

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 th Ave E//Church St
#3	6 th 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 9th 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.