

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

2023											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3,220	3,308										
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	419										
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	277										
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	2										
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	105										

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	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:

2023											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
72	87										

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	105										

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	22										

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	29										
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	17										
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 7th 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
- 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 6th 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.