542

"Extremely pleased with the prompt and professional manner that was provided by Ofc. Joseff and dispatcher." KPD# 23-21145

"Officer Hulst was great! He explained what happened, and didn't make me feel bad for calling when I expressed that I was nervous about the situation. I appreciated their quick response! Thanks so much!" KPD #23-19364

"Officers were very professional handling the situation providing clear information overall they did a great job also they responded quickly after call was made." Ofc. Steffen, Ofc. Stewart. KPD #23-19089

"Officers Mazarka, Beelen and Stewart were very professional and persistent in their efforts to get a response. So happy that the neighbors were okay. Thank you!" KPD #23-21636

"They were both amazing! I truly appreciate both of their help and their upbeat attitude despite the situation. They were concerned but also entertained my antics. Officers Drumm and Cradlebaugh." KPD # 23-21416

"I was so impressed with the Kentwood police department! I thought I left my purse in a shopping cart in a parking lot and the officer even when to the store to view their cameras. He was so kind when talking with him on the phone. I can't say enough praise for your police officers! They have much larger problems to deal with yet so graciously helped me. Please thank my officer again for me. Have a blessed and safe holiday season!" Ofc. Tabor KPD# 23-21993

"I appreciated her calm reassurance. I was a little unsure about whether I should have called and was worried my concern might be dismissed but she was very polite and I felt she listened well." Officer Kailey Fellows, KPD #23-119243

"Officer Tony Beck was very kind and professional. He made sure the person who needed treatment received it. He treated that person with respect and compassion." KPD #23-19447

"Officer Jordan Joslyn was very friendly and kind. He answered all my questions and explained everything perfectly. He worked quickly to get us out as soon as possible. I couldn't have asked for a better police interaction." KPD #23-19699

thanks
for your
support





Committed

TO EXCELLENCE

Dedicated

TO SERVICE



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