

Hendersonville Police Department

Public Monthly Report

December 2022



Chief's Monthly Summary

This is the last monthly report for 2022. Looking back, it appears we accomplished a great deal over the year. Amazingly, we hired thirteen employees; eleven of which are still here with more than half of those being female. About 27% of our sworn staff is female now; more than double the national average of 12%. These women are a great addition to our team. They highly complement the level of service we can provide. I am proud to have them on board and excited to see what the future brings for them.

We still have more to accomplish with respect to recruiting and hiring though. People of color are simply not applying to be police officers in any significant numbers; at least not here. We plan on being more intentional about our recruiting efforts in the coming year to attract and hire impact players who will add to our culture. In the meantime, if you, or someone you know, might make a good police officer, experienced or not, let us know. We hire people for their character, rather than their CV.

2023 is likely to be no less busy for the department. We are implementing a multi-year strategic plan in the new year. My hope is that the plan helps us remain focused on providing exceptional service to you. The plan will be available publicly as soon as the document is complete. Stay tuned.

We also created new mission, vision, and value statements to replace the two mission statements the department had previously. As one might imagine, having two mission statements is confusing and grossly ineffective. To clarify things and provide purpose and direction, we formed a team to help us come up with something better. This team worked for several weeks crafting new statements and new values. Our new mission statement consists of only three words, "Serve with Excellence." I hope our mission statement gives freedom to all employees in how they choose to deliver service to you.

The last bit of information I have for you is again forward-looking. We are just days from enrolling in the accreditation process with the Commission for Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). CALEA is the gold standard for accrediting bodies and something the City Manager and I have discussed for some time. We believe this is the most effective way for the department to remain current with industry best practices. Unfortunately, this process will take a couple of years for us to complete as it is meant to be challenging. In the end, we will be a leader in western North Carolina with respect to accredited law enforcement agencies.

Thank you again for your support and your trust in us. We will always strive to provide professionalism in our service. And, as always, we strive to provide "Mountain Excellence."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Blair Myhand". The signature is stylized and cursive.

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	3,023	3,905

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	368	424

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	281	290

DWI Arrests:

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

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	136	114

Top five crash locations:

#1	2547 Chimney Rock Road (Dunkin Donuts) (3)
#2	Chimney Rock Road and Francis Road (3)
#3	Chimney Rock Road and Carolina Village Road (2)
#4	Four Seasons Blvd and Thompson St (2)
#5	Thompson St and Signal Hill Road (2)

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	78	79

(felony-27, misdemeanor-52)

Incident Reports:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
169	134	277	222	259	292	239	205	198	151	114	111

Drug Offenses:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
38	34	37	36	51	60	27	45	34	21	23	29

Larcenies:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
42	49	47	28	35	48	46	52	32	58	32	41

(5 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	14	11

Employee Actions

- Officer Pappozzi is a new father, again. Elijah Michael was born on October 23, 2023, weighing 9 lbs and 22" long.
- Sgt. Gardin completed his master's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with a focus in Criminal Justice from Liberty University.

Community Tip

- Tip #5: *Dry January* – abstaining from alcohol the first month of the year.

Social drinking during the holidays is common. Unfortunately, DWI violations tend to rise during this time as well. We made a total of 84 DWI arrests in 2022. Remarkably, the data suggests that for every one person arrested for DWI, 200 people drive while impaired without being caught.

Experts offer recommendations to help cut alcohol for one month. They are:

1. **Create an environment where you're going to succeed.** Get alcohol out of your house for the month. "Out of sight, out of mind."
2. **Bring someone along for the challenge.** Support each other, vent to one another, and attend non-alcoholic events together.
3. **Fill your calendar with things you love to do without alcohol.** Doing so occupies your time and gives you something to look forward to. Boredom leads to drinking.

Experts also say that avoiding alcohol may help you reevaluate your relationship with alcohol, and you may find that you feel better, sleep better, and think more clearly without it.

A warning for heavy drinkers though. Quitting cold turkey may not be safe. Heavy drinkers can experience withdrawal symptoms that include seizures, other serious medical issues, and even death. Please seek a doctor's help if you fall into this category.

Complaints and Findings

- There were two complaints that were received in November and were closed in December:
 - Demeanor complaint: Closed "Not Sustained"
 - Misconduct complaint: Closed "Unfounded"
- There were three complaints received in December:
 - Misconduct complaint: Closed "Unfounded"
 - Demeanor complaint: Closed "Unfounded"
 - Demeanor complaint: Closed "Not Sustained"

Vehicle Pursuits and Findings

- None

Use of Reasonable Force (UORF) Incidents and Findings

- Officers used force by physical restraint and the pointing of a firearm at a person who was reportedly suicidal and threatening officers with the possible use of a firearm. No injuries. Use of force was justified.
- Officers used force in apprehending a felony suspect by pointing firearms at the suspect. No injuries. Use of force was justified.
- Officers used physical force by taking a suspect to the ground. No injuries. Use of force was justified.
- Officers used force by pointing firearms during a high-risk vehicle stop of a stolen vehicle. No additional force was used. There were no injuries. Use of force was justified.
- Officers used force to overcome resistance of a trespasser by controlling the person's movement so Officers could handcuff the suspect. No injuries. Use of force was justified.

Operations/Notable Events

- Virtra simulation training was conducted for all sworn officers the week of Dec 5th.
- Officers assisted Macon County Sheriff's Office with the arrest of a wanted fugitive for four counts of sexual exploitation of a minor.
- Officers investigated a deceased female in a vehicle at a local business. She had been reported missing from Polk County and foul play is not suspected.
- Officers responded to a report of an injured person near Hendersonville Middle School. A male was found by a passing motorist laying on the sidewalk in the extremely cold temperatures suffering from obvious injuries. This investigation is ongoing, and all leads are actively being followed.

Budget Summary

- We are approximately 50% through the fiscal year.
- \$912,252, or 59.8% 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

- The annual "Shop with a Hero" event was held at Walmart involving local emergency responders from HPD, HFD, HCSO, Henderson County EMS, Asheville PD, Fletcher PD, and others. These "heroes" help kids from Henderson County schools shop for Christmas presents. Amazingly, most of the kids use their allotment to buy presents for their siblings and parents before themselves. It is a moving experience for the first responders. We helped provide a good Christmas to 78 kids this year.
- Department staff participated in bell ringing at Walmart to help raise money for the Salvation Army.

Awards and Recognitions

- None

Grants Management

- None pending

Recruiting/Retention

- 2 of 47 Police Officer vacancies exist.
- 1 of 6 telecommunicator vacancies remain (conditional offer made with expected hire date of 1/21/2023).