

Hendersonville Police Department
Public Monthly Report
August 2022



Chief's Monthly Summary

We conducted a Sergeant promotional process this month. This was the first time that we involved civilian volunteers in the selection process to select our newest Sergeant. I have always believed that folks impacted by my promotional decisions have a vested interest in that being a good one. I am happy to report that Officer Alicia Lockhart was promoted to Sergeant. She came out solidly on top and is now only the second female promoted to the supervisory ranks. She will backfill Sgt. Hoyle on a Patrol Team as Michele transitions to our soon-to-be-formed Traffic Safety Team. Congratulations to both Sergeants.

We spent the rest of the month planning for Apple Festival. As I write this, we are still recovering from a long weekend of festivities. Thankfully, the entire event passed without any significant issues, except for rain. Hopefully, you witnessed a more robust police presence, and you were able to enjoy the event without concern. Your enjoyment without worrying about your safety is our number one goal. If we achieved that, we did our jobs. More about Apple Festival in next month's report.

We also started a new community outreach program. Officers are on the lookout for people doing something good for someone else. When they see this, that person is awarded a Chief's Coin for Excellence. We will share these short stories on our social media. Maybe someone pushing someone's disabled car out of the roadway, paying for a stranger's coffee out of general kindness, or helping an elderly person cross the street safely. You get the picture.

Lastly, the last few weeks were deadly for North Carolina law enforcement. Six Officers were shot in the line of duty, two of them fatally. We are saddened by the loss of life after Wayne County Deputy Sergeant Fishman and Wake County Deputy Byrd were murdered for simply doing their jobs. Their deaths make thirteen law enforcement officers shot in North Carolina this year so far. And, while I agree that violent crime in any capacity is a concern for us all, the murdering of Police Officers must stop. These officers were not doing anything controversial or deserving of being killed. They were simply out there protecting other people, being the public servants, they swore to be.

Proverbs 28:1 is inscribed on the wall at the National Law Enforcement Memorial. It says, "The wicked flee when no man pursueth, but the righteous are bold as a lion." I promise you; justice will always prevail.

As always, thanks once again for your support and your trust in us. I hope you find these monthly reports useful. If you do, tell your friends. The more that read them, the more informed we are. And, as always, we work to provide you with "Mountain Excellence."



Blair Myhand,
Chief of Police

Calls for Service

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5,247	3,281	4,479	4,340	4,373	4,399	3,162	4,112				

Traffic Safety Team Activities

Total Traffic Stops:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
233	299	388	362	311	203	271	297				

Total Citations Issued:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
151	201	243	265	207	144	146	182				

DWI Arrests:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	8	9	6	9	4	9	7				

Motor Vehicle Crashes:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
115	101	90	111	99	113	146	105				

Top five crash locations:

#1	Chimney Rock Road & Highlands Square Drive
#2	Chimney Rock Road & Sugarloaf Road
#3	Old Spartanburg Road & Brooklyn Avenue
#4	South Church Street & Kanuga Road
#5	Carolina Village Road & Four Seasons Boulevard

Crimes, Reports, and Arrest Activities

Criminal Arrests:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
90	93	140	94	118	114	89	141				

(felony – 82, misdemeanor – 59)

Incident Reports:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
169	134	277	222	259	292	239	205				

Drug Offenses:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
38	34	37	36	51	60	27	45				

Larcenies:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
42	49	47	28	35	48	46	52				

(4 from motor vehicles)

Assaults:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
15	10	17	15	10	11	17	10				

Employee Actions

- Officer Alicia Lockhart was promoted to Sergeant on August 30, 2022.
- Sean Patrick Leech was hired as a telecommunicator. He came to us from Person County as a Dispatcher. Sean Patrick is in training and expected to be released to solo duty as a Patrol Officer by the end of the year.
- One officer resigned.



Community Tip

- Tip #2: Secure your personal property. We continue to get reports of catalytic converters being stolen from the owner's driveway along with other thefts. We took six stolen vehicle reports this month as well. As I said before, when the economy is bad and the cost of living is high (*which it is right now*), thefts will climb. While some people steal out of desperation, most steal out of greed. Either way, the Police cannot be everywhere, all the time. Property owners, me included, must secure our own property from theft.
- Here are some simple rules to follow:
 - Lock your vehicle whenever it is parked. (*I lock my vehicle always*)
 - Do not leave personal belongings in plain view in your vehicle. Also, don't place valuables in the trunk in the same parking space where you leave your vehicle. If someone is watching the parking lot, and sees you place your valuables in your trunk, they know exactly what to break into.

- Close garage doors at night. Look at the "9pm Routine" campaign. It reminds folks to shut garage doors at 9pm daily. (*mine are programmed to automatically shut at 7:30pm, just saying*)
- Make a habit of locking exterior home doors before you go to bed. Be religious about this.
- Turn exterior lights on. Criminals like the dark and avoid well-lit areas. Motion sensors are okay, but constant light is better. (*I leave my porch light on all night. Duke Energy be damned!*)
- If you can afford them, video cameras are extremely helpful to help us catch the thieves. They may be a deterrent, but their biggest benefit is assisting in the follow-up criminal investigation.
- While this is a safe city, always be mindful of your surroundings. Look outside your immediate area. And, if your "spidey senses" tingle, listen to your gut. It almost always serves us right.

Complaints and Findings

- 8/4/2022 – Citizen complaint alleging excessive force during an encounter with Officers. The subsequent internal investigation revealed that officers did not use force of any type against the complainant. The complaint was Unfounded with no action taken.
- 8/23/2022 – Citizen complaint involving multiple officers in their dealing with an escaped involuntary commitment patient. Internal investigation pending.
- 8/23/2022 – Citizen complaint alleging Officer rudeness. Internal investigation pending.

Vehicle Pursuits and Findings

- None

Use of Reasonable Force (UORF) Incidents and Findings

- 8/20/2022 – Physical force was used by an officer to effect the arrest of an intoxicated person refusing to leave an ABC establishment in the central business district. Investigation determined the force used was justified.
 - 8/28/2022 – Physical force was used by two officers to disarm an intoxicated person pointing a handgun at other patrons at the same ABC establishment as noted above. Investigation determined the force used was justified.
- HPD leadership and ALE agents met with the owners of the business where both use of force incidents occurred. Arrangements were made that will hopefully alleviate the likelihood of these sort of incidents from happening again.

Operations/Notable Events

- Booze It or Lose It Campaign: August 29 – September 5, 2022 (*activities listed below*)
 - 27 moving violation citation issued
 - 4 drug violation charges
 - 4 DWI arrests
 - 2 uninsured motorist violations
 - 1 reckless driving charge
 - 2 felony warrants served
 - 3 wanted persons arrested
- 6 motor vehicles stolen this month. All were recovered in various conditions. Arrests were made in two of the cases. One other victim refused to prosecute. One vehicle was found burned in South Carolina. And one case is still being investigated and charges are expected soon.
- Shooting investigation(s): a suspect is under investigation for two incidents where he fired a handgun in public. The investigation is active, but charges are expected to be filed shortly. No one was injured in either incident.

Budget Summary

- We are approximately 16% through the fiscal year.
- \$618,402, or 41% of the FY 22/23 operating budget has been encumbered to date. Most of the funds encumbered are for vehicle purchases.

Community Outreach/Special Events

- 8/3/22 - Participated in Henderson County National Night Out in Jackson Park.
- 8/15/22 - HPD participated in the Carolina Village Hunger Walk.
- 8/16/22 - A security assessment was conducted at Immaculata Catholic School. The assessment identifies weaknesses in the school's facilities with the intent to "harden" the building from external attack.
- 8/21/22 - Assisted in the "Back 2 School Festival" in Sullivan Park. This is an event planned and conducted annually by Council Member Debbie Roundtree.

Awards and Recognitions

- Intermediate certificates: Detective Eric LaRowe and Police Officer III Kyle Nix received their North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission Intermediate Law Enforcement Certificate signifying their commitment to personal and professional development with the completion of the required education and training hours.



- Advanced certificates: Detectives Pete Laite and Zeff Childress, and Sergeant Garrett Gardin received their North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate. Like the Intermediate Certificate, this too signifies the completion of formal education and/or law enforcement training. Moreover, it is the highest certificate a Police Officer can attain in North Carolina.



- Trilogy: Sergeant Gardin completed the FBI LEEDA Law Enforcement development award for completing three leadership development courses in a series.
- Six officers were officially sworn in as Police Officers for the Hendersonville Police Department by the Honorable Mayor Barbara Volk (pictured). They are, from L to R, Marianna Tinoco, Haley Thompson, Michael Paporozzi, Brandon Haman, Kyle Gyurina, and Shelby Greene. They are joined in the picture by siblings, parents, and/or spouses. Welcome all!



Grants Management

- \$40,000 accreditations grant is pending review and approval. (Oct 2022)
- \$50,000 mental health grant is pending review and approval. (Oct 2022)

Recruiting/Retention

- 1 of 47 Police Officer vacancies exist.
- 1 of 6 telecommunicator vacancies remain. (conditional offer accepted)