

**Hendersonville Police Department**

**Public Monthly Report**

**January 2023**



## Chief's Monthly Summary

Happy New Year and welcome to 2023. We are excited to embark on a new years' journey and we are ready to tackle anything that comes. I am confident that 2023 will be a great year for this department and that it will likely be no less busy than any other year.

First, thank you to everyone who offered their congratulations on my selection as President of the North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police and the NC FBI National Academy Associates. I am truly honored to be selected by my peers for these roles. While not how I planned things to happen, as careers and retirements go, I find myself in the top leadership role for both groups. Regardless of how it happened, this is a great honor not to be squandered. My staff stands ready to help me carry the load and assist in leading HPD in the coming months. I could not do this without them.

My appreciation also goes out to Mayor Volk, our City Council, and my boss, City Manager John Connet, for supporting me in this endeavor. I am honored to follow former HPD Police Chief, Larry Hesser, who served as NCACP President in 1986. I am also proud to represent the City of Hendersonville around the state this year. Thanks to everyone.

On a more serious topic is the beating death of Tyre Nichols. I was shocked to see the brutality and utter disregard five criminals had for another person. However, I am also deeply hurt by the damage this has once again brought to our profession. There are so many excellent men and women wearing the HPD uniform who go out every day to serve you with the utmost professionalism. I worry about how this event impacts them.

I want you to know that the things you saw from Memphis are not who we are. Our staff does not treat people with anything close to the level of contempt you saw in the videos. Our folks are dedicated and professional. They strive to provide the best service regardless of the circumstance or the individual. While we are as likely to make a mistake as any other human, criminals we are not. I am proud to work alongside the men and women of this department and sleep well at night knowing that we have outstanding, value-driven Officers serving this community. You should sleep well too.

As an agency, we are recommitted to strengthening our relationship with you. We will continue being transparent with all that we can. We will continue putting public safety first and never showing favoritism to anyone, including ourselves. We will be a leader in 21st-century policing across the law enforcement profession.

Thank you again for your support and your trust in us. We will always strive to provide professionalism in our service. And, as always, we strive to provide "Mountain Excellence."



Blair Myhand,  
Chief of Police

**Calls for Service**

2023											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3,220											
2022											
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	3,076	3,215	3,023	3,905

**Traffic Safety**

*Total Traffic Stops:*

2023											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
546											
2022											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
233	299	388	362	311	203	271	297	270	397	368	424

*Total Citations Issued:*

2023											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
382											
2022											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
151	201	243	265	207	144	146	182	185	263	281	290

*DWI Arrests:*

2023											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12											
2022											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	8	9	6	9	4	9	7	12	4	7	7

*Motor Vehicle Crashes:*

2023											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
117											

2022											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
115	101	90	111	99	113	146	105	138	114	136	114

*Top five crash locations:*

#1	Highlands Square Dr//Chimney Rock Road
#2	7 <sup>th</sup> Ave E//Church St
#3	6 <sup>th</sup> Ave E//Church St
#4	Chimney Rock Rd//Sugarloaf Rd
#5	Chimney Rock Rd//Howard Gap Rd

**Crimes, Reports, and Arrests**

*Criminal Arrests:*

2023											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
72											

2022											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
90	93	140	94	118	114	89	141	118	102	78	79

*Incident Reports:*

2023											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
136											

2022											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
169	134	277	222	259	292	239	205	198	151	114	111

*Drug Offenses:*

2023											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
30											

2022											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
38	34	37	36	51	60	27	45	34	21	23	29

**Larcenies:**

2023											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
45											
2022											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
42	49	47	28	35	48	46	52	32	58	32	41

**Assaults:**

2023											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9											
2022											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
15	10	17	15	10	11	17	10	13	14	14	11

**Employee Actions**

- Officer Haley Thompson completed her master’s degree in Criminal Justice from Lamar University. Haley finished her degree while completing BLET last spring. You will find her patrolling the city on Team 3. Congratulations Haley!
- Telecommunicator Rachel Hall started work with us. Rachel has 20 years of experience as a Telecommunicator in Jacksonville, Florida. She will be an excellent addition to our team, and we are excited to have her on board.
- Sylina Holbrook recently joined the department as a Records Clerk. She will join our records staff on Monday, February 13, 2023. She comes to us after retiring from the private sector. We know she will be an excellent addition to the records team.
- Lieutenants Bonanno and Darrah switched assignments. This move was made for their professional development as we look forward to our succession planning ahead of command-level retirements in the next 12-24 months. Supervisors from Sergeant to Captain are periodically moved around the agency to encourage experience in other functions of the organization. The higher one goes in the department, the less specialized the roles. We want to expose our leaders, so we broaden their base rather than deepen it.
- We held the second annual State of the Department meeting on January 11, 2023. We discussed what we accomplished over the last 12 months and what we plan to accomplish in the coming 12 months. This is a mandatory meeting for all employees. Focuses for 2023 are:
  - Completing our Mission, Vision, and Values statements
  - Completing a multi-year strategic plan
  - Seeking international and state accreditation

- Formalizing our succession plan
- Planning for upcoming budget and position requests
- Implementing some department restructuring

### **Community Tip**

- *Morning warmup* – During the winter months, thefts from motor vehicles can increase by up to 25% as compared to warmer months. Research shows that four in ten people leave their vehicle running unattended in the early morning hours to defrost the windows (*which we appreciate*) or to warm up the vehicle's interior. Research also shows that modern vehicles do not need to warm up to run properly.

Not everyone has the space or capacity to park their vehicle(s) inside a garage. For those who live in apartment complexes or do not have space in a garage, here are some tips to help you prevent theft of or from your motor vehicle:

1. Park in well-lit areas whenever possible.
2. While not always ideal, remain inside the vehicle while the windows defrost, and the interior warms up.
3. Never leave the keys in the vehicle while the engine is running, and you are away from the vehicle. Remember, the doors will not lock if the keys are inside the vehicle with most modern cars.
4. Never leave valuables in the vehicle; especially those in plain sight.
5. Always lock your vehicle when you leave it for any amount of time.
6. Have exterior security cameras aimed at your vehicle(s).

Remember, theft of or from a motor vehicle is a felony in North Carolina. Always call law enforcement if you are a victim of such a crime. Do not touch the interior of your vehicle. Fingerprints on the inside of the vehicle matter; most exterior fingerprints do not. Criminals seize crimes of opportunity. They also will continue a crime spree if never caught.

### **Complaints and Findings**

- A citizen complained that an Officer was unprofessional and confrontational during a traffic stop. The complaint is being investigated as an application of service complaint.

### **Vehicle Pursuits and Findings**

- None

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

- An Officer attempted to arrest a person for communicating threats and damage to property. The suspect ran from the Officer and refused to obey the Officer's lawful commands to stop. The Officer tackled and handcuffed the suspect without any further incident. There were no injuries to the suspect or the Officer.
- Two Officers responded to a domestic violence call. While speaking with the suspect, he brandished a firearm from his waistband and turned towards the victim. Officers quickly disarmed the suspect and forced him to the ground. The suspect was arrested without further incident. There were no injuries to the suspect, the Officers, or the victim as a result.

### **Operations/Notable Events**

- On Friday, January 27, 2023, we watched four videos released by the Memphis Police Department. Those videos showed the beating death of Tyre Nichols at the hands of five, now former, Memphis Police Officers. This is another dark moment in our nation as we watched a leaderless group of badge-wearing criminals commit a heinous act of brutality against another person.
- In response to calls from citizens of a juvenile walking towards Hendersonville High School with a gun, Officers responded to 9<sup>th</sup> Ave near the intersection of Fleming St. Officers briefly detained two juveniles that had been walking with what turned out to be a realistic looking, but airsoft pistol. Investigation determined that there was no threat to the schools or students. Both juveniles were released to their respective parents at the scene.

### **Budget Summary**

- We are approximately 56% through the fiscal year.

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

- Detectives Childress and Laite worked directly with the Blue Ridge Humane Society to conduct a security assessment at four of their locations in Henderson County. The purpose is to provide recommendations for facility security and crime prevention. They are also designing a custom response plan for their employees to respond to critical incidents at their facilities.

### **Awards and Recognitions**

- None

### **Grants Management**

- Applied for two non-matching block grants through NC Governor's Crime Commission.
  - The first for an upgrade to our Virtra training simulator for \$24,500.
  - The second for a radar and message board to assist with traffic control totaling \$20,000.
- Applied for 75 bicycle helmets for low-income children through NCDOT.
- Applied for \$25,000 of funding through NCGHSP for traffic enforcement funding to help reduce crashes.

### **Recruiting/Retention**

- 3 of 47 Police Officer vacancies exist.
  - Applications - 12
  - Background - 4
- 0 of 6 telecommunicator vacancies remain.
- 1 PT evidence custodian position exists with one person in the background phase.



**Hendersonville Police Department**

**Public Monthly Report**

**February 2023**



## Chief's Monthly Summary

The three most significant issues I can report this month are public-facing policies, strategic planning, and accreditation. These efforts are meant to strengthen public trust and enhance professionalism in the department and its staff.

First is the fact that we made several of our policies, the ones I felt you might be interested in, viewable on our website. You can go onto our webpage and find the link to the policies under the Police Transparency page. Feel free to read them and let me know if you have questions or concerns. Like so many other things, so much of what we do is not secret. We want you to know how we govern ourselves.

Second is the completion of our 2023-2025 Multi-Year Strategic Plan. This plan has four key goals: Strengthen Public Trust and Department Legitimacy, Promote Staff Training and Education, Build a Safer Community, and Improve Staff Wellness and Safety. As with most strategic plans, there are numerous objectives and strategies to help keep us focused on the larger goals. This entire plan was built upon the input of staff and the public alike. We hope it allows us to be more efficient with our resources and personnel and more effective in accomplishing our goals. In the end, this plan is designed to make us better in the areas most important to us. We will present this plan to City Council on March 22, 2023.

Third is our seeking international accreditation. The City Manager, John Connet, and I agree that accreditation is necessary for today's law enforcement agencies. Therefore, we enrolled in the Commission for Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) in our pursuit of excellence. CALEA is a long-standing organization dedicated to ensuring member agencies meet industry best practices. They are the benchmark accreditation process.

Accreditation is the single best way for an agency to adhere to industry best practices regardless of who runs the agency. It is an incredible leadership tool that ensures we are managing the agency in an effective and proper manner. I have given the agency a two-year time frame for us to conduct an onsite assessment and receive our award. I am confident that we may even be able to shorten that deadline and receive our award in the fall of 2024. Eventually, when the processes allow, I would like us to be accredited by CALEA and the new state accreditation program when it becomes available. This will be a major undertaking, but a necessary one.

Thank you again for your support and your trust in us. We will always strive to provide professionalism in our service. And, as always, we strive to provide "Mountain Excellence."



Blair Myhand,  
Chief of Police

**Calls for Service**

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5,247	3,281	4,479	4,340	4,373	4,399	3,162	4,112	3,076	3,215	3,023	3,905

**Traffic Safety**

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2	8	9	6	9	4	9	7	12	4	7	7

*Motor Vehicle Crashes:*

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Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
115	101	90	111	99	113	146	105	138	114	136	114

*Top five crash locations:*

#1	Chimney Rock Rd / Howard Gap Rd
#2	Asheville Hwy / Chelsea St
#3	Asheville Hwy / Haywood Rd
#4	Four Seasons Blvd / Orrs Camp Rd
#5	Chimney Rock Rd / I-26

***Crimes, Reports, and Arrests***

*Criminal Arrests:*

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Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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*Incident Reports:*

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*Drug Offenses:*

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**Larcenies:**

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**Assaults:**

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2022											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
15	10	17	15	10	11	17	10	13	14	14	11

**Employee Actions**

- Telecommunicator Cassie Murray gave birth to her first child on February 16, 2023. Lindley Jo joined the world at 20.25” weighing 9lbs. 1 oz. Congratulations to mom and baby!
- Sylina Holbrook started as a Records Clerk on February 13, 2023. Sylina recently retired from a career in the public sector before coming to work for us.
- Lieutenant Kenny Hipps began a four-month executive leadership development class. He is enrolled in the Northwestern University Staff and Command College. This is an in-person hybrid class where he is in class for two weeks and then back to work for two weeks for the duration of the program. He is expected to graduate in mid-June 2023.
- Crossing guard Margaret Jenks hired.

**Community Tip**

- *Fraud* – The department is seeing a rise in fraud related calls for service. This is becoming the most prevalent crime in modern history. Suspects are rarely caught, and victims rarely recover their losses.

Internet fraud is difficult to prosecute because suspects use technology to their advantage. They bounce their IP addresses all over the globe making it nearly impossible to locate them. Phone fraud works much the same way as most phone calls are made via the internet using the same tactics.

Here are a few tips to protect yourself:

1. Always ask someone else if something seems suspicious. Trust your gut.
2. No law enforcement agency will ever ask you for cash. If someone proports themselves to be with the local police department and asks you for money, it is fraud. Call the department to verify before you give any money to anyone.
3. If someone you know emails you for money, call them and verify that they made a request. Wouldn't someone you know call you for help before they emailed you?
4. Only buy gift cards if you want to, never because someone asked you to. Gift cards are a very common method of defrauding you. Once you give someone the codes, the money is gone and can almost never be recovered.
5. Secure your money at all costs. No one cares more about your nest egg than you.

### **Complaints and Findings**

- Driving complaint on a Patrol Officer – investigation ongoing.
- Complaint of Officer harassing a student at a local school – investigation ongoing.
- Demeanor complaint of Patrol Officer – investigation ongoing.

### **Vehicle Pursuits and Findings**

- None

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

- Officer used a taser in the drive stun mode to subdue a physically resistant person who had just broken into a residence. There were no injuries to the person or officers. Investigation determined that the use of force was justified.
- Officer used physical force to grab and control a combative person threatening to assault EMS workers. The person was successfully restrained and there were no injuries.
- Officers used physical force to grab and control a person who was physical resisting arrest and had assaulted two officers. Two officers sustained injuries. The person arrested was not injured.
- Officers used physical force to grab and control a combative person who attempted to assault medical personnel and officers. There were no injuries to the person, medical personnel, or officers involved.

### **Operations/Notable Events**

- The department made several policies viewable to the public. Those policies can be found on the department's website under the Public Transparency page or by clicking

the following link: [Public Documents Directory - Hendersonville Police Department \(NC\) - PowerDMS](#)

- Death investigation on Greenville Hwy. Initial investigation determined the death was the result of an overdose of illegal narcotics pending lab results from medical examiner.
- Graffiti reported on several businesses on Main St. The investigation is continuing.
- Arson of dumpster from a business on Main Street. Investigation identified a suspect who has been charged and arrested.
- Assisted City of Hendersonville Zoning and Duke Power with removal of trespassers from private property to facilitate an environmental cleanup of the property. The cleanup has been completed by Duke Power.

### **Budget Summary**

- We are approximately 66.6% through the fiscal year.
- We have spent or reserved \$857,593 or 73% of our budget.

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

- Detectives worked with the Boys and Girls Club of Hendersonville by conducting a security assessment of their facilities. This is conducted to maximize security awareness as well as recommending security improvements.
- School Resource Officers have started to teach STAR (Sheriff's Teaching Abuse Resistance), a county wide substance abuse awareness program, in city schools.

### **Awards and Recognitions**

- Detective Colby Allman received his Intermediate Law Enforcement Certificate. This is the first level of advanced certification for police officers in North Carolina. His next level will be Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate.
- Telecommunicators Sean Patrick Leech and Lindsey Rezentes achieved their Basic Telecommunicator Certificate. Under new rules, this level of certification is required for all telecommunicators.

### **Parking**

- Paid parking downtown is active. On-street parking along N. Main Street from 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Allen and the avenues between Church and King are now metered at the rate of \$2/hour. Parking is also available in the new parking garage and Azalea, Spruce, and Maple lots at \$1.50/hour when available. Parking information is available on the city's website: [www.hvlnc.gov/parking](http://www.hvlnc.gov/parking)
- Parking enforcement is done primarily by department staff and secondarily by Officers.

- A new review process is in place that gives people the opportunity to have their ticket reviewed if issued in error. Reviews are conducted by the Chief of Police or designee and can be filed in person at the Police Department Headquarters located at 630 Ashe Street or by using the following link: [Hendersonville NC \(thepermitstore.com\)](http://thepermitstore.com)
- Reviews and complaints about parking tickets are **not** processed at Customer Service located in City Hall at 160 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., E.

### **Grants Management**

- We applied for (3) Grants:
  - Virtra Upgrade Grant for \$24,500
  - Message Board/Traffic Survey Trailer for \$20,000
  - Continuation of GHSP Traffic Safety Grant \$25,000
- CALEA and NCLEA Accreditation grant – the department received a grant to fund the CALEA accreditation process.
- Mental Health/LEO Models – the department received a grant to cover the cost of the embedded Mental Health Clinician for two years.

### **Recruiting/Retention**

- 3 of 47 Police Officer vacancies exist.
  - Applications - 12
  - Background – 3
  - Conditional offer made – rejected by applicant.
- 0 of 6 telecommunicator vacancies remain.
- 1 part-time evidence custodian position exists with a conditional offer made.



**Hendersonville Police Department**

**Public Monthly Report**

**March 2023**



## Chief's Monthly Summary

I am running a bit behind getting the March report out to you. I have resigned myself to the fact that any hope of work slowing down is a fleeting dream as I lead this department and two state associations this year. Leading a professional police organization is more complex today than at any time during my thirty-year career. The good news is that we have a cadre of highly capable leaders within this organization who continue to keep us moving forward.

One of the first steps when taking a new position is to conduct a SWOT (*strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats*) analysis. We did this shortly after I arrived and one of the most significant threats was the impending retirement of my entire executive staff. After recognizing this major threat, we began the process of developing our junior leaders. Well, the moment of significant threat is upon us. In less than four months the first of the three Captains transitions into retirement. Once that gate is opened, the others follow shortly thereafter.

This is a stressful, but exciting time for the department. We are soon to lose over 100 years of collective law enforcement experience between the three of the captains. But we will be promoting younger leaders to step in behind them. This marks a great opportunity for personal and professional growth for our junior leaders. They have worked hard, and we are investing a great deal in their education. We are sending our leaders to progressive leadership training. The unfortunate reality is that there was no investment in leaders in the past, a detriment to this agency.

Over the next several weeks, I will be working with a leadership consultant to write promotional processes for Captain, Lieutenant, and Sergeant. One promotion to Captain causes a ripple effect throughout the department and we have three on the horizon. For every Lieutenant promoted to Captain, we must promote a Sergeant to Lieutenant, an Officer to Sergeant, and hire a new Police Officer to backfill the movement within the organization. We are committed to promoting from within our own ranks rather than looking outside the organization for leaders, and we will do this three times.

It will be challenging as we assess our personnel and select those who we will entrust for the future leadership of our department and its people. The impending retirements of our executives thankfully do not happen all at once. We have some time to observe other leaders and continue to invest in their development. While our emerging leaders will have much to learn, they are eager and committed to making this agency better.

Thank you again for your support and your trust in us. We will always strive to provide professionalism in our service. And, as always, we strive to provide "Mountain Excellence."



Blair Myhand,  
Chief of Police

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**Traffic Safety**

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*Top five crash locations:*

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***Crimes, Reports, and Arrests***

*Criminal Arrests:*

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*Incident Reports:*

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**Larcenies:**

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
45	29	8										27
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
42	49	47	28	35	48	46	52	32	58	32	41	43

**Assaults:**

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
9	17	7										11
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
15	10	17	15	10	11	17	10	13	14	14	11	13

**Employee Actions**

- In partnership with Safelight, Sergeants Hoyle, Lockhart, and Capps trained all sworn officers on Lethality Assessment Protocols (LAP). LAP is an evidence-based program that research shows is the best predictor of homicide for interpersonal violence victims. Officers ask a series of questions during their domestic violence investigation and connect victims with Safelight and other resources to avoid further assaultive behavior by the offender.
- Chief Myhand made a conditional offer of employment as a Police Officer. The prospective Officer is bilingual and experienced.
- Lisa Morrison was hired as a part time evidence clerk after retiring from a career as a prosecutor for the Henderson County District Attorney’s Office.

**Community Tip**

- *Traffic safety* – With the temperatures getting warmer and the sun shining brighter, we typically see an increase in traffic crashes. June through September are our busiest months for motor vehicle crashes. Therefore, we are asking everyone to exercise caution when driving. Here are some tips for safe driving.
  - Understand that more people are on the roads when the weather is nice. With more vehicles comes the increased likelihood that a crash can happen.
  - Exercise patience when dealing with other motorists and give yourself more time to get to your destination. Everyone has somewhere to go, and no one wants to be late. Do not let being late negatively impact your driving.

- Watch for bicycles and motorcycles. When the weather is nice, our two-wheeled cyclists are out more. Please look twice before entering the roadway or changing lanes.
- Motorcyclists and bicyclists are almost always seriously injured or killed when involved in a crash with a motor vehicle. They simply do not have the same crash protection as vehicle drivers.
- Enjoy the sun, but do not get lost in it. We enjoy over 270 days of sun in our area. The sun, depending on the angle, can affect your vision of the road and vehicles ahead of you. Slow down if the sun is directly in your eyes.
- Wear sunglasses. Quality sunglasses can help tremendously when driving. They can also hinder driving if worn during periods of limited visibility. Question your choice of wearing sunglasses when it's cloudy, the hour surrounding dawn and/or dusk, or when it is raining.

### **Complaints and Findings**

- February – A complaint alleging an Officer was speeding was sustained.
- February – A complaint that an Officer was harassing a student at a local school was unfounded.
- February – A complaint that an Officer was rude was unfounded.
- March – A complaint alleging Officer misconduct was received and assigned an investigator. The investigation is pending the findings of the investigator.

### **Vehicle Pursuits and Findings**

- None

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

- Officers used soft hand techniques to control and arrest a combative person that had threatened staff of a local business and assaulted an officer. There were no injuries to the person arrested or officers. Investigation determined the use of force by officers was reasonable and justified.
- Officers used soft hand techniques to control and arrest a person that was resisting arrest by NC State Highway Patrol. There were no injuries to the person arrested or officers. Investigation determined that the use of force was reasonable and justified.

### **Operations/Notable Events**

- A truck plowed into a business injuring several patrons. The investigation revealed that the driver stepped on the gas pedal rather than the brake pedal when pulling into a parking space directly in front of the business. There was no indication of impairment, and the driver was charged with failing to reduce speed.

- Two separate sexual assaults involving minors are being investigated. Outcomes and charges are pending.
- Officers located a deceased male in a homeless camp adjacent to 1<sup>st</sup> Ave E. The investigation is continuing pending toxicology results from the autopsy. The initial determination is that the victim died of apparent natural causes.
- HPD assisted HFD with a fire at a homeless camp under a bridge on MLK Blvd. No injuries were reported. Substantial damage was done to utilities including AT&T fiber optic cable. The investigation is ongoing.
- Officers responded to four overdoses this month all suspected to involve fentanyl.

### **Budget Summary**

- We are approximately 75% through the fiscal year.
- We have spent or reserved \$924,046 or 70% of our budget.

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

- Detective Laite conducted a vulnerability assessment with the Boys and Girls Club of Hendersonville. This was conducted as part of their requirements for a FEMA grant.
- Detective LaRowe conducted an educational training session on fraud awareness at First Baptist Church of Hendersonville.
- Chief Myhand spoke to a group of residents at Lake Point Landing. He provided crime and community information to those in attendance.
- Chief Myhand toured the Veterans Healing Farm in Laurel Park on 3/30/2023. This 10-acre farm helps veterans, and first responders deal with the traumas experienced as a result of service.
- Chief Myhand spoke to local high school students about the dangers of substance abuse at the annual "We are Hope" week in front of the Historic County Courthouse on 3/3/2023.

### **Awards and Recognitions**

- None this month

### **Grants Management**

- Pending approval for (3) Grants:
  - Virtra Upgrade Grant for \$24,500
  - Message Board/Traffic Survey Trailer for \$20,000
  - Continuation of GHSP Traffic Safety Grant \$25,000

## **Recruiting/Retention**

- 2 of 47 Police Officer vacancies exist.
  - Applications - 12 Total
    - (5) Initial Stage of Process
    - (5) Second Stage (Active in Process)
  - Background – (2) in Background



**Hendersonville Police Department**

**Public Monthly Report**

**April 2023**



## Chief's Monthly Summary

Greetings once again. I am reminded almost daily how nice the weather is here in WNC. The pollen levels are insignificant as compared to the eastern parts of this state. The humidity is low, and the temperatures are amazing. We are truly in a special place within the state.

Congratulations to Captain Tracey Cox for 38 years of public service. Cpt. Cox announced his retirement effective August 1, 2023. I am excited for him and wish him the best in his retirement. Tracey has been an integral part of this department for many years. Replacing him will be challenging. Finding someone who is so specialized in managing the department budget, proficient with technology, and able to manage so many functions within the department will be difficult.

That said, we are in the process of assessing five of our Lieutenants, one of whom will replace Tracey. We have enlisted the help of a police organizational consultant to help create an assessment center to identify the person who possesses the skills necessary to be successful in this role. In this process, we are asking for help from the public and other local departments to assess our candidates on May 22, 2023. Candidates will compete in three exercises designed to assess their communication, leadership, problem-solving, and other skills the next Captain will need to possess.

My goal is to make and communicate a promotions decision by mid-June, giving the successful candidate at least one month to shadow Cpt. Cox before he officially retires in August. The timing is good with the new fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023. A Lieutenant being promoted to Captain creates a ripple effect. Backfilling the Lieutenant's vacancy means a Sergeant is promoted to Lieutenant, an Officer is promoted to Sergeant, and a person is hired to fill the Officer's vacancy. This is a great opportunity for staff, but a risk for the agency in ensuring these vacancies are filled.

We plan on conducting the Lieutenant and Sergeant promotions later in the summer. We are delaying these positions to ensure we have the systems in place and the personnel hired. We must be deliberate to not "rob Peter to pay Paul." We cannot pull staff from Patrol operations to fill these supervisor positions; answering calls for service is a priority. Trust though, we have a plan and are confident we can execute according to the time we set for ourselves. In the end, we will find the right people and put those people in the right seats on the bus.

Thank you again for your support and your trust in us. We will always strive to provide professionalism in our service. And, as always, we strive to provide "Mountain Excellence."



Blair Myhand,  
Chief of Police

**Calls for Service**

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
3,220	3,308	3,273	2,863									3,166
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
5,247	3,281	4,479	4,340	4,373	4,399	3,162	4,112	3,076	3,215	3,023	3,905	3,884

**Traffic Safety**

*Total Traffic Stops:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
546	419	459	262									422
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
233	299	388	362	311	203	271	297	270	397	368	424	318

*Total Citations Issued:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
382	277	293	204									289
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
151	201	243	265	207	144	146	182	185	263	281	290	213

*DWI Arrests:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
12	2	7	6									7
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
2	8	9	6	9	4	9	7	12	4	7	7	7

*Motor Vehicle Crashes:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
117	105	114	104									110

2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
115	101	90	111	99	113	146	105	138	114	136	114	115

*Top five crash locations:*

#1	Chimney Rock Rd / I26
#2	N Church St / 7 <sup>th</sup> Ave W
#3	N Church St / 6 <sup>th</sup> Ave W
#4	Four Seasons Blvd / Orrs Camp Rd
#5	Spartanburg Hwy / S Grove St

***Crimes, Reports, and Arrests***

*Criminal Arrests:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
72	87	93	63									79

2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
90	93	140	94	118	114	89	141	118	102	78	79	105

*Incident Reports:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
136	105	185	146									143

2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
169	134	277	222	259	292	239	205	198	151	114	111	198

*Drug Offenses:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
30	22	19	26									24

2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
38	34	37	36	51	60	27	45	34	21	23	29	36

**Larcenies:**

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
45	29	8	19									25
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
42	49	47	28	35	48	46	52	32	58	32	41	43

**Assaults:**

20												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
9	17	7	15									12
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
15	10	17	15	10	11	17	10	13	14	14	11	13

**Employee Actions**

- Chief Myhand conducted a Facebook Live event on 4/3 to update the community on the March monthly report, accreditation, and the IACP Trust Building Campaign.
- Chief Myhand talked on WTZQ on 4/18 about emerging issues affecting the police department.
- Chief Myhand, as President of the North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police attended a press conference in Winston-Salem with Attorney General John Stein to speak about efforts to improve recruiting and retention efforts for law enforcement throughout the state.
- The department announced a promotions process for Captain. This is an internal promotional process to find a replacement for Captain Tracey Cox upon his retirement in August 2023. Five Candidates applied to be considered for promotion.

**Community Tip**

- *Distracted driving* – April is National Distracted Driving Month.

According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 3,522 people were killed by distracted driving in 2021. You might be surprised to know that over 60% of our crashes are attributed to inattention (distracted driving). What we see today is that more and more drivers are distracted as compared to even 20 years ago. While newer vehicles are safer, there are far more distractions in the cabin.

Previously, when officers saw a vehicle swerving in their lane, it was assumed the driver was impaired. Today, it is more likely that the driver is simply distracted. Here are a couple of ideas to help limit distractions inside your vehicle.

- Use Carplay – using your vehicle’s technology can help you keep your hands on the wheel and eyes on the road.
- Turn off notifications while driving – most phones will not alert you about incoming texts while it senses the vehicle is moving. You can receive texts, but you are simply not alerted while driving.
- Let your passenger, if you have one, read and respond to your texts while you are driving.
- Do not watch videos on phones, or other devices, while driving.
- Make a pledge with your family to keep you off your phone while driving.
- Set the example for your future drivers.

### **Complaints and Findings**

- March – A complaint alleging officer misconduct was received and assigned an investigator. The complaint was sustained.

### **Vehicle Pursuits and Findings**

- None

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

- An officer used force on a person threatening suicide with a firearm. The officer used soft hand control techniques to take the person into custody for medical treatment. There were no injuries to the person or officers involved. Investigation determined the use of force was justified.

### **Operations/Notable Events**

- A vacant home was broken into and several thousand dollars in collectibles were stolen. Investigation is ongoing.
- A vehicle was stolen from an apartment complex. HPD recovered the vehicle the same week it was reported and returned it to the owner.
- Officers responded to eleven reported overdoses in April.

### **Budget Summary**

- We are approximately 83% through the fiscal year.
- We have spent or reserved \$955,755 or 73% of our budget.

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

- Detective Childress conducted a security evaluation of the Golden Living Center Retirement Home. These are used to assess any potential weak points in their security and give options to the business on how to improve those areas.
- Detective Laite conducted a security evaluation of the YMCA.
- The Henderson County Law Enforcement Honor Guard, which includes members of the Hendersonville Police Department, conducted two details for presenting the US and state flag for official ceremonies. One was at Blue Ridge Community College for the NC Department of Corrections graduation. The other was at Harrah's Cherokee Casino for the International Association of Arson Investigators annual conference.

### **Awards and Recognitions**

- Amber Kleppe was recognized for outstanding work in planning our National Telecommunicator Week festivities celebrating the work of our Telecommunicators.
- Officer Laura Hartline was recognized as a recipient of the Knights of Columbus Shield Award.

### **Grants Management**

- The city is waiting for a reimbursement of \$8,332 to fund the contracted embedded mental health services for the department under the 2022 Hendersonville Police Department Pilot Project for Mental Health/LEO Models.
- Additionally, the department has submitted a reimbursement request for \$11,450 out of the total \$18,931 for Year 1 of the costs associated with the CALEA and NCLEA accreditation process. We are awaiting approval of this request.
- Pending approval for (3) Grants:
  - Virtra Upgrade Grant for \$24,500
  - Message Board/Traffic Survey Trailer for \$20,000
  - Continuation of GHSP Traffic Safety Grant \$25,000

### **Recruiting/Retention**

- 2 of 47 Police Officer vacancies exist.
  - Applications - Total
    - (2) Initial Stage of Process
    - (5) Second Stage (Active in Process)
    - (2) in Background

**Hendersonville Police Department**

**Public Monthly Report**

**May 2023**





## Chief's Monthly Summary

Let me start off by apologizing for getting this report to you late this month. I am generally not a person that offers excuses, but my wife and I have had some traumatic events in our lives recently that have consumed most of my personal time.

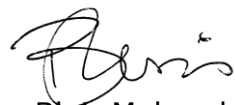
First, we lost our dog this past weekend after he developed significant neurological issues that we just couldn't fix. He was only 1.5 years old, and his sickness was sudden. Seeing him so sick was heart breaking. We had to make that difficult decision when we wanted nothing more than to take him home. This one hurt especially bad. We lost our old man exactly six months ago. Maybe that is why this one is so painful. In the end, we made the right decision for him and for us and we will heal in time. Thank you to everyone who gave me the space I needed over the last couple of weeks. I truly appreciate it.

Second, a dear friend of ours found his adult son dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound last week. His son was a combat Marine who sustained a significant traumatic brain injury in Iraq. He then developed a brain tumor that had to be surgically removed a couple of years ago. Still, he struggled controlling his injuries. They caused him to periodically act out in a way that was inconsistent with his normal behavior. I know his father, a former law enforcement officer, his greatest fear was that this might be an eventuality.

As a veteran, it bothers me greatly that another veteran lost his life in service to this country. This outcome would have never happened if not for the injuries he sustained in combat. I tried for years to help him and to help other veterans in crisis. I believe that we should devote the full force and might this country can muster in caring for our veterans.

My message this month is raw and personal, and I apologize because of it. Thank you for listening to my rant, but more importantly for your understanding that cops are people too. We have the same problems in our lives that other people do. We lose the people we care about. We lose beloved family pets. We grieve and we struggle just like you. I want us all to remember that we all experience challenges no matter who we are or where we come from. Treat each other with respect. Show understanding about someone else's difficulties. We all need to process things in the way that we process them and then get back to work.

Thank you again for your support and your trust in us. We will always strive to provide professionalism in our service. And, as always, we strive to provide "Mountain Excellence."



Blair Myhand,  
Chief of Police

**Calls for Service**

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
3,220	3,308	3,273	2,863	2,753								3,083
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
5,247	3,281	4,479	4,340	4,373	4,399	3,162	4,112	3,076	3,215	3,023	3,905	3,884

**Traffic Safety**

*Total Traffic Stops:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
546	419	459	262	274								392
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
233	299	388	362	311	203	271	297	270	397	368	424	318

*Total Citations Issued:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
382	277	293	204	200								271
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
151	201	243	265	207	144	146	182	185	263	281	290	213

*DWI Arrests:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
12	2	7	6	8								7
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
2	8	9	6	9	4	9	7	12	4	7	7	7

*Motor Vehicle Crashes:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
117	105	114	104	133								115
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
115	101	90	111	99	113	146	105	138	114	136	114	115

*Top five crash locations:*

#1	Four Seasons Blvd/Thompson St
#2	Martin Luther King Jr Blvd/ Harris Street
#3	6 <sup>th</sup> Ave E/King St
#4	Spartanburg Hwy/S Grove St
#5	7 <sup>th</sup> Ave E/King St

***Crimes, Reports, and Arrests***

*Criminal Arrests:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
72	87	93	63	71								77
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
90	93	140	94	118	114	89	141	118	102	78	79	105

*Incident Reports:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
136	105	185	146	138								142
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
169	134	277	222	259	292	239	205	198	151	114	111	198

*Drug Offenses:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
30	22	19	26	48								29
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
38	34	37	36	51	60	27	45	34	21	23	29	36

**Larcenies:**

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
45	29	8	19	37								28
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
42	49	47	28	35	48	46	52	32	58	32	41	43

**Assaults:**

20												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
9	17	7	15	11								12
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
15	10	17	15	10	11	17	10	13	14	14	11	13

**Employee Actions**

- Five Lieutenants participated in a Captain promotions process on 5/22. This was a multi-faceted process where the candidates had to demonstrate their suitability for promotion to the rank of Captain. As mentioned in the April monthly report, we expect one of the three current Captains to retire August 1, 2023. This process will be used to select the most qualified Lieutenant to be promoted to Captain. Final interviews with the top three candidates will be completed by June 16, 2023, with a decision announced on Monday, June 19, 2023.
- NCACP President Myhand participated in a UNC Judicial College Webinar on the media and public access to body-worn camera footage. The Chief added commentary and perspective from a working Police Chief to help other police leaders understand and navigate the changing landscape of access to police footage during critical incidents.
- Chief Myhand participated in a cultural health assessment tool workgroup on May 25 & 26, 2023. Seventeen Police Chiefs worked to build an assessment tool that is designed to evaluate the cultural health of police agencies. As part of this pilot program, Hendersonville Police will be given no cost access to the assessment tool, saving the city thousands of dollars in the future. Why is this important? A cultural health assessment is an element of the IACP Trust Building Campaign that the department pledged to complete. It is the best way for a department to identify areas of cultural improvement before issues surface.
- NCAP President Myhand met with legislators in Raleigh to advocate the passage of bills that will affect Hendersonville PD sworn staff and officers around NC. Of particular importance is a state bill that would give HPD the authority to employ civilians to investigate minor traffic crashes. This is a huge time saving for

officers who can spend freed up time focusing on responding/reducing crime. If approved, HPD plans to hire recent high school grads and use this program as an apprenticeship. Apprentices would be required to complete an associate degree before attending BLET. Another important bill would allow officers to defer their special separation allowance and continue working for the department for five additional years. This bill would give us the ability to close the retention gap by keeping experienced people on the job a little longer.

- NCACP President Myhand attended a press conference with Attorney General Stein at the Western State Crime Lab in Edneyville. This is one of several press conferences the AG is conducting around the state to encourage legislators to pass law enforcement friendly bills directed at improving recruitment and retention rates. For the last four years, NC has processed more separations of law enforcement officers than it has new certifications. This is an obviously not sustainable trend.

### **Community Tip** - Enhancing Community Safety by Providing Detailed Information

When providing information about suspicious activity or crimes, please provide as much specific and detailed information as possible. When more accurate information is provided to our telecommunicators, our officers will be better equipped to respond to the situation.

- Include accurate descriptions of individuals involved, such as appearance, clothing, or any unique characteristics.
- Note the time, date, and location of the incident, along with any vehicles involved with their license plate numbers if applicable.
- Remember to stay safe and provide your contact information for follow-up if needed.
- For emergencies, always call 911. For non-emergency situations, please call our dedicated non-emergency line at 828-697-3025.

### **Complaints and Findings**

- None

### **Vehicle Pursuits and Findings**

- None

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

- Officers used force on a person that refused to leave the residence of another person. The officers used soft hand control techniques to take the person into custody after attempts to verbally gain the cooperation of the person failed. There were no injuries to the person or officers involved. The investigation determined the use of force was justified.
- Officers used force on a juvenile to affect custody for a lawful court order. The juvenile has a history of assaults and physically resisted officers' attempts to

take the juvenile into custody. The officers used soft hands techniques to grab and control the juvenile until compliance was gained and the juvenile was secured. There were no injuries to the person or officers involved. The investigation determined the use of force was justified.

- Officers used force on a person following a domestic dispute. The person involved failed to respond to officer commands and was attempting to reach the victim in the incident. Officers used soft hand techniques to grab, control, and secure the person. The person sustained minor scrapes to their knees that did not require medical attention. The officers were not injured. The investigation determined this use of force was justified.

### **Operations/Notable Events**

- Detective Laite obtained more than a dozen warrants against an out of state suspect for stealing personal property out of lockers at a local fitness center. He remains at large.
- Detective Childress investigated an armed robbery at First Citizen's Bank on Four Seasons Blvd. The suspect had been on a recent crime spree robbing banks in the Charlotte region. He was easily identified, and warrants were quickly obtained against the suspect. He was caught the next day in Buncombe County.
- Detective LaRowe filed twelve separate charges for embezzlement involving a prior employee for a local business in town. Charges are still outstanding.
- Detective Laite assisted the Henderson County District Attorney's office in the successful prosecution of a sex trafficking case. After a multi-year investigation, the defendant was found guilty by a jury and was given a sentence of over 240-years.

### **Budget Summary**

- We are approximately 92% through the fiscal year.
- We have spent or reserved \$798,063 or 80% of our budget.

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

- Coffee with a Cop was held at Black Bear Coffee Co. on 5/4. This is a regular event where community members get to spend time talking to PD staff about anything. While this event is not intended for difficult conversations, nothing is off the table. Come out and join us next time. Date TBD.
- Torch Run – several members of the department participated in the Special Olympics Torch Run to help raise awareness and money for Special Olympics NC. This 3-mile run is an annual event. All public safety, and citizens for that matter, are encouraged to participate.
- 911 Director, Amber Kleppe, led a group of students from the AP Human Geography class from Hendersonville High School on a tour and instruction on the communications

side of policing. She walked the students through the process when someone calls 911 showing how the information is recorded and then dispatched to officers.

- PD staff participated in the Police Officer Memorial celebration on the steps of the historic courthouse on 5/18. This ceremony memorialized the officers lost throughout NC in 2022. One Hendersonville Police Officer and two Henderson County Deputies have lost their lives in the line of duty; they were also remembered as part of this ceremony.
- Detective Childress conducted two safety assessments this month: one at Lake Point Landing retirement community, and one at the State Employees Credit Union on Asheville Hwy. These are done to give trained officers the ability to address any safety issues or concerns that arise during the appraisal.
- Detective Laite conducted a safety assessment at Jehovah's Witnesses Kingdom Hall.

### **Grants Management**

- Additionally, the department has submitted a reimbursement request for \$11,450 out of the total \$18,931 for Year 1 of the costs associated with the CALEA and NCLEA accreditation process. We are awaiting approval of this request.
- Pending approval for (3) Grants:
  - Virtra Upgrade Grant for \$24,500
  - Message Board/Traffic Survey Trailer for \$20,000
  - Continuation of GHSP Traffic Safety Grant \$25,000

### **Recruiting/Retention**

- 3 of 47 Police Officer vacancies exist.
  - Applications - Total
    - (5) Initial Stage of Process
    - (0) Second Stage (Active in Process)
    - (3) in Background

**Hendersonville Police Department**

**Public Monthly Report**

**June 2023**





## Chief's Monthly Summary

A lot of exciting personnel things for the department happened this month. So many of our folks are progressing through our new career ladder. A career ladder is an incentivized, but non-supervisory, system where employees elevate up the "ladder" when they complete certain work milestones. Collectively when many employees better themselves, the agency is better, and better means improved quality of service for everyone.

This month, I had the honor of promoting Lieutenant Kenny Hipps to Captain. He assumes command of our Support Services Bureau. This bureau oversees many functions of the agency, including our 911 Emergency Communications Center, records, and parking. Cpt. Hipps will also be responsible for managing the department's budget, procurement, and purchasing. This is a complex assignment, but he is ready for the task. He was selected out of six Lieutenants vying for the position. Please congratulate him if you see him around town.

Cpt. Hipps also graduated this month from the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command. This ten-week executive management program focuses on leadership and management, human resources, employee relations, contemporary policing, organizational behavior, planning and policy development, budgeting, and media relations. He joins 21,000 law enforcement professionals and graduates of this internationally respected program. When promoted, all HPD Lieutenants must complete a long-term executive management course of their choosing. This class is seen as the most academically challenging course of its type. Cpt. Hipps brings back education and experiences that he will use to help lead this organization in his new role.

Attending courses like this is a significant sacrifice and commitment by the individual and the department. It demonstrates that we are serious about leadership development. We want only the most competent leaders at all levels in this organization. You and the people who work for them deserve highly qualified and knowledgeable leaders making decisions that impact you and them. I would be remiss if I failed to thank the city council for recognizing the importance of this training and for funding our efforts to build strong and capable leaders throughout the organization. Without their support, this would not be possible, and we would be worse off because of it. My boss, the city manager, has also been incredibly supportive of our efforts by reinforcing the importance of our leaders getting the training they need to effectively lead our people. I appreciate them all.

Thank you again for your support and your trust in us. We will always strive to provide professionalism in our service. And, as always, we strive to provide "Mountain Excellence."



Blair Myhand,  
Chief of Police

**Calls for Service**

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
3,220	3,308	3,273	2,863	2,753	2,421							2,973
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
5,247	3,281	4,479	4,340	4,373	4,399	3,162	4,112	3,076	3,215	3,023	3,905	3,884

**Traffic Safety**

*Total Traffic Stops:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
546	419	459	262	274	224							364
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
233	299	388	362	311	203	271	297	270	397	368	424	318

*Total Citations Issued:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
382	277	293	204	200	175							255
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
151	201	243	265	207	144	146	182	185	263	281	290	213

*DWI Arrests:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
12	2	7	6	8	4							7
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
2	8	9	6	9	4	9	7	12	4	7	7	7

*Motor Vehicle Crashes:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
117	105	114	104	133	131							117

2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
115	101	90	111	99	113	146	105	138	114	136	114	115

*Top five crash locations:*

#1	Chimney Rock Rd & I-26
#2	Chimney Rock Rd & Sugarloaf Rd
#3	Four Seasons Blvd & Thompson St
#4	Asheville Hwy & Haywood Rd
#5	Asheville Hwy & Oakland St

***Crimes, Reports, and Arrests***

*Criminal Arrests:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
72	87	93	63	71	58							74

2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
90	93	140	94	118	114	89	141	118	102	78	79	105

*Incident Reports:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
136	105	185	146	138	116							138

2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
169	134	277	222	259	292	239	205	198	151	114	111	198

*Drug Offenses:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
30	22	19	26	48	20							28

2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
38	34	37	36	51	60	27	45	34	21	23	29	36

**Larcenies:**

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
45	29	8	19	37	25							27
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
42	49	47	28	35	48	46	52	32	58	32	41	43

**Assaults:**

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
9	17	7	15	11	9							11
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
15	10	17	15	10	11	17	10	13	14	14	11	13

**Employee Actions**

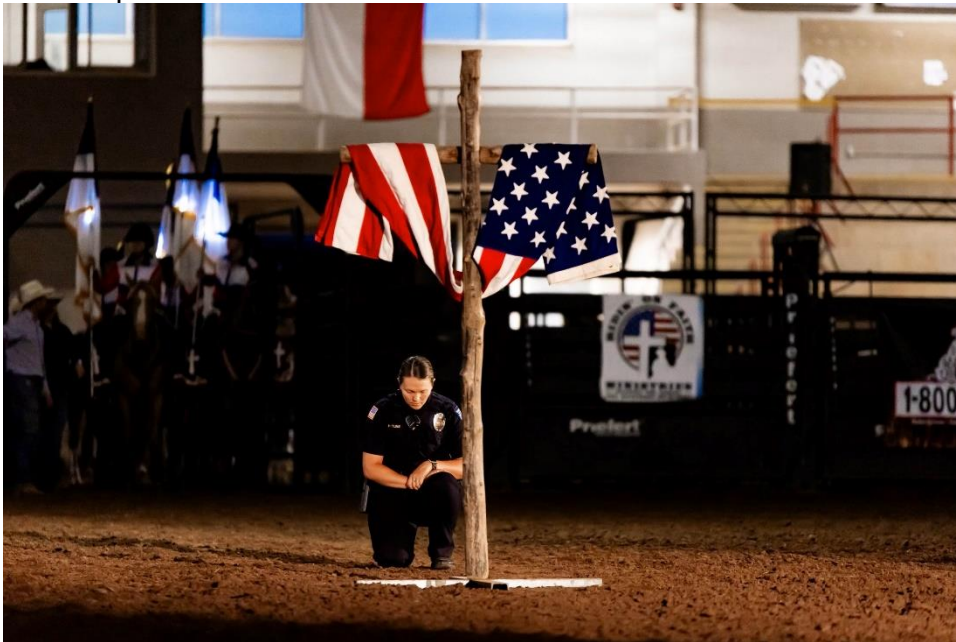
- Lt. Hipps was promoted effective June 22, 2023, to Captain. He will assume command of the Support Services Bureau on August 1, 2023. In June he also graduated from the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command. This intensive 10-week executive management course is designed to empower police leaders with the skills and knowledge to excel in their roles.
- Lt. Hipps and Sergeant Hoyle were recognized by MADD Western NC Region for completing advanced DWI enforcement training.



- Program Manager, Monica Howard, was the recipient of the prestigious NENA (National Emergency Number Association) Presidential Award for her efforts in mental wellness training for first responders. This is a national award signifying her commitment to helping others above herself. This is excellent work worthy of this level of recognition by her peers.



- Officer Laura Hartline participated in the Answering the Call Stampede and Rodeo at the WNC Ag Center to reinforce the Peer Support Network. Her efforts help raise awareness of mental health and critical incident stress management for all first responders.



**Community Tip** – *Heat-Related Illnesses*

As the temperatures continue to rise, be safe and check on your neighbors. Seniors can be more affected by the warmer temperatures especially when air conditioners are not running optimally. Air conditioning and/or fans help lower the humidity in the house and keep the air moving. Like vehicles, the temperature inside the home will rise significantly when the air conditioning is not functioning properly.

When outdoors, it is important to stay hydrated and cool. Staying hydrated is the single most important factor when managing hot weather. Avoid working outdoors in the heat of the day. Instead, plan yard work in the morning or late afternoon

when the sun is lower in the sky. Wear clothing that covers your skin rather than leaving it exposed to the sun and wind.

Signs and symptoms of heat injuries include:

- Dizziness and confusion
- Profuse sweating
- Cool and clammy skin to the touch
- Hot, red, flushed skin
- Nausea and vomiting
- Sudden stoppage of sweating

If you experience any of these symptoms and do not seek immediate remedies, the illness can progress leading to heat stroke and even death. Heat-related illness can be life-threatening if not taken seriously.

### **Complaints and Findings**

- External allegation was received that officers did not handle a complaint of criminal activity appropriately. Internal investigation is not complete.
- An external allegation that an officer acted unprofessionally during a traffic stop. The investigation is not complete.
- An external allegation that an officer acted unprofessionally toward a citizen. The investigation is not complete.

### **Vehicle Pursuits and Findings**

- None

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

- Officers used soft hands techniques arresting a resistive person who had active warrants for arrest. Neither the suspect nor officers were injured. Investigation determined the use of force to be justified.
- Officers used soft hand techniques arresting a resistive suspect in a domestic assault by strangulation. Neither the suspect nor officers were injured. Investigation not yet complete.
- Officers used soft hand techniques taking custody of a person who assaulted family members and caused significant damage to the residence. The person was not injured. Three officers received minor injuries including scrapes and one was bitten by the person. Investigation not yet complete.

### **Operations/Notable Events**

- The bank robbery at First Citizen’s Bank on May 31, 2023, was adopted by the FBI because the suspect had robbed several banks across the state. He was apprehended on June 1, 2023, by Black Mountain PD after a high-speed chase, crash, and assault.
- A victim reported that an unknown person(s) shot at his vehicle in a road rage incident. His vehicle was struck multiple times and thankfully no one was injured. The investigation is ongoing.
- A male victim unintentionally shot himself in the head while mishandling a friend’s new handgun. He was transported by EMS to Mission Hospital before succumbing to his injuries. He was pronounced dead at the hospital.
- A male suspect was arrested for a domestic assault by strangulation. The suspect further resisted arrest resulting in a use of force.
- Officers responded to a death investigation at a local hotel. The incident is being investigated as an overdose and foul play is not suspected. Detectives are awaiting the results of the autopsy report.

**Budget Summary**

- We are 100% through the fiscal year 2022-2023.
- We have spent or reserved \$828,082 or 90% of our budget.

**Community Outreach/Special Events**

- City leaders and Henderson County Emergency Management leaders conducted a tabletop meeting to develop contingencies for the Apple Festival over the Labor Day weekend.
- Sergeant Gardin and Officer Haman participated in Henderson County Public Schools Career Accelerator Program – Law and Public Safety Day. Officers showed students from multiple high schools what police equipment is used and what training is required for law enforcement officers.



**Grants Management**

- Additionally, the department has submitted a reimbursement request for \$11,450 out of the total \$18,931 for Year 1 of the costs associated with the CALEA and NCLEA accreditation process. We are awaiting approval of this request.
- Pending approval for (3) Grants:
  - Virtra Upgrade Grant for \$24,500

- Message Board/Traffic Survey Trailer for \$20,000
- Continuation of GHSP Traffic Safety Grant \$25,000

**Recruiting/Retention**

- 4 of 47 Police Officer vacancies exist.
  - Applications - Total
    - (0) Initial Stage of Process
    - (4) in Background

*The Hendersonville Police Department is an equal opportunity provider.*



**Hendersonville Police Department**

**Public Monthly Report**

**July 2023**



## Chief's Monthly Summary

Greetings once again. My apologies for getting this report to you late once again. Too many things are happening I suppose. July was no less busy than any other month and work piled up.

Our biggest news this month is the retirement of Captain Tracey Cox after almost four decades of law enforcement service to Henderson County and the City of Hendersonville. Tracey touched every single function of this department and his contributions to HPD are immeasurable. He was responsible for so many elements of this agency. His most notable contribution is the construction of our new police headquarters. He had a say in every single aspect of the design and construction of this building. His absence is noticeable, and his legacy is immense.

We made considerable strides in hiring this month. We hired one experienced officer out of Wilmington and three inexperienced new police recruits. Our newest experienced officer will soon be on the road in field training. We are simply waiting for the state to return his certification before he can be sworn in. The three recruits are attending Basic Law Enforcement Training at Blue Ridge Community College and expect to graduate in December. Once they graduate, we will assign them field training officers and get them on the road.

Even with these new hires, we still have one sworn vacancy and more on the horizon. We have pending retirements and continue to manage a changing workforce. Agencies around us are increasing pay rates and benefits. We continue to monitor these changes and make plans to remain competitive. I am thankful that Officers are being paid a wage more in line with what they should have been paid for years. However, salaries are by far the largest portion of our annual budget. With increased wages comes tighter budget constraints.

Our budget and finance folks are constantly looking for creative ways to stretch our limited revenue sources to fund all department requests. They have a challenging job as every department fight for an increased slice of the pie. I commend them for finding ways to fund our requests and giving us the ability to provide excellent service to you.

Thank you for your support of our staff. The men and women, sworn and unsworn, work diligently every day to keep our city safe. I am incredibly proud of them and honored to work alongside them in service to this city. Crime rates are lowering, and they are the primary reason why the quality of life for everyone improves daily. As always, we will continue to provide you with "Mountain Excellence."



Blair Myhand,  
Chief of Police

**Calls for Service**

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
3,220	3,308	3,273	2,863	2,753	2,421	2,537						2,910
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
5,247	3,281	4,479	4,340	4,373	4,399	3,162	4,112	3,076	3,215	3,023	3,905	3,884

**Traffic Safety**

*Total Traffic Stops:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
546	419	459	262	274	224	309						356
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
233	299	388	362	311	203	271	297	270	397	368	424	318

*Total Citations Issued:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
382	277	293	204	200	175	189						255
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
151	201	243	265	207	144	146	182	185	263	281	290	213

*DWI Arrests:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
12	2	7	6	8	4	1						5
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
2	8	9	6	9	4	9	7	12	4	7	7	7

*Motor Vehicle Crashes:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
117	105	114	104	133	131	107						115
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
115	101	90	111	99	113	146	105	138	114	136	114	115

*Top five crash locations:*

#1	Chimney Rock Rd & Howard Gap Rd
#2	Four Seasons Blvd & Thompson St
#3	S Church St & W Barnwell St
#4	Four Seasons Blvd & Linda Vista Dr
#5	Four Seasons Blvd & Dana Rd

***Crimes, Reports, and Arrests***

*Criminal Arrests:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
72	87	93	63	71	58	54						71
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
90	93	140	94	118	114	89	141	118	102	78	79	105

*Incident Reports:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
136	105	185	146	138	116	108						133
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
169	134	277	222	259	292	239	205	198	151	114	111	198

*Drug Offenses:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
30	22	19	26	48	20	26						27
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
38	34	37	36	51	60	27	45	34	21	23	29	36

**Larcenies:**

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
45	29	8	19	37	25	35						28
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
42	49	47	28	35	48	46	52	32	58	32	41	43

**Assaults:**

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
9	17	7	15	11	9	7						10
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
15	10	17	15	10	11	17	10	13	14	14	11	13

**Employee Actions**

- Colby Torbit was hired as a Police Officer I. Colby comes to us from Wilmington PD with over 2 years of experience. He is waiting for certification from the state before being sworn in. As soon as his paperwork comes back, he will be assigned to a patrol squad and will begin field training.
- Several Officers attended a police shotgun class to be certified to carry a patrol shotgun on duty. The department requires a long gun for all sworn personnel. Officers can choose to carry a patrol rifle, a patrol shotgun, or both for duty use. The purpose is to ensure that Officers are not "out gunned" in the event of a critical incident. The department purchased 20 used, new-stock, Remington 870 shotguns from the State of South Carolina at a considerable discount to equip all officers.
- Lieutenants Smith and Laws graduated from the NC State University Administrative Officers Management Program in Raleigh. This is a 12-week intensive executive management program designed to inform emerging leaders about leadership, financing and budgeting, research, employment law, and other related topics. Completion of a long-term executive leadership class is a requirement for all Lieutenants and above in the organization. Lieutenants Smith and Laws join other Lieutenants in completing this job requirement in preparation for higher levels of responsibility within the organization.
- Zackary Dickman, Elijah Bradley, and Walter Garica accepted offer letters as Police Recruits. All three are attending Basic Law Enforcement Training at Blue Ridge Community College and expect to graduate in December. They have been assigned department mentors to assist them through the training. They will join the ranks as Police Officers after graduation in December.



- Captain Tracey Cox retired after 38 years in law enforcement. His input into this department and the city over the years is immeasurable. We wish him well in his post-retirement life. His absence is noticeable already.

### **Community Tip**

Back to School – School buses are picking up young passengers, kids are riding bikes, and hurried parents are dropping their kids off before school every day. It is that time of year to remind the rest of us to slow down and pay special attention in and around school zones.

*If you are dropping children off:*

Each school has a different drop-off procedure. Make sure you know them for the safety of all kids. Generally, the following rules apply to all schools:

- Do not double park. Doing so blocks visibility for other children and creates a safety hazard when they run between vehicles.
- Load and unload at the sidewalk only.
- Never drop your kid(s) off across the street to save time.
- Carpooling reduces the number of vehicles and congestion at the school.

*Sharing the road with young pedestrians:*

According to research conducted by the National Safety Council, most children who are injured or killed in bus-related accidents are only 4-7 years old and are walking at the time. They are often hit by the bus they were riding on or by a motorist illegally passing the stopped bus. A few precautions go a long way toward keeping children safe.

- Do not block the crosswalk when stopped at a red light or waiting to make a turn. Doing so forces pedestrians to walk in front or between vehicles where drivers may not be paying attention.
- Stop and yield to pedestrians when crossing a crosswalk; they always have the right of way.
- Always stop for crossing guards in school zones.
- Always exercise extra caution for children in school zones, near playgrounds and parks, and in residential areas.
- Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians.
- Give pedestrians the right of way even if you are right.

*Sharing the road with school buses:*

Add distance between you and a school bus; more than you would with a passenger vehicle. Doing so gives more distance to see when a traffic light changes and more time to stop when the flashing lights on the bus are activated. Remember, it is illegal to pass a stopped school bus in all 50 states.

- Never pass a stopped school bus from behind.
- Never pass a stopped school bus from the opposite direction on an undivided road.



- Ten feet around a school bus is the most dangerous area for children. Stop back to allow them space to safely enter and exit a school bus.
- Children are often unpredictable and tend to be less aware of hazards; be alert.

### *Sharing the road with bicyclists*

Bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as drivers but are often harder to see. Children on bikes can create even more challenging problems. Children often ride their bikes on sidewalks and do not follow the same rules as adult riders. The most common collision between a cyclist and a vehicle is when the vehicle turns left in front of the cyclist.

- When passing a bicyclist, slowly proceed in the same direction leaving three feet between you and the cyclist.
- When turning left in front of an approaching cyclist, wait for the rider to pass you before turning.
- Watch for bike riders who fail to look or signal before turning. Children are more likely to do this.
- Watch out for cyclists coming from driveways or between parked vehicles.
- Check your side mirrors before opening your doors on the street side.

Remember, cyclists and pedestrians have far less protection than vehicle drivers. Any collision is almost certainly going to cause injury and even death. By exercising a little extra care and caution, drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists can co-exist safely in school zones.

### **Complaints and Findings**

- None

### **Vehicle Pursuits and Findings**

- None

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

- Officers used soft hand techniques to take lawful custody of a person that was initially fleeing from officers and then kicked the officer. There were no injuries to the person or officers.

### **Operations/Notable Events**

- Officers and Detectives conducted an operation to combat illegal drug sales within the city. The operation resulted in the seizure of illegal controlled substances and the arrest of one person for the sale and delivery of crack cocaine.

### **Budget Summary**

- We are 8% through the fiscal year 2023-2024.
- We have spent or reserved \$208,361 or 10% of our budget.

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

- The Salvation Army of Hendersonville hosted their 11<sup>th</sup> Annual "Bike Rodeo" at their summer camp. Riders were taught the ABCs of bike safety while having their bikes inspected for safety before riding in a supervised safety course.

### **Grants Management**

- The grant applications to fund an upgrade to our virtual simulator and to purchase an electronic message board were not approved.
- GHSP Traffic Safety grant of \$20,000 is a pending award.
- The Mental Health grant was approved, and money is being spent to fund our embedded mental health provider.
- The accreditation grant was approved, and money is being spent to fund accreditation through CALEA and NCLEA.

### **Recruiting/Retention**

- 1 of 47 Police Officer vacancies exist.
  - Applications – Total
    - (4) Initial Stage
    - (1) Second Stage
    - (2) Background Stage



**Hendersonville Police Department**

**Public Monthly Report**

**August 2023**



## Chief's Monthly Summary

Along with other city and county departments, we spent much of August planning for the Apple Festival. As you know, this is by far the largest special event in the City. In fact, I suspect the Apple Festival is probably larger in numbers, and longer in duration, than any event in a city our size or maybe even in a larger city. I am amazed that we pull it off every year without a glitch.

I want to personally thank the men and women of the City of Hendersonville. From our public works department to the fire department to every member of the city's staff who worked many hours before and during the Apple Festival, thank you. They worked incredibly hard securing the event, keeping the trash cans empty, and responding to community needs. This is hard work, and they should be complimented for doing it. Additional thanks go to the Henderson County Emergency Management team including EMS and Rescue Squad. Also, to the Apple Festival Commission and their volunteers. These folks were instrumental in helping the City of Hendersonville pull the Apple Festival off without any significant issues.

I specially want to thank the men and women of the Hendersonville Police Department. Every single employee worked during the holiday weekend. And, while most probably wanted to be elsewhere, none of them complained. I am proud of them and appreciative of their hard work and professionalism. I have compliments already about their kindness and diligence in helping people. Keep up the good work team! I appreciate you.

When you put 300,000 of your closest friends in a confined area like Main Street, we get concerned about safety. The City has greatly improved special event planning and operations over the last few years. We have more people working behind the scenes to make sure these events are safe for everyone. There are an incredible number of manhours spent planning and operating during such an event.

Not only have we added additional personnel, but we have also added infrastructure to help us better secure the area. We are constantly monitoring emerging trends and trying to think ahead of all possibilities. We pride ourselves in a job well done when the event is over, and no significant events occurred. It is only when things have concluded that we rest only to prepare for the next event.

In closing, please know that your safety is our primary concern. We take this responsibility seriously and will always work to be the best at what we do. Thank you again for your support and your trust in us. We will always strive to provide professionalism in our service. And, as always, we strive to provide "Mountain Excellence."



Blair Myhand,  
Chief of Police

**Calls for Service**

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
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5,247	3,281	4,479	4,340	4,373	4,399	3,162	4,112	3,076	3,215	3,023	3,905	3,884

**Traffic Safety**

*Total Traffic Stops:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
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*Total Citations Issued:*

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*DWI Arrests:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
12	2	7	6	8	4	1	7					6
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
2	8	9	6	9	4	9	7	12	4	7	7	7

*Motor Vehicle Crashes:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
117	105	114	104	133	131	107	123					117
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
115	101	90	111	99	113	146	105	138	114	136	114	115

*Top five crash locations:*

#1	Chimney Rock Rd & Highlands Square Dr
#2	Chimney Rock Rd & I-26
#3	Four Seasons Blvd & Thompson St
#4	Asheville Hwy & Haywood Rd
#5	Four Seasons Blvd & Dana Rd

***Crimes, Reports, and Arrests***

*Criminal Arrests:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
72	87	93	63	71	58	54	56					69
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
90	93	140	94	118	114	89	141	118	102	78	79	105

*Incident Reports:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
136	105	185	146	138	116	108	131					133
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
169	134	277	222	259	292	239	205	198	151	114	111	198

*Drug Offenses:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
30	22	19	26	48	20	26	32					28
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
38	34	37	36	51	60	27	45	34	21	23	29	36

**Larcenies:**

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
45	29	8	19	37	25	35	44					30
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
42	49	47	28	35	48	46	52	32	58	32	41	43

**Assaults:**

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
9	17	7	15	11	9	7	11					11
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
15	10	17	15	10	11	17	10	13	14	14	11	13

**Employee Actions**

- The department held a promotional process for Lieutenant and Sergeant to backfill the vacancy created when Kenny Hipps was promoted to Captain. Three Sergeants competed for Lieutenant and five Officers competed for Sergeant. Promotional decisions have not been made yet. The promotional list is valid for one year.
- LT. Laws was moved from Patrol Team 4 to Special Operations, Team 5. This move was made to provide LT. Laws with additional experience and professional development. NOTE: the department has a philosophy of creating leaders with a broad foundation rather than a deep foundation. We do this by periodically moving supervisors to different assignments, so they learn new skills to better prepare them for higher levels of leadership within the organization.

**Community Tip -**

August is a terrific month to start prepping for fall, hoping for cooler weather just around the corner. Some tips for getting ready:

1. Go through your closets and donate clothes you are no longer wearing. Ask yourself these questions: Do I love it? Does it fit? Will I have an opportunity to wear it next year? If the answers are no, then it's time to donate.
2. Take advantage of late summer sales on school and office supplies. Consider buying extras to help those families at your child's school who are struggling financially.

3. Stock up on the staples for easy-to-make items for those busy school nights. Taking simple steps to decrease time fixing dinner can relieve stress and make time together more enjoyable.
4. Summertime can wreak havoc on the family vehicle. Proper maintenance in preparation for winter weather is important. Do it now before it is too late.
5. Set up a family drop zone or tidy up an existing one that has been neglected all summer. Add hooks and cubbies, as needed, for shoes and backpacks. Designate a basket or bin as your "action" file for school, work, and home-related paperwork that needs your attention. Create a monthly wall calendar to record schedules, activities, and family events.
6. Schedule medical and dental appointments for the remainder of the year for each member of your family. Pets included! Don't wait until the end of the year when the holidays make schedules more hectic and appointment times become scarce.
7. Most importantly, make sure that you are also engaged in some self-care! Get regular exercise. Eat healthy, regular meals and stay hydrated. Make sleep a priority. Try a relaxing activity, like reading a good book. Focus on positivity. Practice gratitude.

### **Complaints and Findings**

- None

### **Vehicle Pursuits and Findings**

- None

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

- Officers used soft hand techniques to subdue and arrest a person that had just been involved in an assault where the suspect brandished a firearm. The suspect and both officers involved received minor scrapes and abrasions, none of which required medical treatment. The force used in this incident was justified.
- An Officer used force to stop an active assault by deploying a Taser to subdue the aggressor. The person was arrested without further incident. Neither the offender nor the officer received injuries that required medical treatment. Investigation into this use of force is pending.

### **Operations/Notable Events**

- HPD assisted HFD in a structure fire on Mastermind Ln. No foul play suspected.
- Officers and Detectives responded to a death investigation that appears to be an overdose. The investigation is ongoing and waiting on records from the medical examiner.

- Officers responded to a fight in progress at the Black Rose on Main St. Three people were arrested as a result.
- Officers and Detectives responded to the area of King St. and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. in reference to a shooting. The investigation determined that the shooting was the result of a previous disagreement between known parties. There was property damage, but no significant injury because of the shooting. The suspect was quickly identified and arrested early the next morning for attempted murder. The firearm used in the assault was seized.

### **Budget Summary**

- We are approximately 16% through the fiscal year.
- We have spent or reserved \$908,132 or 20% of our budget.

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

- National Night Out – Oct 3, 2023, from 4-7pm in the parking lot of Blue Ridge Mall. Free food and activities for all.

### **Grants Management**

- Additionally, the department has submitted a reimbursement request for \$11,450 out of the total \$18,931 for Year 1 of the costs associated with the CALEA and NCLEA accreditation process.
- Pending (3) Grants:
  - Continuation of GHSP Traffic Safety Grant \$20,000

### **Recruiting/Retention**

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

**Hendersonville Police Department**

**Public Monthly Report**

**October 2023**





## Chief's Monthly Summary

Let me start off by apologizing for not sending out September's monthly report. Things got away from us in the beginning of the month and by the time things settled down, the month was almost over. Onward!

October brought us several rare events for our city. First, as I am sure you all know, we had a very public homicide on Four Seasons Blvd. As I have said many times before, no city is immune from random acts of violence. Since this is an ongoing criminal case, I cannot speak to the details of the incident. I can only say that there is no justification for the senseless killing of another person. Regardless of how terrible this incident was, Hendersonville continues to be one of the safest cities in North Carolina. I feel completely safe living in this city; you should too.

We continue to face the challenges of a growing fentanyl epidemic. Fentanyl is emerging as yet another crisis our society will face. As of a few days ago, first responders have been called to 300 overdoses in Henderson County this year. That equates to an average of one overdose per day. Sadly, many of those overdoses resulted in someone dying. Substance abuse is no longer just about addiction; it's about dying. We are seeing many new users accidentally overdosing. Let's face it, drug dealers are not chemists. What do they know about mixing chemicals?

The influx of fentanyl from the southern border is plaguing communities across this nation. Hendersonville is no exception. We participate in discussions with state leaders on how law enforcement can stem the tide and put fentanyl dealers in prison. Our Officers deal with fentanyl daily. They all carry Narcan, if not for someone else, but potentially to protect each other if an Officer is accidentally exposed to fentanyl during their shift.

On a lighter note, we had another successful Halloween on Main Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. The Treat Street event is becoming more and more popular. We are seeing record numbers of people enjoying the safe environment. My appreciation goes to the Henderson County Sheriff's Office and its VIPs for assisting us in managing these events. They are a force multiplier, and we thank them for their help. I am extremely happy with the management of the event. Staff expertly plan these types of events to ensure that you can enjoy them without worry.

Thank you again for your support and your trust in us. We will always strive to provide professionalism in our service. And, as always, we strive to provide "Mountain Excellence."



Blair Myhand,  
Chief of Police

### **Calls for Service**

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
3,220	3,308	3,273	2,863	2,753	2,421	2,537	2,899	2,747	2,607			2,863
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
5,247	3,281	4,479	4,340	4,373	4,399	3,162	4,112	3,076	3,215	3,023	3,905	3,884

### **Traffic Safety**

#### *Total Traffic Stops:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
546	419	459	262	274	224	309	289	281	217			328
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
233	299	388	362	311	203	271	297	270	397	368	424	318

#### *Total Citations Issued:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
382	277	293	204	200	175	189	239	191	176			233
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
151	201	243	265	207	144	146	182	185	263	281	290	213

#### *DWI Arrests:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
12	2	7	6	8	4	1	7	12	9			7
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
2	8	9	6	9	4	9	7	12	4	7	7	7

*Motor Vehicle Crashes:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
117	105	114	104	133	131	107	123	128	137			120
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
115	101	90	111	99	113	146	105	138	114	136	114	115

*Top five crash locations:*

#1	Chimney Rock Rd & Howard Gap Rd
#2	Chimney Rock Rd & I-26
#3	Chimney Rock Rd & Old Chimney Rock Rd/Highlands Square Dr
#4	Chimney Rock Rd & Francis Rd/Sugarloaf Rd
#5	S King St & E Allen St

***Crimes, Reports, and Arrests***

*Criminal Arrests:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
72	87	93	63	71	58	54	56	60	67			68
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
90	93	140	94	118	114	89	141	118	102	78	79	105

*Incident Reports:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
136	105	185	146	138	116	108	131	97	116			128
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
169	134	277	222	259	292	239	205	198	151	114	111	198

*Drug Offenses:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
30	22	19	26	48	20	26	32	28	45			30
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
38	34	37	36	51	60	27	45	34	21	23	29	36

**Larcenies:**

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
45	29	8	19	37	25	35	44	20	31			29
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
42	49	47	28	35	48	46	52	32	58	32	41	43

**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			12
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
15	10	17	15	10	11	17	10	13	14	14	11	13

**Employee Actions**

- Officers Kyle Gyurina and Thomas Reynolds were selected for promotion to Sergeant effective October 14, 2023. Both new Sergeants are assigned to patrol teams.
- Sergeant Matt Capps was selected for promotion to Lieutenant effective October 14, 2023. Lt. Capps will be assigned to lead Patrol Team 4.

***Community Tip – Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety***

Nice fall weather means more walking and biking. At some point in almost everyone’s day, you are a pedestrian. The data says that pedestrian injuries and fatalities remain high. In 2021, 7,388 pedestrians were killed and more than 60,000 injured nationally. This represents a 13% increase from the prior year. Unfortunately, pedestrians are at an increased risk of being involved in a crash with a motor vehicle as the City of Hendersonville tops the list of most pedestrian crashes in North Carolina. Here are some safety tips for drivers and pedestrians:

*Pedestrian Safety*

1. Look out for pedestrians everywhere, always.
2. Use extra caution when driving in hard-to-see conditions, such as nighttime or bad weather.
3. Use extra caution when driving in areas where one would expect to see pedestrians, i.e., downtown.
4. Drive slowly and be prepared to stop when turning or otherwise entering a crosswalk.

5. Always yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and stop well back from the crosswalk to give other vehicles an opportunity to see the crossing pedestrians.
6. Never pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk. There may be people crossing where you can't see.
7. Follow the speed limit, especially around people on the street, in school zones, and in neighborhoods, where children might be present.
8. Be extra cautious when backing up and always look for pedestrians.

### *Bicycle Safety*

Bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as motor vehicle drivers.

1. Yield to bicyclists as you would any other motorist.
2. Do not underestimate their speed to help avoid turning in front of a bicyclist traveling on the road or sidewalk, often at an intersection or driveway.
3. In parking lots, at stop signs, when packing up, or when parking, search your surroundings for other vehicles, including bicycles.
4. Drivers turning right on red should look to the right and behind to avoid hitting a bicyclist approaching from the right rear. Stop completely and look left-right-left and behind before turning right on red.
5. Obey the speed limit, reduce speed for road conditions and drive defensively to avoid a crash with a cyclist.
6. Give cyclists room and pass only with ample room.
7. Pass bicyclists as you would any other vehicle—when it's safe to move over into an adjacent lane.

### **Complaints and Findings**

- External complaint alleging biased policing. The subsequent internal investigation revealed that the complaint was unfounded, and no bias was found.

### **Vehicle Pursuits and Findings**

- None

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

- Officers used soft hand techniques to subdue an arrestee that was combative. There were no injuries to officers or suspect. The suspect was arrested for a drug violation. Investigation into this use of force is pending.

- Officers attempted to arrest a person for disorderly conduct. The subject resisted arrest, soft hand techniques and taser used to subdue suspect, suspect was arrested. There were no injuries to officer or suspect. Investigation into this use of force is pending.
- Officers attempted to arrest an intoxicated subject. Subject resisted and attempted to punch an officer in the face. Soft hand techniques used to control and arrest suspect. The suspect and 1 officer received minor skin abrasions. Investigation into this use of force is pending.

### **Operations/Notable Events**

- Homicide - HPD investigated a homicide at McDonald's on Four Seasons Blvd. The suspect was an employee and was arrested shortly after the incident. The case is now pending in court.
- The department is converting two patrol vehicles to propane as part of an alternative fuel test. These vehicles will run on gasoline and propane. This trial is part of the city's efforts to reduce municipal funding and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Officers investigated damage to two NCDOT vehicles. Investigation revealed that a person was upset by NCDOT paving on Greenville Hwy and used a BB gun to fire at NCDOT vehicles, breaking windows on those vehicles. The suspect was criminally charged, and the case is pending in court.
- The Traffic Safety Unit investigated a motor vehicle collision on Spartanburg Hwy. The investigation determined that a pickup truck pulled into the path of a motorcycle. The motorcyclist received critical injuries and was transported to Mission Hospital. The operator of the truck was charged with a motor vehicle violation.
- The Traffic Safety unit investigated a motor vehicle collision that occurred on Asheville Hwy. Both vehicles ended up on their sides. There were minor injuries reported.
- A motor vehicle was left running and unlocked at a local convenience store while the driver went inside. The vehicle was located the next day in Virginia, and the suspect was arrested by local authorities and extradition is pending. HPD reminds people to always lock their cars, especially if left running in public.

### **Budget Summary**

- We are approximately 33% through the fiscal year.
- We have spent or reserved \$2,054,996 or 30.9% of our budget.

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

- Hendersonville Police Department hosted its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Night Out at Blue Ridge Mall. This event provided fun, food, and a great time for all who participated and attended. The estimated attendance for this event was between 800-1000 people.

- Hendersonville Police Department participated in the annual CubCat Crawl 5k race hosted by the Hendersonville Elementary School to help raise funds for their school.
- Treat Street Carnival was held on Main Street. This event provided a fun and safe atmosphere for families to enjoy Halloween from 6<sup>th</sup> Ave to Allen Street. There were fun activities and lots of candy. Chief Myhand participated as a judge in the costume contest and had a great time seeing all the creative and unique costumes.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Ave Halloween event was provided a road closure for 4<sup>th</sup> Ave from Washington Street to Blythe Street. This event allowed for families to enjoy a traditional door-to-door Halloween experience with limited traffic concerns.



### **Grants Management**

- Aligning with the Federal Government's Fiscal Year, our grant funding operates from October 1st to September 30th annually.
- We've successfully navigated the inaugural year of our Embedded Mental Health Grant. The grant's second segment, marking year two, commenced on October 1st and is set to extend until September 2024.
- A reimbursement claim totaling \$11,450 has been lodged by our department, representing part of the \$18,931 Year 1 expenses incurred in the CALEA and NCLEA accreditation endeavors. The second and final year of this grant period began on October 1st, with a conclusion date set for September 2024.
- In a positive development, our department has secured a renewal of the GHSP Traffic Safety Grant, amounting to \$20,000, which took effect October 1st.

### **Recruiting/Retention**

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



**Hendersonville Police Department**  
**Public Monthly Report**  
**November 2023**



## Chief's Monthly Summary

What I had hoped to be a calm month proved to be anything but that. As most of you know by now, we had our second shooting death of the year; the first being in October. While this is an ongoing investigation, there is some public safety information I can share with you now.

The incident was not random. Nor should you expect an ongoing risk to public safety. We are investigating this incident as a homicide and continue to ask anyone with information to call the department at 828-697-3025. You may provide information anonymously if you wish.

More generally, let me address the recent violence in Hendersonville. Whenever someone is shot and killed, it is a senseless death. Hindsight clearly shows that neither of our incidents needed to happen. If only calmer heads had prevailed. Remember, there is no rewind button on a bullet. Once the trigger is pulled, there is no way to undo the damage. The results are always final.

That said, Hendersonville remains extremely safe. There are things though that you can do to limit the potential that you could be a victim of violent crime. First, don't associate with people who illegally carry firearms or are prone to violent outbursts. That seems to me to be the single best way to avoid being caught up in this sort of senseless violence. Second, "keep calm and carry on." Getting visibly angry in response to someone else's actions and/or behavior is a great way to put yourself in the middle of a potentially dangerous situation. I would always prefer to remain calm and complain about the situation later than to have to live with the consequences of losing control. Again, when one acts hastily, what is done is done. It doesn't matter if you are right either. It is always better to avoid danger than to prove to everyone else that you were in the right at whatever the cost.

Lastly, have the courage to de-escalate a situation. Imagine how grateful a person would be if you helped keep them from overreacting and hurting someone else. They may not admit it at first, but I bet good money they would prefer not being in prison for the rest of their lives. They would probably also appreciate not being injured or killed. I can think of many situations over my career where people probably wish someone had the courage to say something before things got out of control.

Thank you again for your support and your trust in us. We strive to "serve with excellence" in everything we do. We will continue to be better and to get better with every encounter. Have a great holiday and stay safe out there.



Blair Myhand,  
Chief of Police

## **Calls for Service**

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
3,220	3,308	3,273	2,863	2,753	2,421	2,537	2,899	2,747	2,607	2,726		2,850
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
5,247	3,281	4,479	4,340	4,373	4,399	3,162	4,112	3,076	3,215	3,023	3,905	3,884

## **Traffic Safety**

### *Total Traffic Stops:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
546	419	459	262	274	224	309	289	281	217	204		317
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
233	299	388	362	311	203	271	297	270	397	368	424	318

### *Total Citations Issued:*

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151	201	243	265	207	144	146	182	185	263	281	290	213

### *DWI Arrests:*

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Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
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2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
2	8	9	6	9	4	9	7	12	4	7	7	7

### *Motor Vehicle Crashes:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
117	105	114	104	133	131	107	123	128	137	107		119
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
115	101	90	111	99	113	146	105	138	114	136	114	115

*Top five crash locations:*

#1	Spartanburg Hwy & Greenville Hwy
#2	Spartanburg Hwy & Shepherd St
#3	Asheville Hwy & N Main St
#4	Chimney Rock Rd & Francis Rd/Sugarloaf Rd
#5	6 <sup>th</sup> Ave W & N Justice St

**Crimes, Reports, and Arrests**

*Criminal Arrests:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
72	87	93	63	71	58	54	56	60	67	59		67
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
90	93	140	94	118	114	89	141	118	102	78	79	105

*Incident Reports:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
136	105	185	146	138	116	108	131	97	116	109		126
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
169	134	277	222	259	292	239	205	198	151	114	111	198

*Drug Offenses:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
30	22	19	26	48	20	26	32	28	45	23		29
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
38	34	37	36	51	60	27	45	34	21	23	29	36

*Larcenies:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
45	29	8	19	37	25	35	44	20	31	36		30
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
42	49	47	28	35	48	46	52	32	58	32	41	43

*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		12
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
15	10	17	15	10	11	17	10	13	14	14	11	13

**Employee Actions**

- Chief Myhand attended the Fentanyl Working Group meeting with NC Attorney General, Josh Stein in Raleigh on November 1, 2023. The purpose of this meeting was to highlight the impacts that fentanyl is having in Hendersonville and Henderson County with a goal of identifying effective ways to manage this epidemic. Leaders from around the state attended and discussed their concerns locally.
- The department held a promotions/awards ceremony on November 6, 2023. We presented several awards to civilians and staff alike. Four promotions were also formally made. They are Cpt. Hipps, Lt. Capps, Sgts., Gyurina and Reynolds.
- Chief Myhand was the keynote speaker at the Mecklenburg County annual CIT awards ceremony on November 8, 2023. He spoke about creating the Veteran CIT program in NC that Mecklenburg County uses today.
- A conditional offer of employment for Police Officer was made to Sammy Cruz. Sammy is an eleven-year police veteran from Puerto Rico. He will start working for HPD on December 9, 2023. He is a native Spanish speaker and will add to the department’s ability to communicate effectively with our Latino community.
- Civilian staff within the department completed the Mental Health First Aid class. This is part of an ongoing effort to strengthen the department’s understanding and capacity to help people struggling with mental illness. With this training, our civilian staff is now better to navigate the challenges of interacting with people experiencing a mental crisis.

**Community Tip – Holiday Shopping**

With the holidays upon us, it is important that we remind folks how to protect themselves from theft and fraud. The Grinch is always around, but this time of year can bring an increased risk from criminals seeking to take advantage of people. In the end, we want you to have an enjoyable holiday season. Think about practicing the tips below to reduce your risk this season.

*Shopping Safety Tips:*

1. Stay at home and shop online.
2. Park in lighted areas in shopping center parking lots.
3. Always be aware of your surroundings.
4. Limit the number of trips back to your car.

5. Don't leave packages or valuables visible in your car.
6. Consider securing gifts in your trunk.
7. Also, consider securing items in your trunk before arriving at your next shopping location.
8. Have your car keys in hand before you get to your car.
9. Don't shop alone, especially at night.
10. Look in your car before entering.
11. Carry a minimal amount of cash and keep receipts.
12. Avoid distractions like cell phones and earbuds.

#### *Home Safety Tips:*

- Avoid placing too many packages under the tree before Christmas.
- Consider if presents can be easily seen from outside your home.
- Be careful discarding original packaging with your normal trash after Christmas. Doing so advertises to everyone what new "toys" are inside your home.
- Make sure your garage doors are closed before bed each night.
- Lock all doors and windows at night or when away from the home.
- Let your trusted neighbors know if you are traveling for the holidays. Make sure they can reach you if something happens.
- Consider asking your local law enforcement agency to conduct house checks while you are away. Make sure you list any persons or vehicles authorized to be at your home.

#### *Personal Safety:*

- Avoid hot button issues when visiting family; especially when alcohol is involved. We investigate more domestic assaults during the holidays.
- Let someone know if the holidays are depressing for you and if you might be at an increased risk of harmful thoughts and/or suicide.
- Avoid the stresses of gift giving by avoiding debt. Debt adds stress to people's lives and takes months/years to clear up.
- Don't wait until the last minute to do your shopping. Panicked people create elevated risk to others.

#### **Complaints and Findings**

- None

#### **Vehicle Pursuits and Findings**

- None

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

- An officer used soft hand techniques to control and take custody of a wanted person who resisted lawful arrest. There were no injuries to the suspect or officer. Investigation determined that the use of force was justified.

- Officers used soft hand techniques to control and take custody of a person that had assaulted two people prior to officers' arrival. Another officer used soft hand techniques to control and arrest a second person who grabbed one of the officers attempting to arrest the first suspect. Both suspects were arrested. There were no injuries to either suspect or officers. Investigation determined that the use of force was justified.

### **Operations/Notable Events**

- A shooting occurred outside the Orchard Bar and Grill at 110 Henderson Crossing in the early morning hours of 11/24/2023, that resulted in the death of one person. It was quickly determined that it was an isolated incident and that there was no threat to the public. This is still an active and ongoing investigation. Updates will be provided as they become available.
- Officers responded to a vehicle fire at Bank of America. Prior to the officers' arrival, a Bank of America employee, Sierra Stimpson, saw the fire and that there was a person in the vehicle. Stimpson pulled the person in the vehicle to safety. Officers attempted to extinguish the fire until the fire department arrived. Sierra Stimpson received a civilian award from HPD for her heroic efforts.

### **Budget Summary**

- We are approximately 40% through the fiscal year.
- We have spent or reserved \$2,493.282 or 37.9% of our budget.

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

- Officers assisted with event security and traffic control at the 2023 Turkey Trot on November 23, 2023. The Turkey Trot is annual 5k race that takes place on and around the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue area of Hendersonville.
- Officers assisted with event security and traffic control at the 2023 Holiday Tree Lighting on November 24, 2023. The Holiday Tree Lighting is an annual event that takes place in the 100 Block of Main Street in Hendersonville.

### **Grants Management**

- Embedded Mental Health Grant – Nothing to report this month.
- CALEA and NCLEA Accreditation endeavors – Nothing to report this month.
- GHSP Grant – No reimbursements for the month.

### **Recruiting/Retention**

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

**Hendersonville Police Department**  
**Public Monthly Report**  
**December 2023**





## Chief's Monthly Summary

We closed out 2023 with sad news. On Saturday, December 30, 2023, Greensboro Police Sergeant Dale Nix was shot and killed while he took action to stop a crime in progress at a gas station just outside Greensboro. Sergeant Nix marks the final North Carolina law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty in 2023; three in total in 2023. This was a tragic case that did not need to happen. Sergeant Nix was killed over what amounted to a misdemeanor crime. An unbelievably senseless crime!

It is a tragedy whenever a police officer is killed in the line of duty. The only encouraging news is that fewer officers died in 2023 than in the last several years. The deaths in the three major categories are all down. Gunfire deaths were 47 this year, down from 65 in 2022. Deaths by car crashes were 39, down from 59 the year prior. And medical related deaths were 26, down from 116 in 2022. While this still represents 114 duty-related deaths in 2023, the downward trend is encouraging.

We are driving these numbers down with better training, improved safety equipment, and better wellness practices. Officers are learning to deescalate situations rather than initially resorting to force. Seatbelts are required to always be worn on duty and we are striving to reduce distractions in police vehicles. We conduct annual driver training for all sworn officers where we review policy, study lessons learned from other duty-related accidents, and then practice safe driving skills. Our Officers participate in wellness programs to encourage healthier lifestyle choices. We provide time for on-duty fitness and better mental health resources. The stigmatization of seeking mental health treatment is becoming a thing of the past.

These steps, along with our ongoing efforts to strengthen public trust in law enforcement, are likely why we are seeing fewer and fewer officers dying in uniform. I remain committed to working with law enforcement leaders around the state and the nation to drive police death numbers to zero. We must make Officer safety and wellness our greatest priorities. Without these men and women available to do this job, our communities would be in chaos.

I know you support us in this pursuit, and I thank you for it. As Chief, I hope to never have to bury an Officer, related to their duties or not. I promise to continue promoting effective policing practices throughout the department. We will also continue investing in technologies that make officers safer in their duties. Our Officers deserve the highest levels of commitment from their leaders and their communities.

Thank you again for your support and your trust in us. We strive to "serve with excellence" in everything we do. We will continue to be better and to get better with every encounter.



Blair Myhand,  
Chief of Police

## **Calls for Service**

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
3,220	3,308	3,273	2,863	2,753	2,421	2,537	2,899	2,747	2,607	2,726	2,517	2,863
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
5,247	3,281	4,479	4,340	4,373	4,399	3,162	4,112	3,076	3,215	3,023	3,905	3,884

## **Traffic Safety**

### *Total Traffic Stops:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
546	419	459	262	274	224	309	289	281	217	204	242	311
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
233	299	388	362	311	203	271	297	270	397	368	424	318

### *Total Citations Issued:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
382	277	293	204	200	175	189	239	191	176	138	129	216
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
151	201	243	265	207	144	146	182	185	263	281	290	213

### *DWI Arrests:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
12	2	7	6	8	4	1	7	12	9	5	5	7
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
2	8	9	6	9	4	9	7	12	4	7	7	7

### *Motor Vehicle Crashes:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
117	105	114	104	133	131	107	123	128	137	107	117	119
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
115	101	90	111	99	113	146	105	138	114	136	114	115

*Top five crash locations:*

#1	Four Seasons Blvd & Thompson St
#2	Chimney Rock Rd & Sugarloaf Rd
#3	Chimney Rock Rd & I-26
#4	Chimney Rock Rd & Highlands Square Dr
#5	Chimney Rock Rd & Howard Gap Rd

**Crimes, Reports, and Arrests**

*Criminal Arrests:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
72	87	93	63	71	58	54	56	60	67	59	51	66
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
90	93	140	94	118	114	89	141	118	102	78	79	105

*Incident Reports:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
136	105	185	146	138	116	108	131	97	116	109	106	124
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
169	134	277	222	259	292	239	205	198	151	114	111	198

*Drug Offenses:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
30	22	19	26	48	20	26	32	28	45	23	15	28
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
38	34	37	36	51	60	27	45	34	21	23	29	36

*Larcenies:*

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
45	29	8	19	37	25	35	44	20	31	36	29	30
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
42	49	47	28	35	48	46	52	32	58	32	41	43

*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
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
15	10	17	15	10	11	17	10	13	14	14	11	13

**Employee Actions**

- Sammy Cruz was hired as a Police Officer. Sammy is an experienced officer from Puerto Rico. He will attend at least portions of Basic Law Enforcement Training at Blue Ridge Community College this spring. North Carolina provides a method for experienced officers to transfer into the state needing only portions of training. Sammy is bilingual and brings eleven years of municipal policing experience with him.
- A conditional offer of employment for Police Recruit was made. Assuming all additional testing is satisfactory, the new employee will start Basic Law Enforcement Training at Blue Ridge Community College in late January. Training lasts through May.
- Police Department Recruits Zach Dickman, Walter Garcia, and Elijah Bradley graduated from Basic Law Enforcement Training at Blue Ridge Community College. They are now in the orientation phase waiting to be certified as Law Enforcement Officers by the state. We expect them to begin field training in January.

**Community Tip – Inclement Weather Driving Tips**

We are entering that time of year when snow and ice are possible. We remind people that our narrow and steep mountain roads can make driving dangerous. We offer the following recommendations to help keep you safe when driving in snow and ice.

Venturing out around town:

- Only drive in inclement weather when necessary.
- Slow down and maintain an increased distance between you and the vehicles in front of you.
- Avoid passing other vehicles unless necessary. If you pass another vehicle, do so with extreme caution.
- Do not speed. Speed too great for the conditions is the number one cause of wrecks in winter weather.
- Do not use cruise control.
- Approach bridges with caution. Elevated roads accumulate ice long before surface streets. When you drive across a bridge, especially those with metal grating, avoid

abruptly applying brakes. Doing so can cause your vehicle to slide uncontrollably and may result in a crash.

- Come to a complete stop and yield the right of way when approaching an intersection where traffic lights are out. Always treat this scenario as a four-way stop.
- Fully clear snow and ice from the windows, mirrors, roof, hood, trunk, bumper, headlights, and taillights before driving. Snow and ice will blow off your vehicle and may hit vehicles behind you causing injury or damage.

Before taking a trip:

- Be sure your vehicle is running well, tires have ample tread, and is equipped properly for a trip.
- Always put cold weather clothing (coats, hats, gloves, etc.) in your vehicle, even if you are not wearing it.
- Consider placing an ice-remover kit in your vehicle that includes a scraper, brush, wiper fluid, and antifreeze.
- Put a supply kit in your vehicle in case you get stranded. Kits should include a phone charging cable, a flashlight, first-aid kit, blanket, shovel, non-perishable snacks, drinking water, and cones or safety flares.
- Always have at least a half-tank of gas in your vehicle before you leave. Short trips can become long trips when a storm hits.

Steps to take if stranded:

- Call 911 and report your location to emergency personnel. Make sure you inform 911 if anyone in your vehicle needs medical attention.
- Try to park your vehicle in a location safe from moving vehicles.
- Intermittently run your vehicle to warm the interior. Running your vehicle constantly, even outdoors, may potentially create carbon monoxide inside the vehicle and could result in death.
- Stay with your vehicle. Walking to find help in severe weather may be more dangerous than staying inside your vehicle.

### **Complaints and Findings**

- A citizen complained that an officer used excessive force during an arrest. The investigation is ongoing.

### **Vehicle Pursuits and Findings**

- None in December

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

- None in December

## **Operations/Notable Events**

- The department helped facilitate the annual Christmas Parade. The weather kept the crowds to a manageable size and the parade was a success.
- Officers and Detectives responded to a fight that resulted in a shooting of one person. The victim received non-life-threatening injuries. The suspect was quickly identified and was charged with Assault with a Deadly Weapon Inflicting Serious Bodily Injury with Intent to Kill that same day. The suspect turned himself in the next day. The case is closed pending adjudication in court.
- Officers and Detectives responded to Pardee Hospital when a victim with a gunshot wound arrived at the hospital. The victim was struck in the calf and sustained minor injuries. No evidence was found that corroborated the victim's story and no witnesses were located. The victim also stopped cooperating with the investigation. The case is closed/prosecution declined.

## **Budget Summary**

- We are approximately 50% through the fiscal year.
- We have spent or reserved \$3,005,818 or 44.77% of our budget.

## **Community Outreach/Special Events**

- Members of the Hendersonville Police Department rang the bell for the Salvation Army at Walmart. The funds raised during the holiday season help the Salvation Army with assistance that they provide in Henderson County to those in need.



## **Grants Management**

- Embedded Mental Health Grant – No updates to report
- CALEA and NCLEA Accreditation endeavors – No updates to report
- GHSP Grant – No reimbursements for the month

## **Recruiting/Retention**

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