



The Kansas City Missouri Police Department

New dash-cam system rolls out

It has been more than 10 years since KCPD updated its in-car video system, also known as dash cams. After a nearly three-year research and acquisition process, the new systems are being installed in the department's fleet of vehicles.

As Digital Technology Section members began looking at body cameras, they realized the current in-car video system was not compatible with the technology of the body cameras. Section Supervisor Sergeant Chase Moraczewski said they developed specific requirements for a new system: it needed to be a fully integrated system, allow pairing with body camera video and the ability to record an entire 10-hour shift, among other technical requirements. An RFI, request for information, was sent out to companies nationwide, and 10-12 responded back to show their product. Shortly after, a RFP, request for proposal, was sent out to those companies, of which eight responded back.

A committee formed consisting of representatives from each element responsible for installing and maintaining the system, composed of members from the Digital Technology Section, Patrol, Communications Support and Information Services. Those committee members then scored the systems based on the requirements and ease of use. Sergeant Moraczewski said the scores were based solely on the systems' technical merit, not on price.

The system which scored highest and was the most-effective was the Panasonic Arbitrator 360° HD rugged in-car digital video recording system, through Turn-Key Mobile, in



The new Panasonic in-car cameras systems run with new tablets. They also are designed to pair with body-camera systems, which KCPD is in the process of purchasing.

Jefferson City, Mo. The new in-car digital system requires newer, faster computers in the cars. Panasonic CF-33 tablet computers were purchased to be paired alongside the 340 new in-car video systems. In the future, the tablet computers can be taken out of the car to use as a camera.

The \$6.9 million system was funded by the Public Safety Sales Tax. Thirty new patrol vehicles were held back from being deployed in April until the equipment could arrive and be installed. Those were installed by MIT, a local contractor. Those are now out on the streets. The goal is to have every patrol vehicle outfitted with the new system by the end of the year. Installation was put on hold during the COVID outbreak, but Moraczewski said they hope to resume installation in mid-July, starting with one division at a time. They are able to install four to five systems in

a day.

The new system is user-friendly compared to what the department has had for the past 10 years, Sergeant Moraczewski said. The older system required a physical hard-drive to be checked out prior to the shift beginning and then brought back into the station and downloaded. With the new system, as soon as the officer approaches in range of a division station, it will automatically begin to download the video through a secure WiFi connection.

The purchase also included storage for the videos. This allows extra space for the new high-definition videos. Per state statute, all videos are required to be stored for a minimum of 30 days, but KCPD goes above and beyond by keeping videos for at least a year. Videos can be placed on hold if they are involved in a case file. To further aid detectives in searching for a specific event, officers will now have the ability to title the video from the computer in their car immediately following all calls for service.

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

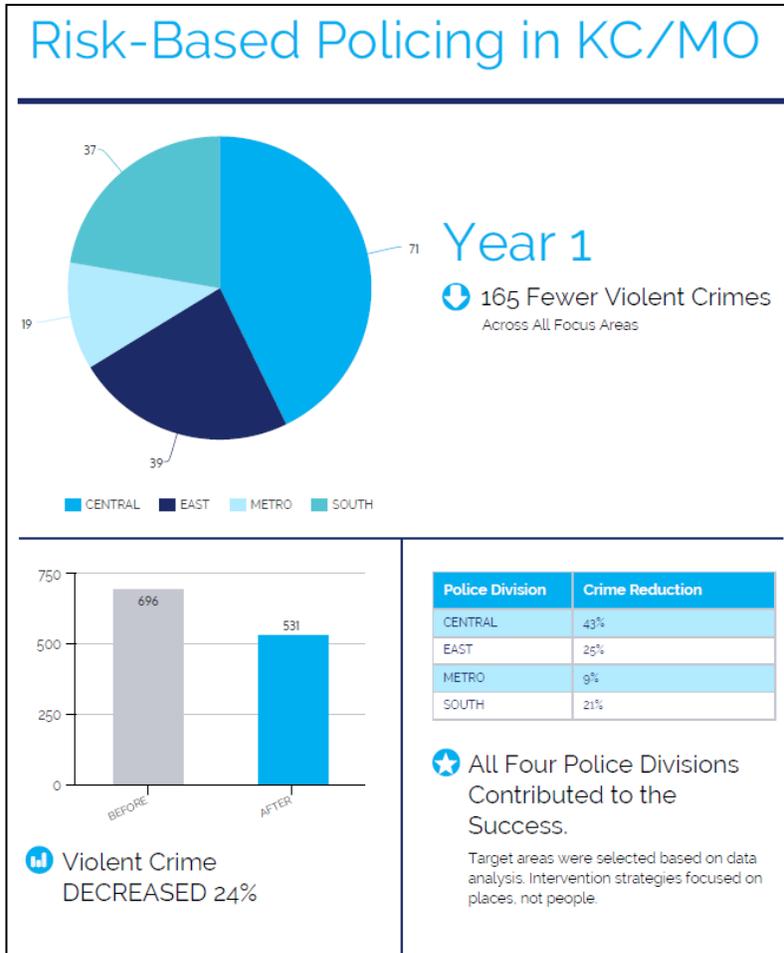
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and civil unrest in Kansas City, production of the monthly Informant was postponed. We apologize for the delay.

Study: Strategy drives down crime

An innovative crime-fighting strategy implemented one year ago has reduced violent crime in KCPD's project areas by 24 percent, according to a new analysis by Rutgers University.

The success has already drawn interest from police in cities like Dallas and Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The results of the study also were published in *Police Chief Magazine*.

KCPD worked with criminal justice scholars from Rutgers to implement an evidence-based strategy that helps determine where crime or other problems are most likely to occur: Risk-Based Policing (RBP). RBP is a crime prevention and reduction tool that builds on the analytical technique Risk Terrain Modeling to look not at where crime has already occurred, but features of the physical environment that will cause crime. A key aspect of RBP is it focuses on places, not people. It also does not take into account historical crime or arrest data, making it different from previous hot spot policing efforts. RBP overlays a number of geographic data to show police (and their partners) where a crime problem is most likely to emerge, allowing preventive measures to be taken in that area. Known as "risk factors," examples include liquor and convenience stores, vacant properties, properties with code violations, parks, bus stops, and many more. They may be completely innocuous on their own, but the risk of crime can increase dramatically if



many are in the same general vicinity.

RBP gave KCPD an idea of areas in the city at highest risk for violent crime. Seeing these areas of concentrated risk allow police, city government, and other partners to leverage resources to address issues.

"In addition, KCPD members share RBP data with municipal departments to help enforce code violations or fix broken streetlights," said Captain Jonas Baughman, who spearheaded the project for KCPD. "This helps everyone share the burden of true public safety when compared to traditional enforcement-focused measures. In turn, RBP ultimately results in a more holistic service to the public."

Using objective RBP data as a guide, KCPD devoted resources to some of the highest-risk areas in the city. The recent analysis from Rutgers compares

the year before KCPD implemented RBP – March 15, 2018 to March 14, 2019 – to the year since – March 15, 2019 to March 14, 2020. It also looked at control areas with similar levels of environmental risk that did not receive the specific tasks based on the RBP concept. (This does not mean the KCPD did not provide police service or other necessary responses in the

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EOC 168 graduates amid pandemic

The 34 members of Entrant Officer Class 168 had an Academy experience like no other class before them due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

First, several members were infected with the disease, forcing a closure of the entire Academy for two weeks. Instructors taught what courses they could online. Once everyone was healthy again, Academy instructors condensed the hands-on instruction as much as possible. Ultimately, graduation took place May 15, one week later than it had originally been scheduled.

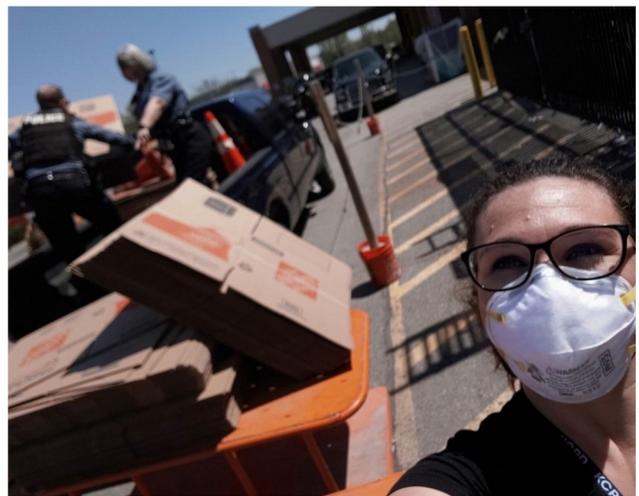
But because of the pandemic lock-

down, the graduation was radically different, as well. No guests could attend. The KCPD Media Unit live-streamed the ceremony on Facebook so graduates' family and friends could watch and comment. The graduation still featured a speaker, Chief Rick Smith. Diplomas were presented without handshakes, and there was no one to pin on recruits' badges. Everyone sat several seats apart to allow for social distancing to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

The class valedictorian was KCPD Officer Tyler Hayes. The Richard Fletcher Director's Award also went to a KCPD officer, Officer Lukas Hair.



KCPD and community partners feed thousands during stay-home orders



KKCPD social service workers joined with community partners to ensure families and individuals get the food they need during the stay-home order to stop the spread of COVID-19.

The project started April 13. Since that time, the partners distributed more than 530 free individual meals, and 194 free family meals a day. The family meals feed at least four people. Therefore, about 775 people a day were fed from this project.

The meals were provided through a partnership with Veterans Community Project, Cerner, and Sysco. The meals were dropped off at Central Patrol Division. Social service workers and community interaction officers then separated them according to where they were going to be distributed. The locations were selected by KCPD social service workers and included senior living apartments, public housing, domestic violence shelters, children's shelters, and more. The location managers distributed the food to residents. The goal of the food distribution endeavor was to get food to those who need it, but are struggling to get to distribution sites across the metro area.

Over 20 volunteers from Vive Culture Church and Life.Church Northland packed the meals into their vehicles and took them to various locations across the city. Vive Culture Church volunteers came every Monday and Wednesday to deliver to locations south of the river and Life.Church Northland volunteers came every Tuesday and Thursday to deliver meals north of the river.

The volunteers came so often, they memorized the delivery orders and started dividing up the meals before the social service workers and officers even arrived each day.

"We have so many people and organizations contributing," Central Patrol Social Worker Tori Cawman said. "It's pretty humbling."

On Fridays, Cawman and Central Patrol Community Interaction Officer Holly Sticken delivered meals to Kansas City Public Schools, North Patrol Division's Crime-Free Multi Housing program (so those officers could deliver to apartment complexes in need), and Hillcrest Transitional Housing.

The residents of Hillcrest are transitioning from a life of homelessness to stability and have gone through rough experiences, several of which involved the police. The food delivered made the residents overwhelmed with gratefulness, and they were so appreciative the food came from KCPD members.

"This was another opportunity for people to see the police department in a good light," Cawman said. "Seeing the officers bringing food and making connections means so much."

As the distribution effort continued, the partners started to run out of boxes to pack the food. Fortunately, Home Depot donated 200 boxes for shipping the food. This kept the food distribution going for several more weeks. KCPD and its partners kept up the food deliveries until Kansas City's stay-home order ended on May 15.

Upcoming Events

August 25
Board of Police Commissioners Meeting—streamed on KCMO’s YouTube channel and Cable Channel 2

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

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(816) 234-5170
kcpd.org

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STRATEGY DECREASES CRIME, cont. from p. 2

control areas.)

The RBP strategy focused on violent street crime (homicides, aggravated assaults, and robberies) in the four patrol divisions south of the Missouri River – Central, East, Metro, and South – because they have the highest incidence of violent crime.

Researchers found violent street crime decreased 24% overall when looking at all focus areas. That means Kansas City had 165 fewer violent crime victims in the areas where RBP was used in just one year. The control areas saw only a combined 1% reduction in violent crime.

The results for violent street crime in each of the four divisions are:

- * Central: 43% decrease
- * East: 25% decrease
- * Metro: 9% decrease
- * South: 21% decrease (although, unlike Central, East, and Metro, researchers found much of the violent crime here was displaced nearby)

Legal scholars have shown support for this approach because it helps strip away potential person-based bias given the focus on environmental risk. RBP is a civilly just way to deploy public resources, including those from the police.

In addition, the KCPD was able to achieve these statistically significant results with virtually no added cost.

“We were able to see meaningful crime reduction using our current resources in more strategic, focused ways,” Captain Baughman said. “... We obviously still have a lot of work to do and are already planning ways to evolve the strategy and build on these early successes.”

Officially Speaking

Retirements

Master Patrol Officer Aric Anderson
Officer Steven Bloch
Sergeant Patrick Foster
Civilian Karl Jefferson
Detective Christopher Millsap
Officer Rita Olson-Stawicki
Supervisor Melanie Fields

Obituaries

Retired Sergeant Thomas B. Allen
Retired Civilian Willogene Finks
Retired Civilian Jerry Hart
Retired Civilian Nancy Logan
Retired Major Elmer Meyer