

Hendersonville Police Department
Public Monthly Report
September 2022



Chief's Monthly Summary

The 76th Apple Festival was a resounding success. We saw record attendance, steady rain, and the parade canceled, which I understand is an extreme rarity. I heard several compliments about seeing more officers on Main Street this year. We had officers strategically placed throughout the event space to improve response times.

As you might imagine, Apple Festival makes for a very long weekend for us. I appreciate staff's efforts and long hours. I heard not one complaint from staff about the workload but rather saw employees working hard to provide you with an exceptional experience. From Public Works to Police staff, to Fire Department staff, your City of Hendersonville employees deserve a round of applause for their hard work during Apple Festival. Everyone did great in my opinion.

Changing topics, we have a great deal of happenings going on at the department. We enlisted the help of Onyx Talent Solutions LLC, to help us create focused leadership development strategies for our emerging leaders. We do not have the luxury of time as all three of our Captains will retire within the next 24 months. We are committed to providing resources to develop our staff and prepare them for greater responsibility internally.

We are also in the process of creating our new mission and vision statements. Doing so will help us then create a multi-year strategic plan to begin in January 2023. I will be asking for input from you to help inform our direction over the next three years. That assistance is you helping us develop goals and strategies specific to the topics important to you. Please watch our social media and department app for more information about meetings you can attend. We welcome all ideas and input. The more involvement we get, the better our agency focus will be.

Lastly, PowerEngage is active. This is a completely automated program where we can send information via text to non-emergency callers. Think of this like the email you get when you order something online. We can tell you when an officer is on the way, what your report number is, and any other information pertinent to your call. We can then elicit your feedback once the call is cleared via a short, four-question survey. I am excited about this technology and happy to be one of the very first in North Carolina to use it. We hope this tool will allow us to be more communicative while giving you the chance to tell us how we are doing based on your firsthand experience with us.

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 that read them, the more informed we are. 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	4,112	3,076			

Traffic Safety Team Activities

Total Traffic Stops:

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

Total Citations Issued:

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

DWI Arrests:

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

Motor Vehicle Crashes:

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

Top five crash locations:

#1	Chimney Rock Rd & Highlands Square Drive
#2	4 th Ave E & King St
#3	Four Seasons Blvd & Dana Rd
#4	6 th Ave E & Church St
#5	Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd & Ashe St

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	89	141	118			

(felony-32, misdemeanor-86)

Incident Reports:

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

Drug Offenses:

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

Larcenies:

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

(4 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			

Employee Actions

- Lt. Hipps completed the Chief Leadership Institute. This 40-hour course is designed for the new or emerging chief leader within a police organization. Topics included budget & finance, recruiting and retention, Chief/Manager relationship, ethics, policy development, and more. This class was hosted by the NC Association of Chiefs of Police at the NC Justice Academy at the Edneyville Campus.

Community Tip

- Tip #3: Halloween Safety – With the upcoming holiday, it is important to remind folks of general safety tips.
 - Walk in groups when trick or treating. There is always safety in numbers and a group of people is easier for motorists to see at night.
 - Encourage young children to have something reflective on their costumes or carry some sort of illumination with them to help motorists see your little goblins.
 - Only accept candy from houses you “trust.” There are too many stories about things being slipped into Halloween candy to be complacent about inspecting candy.
 - Only allow kids to eat candy in the original sealed wrappers. Twist-tied candy should be closely inspected for signs that it may have been opened previously. Any suspicion should be discarded and/or reported to police.

- Trust your instincts. If something seems wrong about a place or person, leave immediately, and report your concerns to police. We would rather determine that it was nothing than find out too late that your instincts were right, and someone was harmed.
- Generally, people are good, and they simply want to enjoy the holiday along with everyone else. It is unlikely that someone would be intent on hurting someone else.

Complaints and Findings

- 8/23/2022 – Citizen complaint involving multiple officers in their dealing with an escaped involuntary commitment patient. Investigative summary determined the complaint to be unfounded.
- 8/23/2022 – Citizen complaint alleging Officer rudeness. Investigative summary determined the complaint to be not sustained.
- No complaints were received in September.

Vehicle Pursuits and Findings

- None

Use of Reasonable Force (UORF) Incidents and Findings

- None

Operations/Notable Events

- Department leaders are working on revising the noise ordinance within the city's ordinance manual. Efforts are designed to make restrictions clearer and violations more easily enforceable. The city is taking a position that encourages a lively community while respecting the rights of people in their homes and businesses to be free from disturbing and unnecessary noises.
- Overdoses are on the rise. We are responding to more overdoses every month, most involving fentanyl. Understand, fentanyl is a poison, plain and simple. A poison that kills people. All county EMTs and most police officers carry naloxone to help counteract the effects in an overdose situation. If you, or someone you know, is struggling with drug addiction, we encourage you to seek treatment at any of our local resource centers.

Budget Summary

- We are approximately 24% through the fiscal year.
- \$688,054, or 46% 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

- Apple Festival – HPD hosted our command post which housed a “claw machine” where kids could win prizes, a strength machine, and tons of giveaways that included: cups, stickers, rubber duckies, and others.
- Sept 15, 2022- Officers participated in the Boys and Girls Club’s “Wellness Parent Night.” Officers gave away water, Gatorade, and fruit. They also talked about the importance of hydration no matter the time of year.

Awards and Recognitions

- None this month.

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.
- 1 of 6 telecommunicator vacancies remain (conditional offer withdrawn).