

Hendersonville Police Department
Public Monthly Report
January 2024



Chief's Monthly Summary

I feel compelled to address information that has surfaced surrounding the shooting death that took place on Thanksgiving night in the Orchard Bar & Grill parking lot. There is much about this case that I cannot share publicly because of state law. What I can do is shine a light on the actions taken by the Hendersonville Police Department in response to a senseless incident of gun violence.

Many of the accusations made about this department are simply not true. The men and women in this department strive to conduct themselves with the utmost professionalism in every single instance. I am proud to be associated with them. They treat people with respect, regardless of who the person is. We never turn a blind eye to crime simply because of someone's past. That night, our Officers brought order to a chaotic scene, preserved evidence, conducted a thorough investigation, and later turned over our findings to the District Attorney, in accordance with the law and department policy. I will always defend my people when they do the right thing; today is one of those days.

In December, after an extensive review of the evidence, and in consultation with the District Attorney's Office, it was determined the shooting death was a case of self-defense. The shooter's actions simply do not rise to the level of a crime. We would like nothing more than to bring someone to justice for a violent crime, but we enforce the law as it is written, not as we think it should be written.

With respect to allegations of mistreatment, I can say with the highest confidence that Hendersonville Police Officers were empathetic, professional, and caring during a very chaotic scene. Law enforcement is often charged with performing in highly stressful situations. Every decision we make may not be perfect, but every decision is lawful.

It is human nature for people to draw conclusions influenced by personal biases a lot of time before the facts are known. However, condemning the personal character of our officers without knowing what actually happened is disappointing. Falsehoods, intentional or not, misinform others and work to erode trust in us. Our Officers perform an often-thankless job for little pay. We should support them when they are right and hold them accountable when they are wrong.

Thank you again to those who support and trust us to do a good job. We strive to "serve with excellence" in everything we do. We will continue to be better and to get better with every encounter.



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												19

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												24

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												8

Employee Actions

- Captain Dale Patton retired on January 31, 2024, with 20 years of service to the City of Hendersonville. Dale was a valued member of the department. His absence will be felt for a long time. He was most recently the commander of the Criminal Investigations Bureau.



- Captain Rich Olsen was reassigned from the Patrol Services Bureau to the Criminal Investigations Bureau.
- Lieutenant Trae Laws was promoted to Captain and assigned as the Patrol Services Bureau Commander.
- Lieutenant Rob Cantwell started the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command in Atlanta, GA. He will spend two weeks a month through June in class. This class level of instruction is a requirement for all Lieutenants before becoming eligible for promotion. Rob is the fifth Lieutenant to attend a long-term executive management course in the last two years.
- Chief Myhand officially turned over the reins as President of the North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police and the North Carolina FBI National Academy Associates. He is now the immediate past president of both associations.

Community Tip – Safe Firearms Storage

Firearm safety is everyone's responsibility. Far too often unsecured firearms are being stolen from inside vehicles and homes. These guns almost always find their way into the hands of criminals. The last thing anyone needs is criminals having access to firearms. Secure your firearms and avoid liability if your stolen firearm is used in a crime.

More tragic than that is an injury or death to a child. Recently, a 3-year-old child accidentally shot and killed himself in Greenville, NC., after playing with a loaded firearm at home. A quick internet search will return story after story of accidental shootings by children who found a loaded firearm at home. Not only does a family have to live with the loss of a child, but parents can be, and often should be, charged with a crime.

Here are some tips you can use to keep your firearms secure from theft and protect your loved ones:

Unload your firearm

It is best practice to always unload your gun when it's not in use. Take the time to familiarize yourself with how to unload and clean your specific firearm. When unloading, always make sure the muzzle is pointed in a safe direction where if discharged injury is unlikely and property damage is minimal.

Lock it up

There are several ways to safely lock up your firearm, including gun safes, lockboxes, gun cases, cable locks, and trigger locks. Some of these now include biometric and electronic lock options.

Make sure it stays locked

If your gun lock uses a key, make sure you're the only one who knows where it's hidden. If the lock uses a combination or code, don't use one that an older child might be able to guess, such as a birthday, an anniversary, or the last four digits of your phone number.

Don't leave it unsecured in a car

More and more guns in North Carolina are being stolen out of parked cars. If you leave a gun in your car, make sure the gun is out of sight and secured with a lock or in a gun case. Consider storage options designed specifically for vehicles, and don't forget to lock your car too.

Safe Storage Locations

Interested in storing your firearm outside of the home? Consider someone you trust who may be willing to store your firearms. There are some commercial storage options for a fee as well.

Out-of-home firearm storage is especially helpful when someone in the household is at an increased risk for suicide. Firearm owners may also choose to temporarily store firearms outside their homes at other times, such as when traveling or when children are visiting.

The North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein is hosting a webinar on ways to protect the next generation of North Carolinians on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, from 12:00pm-12:45pm. One of the topics being discussed is safe gun storage. You can register by scanning the QR code in the picture below.

NCDOJ PRESENTS A WEBINAR SERIES

PROTECTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF NORTH CAROLINIANS

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- SAFE GUN STORAGE** (Icon: Gun in a house)
- MENTAL HEALTH** (Icon: Brain in hands)
- ONLINE CRIMES** (Icon: Laptop with padlock)
- YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE** (Icon: Syringe and pills)

WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT WEBINAR ON YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28
12:00 P.M. – 12:45 P.M.**

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
N.C.
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Complaints and Findings

- A citizen complained in December 2023, that an officer used excessive force during an arrest. The investigation deemed the officer's action compliant with state law and department policy. The complaint was Unfounded with no additional action necessary.

Vehicle Pursuits and Findings

- Officers assisted NC State Highway Patrol pursue a person that was cognitively impaired and operating a vehicle at a high rate of speed endangering others. Officers discontinued the pursuit upon the vehicle leaving the city limits. The Henderson County Sheriff's Office and NC State Highway Patrol continued the pursuit. Investigation into this pursuit determined that the pursuit was conducted in accordance with department policy and state law.

Use of Reasonable Force (UORF) Incidents and Findings

- Officers used soft hand techniques to contain, control, and to take into custody a person who was threatening self-harm by means of jumping off an elevated surface. Officers successfully kept the person from seriously injuring himself. There were no injuries to the person or officers. The person was taken to a medical facility for evaluation and was not charged with any criminal offense. Investigation into this use of force is not yet completed.

Operations/Notable Events

- HPD officers assisted Laurel Park PD in their first ever homicide investigation. The female suspect was arrested without incident and has since been indicted on First Degree Murder charges. She is being held at the Henderson County Detention Facility without bond.
- Officers, and other city personnel, secured flooded roadways and assisted motorists during recent heavy rain periods. HPD reminds people to adhere to road signage and not to drive through standing water.
- A person, wanted for armed robbery out of Florida was located and arrested by HPD officers without incident. The suspect is currently awaiting extradition to Florida.
- Indecent Exposure was reported in the parking lot of Epic Theatre. The suspect was located and arrested without incident.

Budget Summary

- We are approximately 58% through the fiscal year.
- We have spent or reserved \$3,556,554 or 55.4% of our budget.
- Link to the budget dashboard: [City of Hendersonville Budget](#)

Community Outreach/Special Events

- Security assessment for St. Gerard House

Grants Management

- Embedded Mental Health Grant – Reimbursement submitted for \$6,249
 - Grant runs until September 30, 2024
- CALEA and NCLEA Accreditation
 - Contract for Ongoing Accreditation Readiness Program for coaching and mentorship to optimize performance, efficiencies, leadership effectiveness, and desired accreditation status.
- GHSP Grant – No reimbursements for the month

Recruiting/Retention

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