

Hendersonville Police Department

Public Monthly Report

July 2023



Chief's Monthly Summary

Greetings once again. My apologies for getting this report to you late once again. Too many things are happening I suppose. July was no less busy than any other month and work piled up.

Our biggest news this month is the retirement of Captain Tracey Cox after almost four decades of law enforcement service to Henderson County and the City of Hendersonville. Tracey touched every single function of this department and his contributions to HPD are immeasurable. He was responsible for so many elements of this agency. His most notable contribution is the construction of our new police headquarters. He had a say in every single aspect of the design and construction of this building. His absence is noticeable, and his legacy is immense.

We made considerable strides in hiring this month. We hired one experienced officer out of Wilmington and three inexperienced new police recruits. Our newest experienced officer will soon be on the road in field training. We are simply waiting for the state to return his certification before he can be sworn in. The three recruits are attending Basic Law Enforcement Training at Blue Ridge Community College and expect to graduate in December. Once they graduate, we will assign them field training officers and get them on the road.

Even with these new hires, we still have one sworn vacancy and more on the horizon. We have pending retirements and continue to manage a changing workforce. Agencies around us are increasing pay rates and benefits. We continue to monitor these changes and make plans to remain competitive. I am thankful that Officers are being paid a wage more in line with what they should have been paid for years. However, salaries are by far the largest portion of our annual budget. With increased wages comes tighter budget constraints.

Our budget and finance folks are constantly looking for creative ways to stretch our limited revenue sources to fund all department requests. They have a challenging job as every department fight for an increased slice of the pie. I commend them for finding ways to fund our requests and giving us the ability to provide excellent service to you.

Thank you for your support of our staff. The men and women, sworn and unsworn, work diligently every day to keep our city safe. I am incredibly proud of them and honored to work alongside them in service to this city. Crime rates are lowering, and they are the primary reason why the quality of life for everyone improves daily. As always, we will continue to provide you with "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	2,537						2,910
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	309						356
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	189						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	1						5
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	107						115
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 & Howard Gap Rd
#2	Four Seasons Blvd & Thompson St
#3	S Church St & W Barnwell St
#4	Four Seasons Blvd & Linda Vista Dr
#5	Four Seasons Blvd & Dana Rd

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						71
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	108						133
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	26						27
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	35						28
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	7						10
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

- Colby Torbett was hired as a Police Officer I. Colby comes to us from Wilmington PD with over 2 years of experience. He is waiting for certification from the state before being sworn in. As soon as his paperwork comes back, he will be assigned to a patrol squad and will begin field training.
- Several Officers attended a police shotgun class to be certified to carry a patrol shotgun on duty. The department requires a long gun for all sworn personnel. Officers can choose to carry a patrol rifle, a patrol shotgun, or both for duty use. The purpose is to ensure that Officers are not "out gunned" in the event of a critical incident. The department purchased 20 used, new-stock, Remington 870 shotguns from the State of South Carolina at a considerable discount to equip all officers.
- Lieutenants Smith and Laws graduated from the NC State University Administrative Officers Management Program in Raleigh. This is a 12-week intensive executive management program designed to inform emerging leaders about leadership, financing and budgeting, research, employment law, and other related topics. Completion of a long-term executive leadership class is a requirement for all Lieutenants and above in the organization. Lieutenants Smith and Laws join other Lieutenants in completing this job requirement in preparation for higher levels of responsibility within the organization.
- Zackary Dickman, Elijah Bradley, and Walter Garica accepted offer letters as Police Recruits. All three are attending Basic Law Enforcement Training at Blue Ridge Community College and expect to graduate in December. They have been assigned department mentors to assist them through the training. They will join the ranks as Police Officers after graduation in December.



- Captain Tracey Cox retired after 38 years in law enforcement. His input into this department and the city over the years is immeasurable. We wish him well in his post-retirement life. His absence is noticeable already.

Community Tip

Back to School – School buses are picking up young passengers, kids are riding bikes, and hurried parents are dropping their kids off before school every day. It is that time of year to remind the rest of us to slow down and pay special attention in and around school zones.

If you are dropping children off:

Each school has a different drop-off procedure. Make sure you know them for the safety of all kids. Generally, the following rules apply to all schools:

- Do not double park. Doing so blocks visibility for other children and creates a safety hazard when they run between vehicles.
- Load and unload at the sidewalk only.
- Never drop your kid(s) off across the street to save time.
- Carpooling reduces the number of vehicles and congestion at the school.

Sharing the road with young pedestrians:

According to research conducted by the National Safety Council, most children who are injured or killed in bus-related accidents are only 4-7 years old and are walking at the time. They are often hit by the bus they were riding on or by a motorist illegally passing the stopped bus. A few precautions go a long way toward keeping children safe.

- Do not block the crosswalk when stopped at a red light or waiting to make a turn. Doing so forces pedestrians to walk in front or between vehicles where drivers may not be paying attention.
- Stop and yield to pedestrians when crossing a crosswalk; they always have the right of way.
- Always stop for crossing guards in school zones.
- Always exercise extra caution for children in school zones, near playgrounds and parks, and in residential areas.
- Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians.
- Give pedestrians the right of way even if you are right.

Sharing the road with school buses:

Add distance between you and a school bus; more than you would with a passenger vehicle. Doing so gives more distance to see when a traffic light changes and more time to stop when the flashing lights on the bus are activated. Remember, it is illegal to pass a stopped school bus in all 50 states.

- Never pass a stopped school bus from behind.
- Never pass a stopped school bus from the opposite direction on an undivided road.



- Ten feet around a school bus is the most dangerous area for children. Stop back to allow them space to safely enter and exit a school bus.
- Children are often unpredictable and tend to be less aware of hazards; be alert.

Sharing the road with bicyclists

Bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as drivers but are often harder to see. Children on bikes can create even more challenging problems. Children often ride their bikes on sidewalks and do not follow the same rules as adult riders. The most common collision between a cyclist and a vehicle is when the vehicle turns left in front of the cyclist.

- When passing a bicyclist, slowly proceed in the same direction leaving three feet between you and the cyclist.
- When turning left in front of an approaching cyclist, wait for the rider to pass you before turning.
- Watch for bike riders who fail to look or signal before turning. Children are more likely to do this.
- Watch out for cyclists coming from driveways or between parked vehicles.
- Check your side mirrors before opening your doors on the street side.

Remember, cyclists and pedestrians have far less protection than vehicle drivers. Any collision is almost certainly going to cause injury and even death. By exercising a little extra care and caution, drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists can co-exist safely in school zones.

Complaints and Findings

- None

Vehicle Pursuits and Findings

- None

Use of Reasonable Force (UORF) Incidents and Findings

- Officers used soft hand techniques to take lawful custody of a person that was initially fleeing from officers and then kicked the officer. There were no injuries to the person or officers.

Operations/Notable Events

- Officers and Detectives conducted an operation to combat illegal drug sales within the city. The operation resulted in the seizure of illegal controlled substances and the arrest of one person for the sale and delivery of crack cocaine.

Budget Summary

- We are 8% through the fiscal year 2023-2024.
- We have spent or reserved \$208,361 or 10% of our budget.

Community Outreach/Special Events

- The Salvation Army of Hendersonville hosted their 11th Annual "Bike Rodeo" at their summer camp. Riders were taught the ABCs of bike safety while having their bikes inspected for safety before riding in a supervised safety course.

Grants Management

- The grant applications to fund an upgrade to our virtual simulator and to purchase an electronic message board were not approved.
- GHSP Traffic Safety grant of \$20,000 is a pending award.
- The Mental Health grant was approved, and money is being spent to fund our embedded mental health provider.
- The accreditation grant was approved, and money is being spent to fund accreditation through CALEA and NCLEA.

Recruiting/Retention

- 1 of 47 Police Officer vacancies exist.
 - Applications – Total
 - (4) Initial Stage
 - (1) Second Stage
 - (2) Background Stage