

**Hendersonville Police Department**  
**Public Monthly Report**  
**February 2024**



## Chief's Monthly Summary

February saw the loss of a North Carolina trailblazer. Retired Laurinburg Police Chief, Robert Malloy, died on February 1, 2024. Robert was a poet, Army Ranger, and one of the first African American Police Chiefs in the state. He was a friend and mentor to many police leaders across North Carolina. Each year, during the annual North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police conference, Robert would present a framed copy of his poem entitled "The Badge" to the outgoing association president. He would recite the poem from memory with a deep and smooth voice. His presentation was a favorite among attendees.

I had the pleasure of being a recipient of Robert's gift. I also have the unfortunate distinction of being the last outgoing association president to receive this gift from Robert. I appreciate everything he did for me and for all the other leaders he impacted. His presence will be missed, and his bellowing voice will echo throughout our conference for years to come.

On the lighter side of things, I am happy to report that we are the first police department in North Carolina to have completed our pledge for the International Association of Chiefs of Police Trust-Building Campaign. This is a major accomplishment for staff and the department. It signifies a commitment to employ twenty-five different strategies in six different categories that help us build and strengthen trust with our community.

A full report of the department's efforts can be found by clicking this link: [Police Transparency | City of Hendersonville, NC | Official Website \(hendersonvillenc.gov\)](https://www.hendersonvillenc.gov/police-transparency). Please read more about our efforts to bolster a more positive relationship with the community we serve.

I am excited that we are at the tip of the spear among other departments in this state. More importantly, I am grateful that staff embraced this challenge, and we can now demonstrate a commitment to "serving with excellence" as is our department mission. We will continue focusing on always progressing in every area of the department. We take every opportunity to improve and be as open and transparent as possible. We want you to know we will always strive to be our best and provide you with the most professional service we can muster. When we do not meet that expectation, we promise to learn from the experience and enhance the way we do things.

Thank you again to those who support and trust us to do good work. We strive to be the best in everything we do. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve this community.



Blair Myhand,  
Chief of Police









**Assaults:**

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
9	17	7	15	11	9	7	11	14	17	10	16	12
2024												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
8	11											10

**Employee Actions**

- Accreditation Manager, Monica Howard, completed all 180 proofs of compliance in our pursuit of accreditation with the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). She did this in less than half the time given to us to achieve compliance. Because of her efforts, we have moved into the mock-assessment phase and are being audited by assessors to verify adherence to the standards. We continue to move forward with achieving international accreditation this fall.
- Cpt. Trae Laws was selected to attend the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia in January 2025. With his selection, he will be only one of twelve police leaders from North Carolina in 2025 to attend this prestigious school. More about the FBI National Academy can be found here: [Training — LE \(fbi.gov\)](https://www.fbi.gov/training/le)
- New Officers, Walter Garcia, Zackary Dickman, and Elijah Bradley were sworn in by Mayor Volk at city hall on February 22, 2024. They are welcome additions to the department and are now in field training. We expect the three to be in the solo phase by summer.



*Mayor Barbara Volk, Officer Elijah Bradley, Officer Zackary Dickman, Officer Walter Garcia, and Chief Blair Myhand*

### **Safety Tip – Pedestrian Safety**

Given the recent pedestrian v. vehicle fatality, it seems prudent to remind people about driving safety in areas where pedestrians might likely be present. **\*NOTE:** *this was the October 2023 Safety Tip*

#### **Driver Tips for Pedestrian Safety**

- Look out for pedestrians everywhere and always. Safety is a shared responsibility.
- Use extra caution when driving in inclement weather or during periods of limited visibility.
- Slow down and be prepared to stop when turning or otherwise entering a crosswalk.
- Always yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.
- Stop before the crosswalk to give other drivers a chance to see the pedestrian(s).
- Never pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk. There may be people crossing that you can't see.
- Follow the speed limit, especially when pedestrians are likely to be present.
- Always follow school zone speed limits.
- Use extra caution during times that children are likely to be in the area.
- Be extra cautious when backing up — pedestrians can move into your path.
- Use extreme caution when driving past parked vehicles. i.e., parallel parking and parking lots. Children can often dart from between parked vehicles without looking for oncoming traffic.

#### **What to do in a crash with a pedestrian**

- Stop your car as soon as it is safe to do so.
- Immediately call 911 to get first responders to secure the scene as quickly as possible.
- Render first aid if you are trained and it is safe to do so.
- Stay there until law enforcement releases you from the scene.
- Take notes and/or pictures to refresh your memory and/or document the scene later.

### **Complaints and Findings**

- A citizen complained, alleging that an officer was rude while conducting a traffic stop. The complainant also alleged they felt threatened by the presence of a secondary officer. – The investigation is ongoing

### **Vehicle Pursuits and Findings**

- None

## **Use of Reasonable Force (UORF) Incidents and Findings**

- January 2024: Officers used soft hand techniques to contain, control, and to take into custody a person who was threatening self-harm by means of jumping off an elevated surface. Officers successfully kept the person from seriously injuring himself. There were no injuries to the person or officers. The person was taken to a medical facility for evaluation and was not charged with any criminal offense. The standard review of this incident revealed that the force used was both reasonable and necessary. The officer's actions are commendable.
- Officers used force by pointing a department issued firearm at a person who was actively breaking into a closed business. The firearm was not discharged, and no further force was used. The person was arrested and charged with breaking and entering. There were no injuries from this use of force. This use of force is under standard review.
- Officers used soft hand techniques to take a combative person into custody. The person was trespassing and causing a disturbance inside an open business. One officer sustained minor injuries. This use of force is under standard review.

## **Operations/Notable Events**

- A pedestrian was killed after he was struck by a passing vehicle on US 64 near I-26. The Traffic Reconstructionist determined that the pedestrian was intoxicated and standing in the roadway at the time of the collision. The driver of the striking vehicle was not speeding and had no fault in this incident. No charges were filed.
- A silver alert was issued for an 85-year-old male with possible cognitive issues after he did not return from a short fishing trip. His vehicle was found by HPD detectives the next morning in a wooded area commonly used for hunting and fishing. This launched a multi-agency, multi-day search. Unfortunately, the missing man was found deceased approximately 900 yards from his vehicle in a heavily wooded area. He is believed to have died from natural causes.
- Officers responded to a shooting at Brittany Place apartments. The incident involved an off-duty Henderson County Sheriff's Deputy who fired his personal handgun at a person banging on his assigned HCSO vehicle. The investigation was turned over to the North Carolina SBI. The department served a warrant for the former deputy later that same day.
- Officers responded to a fire on Oak St. Detectives initiated a joint arson investigation with the Hendersonville Fire Department and the NC State Bureau of Investigation. The investigation into this incident continues.

## **Budget Summary**

- We are approximately 68% through the fiscal year.
- We have spent or reserved \$4,184,774 or 66% of our budget.
- Link to the budget dashboard: [City of Hendersonville Budget](#)



### **Community Outreach/Special Events**

- Officer Brandon Haman participated in a job fair at Blue Ridge Community College and gave presentations to several groups of 11<sup>th</sup> graders from across Henderson County Schools.
- Sgt. Gardin participated in Henderson County Schools Strategic Planning.
- Kristen Narron and Sylina Holbrook conducted a tour of the police department to approximately 20 homeschoolers from Henderson County.

### **Grants Management**

- Embedded Mental Health Grant
  - Reimbursement received \$6249.00 for the period of November 2023 thru January 2024.
  - February submission pending for \$2083.00
  - Grant runs until September 30, 2024
- CALEA and NCLEA Accreditation
  - Contract for Ongoing Accreditation Readiness Program for coaching and mentorship to optimize performance, efficiencies, leadership effectiveness, and desired accreditation status.
- GHSP Grant – No reimbursements for the month

### **Recruiting/Retention**

- 1 of 47 Police Officer vacancies exist.
  - Applications - Total
    - (8) applications received
    - (0) in background
    - (0) rejected