

Hendersonville Police Department

Public Monthly Report

February 2022



Chief's Monthly Summary

Well, it is official! I completed my first year as the Hendersonville Police Chief. With that accomplishment, my wife and I promptly took our first vacation since coming here. We both appreciated the time for a few days amidst the sun and warmer temperatures south Florida offers this time of year.

So, if January was busy, February would not be overshadowed. We continue to respond to a high number of calls for service. We continue to investigate a high number of motor vehicle crashes; thankfully, none of them with serious injuries. And we continue to do all of that to the best of our ability.

The department is fully immersed in the budget process for the upcoming fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022. We have several asks over and above what was requested in years past. Some of these requests are necessary to replace aging technology; specifically, in-car and body-worn cameras and vehicles. Some requests are simply to help us communicate better with you while improving our effectiveness. The budget process will continue over the next few months before the City Manager presents a balanced budget to City Council for their approval. More to come...

Changing gears to training, we continue our annual in-service training to include annual firearms qualifications. Due to some public concerns over noise at an outdoor range in Mills River, we have moved qualifications to the indoor range at the North Carolina Justice Academy in Edneyville. While outdoor ranges are better for staff in a lot of ways, we understand the noise can be bothersome for nearby neighbors. We are committed to finding a solution so we can complete this important training with minimal impact on the surrounding public.

I want to commend the men and women of this department for sustaining high levels of professionalism and dedication during challenging times. They work to provide you with outstanding service no matter the situation. I often hear from many more people commending our staff than I do about those complaining. I say it again, the people who work here are exceptional and worthy of our appreciation.

Let me conclude by saying how humbled and grateful I am to be asked to lead this department. I only hope that I have demonstrated to you a strong sense of integrity and honor. Please know we will always be open and honest about the things we do, and we will constantly strive to exemplify "Mountain Excellence."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Blair Myhand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small mark above the 'i' in "Myhand".

Blair Myhand,
Chief of Police

Calls for Service

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5,247	3,281										

Traffic Safety Unit Activities

Total Traffic Stops:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
233	299										

Total Citations Issued:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
151	201										

DWI Arrests:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	8										

Motor Vehicle Crashes:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
115	101										

Top five crash locations:

#1	King & E Allen St (4)
#2	US 64 & Thompson St (4)
#3	US 64 & Highlands Square (3)
#4	Kanuga & White St (3)
#5	US 64 & Duncan Hill/Dana Rd (3)

Patrol Services Bureau Activities

Criminal Arrests:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
90	93*										

(*felony - 29, misdemeanor - 64)

Incident Reports:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
169	134										

Drug Offenses:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
38	34										

Larcenies:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
42	49*										

(*15 from unlocked motor vehicles)

Assaults:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
15	10										

Complaints and Findings

- Citizen complaint received about two Officers driving carelessly in marked vehicles. In-car video showed the officers' actions were appropriate given the circumstances and no unsafe driving was observed. Complaint against Officer #1 was exonerated. Complaint against Officer #2 was unfounded.

Vehicle Pursuits and Findings

- Vehicle pursuit: Officers were investigating a report of a suspicious person when the person sped away from the Officers. Officers pursued the vehicle for less than 1/10th of a mile when the suspect suddenly pulled over. The male driver was taken into custody without incident. Officer's actions deemed appropriate and compliant with policy.

Use of Reasonable Force (UORF) Incidents and Findings

- UORF incident carried over from January – Incident was reviewed by Command Staff and deemed reasonable and necessary. No remedial action necessary.
- UORF 2/8/22 – Officers deployed Taser to prevent a hospital patient from harming himself with scissors. Incident reviewed and deemed reasonable and necessary. No remedial action necessary.

Operations/Notable Events

- *Warrant service* – Officers served arrest warrant for habitual felon and saw evidence of drugs inside the house. Officers secured the house and later executed a search warrant. Drugs and three illegal firearms were recovered. Two arrests were made.
- *Attempted Suicide* – Adult male escaped from Pardee emergency room by stealing nurse's scissors. He caused injuries to himself when he tried to cut his own throat with the stolen scissors. Officers subdued him and returned him for medical/psychological treatment.

Budget Summary

- We are approximately 65% through the fiscal year.
- Our amended operating budget for FY 21/22 is \$874,493.00. This does not include salary or capital items such as vehicles.
- \$704,962.00, or 80.6% of the FY 21/22 operating budget has been encumbered to date.
- First FY 22/23 budget discussion is March 7, 2022.

Community Outreach/Special Events

- The School Resource Officers started the STAR program at Hendersonville Elementary, Bruce Drysdale Elementary, and Immaculata Catholic School. This program is a county wide drug/alcohol resistance education program for youth.

Awards and Recognitions

- Sgt. Garrett Gardin was awarded his Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate. This is the highest certification a police officer can achieve in North Carolina.

Grants Management

- We are working through the procurement process to purchase the virtual training simulator awarded by the Governor's Crime Commission. The vendor is a sole-source vendor requiring City Council approval before purchase.
- Applied for a non-matching \$40,000 grant to fund accreditation. Grant period is two years beginning in October 2022. *(Pending review and approval)*
- Applied for a non-matching \$50,000 grant to fund mental health treatment for our personnel. In late 2021, the City Council agreed to fund an embedded mental health professional for Police and Fire staff. Grant period is two years beginning in October 2022. *(Pending review and approval)*

- Applied for a non-matching accreditation grant equaling \$11,000 to cover the initial enrollment fees for CALEA (Commission for Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies). This is a one-time grant. *(Pending review and approval)*
- Applied for a matching NC Governor's Highway Safety Program grant to staff two new police officers, vehicles, and equipment. This is a three-year grant with an increasing local match from 15% to 50%. *(Pending review and approval)*

Recruiting/Retention

- 3 of 46 Police Officer vacancies remain.
- 2 of 6 telecommunicator vacancies remain.
- 1 of 7 crossing guard vacancies remain. 1 part-time crossing guard was hired.
- 2 Telecommunicator applications received.
- 5 Police Officer applications received.
- 3 pre-employment background investigations are being conducted: two for officer, one for telecommunicator.