

**Hendersonville Police Department**

**Public Monthly Report**

**April 2022**



## Chief's Monthly Summary

Greetings once again. Seems like our workload never lessens these days. Unfortunately, we saw a significant increase in violent crime this month. None of these incidents were related and none created a larger safety concern for the public at large. All the victims and suspects knew each other, and the assaults were a result of arguments between the people involved. One would think that with improving weather and temperatures, people might get along better, but I guess not.

Homelessness became a major topic of much discussion this month. We reported information about encampments and individuals' involvement with police. This is information that we began tracking in mid-March after we realized we had no accurate information on what homelessness meant for our residents. We are committed to the respectful and ethical policing of all populations in the city, regardless of circumstance. As such, we will continue to monitor the impact homelessness is having on the City of Hendersonville. Our responsibility is to provide the most current and accurate information to you and our elected officials. Only with accurate information can we make informed policy decisions.

Our efforts to recruit police officers seem to be working. At the end of April, we are nearly 100% staffed. I hope to be able to report in next month's report that we have all sworn vacancies filled. We are also closer to hiring a civilian animal services officer that we expect to be funded in the upcoming fiscal budget. This position will allow us to reallocate two sworn police officer positions to other operational roles within the department. Once we hire and train a new Animal Services Officer, we will begin staffing our Traffic Safety Unit to focus on reducing crashes within the city limits. That unit should be functional no later than October 1, 2022.

On a more regrettable note, we were not awarded some of the grants we were hoping to receive. There are a few still grant applications we are waiting to hear back on, so keep your fingers crossed that we are successful with those. Information about the grants we have applied for is documented later in this document.

We appreciate all your support, and we welcome every opportunity to do better. And, as always, know that we will be open and honest with you, and we will always strive for "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								

**Traffic Safety Unit Activities**

*Total Traffic Stops:*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
233	299	388	362								

*Total Citations Issued:*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
151	201	243	265								

*DWI Arrests:*

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

*Motor Vehicle Crashes:*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
115	101	90	111								

*Top five crash locations:*

#1	Chimney Rock Rd at Highlands Square Drive (3)
#2	7 <sup>th</sup> Avenue West at Church St (2)
#3	Asheville Highway at Haywood Road (2)
#4	Chimney Rock Road at Carolina Village Road (2)
#5	Chimney Rock Road at Sugarloaf Road (2)

**Crimes, Reports, and Arrest Activities**

*Criminal Arrests:*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
90	93	140	94								

(\*felony -30 , misdemeanor -64 )

*Incident Reports:*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
169	134	277	222								

*Drug Offenses:*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
38	34	37	36								

*Larcenies:*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
42	49	47	28								

(\*5 from motor vehicles)

*Assaults:*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
15	10	17	15								

**Employee Actions**

- Minor employee injury: male suspect slammed front door on Officer's foot causing minor injury to her foot. Officer has returned to work. No charges were filed.
- Minor employee injury: an Officer was bit on the upper right arm by a IVC (involuntary commitment) patient at Pardee Hospital. Suspect was charged with Felony Assault on a Police Officer Causing Injury. Officer has returned to work.
- Minor property damage to a police vehicle while backing into a parking space on 4/26/2022.
- Officer Lance Easton was selected to fill a vacant Detective position within the Criminal Investigations Bureau.
- PD is working on hiring a retired police detective as a part time civilian investigator. This person will assist Detectives and help lighten their heavy caseloads. This is an innovative concept designed to help create efficiencies in follow-up investigations.

**Complaints and Findings**

- None

**Vehicle Pursuits and Findings**

- None

### **Use of Reasonable Force (UORF) Incidents and Findings**

- UORF – 4/3/22: Officers conducted a night-time traffic stop on I-26 due to erratic driving behavior and the passenger reportedly having a firearm. One gun was recovered from the passenger. The Officers pointing their issued handguns at the occupants constitutes a use of force. However, the force applied was reasonable and necessary given the circumstances. No injuries.
- UORF – 4/17/2022: Officers used soft hand control in taking an impaired homeless male suspect into custody after he was found walking in roadway and allegedly fighting with a bush prior to officer arrival. The force applied was reasonable and necessary to maintain control of the situation and prevent injury to the individual. No injuries.

### **Operations/Notable Events**

- 4/2/22 - Stabbing/Domestic Violence. Male victim was stabbed in the abdomen following an argument with his girlfriend. Injuries were minor. Girlfriend arrested and the knife used in the assault was recovered.
- 4/3/22 - Shooting on Woodcock Dr. An earlier fight/argument led to the incident. No one was injured, however, 3 people arrested and 3 guns were recovered. One of the three guns had been reported stolen out of Tennessee in 2009.
- 4/15/22 - Fire at Pardee. Construction workers on the roof of the hospital accidentally started a small fire due to welding operations. Several patients were evacuated during the response. No injuries were reported.
- 4/15/22 - Shooting on Edgewood Dr. Male victim dropped off at Pardee ER with GSW (gunshot wound) to the chest. Injuries were not serious. One person arrested and one gun recovered.

### **Budget Summary**

- We are approximately 84% through the fiscal year.
- \$794,844.00, or 89.1% of the FY 21/22 operating budget has been encumbered to date.
- FY 22 fuel budget is in the red due to unforeseen gas prices increase. Fuel prices are affecting all city departments.
- FY 22/23 budget items are pending council approval.

### **Community Outreach/Special Events**

- 4/5/22: Chief spoke at the annual Henderson County Humanitarian Awards luncheon at First Baptist Church hosted by Safelight Inc.
- 4/12/22: The department hosted five criminal prosecutors from Mongolia. The effort was intended to show how law enforcement supports prosecution efforts in the United States.



*Mongolian prosecutor visit*

- 4/13/22: The department along with Henderson County Council on Aging hosted a pill collection event. 16 pounds of unused and expired medication were collected for proper disposal.
- 4/14/22: The department hosted a "Coffee with Cops" event at Black Bear Coffee on Main Street. Like our first event at this location, the second event was very well-attended. Lots of questions and general conversation.
- 4/25/22: Chief and 911 Center Supervisor, Amber Glisson, joined Deputies from the Henderson County Sheriff's Office for the 4.5-mile 2022 Torch Run to raise money for Special Olympics. *(FYI: the Chief was sore for about 2 days afterwards, Amber was not...)*
- 4/26/22: Chief attended the Hendersonville Rotary Club meeting at Grace Lutheran Church to hear about the Red Sands Project human trafficking initiative in Western NC. An awareness event is being planned for late July 2022.
- 4/28/22: Officers attended the Business Owner's Women's Safety Meeting at Art MoB.
- 4/30/22: Officers attended the Hendersonville YMCA "Healthy Kids 2022" in Patton Park.



*Capt. Olsen meeting community members at Coffee with Cops*

### **Awards and Recognitions**

- Sergeant Garrett Gardin was awarded the Shield Award from the local Knights of Columbus for his sustained commitment to civic duty to the community.



*Sgt. Gardin's SHIELD award presentation*

### **Grants Management**

- City Council approved the sole-source vendor for the purchase of the virtual training simulator. Procurement is in progress.
- \$40,000 accreditations grant is pending review and approval. (Oct 2022)
- \$50,000 mental health is pending review and approval. (Oct 2022)
- \$11,000 accreditation fee grant was not approved by CALEA.
- The NCGHSP grant to create a Traffic Safety Unit was not approved. However, the city will be awarded \$25,000 to spend directly on traffic enforcement. The department will move forward with creating a Traffic Safety Unit. It will be staffed with one Sergeant and two Police Officers. This is possible with one new position in the FY 23 budget and the reclassification of two Police Officer positions from Animal Enforcement to Traffic Safety. This unit will begin operating no later than October 1, 2022.
- The department received 50 bicycle helmets to be used in conjunction with the Salvation Army Bike Rodeo and the Boys and Girls Club of Henderson County.

### **Recruiting/Retention**

- 1 of 46 Police Officer vacancies remain.
- 1 Police Officer over hire position is approved and applications under review.

- 1 of 6 telecommunicator vacancies remain.
- 3 Telecommunicator applications received.
- 8 Police Officer applications received.