

**Hendersonville Police Department**  
**Public Monthly Report**  
**November 2023**



## Chief's Monthly Summary

What I had hoped to be a calm month proved to be anything but that. As most of you know by now, we had our second shooting death of the year; the first being in October. While this is an ongoing investigation, there is some public safety information I can share with you now.

The incident was not random. Nor should you expect an ongoing risk to public safety. We are investigating this incident as a homicide and continue to ask anyone with information to call the department at 828-697-3025. You may provide information anonymously if you wish.

More generally, let me address the recent violence in Hendersonville. Whenever someone is shot and killed, it is a senseless death. Hindsight clearly shows that neither of our incidents needed to happen. If only calmer heads had prevailed. Remember, there is no rewind button on a bullet. Once the trigger is pulled, there is no way to undo the damage. The results are always final.

That said, Hendersonville remains extremely safe. There are things though that you can do to limit the potential that you could be a victim of violent crime. First, don't associate with people who illegally carry firearms or are prone to violent outbursts. That seems to me to be the single best way to avoid being caught up in this sort of senseless violence. Second, "keep calm and carry on." Getting visibly angry in response to someone else's actions and/or behavior is a great way to put yourself in the middle of a potentially dangerous situation. I would always prefer to remain calm and complain about the situation later than to have to live with the consequences of losing control. Again, when one acts hastily, what is done is done. It doesn't matter if you are right either. It is always better to avoid danger than to prove to everyone else that you were in the right at whatever the cost.

Lastly, have the courage to de-escalate a situation. Imagine how grateful a person would be if you helped keep them from overreacting and hurting someone else. They may not admit it at first, but I bet good money they would prefer not being in prison for the rest of their lives. They would probably also appreciate not being injured or killed. I can think of many situations over my career where people probably wish someone had the courage to say something before things got out of control.

Thank you again for your support and your trust in us. We strive to "serve with excellence" in everything we do. We will continue to be better and to get better with every encounter. Have a great holiday and stay safe out there.



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	2,726		2,850
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	204		317
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	138		224
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	5		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	107		119
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	Spartanburg Hwy & Greenville Hwy
#2	Spartanburg Hwy & Shepherd St
#3	Asheville Hwy & N Main St
#4	Chimney Rock Rd & Francis Rd/Sugarloaf Rd
#5	6 <sup>th</sup> Ave W & N Justice 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	59		67
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	109		126
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	23		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	25	35	44	20	31	36		30
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	10		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**

- Chief Myhand attended the Fentanyl Working Group meeting with NC Attorney General, Josh Stein in Raleigh on November 1, 2023. The purpose of this meeting was to highlight the impacts that fentanyl is having in Hendersonville and Henderson County with a goal of identifying effective ways to manage this epidemic. Leaders from around the state attended and discussed their concerns locally.
- The department held a promotions/awards ceremony on November 6, 2023. We presented several awards to civilians and staff alike. Four promotions were also formally made. They are Cpt. Hipps, Lt. Capps, Sgts., Gyurina and Reynolds.
- Chief Myhand was the keynote speaker at the Mecklenburg County annual CIT awards ceremony on November 8, 2023. He spoke about creating the Veteran CIT program in NC that Mecklenburg County uses today.
- A conditional offer of employment for Police Officer was made to Sammy Cruz. Sammy is an eleven-year police veteran from Puerto Rico. He will start working for HPD on December 9, 2023. He is a native Spanish speaker and will add to the department’s ability to communicate effectively with our Latino community.
- Civilian staff within the department completed the Mental Health First Aid class. This is part of an ongoing effort to strengthen the department’s understanding and capacity to help people struggling with mental illness. With this training, our civilian staff is now better to navigate the challenges of interacting with people experiencing a mental crisis.

**Community Tip – Holiday Shopping**

With the holidays upon us, it is important that we remind folks how to protect themselves from theft and fraud. The Grinch is always around, but this time of year can bring an increased risk from criminals seeking to take advantage of people. In the end, we want you to have an enjoyable holiday season. Think about practicing the tips below to reduce your risk this season.

*Shopping Safety Tips:*

1. Stay at home and shop online.
2. Park in lighted areas in shopping center parking lots.
3. Always be aware of your surroundings.
4. Limit the number of trips back to your car.

5. Don't leave packages or valuables visible in your car.
6. Consider securing gifts in your trunk.
7. Also, consider securing items in your trunk before arriving at your next shopping location.
8. Have your car keys in hand before you get to your car.
9. Don't shop alone, especially at night.
10. Look in your car before entering.
11. Carry a minimal amount of cash and keep receipts.
12. Avoid distractions like cell phones and earbuds.

#### *Home Safety Tips:*

- Avoid placing too many packages under the tree before Christmas.
- Consider if presents can be easily seen from outside your home.
- Be careful discarding original packaging with your normal trash after Christmas. Doing so advertises to everyone what new "toys" are inside your home.
- Make sure your garage doors are closed before bed each night.
- Lock all doors and windows at night or when away from the home.
- Let your trusted neighbors know if you are traveling for the holidays. Make sure they can reach you if something happens.
- Consider asking your local law enforcement agency to conduct house checks while you are away. Make sure you list any persons or vehicles authorized to be at your home.

#### *Personal Safety:*

- Avoid hot button issues when visiting family; especially when alcohol is involved. We investigate more domestic assaults during the holidays.
- Let someone know if the holidays are depressing for you and if you might be at an increased risk of harmful thoughts and/or suicide.
- Avoid the stresses of gift giving by avoiding debt. Debt adds stress to people's lives and takes months/years to clear up.
- Don't wait until the last minute to do your shopping. Panicked people create elevated risk to others.

#### **Complaints and Findings**

- None

#### **Vehicle Pursuits and Findings**

- None

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

- An officer used soft hand techniques to control and take custody of a wanted person who resisted lawful arrest. There were no injuries to the suspect or officer. Investigation determined that the use of force was justified.

- Officers used soft hand techniques to control and take custody of a person that had assaulted two people prior to officers' arrival. Another officer used soft hand techniques to control and arrest a second person who grabbed one of the officers attempting to arrest the first suspect. Both suspects were arrested. There were no injuries to either suspect or officers. Investigation determined that the use of force was justified.

### **Operations/Notable Events**

- A shooting occurred outside the Orchard Bar and Grill at 110 Henderson Crossing in the early morning hours of 11/24/2023, that resulted in the death of one person. It was quickly determined that it was an isolated incident and that there was no threat to the public. This is still an active and ongoing investigation. Updates will be provided as they become available.
- Officers responded to a vehicle fire at Bank of America. Prior to the officers' arrival, a Bank of America employee, Sierra Stimpson, saw the fire and that there was a person in the vehicle. Stimpson pulled the person in the vehicle to safety. Officers attempted to extinguish the fire until the fire department arrived. Sierra Stimpson received a civilian award from HPD for her heroic efforts.

### **Budget Summary**

- We are approximately 40% through the fiscal year.
- We have spent or reserved \$2,493.282 or 37.9% of our budget.

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

- Officers assisted with event security and traffic control at the 2023 Turkey Trot on November 23, 2023. The Turkey Trot is annual 5k race that takes place on and around the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue area of Hendersonville.
- Officers assisted with event security and traffic control at the 2023 Holiday Tree Lighting on November 24, 2023. The Holiday Tree Lighting is an annual event that takes place in the 100 Block of Main Street in Hendersonville.

### **Grants Management**

- Embedded Mental Health Grant – Nothing to report this month.
- CALEA and NCLEA Accreditation endeavors – Nothing to report this month.
- GHSP Grant – No reimbursements for the month.

### **Recruiting/Retention**

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