

Hendersonville Police Department

Public Monthly Report

May 2023



Chief's Monthly Summary

Let me start off by apologizing for getting this report to you late this month. I am generally not a person that offers excuses, but my wife and I have had some traumatic events in our lives recently that have consumed most of my personal time.

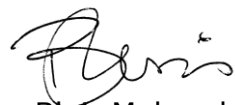
First, we lost our dog this past weekend after he developed significant neurological issues that we just couldn't fix. He was only 1.5 years old, and his sickness was sudden. Seeing him so sick was heart breaking. We had to make that difficult decision when we wanted nothing more than to take him home. This one hurt especially bad. We lost our old man exactly six months ago. Maybe that is why this one is so painful. In the end, we made the right decision for him and for us and we will heal in time. Thank you to everyone who gave me the space I needed over the last couple of weeks. I truly appreciate it.

Second, a dear friend of ours found his adult son dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound last week. His son was a combat Marine who sustained a significant traumatic brain injury in Iraq. He then developed a brain tumor that had to be surgically removed a couple of years ago. Still, he struggled controlling his injuries. They caused him to periodically act out in a way that was inconsistent with his normal behavior. I know his father, a former law enforcement officer, his greatest fear was that this might be an eventuality.

As a veteran, it bothers me greatly that another veteran lost his life in service to this country. This outcome would have never happened if not for the injuries he sustained in combat. I tried for years to help him and to help other veterans in crisis. I believe that we should devote the full force and might this country can muster in caring for our veterans.

My message this month is raw and personal, and I apologize because of it. Thank you for listening to my rant, but more importantly for your understanding that cops are people too. We have the same problems in our lives that other people do. We lose the people we care about. We lose beloved family pets. We grieve and we struggle just like you. I want us all to remember that we all experience challenges no matter who we are or where we come from. Treat each other with respect. Show understanding about someone else's difficulties. We all need to process things in the way that we process them and then get back to work.

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."



Blair Myhand,
Chief of Police

Calls for Service

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
3,220	3,308	3,273	2,863	2,753								3,083
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
5,247	3,281	4,479	4,340	4,373	4,399	3,162	4,112	3,076	3,215	3,023	3,905	3,884

Traffic Safety

Total Traffic Stops:

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
546	419	459	262	274								392
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
233	299	388	362	311	203	271	297	270	397	368	424	318

Total Citations Issued:

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
382	277	293	204	200								271
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
151	201	243	265	207	144	146	182	185	263	281	290	213

DWI Arrests:

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
12	2	7	6	8								7
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
2	8	9	6	9	4	9	7	12	4	7	7	7

Motor Vehicle Crashes:

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
117	105	114	104	133								115
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
115	101	90	111	99	113	146	105	138	114	136	114	115

Top five crash locations:

#1	Four Seasons Blvd/Thompson St
#2	Martin Luther King Jr Blvd/ Harris Street
#3	6 th Ave E/King St
#4	Spartanburg Hwy/S Grove St
#5	7 th Ave E/King St

Crimes, Reports, and Arrests

Criminal Arrests:

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
72	87	93	63	71								77
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
90	93	140	94	118	114	89	141	118	102	78	79	105

Incident Reports:

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
136	105	185	146	138								142
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
169	134	277	222	259	292	239	205	198	151	114	111	198

Drug Offenses:

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
30	22	19	26	48								29
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
38	34	37	36	51	60	27	45	34	21	23	29	36

Larcenies:

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
45	29	8	19	37								28
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
42	49	47	28	35	48	46	52	32	58	32	41	43

Assaults:

20												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
9	17	7	15	11								12
2022												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
15	10	17	15	10	11	17	10	13	14	14	11	13

Employee Actions

- Five Lieutenants participated in a Captain promotions process on 5/22. This was a multi-faceted process where the candidates had to demonstrate their suitability for promotion to the rank of Captain. As mentioned in the April monthly report, we expect one of the three current Captains to retire August 1, 2023. This process will be used to select the most qualified Lieutenant to be promoted to Captain. Final interviews with the top three candidates will be completed by June 16, 2023, with a decision announced on Monday, June 19, 2023.
- NCACP President Myhand participated in a UNC Judicial College Webinar on the media and public access to body-worn camera footage. The Chief added commentary and perspective from a working Police Chief to help other police leaders understand and navigate the changing landscape of access to police footage during critical incidents.
- Chief Myhand participated in a cultural health assessment tool workgroup on May 25 & 26, 2023. Seventeen Police Chiefs worked to build an assessment tool that is designed to evaluate the cultural health of police agencies. As part of this pilot program, Hendersonville Police will be given no cost access to the assessment tool, saving the city thousands of dollars in the future. Why is this important? A cultural health assessment is an element of the IACP Trust Building Campaign that the department pledged to complete. It is the best way for a department to identify areas of cultural improvement before issues surface.
- NCAP President Myhand met with legislators in Raleigh to advocate the passage of bills that will affect Hendersonville PD sworn staff and officers around NC. Of particular importance is a state bill that would give HPD the authority to employ civilians to investigate minor traffic crashes. This is a huge time saving for

officers who can spend freed up time focusing on responding/reducing crime. If approved, HPD plans to hire recent high school grads and use this program as an apprenticeship. Apprentices would be required to complete an associate degree before attending BLET. Another important bill would allow officers to defer their special separation allowance and continue working for the department for five additional years. This bill would give us the ability to close the retention gap by keeping experienced people on the job a little longer.

- NCACP President Myhand attended a press conference with Attorney General Stein at the Western State Crime Lab in Edneyville. This is one of several press conferences the AG is conducting around the state to encourage legislators to pass law enforcement friendly bills directed at improving recruitment and retention rates. For the last four years, NC has processed more separations of law enforcement officers than it has new certifications. This is an obviously not sustainable trend.

Community Tip - Enhancing Community Safety by Providing Detailed Information

When providing information about suspicious activity or crimes, please provide as much specific and detailed information as possible. When more accurate information is provided to our telecommunicators, our officers will be better equipped to respond to the situation.

- Include accurate descriptions of individuals involved, such as appearance, clothing, or any unique characteristics.
- Note the time, date, and location of the incident, along with any vehicles involved with their license plate numbers if applicable.
- Remember to stay safe and provide your contact information for follow-up if needed.
- For emergencies, always call 911. For non-emergency situations, please call our dedicated non-emergency line at 828-697-3025.

Complaints and Findings

- None

Vehicle Pursuits and Findings

- None

Use of Reasonable Force (UORF) Incidents and Findings

- Officers used force on a person that refused to leave the residence of another person. The officers used soft hand control techniques to take the person into custody after attempts to verbally gain the cooperation of the person failed. There were no injuries to the person or officers involved. The investigation determined the use of force was justified.
- Officers used force on a juvenile to affect custody for a lawful court order. The juvenile has a history of assaults and physically resisted officers' attempts to

take the juvenile into custody. The officers used soft hands techniques to grab and control the juvenile until compliance was gained and the juvenile was secured. There were no injuries to the person or officers involved. The investigation determined the use of force was justified.

- Officers used force on a person following a domestic dispute. The person involved failed to respond to officer commands and was attempting to reach the victim in the incident. Officers used soft hand techniques to grab, control, and secure the person. The person sustained minor scrapes to their knees that did not require medical attention. The officers were not injured. The investigation determined this use of force was justified.

Operations/Notable Events

- Detective Laite obtained more than a dozen warrants against an out of state suspect for stealing personal property out of lockers at a local fitness center. He remains at large.
- Detective Childress investigated an armed robbery at First Citizen's Bank on Four Seasons Blvd. The suspect had been on a recent crime spree robbing banks in the Charlotte region. He was easily identified, and warrants were quickly obtained against the suspect. He was caught the next day in Buncombe County.
- Detective LaRowe filed twelve separate charges for embezzlement involving a prior employee for a local business in town. Charges are still outstanding.
- Detective Laite assisted the Henderson County District Attorney's office in the successful prosecution of a sex trafficking case. After a multi-year investigation, the defendant was found guilty by a jury and was given a sentence of over 240-years.

Budget Summary

- We are approximately 92% through the fiscal year.
- We have spent or reserved \$798,063 or 80% of our budget.

Community Outreach/Special Events

- Coffee with a Cop was held at Black Bear Coffee Co. on 5/4. This is a regular event where community members get to spend time talking to PD staff about anything. While this event is not intended for difficult conversations, nothing is off the table. Come out and join us next time. Date TBD.
- Torch Run – several members of the department participated in the Special Olympics Torch Run to help raise awareness and money for Special Olympics NC. This 3-mile run is an annual event. All public safety, and citizens for that matter, are encouraged to participate.
- 911 Director, Amber Kleppe, led a group of students from the AP Human Geography class from Hendersonville High School on a tour and instruction on the communications

side of policing. She walked the students through the process when someone calls 911 showing how the information is recorded and then dispatched to officers.

- PD staff participated in the Police Officer Memorial celebration on the steps of the historic courthouse on 5/18. This ceremony memorialized the officers lost throughout NC in 2022. One Hendersonville Police Officer and two Henderson County Deputies have lost their lives in the line of duty; they were also remembered as part of this ceremony.
- Detective Childress conducted two safety assessments this month: one at Lake Point Landing retirement community, and one at the State Employees Credit Union on Asheville Hwy. These are done to give trained officers the ability to address any safety issues or concerns that arise during the appraisal.
- Detective Laite conducted a safety assessment at Jehovah's Witnesses Kingdom Hall.

Grants Management

- Additionally, the department has submitted a reimbursement request for \$11,450 out of the total \$18,931 for Year 1 of the costs associated with the CALEA and NCLEA accreditation process. We are awaiting approval of this request.
- Pending approval for (3) Grants:
 - Virtra Upgrade Grant for \$24,500
 - Message Board/Traffic Survey Trailer for \$20,000
 - Continuation of GHSP Traffic Safety Grant \$25,000

Recruiting/Retention

- 3 of 47 Police Officer vacancies exist.
 - Applications - Total
 - (5) Initial Stage of Process
 - (0) Second Stage (Active in Process)
 - (3) in Background