

Hendersonville Police Department

Public Monthly Report

October 2022



Chief's Monthly Summary

It is official! Our new Traffic Safety Team, a Sergeant and two Officers, are actively working to make the roads safer in Hendersonville. Their first day on the job was October 1, 2022. They hit the ground running too, making a DWI arrest on the first day. Their primary focus will be investigating motor vehicle crashes and addressing traffic complaints. They will use the data we collect from reported crashes to determine what is most likely the cause of crashes, where crashes happen most, and the days and times of most crashes. With this data, we will be better able to strategically deploy resources and focus our attention on the most significant factor contributing to most crashes. Our end goal is to reduce the number and severity of crashes in the City of Hendersonville.

I am excited to finally get this team going. It has been a goal of mine since coming here in early 2021. While it is too early to know what impact they will have on traffic safety, my experience tells me that a team like this is highly effective in improving overall traffic safety in this city. If we accomplish this, we will reduce insurance premiums, have fewer injuries and property damage, and provide you with an overall sense of safety while driving through the city.

Also new this month is PowerEngage. For those unfamiliar, PowerEngage is a communication tool we use to share information with people who call our communications center. This month, we sent more than 500 texts to callers. Of those, almost 170 elected to provide us with feedback. In our first month, we received an overall approval rating of 90.97%. While this is a good start, we look to improve that rating over time. I hope you find this to be an effective method of providing information. Please let us know what you think about this service.

The last topic for the month is National Night Out. This was our second annual event, and I would say it was a huge success. We moved to 7th Avenue across from 2 Guys Pizza. Staff did an amazing job planning and hosting the event. If you missed it, come out next October. I promise it will be even better next year. Come see us poke fun at ourselves and the stereotype that cops love donuts (I mean, who doesn't?), you can drive in the DWI simulator, maybe breach a door and "pepper spray" (silly string) a bad guy, and just let your kids have fun for a couple of hours. Did I mention the hot dogs? We served more than 300 hot dogs too. I promise, it is a good and safe event.

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. The more people who read them, the more informed we are as a community. And, as always, we strive to provide "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	4,112	3,076	3,215		

Traffic Safety

Total Traffic Stops:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
233	299	388	362	311	203	271	297	270	397		

Total Citations Issued:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
151	201	243	265	207	144	146	182	185	263		

DWI Arrests:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	8	9	6	9	4	9	7	12	4		

Motor Vehicle Crashes:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
115	101	90	111	99	113	146	105	138	114		

Top five crash locations:

#1	Spartanburg Hwy & Chadwick Ave
#2	Chimney Rock Rd & Highlands Square Dr
#3	King St & 6 th Ave E
#4	Four Seasons Blvd & Dana Rd
#5	S Church St & W Barnwell St

Crimes, Reports, and Arrests

Criminal Arrests:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
90	93	140	94	118	114	89	141	118	102		

(felony-21, misdemeanor-81)

Incident Reports:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
169	134	277	222	259	292	239	205	198	254		

Drug Offenses:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
38	34	37	36	51	60	27	45	34	21		

Larcenies:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
42	49	47	28	35	48	46	52	32	58		

(6 from motor vehicles)

Assaults:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
15	10	17	15	10	11	17	10	13	14		

Employee Actions

- The stork is on its way! We are happy to announce that Telecommunicator Cassie Murray and Officer Diamond Wright are pregnant. This is the first child for Cassie and the fourth for Diamond. Congratulations ladies!

Community Tip

- Tip #4: Holiday shopping safety – as you go about your holiday gift shopping, be smart and avoid becoming a victim of theft. We encourage you to follow a few safety tips.
 - Keep receipts of all purchases.
 - Write down serial numbers where applicable.
 - Never leave shopping bags in plain view in your vehicle.
 - Place gifts in the back of your vehicle before you stop at your next location. That way no one knows exactly where your gifts are stored in your vehicle.
 - Always, always, always lock your vehicle when parked.
 - Be smart about putting gifts under your Christmas tree if they can easily be seen from outside. Consider limiting the number of packages under your tree or placing them in such a way that someone looking in does not think of your house as a good target for a break-in.
 - Post pictures of holiday trips on social media when you get back. Ever seen "Home Alone?" Don't advertise that you are out of town.
 - Use timers on all home lighting when out of town.

- Ask the friends or neighbors you trust to keep an eye on your house while you are out of town. And make sure they have your phone number in case something happens.
- Schedule the police department to conduct house checks while you are away. This is a free service we provide upon request.
- Lastly, when the holidays are over, think about what cardboard boxes and trash you set at the curb. This tells criminals even more about what goodies are in the house and makes you a more attractive target for criminals.

Complaints and Findings

- None

Vehicle Pursuits and Findings

- None

Use of Reasonable Force (UORF) Incidents and Findings

- October 10, 2022 - Officer used physical force to control a combative subject who caused a disturbance at a local business. No injuries to officer or suspect. Investigation determined this use of force was justified and lawful.
- October 10, 2022 - After receiving a call for service that a person had threatened his neighbor with a firearm, Officers responded and located the person. An Officer used force by pointing a firearm at that person the Officer believed was armed. No additional force was used. Investigation revealed the person was experiencing medical issues. Investigation determined this use of force was justified and lawful.

Operations/Notable Events

- Saturday, December 3, 2022, Hendersonville's Christmas Parade will begin at 6:00 PM. The parade route stretches from Five Points to the southern end of Main Street at Caswell Street. No parking will be allowed on Main Street after 4:00 PM. The streets will reopen following the parade's conclusion and once attendees have dispersed. Parade staging will occur along Oakland Street. A map showing the staging area and additional street closures is posted at <https://bit.ly/3zf7wOO>
- The 2022 Halloween Booze It & Lose It campaign ran from October 24 thru October 31, 2022. The following results are posted:
 - 2 DWI arrests
 - 38 Citations issued for speeding
 - 9 Citations issued for Driving While License Revoked

- 26 Citations issued for other traffic infractions
- 1 Citation issued for a seatbelt violation
- 2 Persons arrested for outstanding warrants

Budget Summary

- We are approximately 33.3% through the fiscal year.
- \$754,250, or 50.3% of the FY 22/23 operating budget has been encumbered to date. Most of the funds encumbered are for vehicle and equipment purchases.

Community Outreach/Special Events

- [National Night Out](#) – as an estimate, over 300 people came out to spend time with Hendersonville Police Officers. We want to specially thank the City of Hendersonville Public Works Department, Hendersonville Water & Sewer, Hendersonville Fire Department, Henderson County Rescue Squad, Henderson County Sheriff's Office, North Carolina Highway Patrol, Blue Ridge Community College Police Department, and Fletcher Police Department who assisted us with the event. See everyone next year.



- We are planning a Coffee with a Cop on November 16, 2022, from 8am-10am at Black Bear Coffee located at 318 N Main Street. Come out and enjoy coffee and conversation. No agendas, just conversation. Hope to see you there.

Awards and Recognitions

- Officer Josh Fisher was recognized as the Hendersonville Police Department Hometown Hero. This award is given annually to local public safety personnel from the Hunter Automotive Group. Officer Fisher was nominated this year for his exceptional work keeping our community safe. Josh may be the most well-rounded officer in the department. He is someone who other officers emulate and is one who is wholly dedicated to reducing drugs in this community. Congratulations Josh!



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

- 1 of 47 Police Officer vacancies exist (two candidates in background phase).
- 1 of 6 telecommunicator vacancies remain (two candidates in background phase).