

Hendersonville Police Department

Public Monthly Report

July 2022



Chief's Monthly Summary

I trust everyone enjoyed celebrating our nation's independence on July 4th. This is by far my favorite holiday of the year. I feel incredibly fortunate to have been born and live in the United States. Having spent time in foreign countries in my life, I can say emphatically, that so many other people around the world do not share our good fortune. Thank you to the people who laid the foundation for which we stand today. We are truly blessed.

Speaking of Independence Day, you should all know by now, that while we celebrated ours in peace, others did not. The residents of Highland Park, a city not too dissimilar from Hendersonville, had their peace shattered by yet another criminal intent on causing mass harm to others. You wonder what keeps me awake at night, this is it; the possibility of something like this happening here.

We continue to talk internally, and with our stakeholders, about how we can maintain security at special events. Not being a "doomsdayer" (if that is even a word), we must find a balance between providing adequate security and overextending our staff. I am not exactly sure where that balance lays, but it is something we discuss often.

Saying that, we are increasing our physical Officer presence at Apple Festival this year. We agreed that we simply have not had enough Officers working in the past to best respond to an event if one should happen. For operational security, we will not divulge where, or how many, Officers will be working this year, but you should see a greater presence over previous years.

Moreover, we continue to look for ways to block streets and monitor large gatherings during special events. We already use water barricades to block streets and we are looking for ways to enhance our force protection options. We are even looking at some emerging technology that uses analytics to watch for suspicious behavior based on established criteria. Both options would be a tremendous force multiplier since they limit the number of people needed to monitor intersections and camera feeds. Of course, these measures have a cost to implement; probably a significant one too I imagine. To help offset any future costs, we are exploring public/private partnerships and other grant funding options. We will seek input on any measures we might employ in the future.

As always, thanks once again for your support and your trust in us. I hope you find these monthly reports useful. If you do, tell your friends. And, as always, we work to provide you with "Mountain Excellence."



Blair Myhand,
Chief of Police

Calls for Service

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					

Traffic Safety Unit Activities

Total Traffic Stops:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
233	299	388	362	311	203	271					

Total Citations Issued:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
151	201	243	265	207	144	146					

DWI Arrests:

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

Motor Vehicle Crashes:

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

Top five crash locations:

#1	Chimney Rock Road & Highlands Square Drive
#2	Chimney Rock Road & Sugarloaf Road
#3	Old Spartanburg Road & Brooklyn Avenue
#4	South Church Street & Kanuga Road
#5	Carolina Village Road & Four Seasons Boulevard

Crimes, Reports, and Arrest Activities

Criminal Arrests:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
90	93	140	94	118	114	79					

(*felony – 14, misdemeanor - 65)

Incident Reports:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
169	134	277	222	259	292	239					

Drug Offenses:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
38	34	37	36	51	60	27					

Larcenies:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
42	49	47	28	35	48	46					

(*2 from motor vehicles)

Assaults:

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

Employee Actions

- Alexis Barker was hired as the department’s first civilian Animal Services Officer. Alexis has several years’ experience coming to us from the Henderson County Animal Shelter as their Veterinary Technician. Her hiring is a departure from how animal control has been done in the City of Hendersonville. We are moving away from using sworn Police Officers for this function. She will allow us to move the current Animal Enforcement Officer positions to our upcoming Traffic Safety Unit. Alexis is an animal subject matter expert and will do a fantastic job for the pets and owners in the city.
- Lieutenant Bruce Darrah graduated from the NC State Administrative Officers Management Program on Thursday, July 21, 2022. Bruce is the first person to attend this twelve-week executive management course at NC State from this department. His attendance is part of our ongoing commitment to leadership development of our emerging leaders. As we look forward to the future, it is critical that we invest in our folks and prepare them for higher levels of responsibility within the organization. Congratulations Bruce! Job well done.
- Senior Executive Assistant, Melissa Justus, turned 50, I mean 25 (again) on July 31, 2022. Melissa, as most of you know, is the person who actually runs the department and a tremendous asset to the department. Happy Birthday Melissa!
- Officer Stephen McDonald was selected as the agency’s newest K9 Handler. The department has operated without any K9s for over a year. His selection



constitutes a shift in K9 policy and accountability. We will keep everyone posted when we find an animal.

Community Tips

- The idea of including a monthly tip was suggested to me by a lady I met at Chalk It Up on Saturday, July 16, 2022. Thank you for that. We will do our best to provide a current and relevant community tip every month. Please let me know if there is anything you want us to mention.
- **Tip #1:** Never leave young children or animals in a vehicle during warmer temperatures especially. According to a quick internet search, as of the writing of this report, there were twelve reported cases of children dying in hot cars in the United States in 2022. I also found one article reporting 29 animals have died inside locked vehicles as of July 19, 2022. Included is a link to an inside vehicle temperature calculator. While its accuracy has not been verified, it is a good reminder of how fast the temperature inside a vehicle rises during even moderate outside temperatures. [Inside Car Temperature Calculator | Good Calculators](#) Lastly, and depending on circumstances, leaving a child or animal in a hot vehicle can be a crime not to mention highly dangerous.

Complaints and Findings

- 7/6/22 – External complaint alleging harassment was received via phone. Complaint is not sustained.
- 7/26/22 – External complaint alleging poor driving by an Officer. Internal investigation is pending.

Vehicle Pursuits and Findings

- None

Use of Reasonable Force (UORF) Incidents and Findings

- 7/8/22 – Officers used a Taser to subdue an aggressive male after he struck an officer with a closed fist. Both probes struck the suspect and one 5-second cycle deployed. Suspect was taken into custody and charged for Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer. No other injuries. Use of force was deemed appropriate.
- 7/18/22 – Officers pointed their issued handguns at the driver during a felony traffic stop on a vehicle reported stolen. The driver complied and was taken into custody without incident or injury. Use of force was deemed appropriate.

Operations/Notable Events

- 7/8/22 – HPD Detectives assisted Homeland Security Special Agents to arrest a male suspect for attempted sexual assault of a minor. Suspect was arrested without incident.

Budget Summary

- We are approximately 8% through the fiscal year.
- \$514,918.00, or 33% of the FY 22/23 operating budget has been encumbered to date. Most of the funds encumbered are for vehicle purchases.

Community Outreach/Special Events

- 7/8/22 - 10th Anniversary Bike Rodeo for the Salvation Army of Hendersonville where we handed out bike helmets to kids in need.
- 7/14/22 - Safety Assessment for Shorin-Ryu Karate Dojo

Awards and Recognitions

- Officer Haley Thompson was recently featured in a Times-News article. One of our newest officers, she is the grandniece of Officer Denny Enevold. Denny was killed in the line of duty in 1981. She is excited to be carrying on the family legacy and we are thrilled to have her on board.



Grants Management

- \$40,000 accreditations grant is pending review and approval. (Oct 2022)
- \$50,000 mental health grant is pending review and approval. (Oct 2022)

Recruiting/Retention

- 0 of 47 Police Officer vacancies remain.
- 1 of 6 telecommunicator vacancies remain (position offered).
- 0 Telecommunicator applications received (position closed).
- 0 Police Officer applications received (position closed).