

Hendersonville Police Department

Public Monthly Report

April 2024



Chief's Monthly Summary

April 29, 2024, will be recorded in history as the deadliest day for law enforcement in North Carolina. Four law enforcement officers were shot and killed and another four were shot and wounded as they attempted to serve an arrest warrant. It is difficult to understand the magnitude of the loss of life in the law enforcement community. As I write this, all four have been laid to rest and the others are recovering from their wounds. Our thoughts and prayers are with those wounded and the families of everyone affected by this hateful crime.

Besides the outcome, there is little we know about the incident. What we do know is that the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Taskforce attempted to arrest a person wanted for being a felon in possession of a firearm. When they arrived at the suspect's residence, they were immediately fired upon. The suspect was shot and killed by the taskforce members in return. There are also some unverified reports that at least one person shot at the taskforce members from inside the house. We will learn more in the coming weeks and months that we can hopefully use to prevent a similar tragedy from ever happening again anywhere.

It is a rare instance where so many officers are shot and killed in any one incident. Maybe the only worse single event in this nation was when Dallas PD lost five officers in the line of duty when they were ambushed by a lone gunman in 2016. Or, when four ATF agents were shot and killed in the daytime raid of the Branch Davidians compound in Waco, TX in 1993. These are monumental occurrences in this country providing law enforcement with many lessons learned. I am hopeful that we will learn from the Charlotte event and that we will never have such a profound incident ever again.

There are fewer dangerous situations than those involving a convicted felon in possession of a firearm. Clearly, the felon cares nothing about our laws or they wouldn't have been arrested and convicted of a felony in the first place. Choosing to possess a firearm only further shows their indifference to law and order. Gun control laws have no meaning for the felon who lives outside the laws we all abide to.

This country should focus on strengthening our existing laws rather than creating new ones. We need to put and keep criminals in jail when they blatantly break the law. I find it difficult to accept why dangerous criminals freely roam our neighborhoods and communities rather than being incarcerated for crimes they have already committed. Thankfully, we enjoy a "tough-on-crime" District Attorney and judges that hold people accountable. Together, we will keep Hendersonville safe from dangerous criminals.

Thank you again to those who support and trust us to do good work. We strive to be the best in everything we do. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve this community.


Blair Myhand,
Chief of Police

Drug Offenses:

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
30	22	19	26	48	20	26	32	28	45	23	15	28
2024												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
19	25	31	30									26

Larcenies:

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
45	29	8	19	37	25	35	44	20	31	36	29	30
2024												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
24	45	26	33									32

Assaults:

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
9	17	7	15	11	9	7	11	14	17	10	16	12
2024												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
8	11	14	6									10

Employee Actions

- Officer Jacob Smith was awarded the Knights of Columbus Shield Award for his ongoing dedication to the Traffic Safety Team and the department.
- Tori Doyle was selected to be the Police Social Worker intern for the department. She is a graduate student at Western Carolina University and will begin working for the department in the fall semester.
- The department announced a promotional process to fill vacant Lieutenant and Sergeant positions. The assessment will be conducted on May 29 and 30, 2024.
- Chief Myhand and Cpt. Laws attended the NC FBI National Academy Associates spring retrainer in Garner, NC on April 26, 2024.

Safety Tip – Teen Driver Safety Tips

With school getting out soon, more teen/new drivers will be on the roads. If you have a younger driver operating a vehicle this summer, please talk about the following issues. Limit the number of kids in the car and confirm that they will be the only driver of your car.

- Insist that everyone wears a seat belt.
- Instill the importance of concentration behind the wheel.
- Explain the importance of driving defensively.
- Confirm they know exactly where they are going, even if you must scout the trip during daylight hours.
- Reiterate the dangers, and your outright prohibition of drinking and driving.
- If you have given your teenager an extended curfew, discuss how fatigue can also cause accidents.

No list would be complete without the acceptance that you would rather have your teen wake you at 2am with a phone call than have a Police Officer wake you with tragic news.

Complaints and Findings

- No complaints during this month

Vehicle Pursuits and Findings

- None

Use of Reasonable Force (UORF) Incidents and Findings

- None

Operations/Notable Events

- A homeless male stole a City of Hendersonville Water Department vehicle while it was parked in front of a fast-food restaurant. An employee was in the back seat at the time of the larceny but was able to exit before the suspect drove off. The vehicle was recovered a short time later and the suspect and an accomplice were charged for the larceny.
- Officers responded to multiple fraud by phone incidents this month where elderly victims suffered financial loss. Education is the best defense against these scams. These incidents are primarily perpetrated by individuals in other countries, severely limiting law enforcement's investigative options.

Budget Summary

- We are approximately 85% through the fiscal year.
- We have spent or reserved \$5,638,336.35 or 80% of our budget.
- Link to the budget dashboard: [City of Hendersonville Budget](#)

Community Outreach/Special Events

- Numerous officers participated in Coffee with a Cop at Southern Streams Coffeehouse on 5th Avenue.
- HPD School Resource Officers assisted Henderson Co. SROs with the STAR Jam Dance to raise money for STAR Camp.
- Officer Haman represented HPD at a job fair hosted by Ebenezer Baptist Church.
- EarthFest in celebration of Earth Day was hosted downtown on Main St.
- Inaugural She Slays 5K fundraiser for local women with cancer in collaboration with Pardee Hospital.

Grants Management

- Embedded Mental Health Grant – Nothing to report
- CALEA and NCLEA Accreditation
 - Pending Reimbursement
- GHSP Grant – Reimbursement request submitted for \$1,383.98 for Traffic Enforcement.

Recruiting/Retention

- 0 of 14 non-sworn employee vacancies exist.
- 4 of 47 Police Officer vacancies exist.
 - (7) applications received
 - (5) in background
 - (2) rejected