

**Hendersonville Police Department**

**Public Monthly Report**

**June 2022**



## Chief's Monthly Summary

We started June with a bomb threat at the probation/parole office on Spartanburg Hwy. While nothing suspicious was found, the office was evacuated for several hours. The next day, a person threatened violence at a doctor's office. His actions also caused the office to lock down and several nearby businesses followed suit. The financial impact of these two incidents is difficult to measure, but I am sure it was significant. Both suspects were charged with misdemeanors.

A misdemeanor hardly seems adequate in my opinion. And, while there are some felony crimes that cover certain threats, the laws fell short in these cases. There needs to be an elevated penalty for all like threats. To that end, I have asked the North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police to champion legislation that would make it a felony to voice a threat of violence that results in a lockdown or closure of a business, school, church, or other office space. Hopefully, such a law will deter flippant threats and allow us to focus on people intent on causing harm or disruption.

Changing gears a bit, we closed the month with a major drug operation. Our detectives, as part of the Henderson County Drug Taskforce, spent several months building a continuing criminal enterprise case involving the sale and distribution of fentanyl and other illegal drugs. Fentanyl is most concerning because of its highly addictive nature and being the catalyst for most overdoses and deaths in our area. Our primary intent with this investigation was to impact the local drug trade significantly, negatively, and permanently. To that end, I believe the operation was a success. Lives will certainly be saved because of it. Ultimately, law enforcement seized several illegal firearms, large amounts of drugs, and drug money from the defendants.

A very special thanks goes out to Sheriff Griffin, and his staff, for their commitment to public safety and their support. Conducting such an extensive investigation would have been almost impossible without their significant assistance. The Henderson County Sheriff's Office is a tremendous partner. We sincerely appreciate their help.

Last bit of good news, I am happy to report that we are fully staffed! A rarity among many police departments these days. Another sincere "thank you" goes to our City Council for investing so much in our employees and for making the City of Hendersonville a desirable place to work. If not for their efforts, I doubt we would be fully staffed today. We have six new police officers and one new telecommunicator in training right now. By fall, we expect everyone will be done with training and out there serving you. Thanks again for your support and your trust in us. And, as always, we will continue to provide you with "Mountain Excellence."



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	4,373	4,399						

**Traffic Safety Unit Activities**

*Total Traffic Stops:*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
233	299	388	362	311	203						

*Total Citations Issued:*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
151	201	243	265	207	144						

*DWI Arrests:*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	8	9	6	9	4						

*Motor Vehicle Crashes:*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
115	101	90	111	99	113						

*Top five crash locations:*

#1	Howard Gap Rd at Chimney Rock Rd (3)
#2	Duncan Hill Rd at 7 <sup>th</sup> Ave (2)
#3	6 <sup>th</sup> Ave W at Fleming St (2)
#4	6 <sup>th</sup> Ave W at N Church St (2)
#5	N Grove St at Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd (2)

**Crimes, Reports, and Arrest Activities**

*Criminal Arrests:*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
90	93	140	94	118	165						

(\*felony - 94, misdemeanor - 71)

*Incident Reports:*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
169	134	277	222	259	292						

*Drug Offenses:*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
38	34	37	36	51	60						

*Larcenies:*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
42	49	47	28	35	48						

(\*7 from motor vehicles)

*Assaults:*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
15	10	17	15	10	11						

**Employee Actions**

- 6/1/22 – Officer fired two rounds from his duty handgun to humanely euthanize a deer injured in a motor vehicle crash. The use of a firearm was compliant with department policy.
- Marianna Tinoco, Haley Thompson, Shelby Greene, Alicia Lund, Kyle Gyurina, and Michael Paporozzi were sworn in as Police Officers. All are in field training at this point.
- Brandon Haman was hired as a telecommunicator and is currently in training.
- Chief Myhand attended the Chiefs Legislative Day in Raleigh on June 22, 2022, with the North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police. The effort was to inform state legislatures of issues impacting public safety.

**Complaints and Findings**

- None

**Vehicle Pursuits and Findings**

- None

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

- None

### **Operations/Notable Events**

- 6/7/22 – An unknown male caller threatened to bomb the Community Correction Parole and Probation Office on Spartanburg Highway. The office was evacuated and the HCSO bomb squad was called to conduct a protective sweep of the facility. No suspicious items were found. The investigation revealed that the caller phoned the wrong “Hendersonville” probation office. At the time of this report, charges are pending in Hendersonville, Texas.
- 6/8/22 – A male made a verbal threat via phone to a medical office that he would “take them out.” The medical office, and several nearby businesses were locked down or closed while the investigation continued. The suspect was identified and arrested the next day. He received a \$20,000 secured bond and a July court date.
- 6/19/22 – Officers responded to a structure fire at 721 Woodcock Dr. Detectives quickly identified the suspect and arrested him within hours of the crime. The suspect was charged with First Degree Arson and received a \$40,000 secured bond.
- 6/30/22 – Detectives concluded a six-month multi-agency drug investigation. Several search warrants were executed and more than 40 people were charged/arrested for various drug offenses. The major players were charged as part of a continuing criminal enterprise. Several illegal guns, drugs, and currency were seized from defendants.

### **Budget Summary**

- We are 100% through the FY 21/22 fiscal year.
- \$856,278.00, or 97.2% of the FY 21/22 operating budget has been encumbered to date.
- FY 22/23 budget began July 1, 2022.

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

- 6/25/22 – HPD gave 50 youth bicycle helmets to children in need in advance of the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday weekend.

### **Awards and Recognitions**

- None

### **Grants Management**

- 6/24/22 – The department was awarded a \$25,000 grant to fund traffic enforcement efforts designed to reduce the likelihood and severity of motor

vehicle crashes. The Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) grant will take effect on 10/01/22 and will pay overtime for Officers who are focused solely on traffic safety.

- \$40,000 accreditations grant is pending review and approval. (Oct 2022)
- \$50,000 mental health grant is pending review and approval. (Oct 2022)

### **Recruiting/Retention**

- 0 of 47 Police Officer vacancies remain.
- 0 of 6 telecommunicator vacancies remain.
- 0 Police Officer applications received (position closed).
- 18 Telecommunicator applications received (position closed).