



The Kansas City Missouri Police Department

# Pandemic impacts KCPD

March 2020 ushered in a world-wide health pandemic: COVID-19. The virus began to impact the city of Kansas City by the middle of the month. KCPD responded by educating Department members with information from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) about how to prevent the disease on March 3. As information began rolling in, the Department communicated with all members about the pandemic on a daily basis. The main response to the news of the first positive cases in the area was to give clear guidance to officers on how they could conduct calls in which people may have symptoms.

Mayor Quinton Lucas declared a State of Emergency on March 12, cancelling large events of over 1,000 people to include the Big 12 Championship and the Annual St. Patrick's Day parade. Both events would have involved many from KCPD. In response, KCPD cancelled all community events and activities within Department facilities, from free tax preparation to the Citizens Police Academy. Only active members had access to facilities, but walk-in reports in station lobbies were still allowed. Department work-out areas closed to prevent the spread of the disease on surfaces. In-Service Training was suspended, and all department-approved travel and training scheduled through May 1 was cancelled for the health and safety of its members.

As the pandemic progressed, more detailed information of how law enforcement could remain safe during the outbreak began to be communicated. Officers were instructed to practice social distancing, wash hands after every personal interaction, avoid

touching their face and to make contact with the public in an open-air environment. Guidelines from the CDC regarding law enforcement were also communicated. The

getting about the pandemic and stay-at-home-order. All the questions and answers were used to create a frequently asked questions document that was posted on the Department's webpage and on social media for the public to easily view and share.

Two members of the Department tested positive for the COVID virus on Tues., March 31. Communication was sent out to Department members first and then media outlets. Sixteen others were quarantined who had direct contact with those who tested positive. Police conducted a press briefing the day after the first Department members tested positive to provide the latest updates on the positive members and preventative measures KCPD was taking. Both members recovered.

The generosity of the citizens of Kansas City has always been exceptional, and during this time it was no different. During the press conference, Chief Smith asked the community for their help in providing much needed personal protective equipment (PPE) and temporal scanner thermometers. Businesses and individuals responded immediately with donations of thousands of masks. Residents



Human Resources Commander became available 24/7 for members to contact in case of exposure or if they had questions relating to COVID-19, and made determinations about whether a member needed to be quarantined.

The Mayor later issued a stay-at-home order that closed non-essential businesses, schools and prevented gatherings of more than 10 people. The order went into effect on March 24. The day before that, KCPD held a joint press conference with the Kansas City Fire Department and Kansas City Office of Emergency Management to answer questions first responders had been

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# Officers praised for parade response

**K**ansas City Police helped keep hundreds of thousands of people safe as the city celebrated a national championship, which included averting a major crisis and drawing national praise in the process.

For the first time in 50 years, the Kansas City Chiefs won the Super Bowl. During the game itself on Feb. 2, which took place in Miami, the Power and Light District had the biggest watch party locally with an estimated 20,000 people in attendance. Police made a total of 14 arrests there and ejected 45 people from the district. There were 163 reports of celebratory gunfire from when the big game started at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 2 to 1 a.m. Feb. 3.

Organizers with the Kansas City Sports Commission announced on Feb. 3 that the victory parade would take place just two days later, on Feb. 5. Fortunately, KCPD had been planning well in advance of that. During the summer of 2019, the Naval Postgraduate School approached KCPD and other key stakeholders in the area about doing a table-top exercise.

When they asked what kind of scenario police wanted to do, commanders told them a Super Bowl victory parade. So KCPD, local, state, and federal partners spent eight hours with some of the top military minds in the U.S. practicing a response to a number of possible incidents at a hypothetical victory parade and rally.

"While the directors of the exercise taught us how we could improve, they complimented our preparation and plans, especially compared to those from other cities with which they have worked," Chief Rick Smith said.

Another partnership KCPD had been working toward for years involved changing the laws in Missouri and Kansas so that police officers could assist each other



**After safely stopping a man who drove onto the secure route of the Kansas City Chiefs Super Bowl Victory parade on Feb. 5, officers searched his car. More pictures from the celebration are at right.**

across state lines. That finally came to pass, so agencies now can provide each other mutual aid across the border. The Super Bowl Victory Parade was the first time the public really got to see these mutual aid agreements in action. More than 700 officers from 19 different law enforcement agencies in Kansas and Missouri

worked the event, and hundreds of compliments poured in afterward about their professionalism and friendliness. KCPD officers from nearly every non-patrol unit

were pulled to work along the parade route that day.

KCPD implemented lessons learned from the Royals World Series victory celebration in 2015. Officers streamlined the process to reunite lost children with their parents to great success, dropping the number of lost kids from more than 100 at the 2015 celebration to just eight in 2020. (All were reunited with their families.) Traffic changes allowed attendees to leave downtown in about half an hour after the celebration ended, compared to the nearly five hours it took to clear everyone out after the conclusion of the 2015 parade and rally. But KCPD's greatest accomplishment that day occurred before

the parade even started.

The parade staged in Berkeley Riverfront Park. The route traveled straight down Grand Boulevard south to Pershing, where it turned in front of Union Station, where the victory rally was to take place. A vehicle broke through the parade barrier in the staging area at 8:12 a.m. Hundreds of thousands of people were already on the route. The parade was set to begin at 11 a.m. All officers on the route were immediately alerted. Sheriff's deputies from Clay and Jackson Counties assisted KCPD in deploying Stop Sticks, which

the vehicle struck.

Police pursued the suspect vehicle south on the barricaded parade route to where it turned at Pershing and was headed for the crowd gathered in front of Union Station. Multiple police cars were prepared to block it. An Independence, Missouri, police officer driving a KCPD vehicle then used tactical vehicle intervention, also known as the PIT maneuver, to stop the suspect car on Pershing. Other KCPD officers blocked the suspect in along the route and before and after the maneuver to prevent the driver from veering into the crowd. Police took the driver and a passenger into custody. No one was injured.

"When it started, we didn't know whether the driver of this vehicle was a terrorist or what his intent was," Chief Smith said. "All we knew was that we had to stop him and protect the largest crowd to gather in Kansas City in years. I am so proud of the judgment our officers used that day."

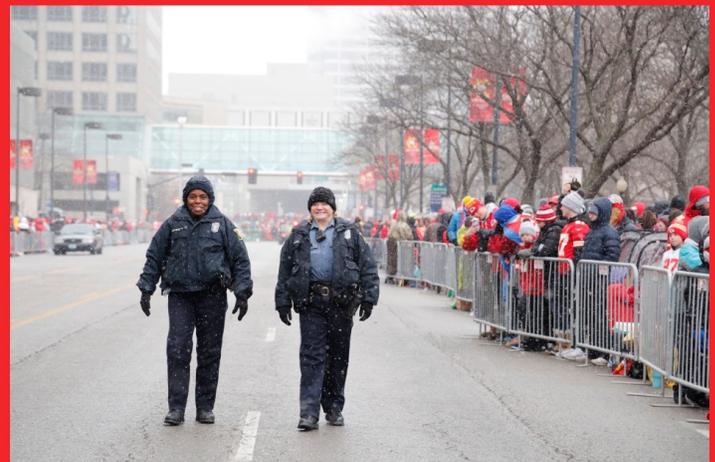
A search of the vehicle revealed no weapons, and there were no indications of terrorist activity. The passenger was released. The driver, 42-year-old Addae J. Doyle, was charged with resisting arrest, possession of a controlled substance and misdemeanor driving while intoxicated. Doyle told police the last thing he remembered was getting high and did not recall driving through the parade route. Preliminary toxicology results

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"What we saw yesterday was **exceptional** work and decision-making by law enforcement.

- Mayor Quinton Lucas

# A celebration 50 years in the making



## — POLICE PRAISED FOR PARADE RESPONSE, *cont. from p. 2*

revealed Doyle tested positive for amphetamines and cocaine.

Parade-goers cheered for police, who re-secured the parade route as quickly as possible so the City could continue to celebrate its championship Kansas City Chiefs. Praise for the Kansas City officers' heroics began flowing in from around the world.

The next day, Feb. 6, KCPD hosted a press conference featuring the officers from KCPD, the Independence Police Department

and the Clay County Sheriff's Office who were involved in boxing in and ultimately stopping the vehicle.

"What we saw yesterday was exceptional work and decision-making by law enforcement," Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas said at the press conference. "... Every day in America there are stories in the news about police activities, what went wrong. If you think about yesterday, you'd see an amazing example of what went right."

## 2020 Police Memorial Service moves online

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, the annual Kansas City Missouri Police Department Memorial Service will not take place in person this year. The Department will honor its fallen with a special online ceremony, however, beginning at 10 a.m. May 21, which would have been the day of the Memorial Service at Headquarters. A live stream of the service will be available at [www.facebook.com/kcpolice](http://www.facebook.com/kcpolice), and will be posted on that site and at [kcpd.org](http://kcpd.org). Stay tuned to [kcpd.org](http://kcpd.org) and the Department's social media sites for updates.

# Upcoming Events

May 12  
Board of Police Commissioners Meeting—streamed at [facebook.com/kcpolice](https://www.facebook.com/kcpolice)

All other public events have been cancelled to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

The Informant is a publication of KCPD's Media Unit  
(816) 234-5170  
[kcpd.org](http://kcpd.org)

The mission of the Kansas City Missouri Police Department is to protect and serve with professionalism, honor and integrity.

## PANDEMIC IMPACTS KCPD, *cont. from p. 1*

and businesses also donated thermometers so each patrol division and the Communications Unit had at least one to take the temperatures of every member before their shift started. The thermometers also checked for fevers of those coming into detention units. Hand sanitizer by the hundreds of gallons was donated from local

distilleries and other health organizations. KCPD Crime Lab chemists switched their focus to making hand sanitizer using donated and reduced-rate supplies from local businesses.

The outpouring of support did not stop at much needed PPE supplies. Donations of all kinds ranging from food to childcare to

lodging for exposed members came in daily. The support was beyond expected, but KCPD members appreciated it greatly during this unique time.

## Officially Speaking

### Awards

Life-Saving Awards  
Officers Michael Schmer and Matthew Schoolfield

Meritorious Service Awards  
Captain David Jackson and Retired Sergeant Eben Hall  
Officer Joe Smith

Certificates of Commendation  
Officers Jared Littleton, Dakota Stone and Devin Jackson

### 25-Year Ring

Administrative Assistant Doris Williams

### Retirements

Officer Jason Brungardt  
Officer Paul Burkhalter  
Forensic Specialist Darvene Duvenci  
Detective James Foushee  
Sergeant Wilford Isaac Freestone  
Officer James Garcia

Officer Angeleic Huth  
Deputy Chief Robert Kuehl  
Officer Mike McClure  
Detective Ricky Ropka

### Obituaries

Retired Detective Gerald Cox  
Retired Sergeant Gerald Gardner  
Retired Officer Gary Hunter  
Retired Civilian Charlene McCorkle  
Retired Officer Jerry Pearce