

Hendersonville Police Department

Public Monthly Report

October 2023



Chief's Monthly Summary

Let me start off by apologizing for not sending out September's monthly report. Things got away from us in the beginning of the month and by the time things settled down, the month was almost over. Onward!

October brought us several rare events for our city. First, as I am sure you all know, we had a very public homicide on Four Seasons Blvd. As I have said many times before, no city is immune from random acts of violence. Since this is an ongoing criminal case, I cannot speak to the details of the incident. I can only say that there is no justification for the senseless killing of another person. Regardless of how terrible this incident was, Hendersonville continues to be one of the safest cities in North Carolina. I feel completely safe living in this city; you should too.

We continue to face the challenges of a growing fentanyl epidemic. Fentanyl is emerging as yet another crisis our society will face. As of a few days ago, first responders have been called to 300 overdoses in Henderson County this year. That equates to an average of one overdose per day. Sadly, many of those overdoses resulted in someone dying. Substance abuse is no longer just about addiction; it's about dying. We are seeing many new users accidentally overdosing. Let's face it, drug dealers are not chemists. What do they know about mixing chemicals?

The influx of fentanyl from the southern border is plaguing communities across this nation. Hendersonville is no exception. We participate in discussions with state leaders on how law enforcement can stem the tide and put fentanyl dealers in prison. Our Officers deal with fentanyl daily. They all carry Narcan, if not for someone else, but potentially to protect each other if an Officer is accidentally exposed to fentanyl during their shift.

On a lighter note, we had another successful Halloween on Main Street and 4th Ave. The Treat Street event is becoming more and more popular. We are seeing record numbers of people enjoying the safe environment. My appreciation goes to the Henderson County Sheriff's Office and its VIPs for assisting us in managing these events. They are a force multiplier, and we thank them for their help. I am extremely happy with the management of the event. Staff expertly plan these types of events to ensure that you can enjoy them without worry.

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	2,421	2,537	2,899	2,747	2,607			2,863
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	224	309	289	281	217			328
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	175	189	239	191	176			233
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	4	1	7	12	9			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	131	107	123	128	137			120
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	Chimney Rock Rd & Howard Gap Rd
#2	Chimney Rock Rd & I-26
#3	Chimney Rock Rd & Old Chimney Rock Rd/Highlands Square Dr
#4	Chimney Rock Rd & Francis Rd/Sugarloaf Rd
#5	S King St & E Allen 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	58	54	56	60	67			68
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	116	108	131	97	116			128
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	20	26	32	28	45			30
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	25	35	44	20	31			29
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:

2023												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
9	17	7	15	11	9	7	11	14	17			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

- Officers Kyle Gyurina and Thomas Reynolds were selected for promotion to Sergeant effective October 14, 2023. Both new Sergeants are assigned to patrol teams.
- Sergeant Matt Capps was selected for promotion to Lieutenant effective October 14, 2023. Lt. Capps will be assigned to lead Patrol Team 4.

Community Tip – Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety

Nice fall weather means more walking and biking. At some point in almost everyone’s day, you are a pedestrian. The data says that pedestrian injuries and fatalities remain high. In 2021, 7,388 pedestrians were killed and more than 60,000 injured nationally. This represents a 13% increase from the prior year. Unfortunately, pedestrians are at an increased risk of being involved in a crash with a motor vehicle as the City of Hendersonville tops the list of most pedestrian crashes in North Carolina. Here are some safety tips for drivers and pedestrians:

Pedestrian Safety

1. Look out for pedestrians everywhere, always.
2. Use extra caution when driving in hard-to-see conditions, such as nighttime or bad weather.
3. Use extra caution when driving in areas where one would expect to see pedestrians, i.e., downtown.
4. Drive slowly and be prepared to stop when turning or otherwise entering a crosswalk.

5. Always yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and stop well back from the crosswalk to give other vehicles an opportunity to see the crossing pedestrians.
6. Never pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk. There may be people crossing where you can't see.
7. Follow the speed limit, especially around people on the street, in school zones, and in neighborhoods, where children might be present.
8. Be extra cautious when backing up and always look for pedestrians.

Bicycle Safety

Bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as motor vehicle drivers.

1. Yield to bicyclists as you would any other motorist.
2. Do not underestimate their speed to help avoid turning in front of a bicyclist traveling on the road or sidewalk, often at an intersection or driveway.
3. In parking lots, at stop signs, when packing up, or when parking, search your surroundings for other vehicles, including bicycles.
4. Drivers turning right on red should look to the right and behind to avoid hitting a bicyclist approaching from the right rear. Stop completely and look left-right-left and behind before turning right on red.
5. Obey the speed limit, reduce speed for road conditions and drive defensively to avoid a crash with a cyclist.
6. Give cyclists room and pass only with ample room.
7. Pass bicyclists as you would any other vehicle—when it's safe to move over into an adjacent lane.

Complaints and Findings

- External complaint alleging biased policing. The subsequent internal investigation revealed that the complaint was unfounded, and no bias was found.

Vehicle Pursuits and Findings

- None

Use of Reasonable Force (UORF) Incidents and Findings

- Officers used soft hand techniques to subdue an arrestee that was combative. There were no injuries to officers or suspect. The suspect was arrested for a drug violation. Investigation into this use of force is pending.

- Officers attempted to arrest a person for disorderly conduct. The subject resisted arrest, soft hand techniques and taser used to subdue suspect, suspect was arrested. There were no injuries to officer or suspect. Investigation into this use of force is pending.
- Officers attempted to arrest an intoxicated subject. Subject resisted and attempted to punch an officer in the face. Soft hand techniques used to control and arrest suspect. The suspect and 1 officer received minor skin abrasions. Investigation into this use of force is pending.

Operations/Notable Events

- Homicide - HPD investigated a homicide at McDonald's on Four Seasons Blvd. The suspect was an employee and was arrested shortly after the incident. The case is now pending in court.
- The department is converting two patrol vehicles to propane as part of an alternative fuel test. These vehicles will run on gasoline and propane. This trial is part of the city's efforts to reduce municipal funding and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Officers investigated damage to two NCDOT vehicles. Investigation revealed that a person was upset by NCDOT paving on Greenville Hwy and used a BB gun to fire at NCDOT vehicles, breaking windows on those vehicles. The suspect was criminally charged, and the case is pending in court.
- The Traffic Safety Unit investigated a motor vehicle collision on Spartanburg Hwy. The investigation determined that a pickup truck pulled into the path of a motorcycle. The motorcyclist received critical injuries and was transported to Mission Hospital. The operator of the truck was charged with a motor vehicle violation.
- The Traffic Safety unit investigated a motor vehicle collision that occurred on Asheville Hwy. Both vehicles ended up on their sides. There were minor injuries reported.
- A motor vehicle was left running and unlocked at a local convenience store while the driver went inside. The vehicle was located the next day in Virginia, and the suspect was arrested by local authorities and extradition is pending. HPD reminds people to always lock their cars, especially if left running in public.

Budget Summary

- We are approximately 33% through the fiscal year.
- We have spent or reserved \$2,054,996 or 30.9% of our budget.

Community Outreach/Special Events

- Hendersonville Police Department hosted its 3rd Annual National Night Out at Blue Ridge Mall. This event provided fun, food, and a great time for all who participated and attended. The estimated attendance for this event was between 800-1000 people.

- Hendersonville Police Department participated in the annual CubCat Crawl 5k race hosted by the Hendersonville Elementary School to help raise funds for their school.
- Treat Street Carnival was held on Main Street. This event provided a fun and safe atmosphere for families to enjoy Halloween from 6th Ave to Allen Street. There were fun activities and lots of candy. Chief Myhand participated as a judge in the costume contest and had a great time seeing all the creative and unique costumes.
- 4th Ave Halloween event was provided a road closure for 4th Ave from Washington Street to Blythe Street. This event allowed for families to enjoy a traditional door-to-door Halloween experience with limited traffic concerns.



Grants Management

- Aligning with the Federal Government's Fiscal Year, our grant funding operates from October 1st to September 30th annually.
- We've successfully navigated the inaugural year of our Embedded Mental Health Grant. The grant's second segment, marking year two, commenced on October 1st and is set to extend until September 2024.
- A reimbursement claim totaling \$11,450 has been lodged by our department, representing part of the \$18,931 Year 1 expenses incurred in the CALEA and NCLEA accreditation endeavors. The second and final year of this grant period began on October 1st, with a conclusion date set for September 2024.
- In a positive development, our department has secured a renewal of the GHSP Traffic Safety Grant, amounting to \$20,000, which took effect October 1st.

Recruiting/Retention

- 2 of 47 Police Officer vacancies exist.
 - Applications - Total
 - (5) applications received
 - (2) in background
 - (0) rejected