

Hendersonville Police Department

Public Monthly Report

March 2024



Chief's Monthly Summary

Exciting news this month! I am happy to report that we are the first agency in North Carolina to complete the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Trust-Building Campaign. IACP is the largest and most influential law enforcement association in the world. We regularly look to IACP to promote new and emerging trends in policing. This campaign requires agencies to implement twenty-five strategies designed to build and strengthen trust between officers and their community.

We met many of the strategies even before we started this process, but doing so gave us a great opportunity to examine our practices and revise policies where needed. Enrolling in and completing the requirements is yet another way we communicate publicly that we are committed to following industry best practices in everything we do. We want you to be comforted in knowing that we are serving with excellence every day. You can find a copy of our report here: [HPD IACP Trust Building Campaign \(hendersonvillenc.gov\)](https://hendersonvillenc.gov/HPD-IACP-Trust-Building-Campaign)

Considering some recent tragic events occurring across the nation, we are revamping our active shooter training program. We have enlisted the help of Chief (ret.) Tony Pustizzi to help us get started. Tony was the Chief of Police in Coral Springs, Florida, during the Marjory Stoneman-Douglas school shooting in 2018. Coral Springs PD Officers were the first to enter the building looking for the shooter. They learned a lot from the event and Tony is eager to share their experience with others. He is teaching the entire department in two training sessions. The training is moving and clearly drives home the point that police need to be prepared and willing to stop the threat. His training is the first step in our renewed focus of active shooter training.

We are also in the process of equipping all officers with long guns and additional ballistic protection equipment. Together with a robust training program, we hope to be highly capable to address any active event in the city. Ideally, we hope nothing like this ever happens in the city, but the world is becoming increasingly more unpredictable. Killers are adapting their tactics constantly. We must be ready to respond.

In the end, we strive to be and stay at the forefront of professional and modern policing. We plan to be leaders in 21st century policing practices. We do that by promoting a culture of continuous improvement throughout our organization and by constantly assessing our previous actions. You should think of us when you think about who the best police departments in North Carolina are. That is our goal, and we will achieve this standard.

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										25

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										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										11

Employee Actions

- Officer Haley Thompson applied for a fellowship program through New Blue to participate in a working group focused on the future of policing in America. New Blue is a fellowship for forward thinking officers and their ideas funded by Columbia Business School and MIT. If selected, Ofc. Thompson will participate in a cohort over several months to identify and promote new ideas in policing.
- An Officer fractured his ankle trying to arrest a male suspect for domestic violence. He will be on light duty for approximately six weeks while his ankle heals. The suspect was charged with several offenses to include assault on a law enforcement officer.
- Officer Shelby Green moved to reserve status to spend more time with her newborn son. We wish her many happy memories with her new family.
- Detective Pete Laite moved to reserve status to pursue a job in the private sector. We wish Pete the best of luck.
- Sergeant Garrett Gardin moved to reserve status to pursue a teaching job with Blue Ridge Community College.
- Officers Dickman, Garcia, and Bradley are progressing well through field training and are expected to be released to solo-duty in the coming weeks.

Safety Tip – Slow Down/Move Over

North Carolina's Move Over law (N.C.G.S. §20-157(f)) protects law enforcement officers and emergency and utility workers stopped alongside our roadways.

The law took effect requiring motorists, if they can safely do so, to move one lane away from any emergency vehicle on the side of the highway. The law requires motorists to slow down and approach cautiously when an emergency vehicle is stopped on the shoulder of the roadway with its lights flashing. A violation of the move over law will result in a mandatory fine of \$250.00 plus court costs.

Sadly, every year about 23 roadside workers and first responders are killed at the roadside and hundreds more are injured. Despite being passed in all 50 states, 71 percent of Americans seem unaware of the laws that require drivers to reduce their speed and switch lanes to protect these workers.

To protect roadside workers and improve highway safety, drivers should always:

- Remain alert to the road ahead.
- Avoid distractions inside the vehicle.
- Focus on the task of driving.

Drivers should always watch for emergency vehicles, tow trucks, utility service vehicles or disabled vehicles on the side of the road. When approaching an emergency vehicle with lights flashing on the side of a two-lane roadway, drivers should slow down to a speed that is safe and approach with caution unless otherwise directed by an emergency worker on the scene. On multi-lane roadways, slow down when you see the flashing lights of an emergency vehicle at the roadside and, if possible, move over into an adjacent lane. If you are unable to switch lanes, slow to a speed that is safe and reasonable.

Complaints and Findings

- From February 2024 - A citizen complained, alleging that an officer was rude while conducting a traffic stop. The complainant also alleged they felt threatened by the presence of a secondary officer. The investigation sustained the rudeness complaint but found that the allegation of threats was unfounded.

Vehicle Pursuits and Findings

- None

Use of Reasonable Force (UORF) Incidents and Findings

- Officers used force by pointing a department issued firearm at a person who was breaking into a business. The firearm was not discharged, and no further force was used. The person was arrested and charged with breaking and entering. There were no injuries from this use of force. This use of force is under standard review.
- Officers used soft hand techniques to take a combative person into custody. The person was trespassing and causing a disturbance inside an open business. One officer sustained minor injuries. This use of force is under standard review.
- Officers used soft and hard hand techniques to take a combative person into custody. The incident began as a verbal dispute between people that escalated to a physical confrontation. As officers arrived, they observed the suspect attempting to assault another person, officers then intervened and took the suspect into custody. As a result of this incident one officer suffered a fractured ankle and another officer sustained a bite to his leg. This use of force is under standard review.

Operations/Notable Events

- Officers and detectives investigated a shooting incident that occurred inside of a residence. The victim received non-life-threatening injuries. The investigation concluded that the shooting incident was accidental. However, the subject who possessed the gun was a felon, and charges were filed accordingly.
- Officers and detectives responded to a report of a sexual assault inside of a residence. This was an isolated incident and is still being investigated.
- Officers and detectives responded to 315 N. Oak St for a suspected arson. There was no notable damage to the unoccupied structure. This is the second report of suspected arson at this location. Both incidents are believed to be related. The investigation is still ongoing.
- Henderson County Narcotics Task Force and the Henderson County SWAT team served a search warrant for narcotics at 414 Harris Street. Narcotics were seized and three arrests were made.

Budget Summary

- We are approximately 75% through the fiscal year.
- We have spent or reserved \$3,796,630 or 53.68% of our budget.
- Link to the budget dashboard: [City of Hendersonville Budget](#)

Community Outreach/Special Events

- Officer Brandon Haman and Accreditation Manager Monica Howard attended "Light the Night" teen suicide prevention at Blue Ridge Community College.
- Officer Brandon Haman attended Sugarloaf Elementary School career day.

Grants Management

- Embedded Mental Health Grant
 - The grant was extended through March 30, 2025, adding approximately \$14,000 in non-matching funding.
- 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.
 - (2) applications received
 - (3) in background
 - (1) rejected