

Hendersonville Police Department

Public Monthly Report

June 2024



Chief's Monthly Summary

Welcome to summer. As the temperatures increase, so does the likelihood of criminal activity. Most of these crimes are perpetrated at night when most of us are asleep. We have already seen this to be true this summer with thefts from motor vehicles on the rise.

In June alone, we had thirteen vehicles broken into and property stolen. When I say, "broken into," what I mean is that criminals simply opened unlocked vehicles and stole personal property. In one of those instances, criminals stole an unsecured vehicle after finding the keys inside the vehicle. Criminals are gaining access to handguns they find in some vehicles. More guns are stolen from inside vehicles than from inside homes. These crimes are 100% preventable.

I cannot stress enough that you must lock your vehicles. Criminals far too often get their hands on guns that people frequently and carelessly leave "secured" inside an unlocked vehicle. This is completely avoidable. Never, never, never leave a firearm in a vehicle. Every new firearm is sold with a lock to prevent inadvertent access. If you buy a used firearm that does not come with a lock, come see us. We have plenty of locks that we will give for free. There is no excuse for leaving a firearm unsecured.

Let me change direction quickly and publicly thank the City Council. When approving the 2024/2025 fiscal budget, the council agreed to give your sworn police officers a 5% salary increase on top of a 5% cost of living adjustment: 10% total increase. I made a presentation to council a few months ago expressing the significant challenges we are seeing with hiring police officers. When an officer leaves, it takes twelve to fourteen months to hire and train their replacement. Officers leave for all sorts of reasons, to retire, be a stay-at-home mom, or just to change professions. We simply need to ensure that salary is not the reason.

This marks a tremendous effort on the council's behalf to help us retain the staff that we have. I cannot thank the council enough. To do this, they agreed to increase your ad valorem taxes. No one likes paying more in taxes. To do this during an election year is often a risky decision for someone seeking re-election. However, our council recognized a real need and had the courage to act decisively. Their selflessness to serve city officers is highly commendable. I believe they absolutely did the right thing to give our officers a much-needed pay raise.

In the end, I want to say "thank you" again for your support and trust in us. Our employees are dedicated professionals who work hard to deliver exceptional service to everyone in this community. I am very proud of their work and their professionalism. It is a wonderful thing to be able to work alongside and for such quality people. I hope you agree. Please let our employees know how much you appreciate what they do the next time you see one of them. Your support means everything.


Blair Myhand,
Chief of Police

Calls Answered

Emergency and non-emergency calls received

2024												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
5,624	4,920	5,507	5,147	5,262	5,009							5,245

Calls Dispatched

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
2024												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
2,881	2,787	2,776	2,850	2,809	2,792							2,816

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
2024												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
563	396	138	221	319	441							346

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
2024												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
303	250	250	174	233	272							247

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
2024												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
8	5	10	4	8	5							7

Total 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
2024												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
108	115	104	126	115	102							112

Motor Vehicle Crashes with Injury:

2024												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
19	16	17	13	12	7							14

Top five crash locations:

#1	Four Seasons Blvd & Linda Vista Dr
#2	Four Seasons Blvd & Dana Rd
#3	N Church St & 4 th Ave W
#4	Four Seasons Blvd & Carolina Village Rd
#5	Asheville Hwy & Fleming 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	51	66
2024												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
51	49	80	56	69	62							61

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
2024												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
170	131	131	129	108	141							135

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
2024												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
19	25	31	30	20	29							26

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
2024												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
24	45	26	33	30	45							34

Assaults:

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
9	17	7	15	11	9	7	11	14	17	10	16	12
2024												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
8	11	14	6	11	9							10

Employee Actions

- LTs Jon Wing and Matt Capps, along with 911 Supervisor, Amber Kleppe, graduated from the WNC Law Enforcement Leadership Academy (LELA) at AB Tech Community College. LELA is a six-month leadership development course designed for emerging leaders in police agencies. This course is a mid-level leadership course for our leaders.



- Chief Myhand attended the Western NC Safe Streets Leadership Summit in Asheville. The purpose of the summit was to identify objectives and goals for improving traffic safety in the region. Several other stakeholders were present aside from area law enforcement agencies.
- Chief Myhand attended the NC FBI National Academy Associates annual conference in Wilmington, NC.
- Officer Kelby Trejo was sworn in as a Police Officer. Kelby joins us from Rutherfordton PD and is currently in field training. He is expected to be released to solo duty near the end of summer.



Safety Tip – Preventing child deaths in hot vehicles

Over the past 25 years, more than 970 children have died of heatstroke after being left or trapped inside a vehicle on a hot day. It is important to understand these tragedies are always preventable.

Know the facts:

- A child's internal temperature rises three to five times faster than an adult's. When a child is left in a vehicle, the child's body temperature can rise quickly, and the situation can become dangerous rapidly.
- Heatstroke, which can quickly lead to death, begins when the core body temperature reaches 104 degrees.
- A child is at risk of dying when their body temperature reaches 107 degrees.

How to prevent hot car deaths:

1. Never leave a child in an unattended vehicle for any reason or for any length of time. Rolling the windows down or parking in the shade does little to reduce the interior temperature inside the vehicle.

2. Make it a habit to always check the back seat of your vehicle before locking the car and walking away.
3. Place a personal item that you will need in the back seat as another personal reminder to check the back seat.
4. Store car keys out of a young child's reach and teach them that a vehicle is not a play area.
5. Always lock your vehicle when you are not using it. This is a good theft deterrent strategy as well, but it reduces the likelihood that a child can become trapped inside a vehicle.
6. If you see a young child alone in a vehicle, act quickly and call 911. A child in distress from heat should be removed from the vehicle as quickly as possible and cooled rapidly.

Complaints and Findings

- A citizen complained that officers entered his residence without permission. The investigation revealed that the officers had a lawful right to enter the home to search for injured persons after they responded to the sounds of gunshots. Their search resulted in the seizure of a firearm that the complainant was shooting in the driveway. This complaint is unfounded.
- A citizen complained that an officer was rude and hostile during a traffic stop. After a review of the police videos, it was determined that the complaint was unfounded in part and sustained in part. The officer was not hostile and never threatening. The officer did engage the complainant in less than professional dialog. The incident is considered closed with the appropriate action taken.

Vehicle Pursuits and Findings

- None

Use of Reasonable Force (UORF) Incidents and Findings

- A use of force incident occurred when officers responded to domestic violence call. When officers arrived at the scene, they found a male in the act of assaulting a female. Officers then used soft hand techniques to take the male suspect into custody. Neither the suspect nor officers were injured in this incident.

Operations/Notable Events

- The Traffic Safety Team hosted a multi-agency DWI Checking Station consisting of help from the NC SHP, Henderson County Sheriff's Office, and Fletcher Police Department. Several citations were issued, and one person was arrested for DWI.
- Officers responded to a report of shots fired in a densely populated area of the city. The investigation resulted in an intoxicated suspect being arrested for discharging a firearm in the city.

- Officers responded to a report of a domestic violence incident with a firearm involved. Officers arrived and arrested a suspect for assault with a deadly weapon.
- There were thirteen incidents of thefts from motor vehicles in the city during the month of June. Most of the vehicles were unlocked and contained cash and other items of value. These crimes are under investigation. The Hendersonville Police Department would like to remind citizens to lock and remove items of value before parking their vehicles.

Budget Summary

- We are approximately 100% through the fiscal year.
- We have spent or reserved \$6,521,761 or 92% of our budget.
- Link to the budget dashboard: [City of Hendersonville Budget](#)

Community Outreach/Special Events

- Officer Brandon Haman assisted the Boys & Girls Club with their Annual Field Day which catered to 20+ kids from Hendersonville.
- National Donut Day – several members of the department worked the drive thru and helped give away free donuts at Dunkin Donuts on Spartanburg Highway.





Grants Management

- Embedded Mental Health Grant – Nothing to Report
- CALEA and NCLEA Accreditation – Nothing to Report
- GHSP Grant – Nothing to Report

Recruiting/Retention

- 0 of 14 non-sworn employee vacancies exist.
- 4 of 48 Police Officer vacancies exist.
 - (5) applications received
 - (2) in background
 - (1) rejected
 - (2) withdrew