

How much are the POD cameras? Can our neighborhood donate one to the police for our area?

The model of POD camera we purchased is around \$8000. The cameras are not just law enforcement cameras. Any neighborhood could purchase one of these cameras or donate the money to the police department to purchase a camera for their neighborhood. If the neighborhood purchases the camera, they could get it set up and forward any video that is suspicious or shows a crime being committed to the police department. If you would like to donate the money for the police department to purchase the camera. We could get it set up in your neighborhood and we would control the access to the camera to use when we know a crime has been committed or if suspicious activity is called in.

How does a person riding a bike considered to be doing "suspicious activity?" What are police reasoning for stopping a person on a bike for NO reason?

Suspicious activity can mean a lot of different things to different people. For the police, it usually means activity or behavior that is not normally seen and we take our experience and 911 calls into account. Examples could be riding a bicycle around a warehouse in the north end at night when everything is closed. It could be the activity in which the bicyclist is riding down alleys in the downtown core at night with no headlight. It could be a bicyclist following someone on foot and when that person stops, so does the bicyclist. There are many ways a bicyclist could be doing an activity that is different than the norm that could justify them being stopped by the police.

Police Officers on their daily patrol of their district have the opportunity to talk with any number of citizens. They daily contact pedestrians, bicyclist and motorists. We contact a majority of those citizens on what is called a social contact. This is a contact in which no crime has been committed but we just want to stop and talk. The second contact we make is called a Terry stop. This is a stop in which we have reasonable suspicion that a person may have been engaged in criminal activity. It could be a traffic infraction, riding a bicycle without a helmet, being in a city park after dark, or even riding a bicycle around a closed business late at night. A Terry stop is a detention in which the citizen is not free to leave. The third type of contact is when we have probable cause to arrest a citizen for a crime. This can either be through a warrant or we witnessed the crime happen.

Is it regulated (required) "law" for a police officer to log in the system every person they stop?

No it is not regulated or required for police officers to log into our computer system every person we stop. As explained above, we contact a vast amount of people on social contacts in which we are just checking in and saying Hi. We don't ask for their full name and date of birth on those types of stops. If we stop someone for a Terry stop, most likely their name will be recorded in either our Tiburon case reporting system, into SECTOR (for traffic infractions), or in our dispatch computer system if we run that person's name and date of birth.

My car was broken into and purse was taken. Police identified suspects but they are still at large. Why can't they catch him or them? We need more police visibility around the gyms here in Kent to include Planet Fitness and LA Fitness.

The police department does a good job at getting video from businesses that show crimes being committed. The video comes to us in many different qualities. In some we can clearly see the face of the suspect and we are able to run it through our facial recognition software. In some videos we get a good view of the vehicle and can see a license plate. This allows us to contact the registered owner and find the suspect s from there. But in some video, all we get is a vehicle description and a description of the suspect. We then send that video/picture out in an email to all members of the police department to try and identify the suspects. If we can identify the suspects we attempt contact with them. We look at last known addresses, check the neighboring jails, and check in with known associates. If we can't find them, we will file the case with our prosecutor's office if it's a misdemeanor and with the County prosecutor's office if it's a felony. The case is filed and if the suspect doesn't appear for court, a warrant is placed into the system for the suspect. So we always try and catch the suspects that are committing crime, but sometimes we don't have the staffing to continue looking for them after the initial investigation. We do file the case against them and a warrant is issued which allows any police officer in the state to arrest them on their warrant.

For the extra patrols at LA Fitness and Planet Fitness, we have notified our patrol staff to run through those parking lots when they are available to do so.

How do I keep my vehicle from being broken into when I'm exercising?

Vehicle prowls are crimes of opportunity. The prowlers will look for anything left in cars: back packs, mail, shopping bags, purses or even as something as little as change or a charger.

They especially target locations, where they know that people will be at for an extended period of time such as a gym, grocery store, shopping center. Some even watch people as they get out of their cars to see if they hide anything under the seats or in the trunk. Here is what we recommend:

- Do not leave any valuables in your car – this is really the most important
- If you are coming from work (or another location) and going to the gym or any other destination, put your items in your trunk at the point you are leaving from, not when you get to your destination.
- If at all possible, bring your valuable items in with you or keep at another secure location (home, work etc)
- We provide pockets to attach to the back of your phone that will fit driver's license, credit card
- Park as close to the building as possible and at night, park in a well-lit area

With the rash of crimes in the Riverview area, is there any way the police can team-up with the residential complexes to get some on site-security or on-site cameras installed?

When crimes are occurring in a certain area, starting a block watch in the complex is a great way to help us in keeping crime down. If you don't have a block watch already set up, email our Community Education Team and they can help you set one up. (Stacy Judd sjudd@kentwa.gov or John Pagel jpapel@kentwa.gov) would love to assist in getting it up and running. We just need your help in marshalling up your neighbors to get them started.

For security systems, these would have to be purchased by the residents themselves. There are many different types of surveillance systems out there that do a great job at recording events. We can then receive the video from the neighborhood and try and identify the suspects.

How can we get extra patrols in our neighborhood?

The best way to get extra patrols in your neighborhood is to call 911 when you witness a crime or are a victim of a crime. We track where crime is occurring within the city using our Intelligence Led Policing and focus our resources in those areas. If we don't know crime is occurring in your neighborhood, we won't know to focus our resources there.

You can also contact your sector officer if you are having issues within your neighborhood. Your sector officers are the following. Sergeant Andy Kelso, akelso@kentwa.gov, handles the west hill K3. Officer Dave Ghaderi, dghaderi@kentwa.gov, handles the valley K5. Officer Tom Riener, trienner@kentwa.gov, handles the east hill K2. Officer Ian Warmington, iwarmington@kentwa.gov, handles the Panther Lake K4.

Why are crime statistics so high?

The 2016 crime statistics in the city of Kent took an increase from the prior years. We found that with the opioid epidemic and the lack of punishment for juvenile offenders caused a spike in crime. Chief Thomas advised "we see an enormous number of people commit crimes to drive their drug habit. We've always seen that but never at this level."

For 2017, we have started to see a decrease in property crimes within the city. So far we are tracking 12 percent lower than the 2016 numbers. We think some of this decrease is the increased enforcement we have been conducting within the city on auto thieves. We have had emphasis patrols and set up a team that concentrated on auto thefts in May of 2016 through the beginning of 2017. The department made 201 arrests for possession of stolen vehicles in 2016 which was a 46% increase from the year before. We have seen a further decline in auto thefts this year because of our great work last year.

I've heard in the news about crime occurring at Hookah bars around the area. What is the Police doing about the Hookah bars in Kent?

We currently have one operating Hookah bar in Kent with another opening in the near future. For the one currently open, we have had an increased amount of calls for service around that bar. We have been working with the Liquor Control and Cannabis Board, the Department of Health, permitting/zoning, and Code Enforcement, all agencies that will hopefully assist us in verifying they are in compliance with all state and city regulations. We have also made this one of our weekly ILP targets. These are areas in the city in which we see an increase in crime. Our patrol division gets these ILP targets and they try and concentrate their enforcement activity around those targets. We have also talked with the owner of the property to discuss with them the crime that is occurring and that they can be liable for what is occurring on their property.

For the bar that is trying to open, we are making sure it complies with all of our state and city regulations, we are ensuring they have adequate security if they open their doors, and we are working with the property management company to inform them of the dangers of having a Hookah bar on their premises with all the documented crime that has been associated with the other Hookah bar.

What do these abbreviations mean? LCB? UAV? FTO?

Here are just a few abbreviations we use on a daily basis.

AC=Assistant Chief

CAD=Computer Aided Dispatch

FTO=Field Training Officer

CEU=Community Education Unit

NRT=Neighborhood Response Team

SOU=Special Operations Unit

SIU=Special Investigations Unit

ISR=In Station Report

ILP = Intelligence Led Policing

MDC=Mobile Data Computer

DOL=Department of Licensing

DRE=Drug Recognition Expert

VIPS=Volunteer In Police Services

CJTC=Criminal Justice Training Center

CKCF=City of Kent Corrections Facility

AFIS=Automated Fingerprint Identification System

BOLO=Be On the Lookout

UAV = Unmanned Aerial Vehicle

LCB = Liquor Control Board

212 and East Valley. Why are cars running east and west allowed to get through the light with a volume of at least 85 cars, while 5 cars get through on the East Valley running North and South.

I would need to know more information before I could find an answer for this question. The traffic lights are all controlled by our Public Works Division within the City of Kent. The light cycles are based on average traffic use. So there are times when one set of lights are given a longer light then the cross traffic during those high commute times.