

**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**

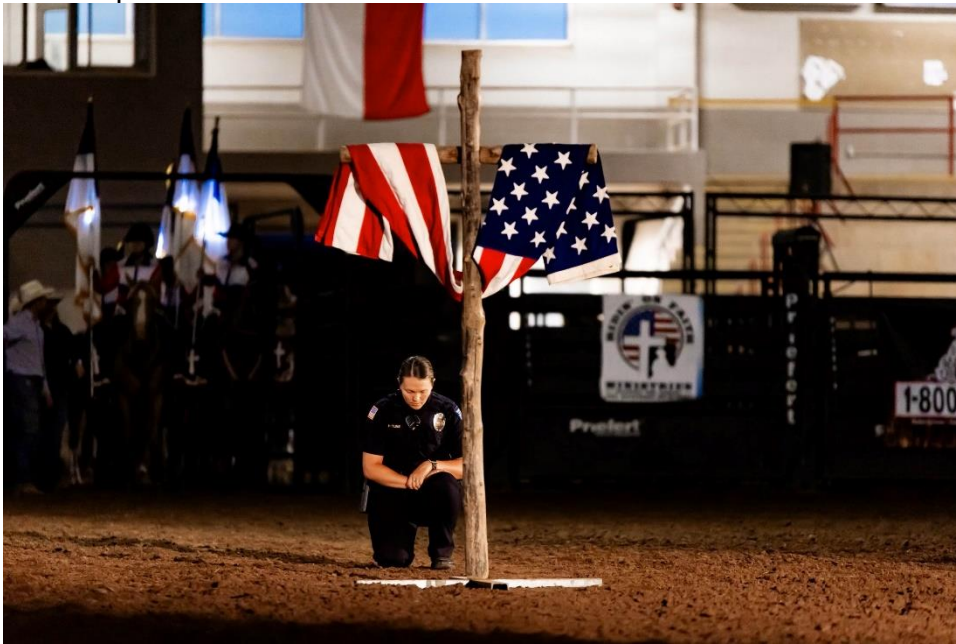
- Lt. Hipps was promoted effective June 22, 2023, to Captain. He will assume command of the Support Services Bureau on August 1, 2023. In June he also graduated from the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command. This intensive 10-week executive management course is designed to empower 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.*