

**Hendersonville Police Department**

**Public Monthly Report**

**April 2023**



## Chief's Monthly Summary

Greetings once again. I am reminded almost daily how nice the weather is here in WNC. The pollen levels are insignificant as compared to the eastern parts of this state. The humidity is low, and the temperatures are amazing. We are truly in a special place within the state.

Congratulations to Captain Tracey Cox for 38 years of public service. Cpt. Cox announced his retirement effective August 1, 2023. I am excited for him and wish him the best in his retirement. Tracey has been an integral part of this department for many years. Replacing him will be challenging. Finding someone who is so specialized in managing the department budget, proficient with technology, and able to manage so many functions within the department will be difficult.

That said, we are in the process of assessing five of our Lieutenants, one of whom will replace Tracey. We have enlisted the help of a police organizational consultant to help create an assessment center to identify the person who possesses the skills necessary to be successful in this role. In this process, we are asking for help from the public and other local departments to assess our candidates on May 22, 2023. Candidates will compete in three exercises designed to assess their communication, leadership, problem-solving, and other skills the next Captain will need to possess.

My goal is to make and communicate a promotions decision by mid-June, giving the successful candidate at least one month to shadow Cpt. Cox before he officially retires in August. The timing is good with the new fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023. A Lieutenant being promoted to Captain creates a ripple effect. Backfilling the Lieutenant's vacancy means a Sergeant is promoted to Lieutenant, an Officer is promoted to Sergeant, and a person is hired to fill the Officer's vacancy. This is a great opportunity for staff, but a risk for the agency in ensuring these vacancies are filled.

We plan on conducting the Lieutenant and Sergeant promotions later in the summer. We are delaying these positions to ensure we have the systems in place and the personnel hired. We must be deliberate to not "rob Peter to pay Paul." We cannot pull staff from Patrol operations to fill these supervisor positions; answering calls for service is a priority. Trust though, we have a plan and are confident we can execute according to the time we set for ourselves. In the end, we will find the right people and put those people in the right seats on the bus.

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									3,166
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									422
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									289
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									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									110
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 / I26
#2	N Church St / 7 <sup>th</sup> Ave W
#3	N Church St / 6 <sup>th</sup> Ave W
#4	Four Seasons Blvd / Orrs Camp Rd
#5	Spartanburg Hwy / S Grove 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									79
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									143
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									24
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									25
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:**

20												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg.
9	17	7	15									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 conducted a Facebook Live event on 4/3 to update the community on the March monthly report, accreditation, and the IACP Trust Building Campaign.
- Chief Myhand talked on WTZQ on 4/18 about emerging issues affecting the police department.
- Chief Myhand, as President of the North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police attended a press conference in Winston-Salem with Attorney General John Stein to speak about efforts to improve recruiting and retention efforts for law enforcement throughout the state.
- The department announced a promotions process for Captain. This is an internal promotional process to find a replacement for Captain Tracey Cox upon his retirement in August 2023. Five Candidates applied to be considered for promotion.

**Community Tip**

- *Distracted driving* – April is National Distracted Driving Month.

According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 3,522 people were killed by distracted driving in 2021. You might be surprised to know that over 60% of our crashes are attributed to inattention (distracted driving). What we see today is that more and more drivers are distracted as compared to even 20 years ago. While newer vehicles are safer, there are far more distractions in the cabin.

Previously, when officers saw a vehicle swerving in their lane, it was assumed the driver was impaired. Today, it is more likely that the driver is simply distracted. Here are a couple of ideas to help limit distractions inside your vehicle.

- Use Carplay – using your vehicle’s technology can help you keep your hands on the wheel and eyes on the road.
- Turn off notifications while driving – most phones will not alert you about incoming texts while it senses the vehicle is moving. You can receive texts, but you are simply not alerted while driving.
- Let your passenger, if you have one, read and respond to your texts while you are driving.
- Do not watch videos on phones, or other devices, while driving.
- Make a pledge with your family to keep you off your phone while driving.
- Set the example for your future drivers.

### **Complaints and Findings**

- March – A complaint alleging officer misconduct was received and assigned an investigator. The complaint was sustained.

### **Vehicle Pursuits and Findings**

- None

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

- An officer used force on a person threatening suicide with a firearm. The officer used soft hand control techniques to take the person into custody for medical treatment. There were no injuries to the person or officers involved. Investigation determined the use of force was justified.

### **Operations/Notable Events**

- A vacant home was broken into and several thousand dollars in collectibles were stolen. Investigation is ongoing.
- A vehicle was stolen from an apartment complex. HPD recovered the vehicle the same week it was reported and returned it to the owner.
- Officers responded to eleven reported overdoses in April.

### **Budget Summary**

- We are approximately 83% through the fiscal year.
- We have spent or reserved \$955,755 or 73% of our budget.

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

- Detective Childress conducted a security evaluation of the Golden Living Center Retirement Home. These are used to assess any potential weak points in their security and give options to the business on how to improve those areas.
- Detective Laite conducted a security evaluation of the YMCA.
- The Henderson County Law Enforcement Honor Guard, which includes members of the Hendersonville Police Department, conducted two details for presenting the US and state flag for official ceremonies. One was at Blue Ridge Community College for the NC Department of Corrections graduation. The other was at Harrah's Cherokee Casino for the International Association of Arson Investigators annual conference.

### **Awards and Recognitions**

- Amber Kleppe was recognized for outstanding work in planning our National Telecommunicator Week festivities celebrating the work of our Telecommunicators.
- Officer Laura Hartline was recognized as a recipient of the Knights of Columbus Shield Award.

### **Grants Management**

- The city is waiting for a reimbursement of \$8,332 to fund the contracted embedded mental health services for the department under the 2022 Hendersonville Police Department Pilot Project for Mental Health/LEO Models.
- Additionally, the department has submitted a reimbursement request for \$11,450 out of the total \$18,931 for Year 1 of the costs associated with the CALEA and NCLEA accreditation process. We are awaiting approval of this request.
- Pending approval for (3) Grants:
  - Virtra Upgrade Grant for \$24,500
  - Message Board/Traffic Survey Trailer for \$20,000
  - Continuation of GHSP Traffic Safety Grant \$25,000

### **Recruiting/Retention**

- 2 of 47 Police Officer vacancies exist.
  - Applications - Total
    - (2) Initial Stage of Process
    - (5) Second Stage (Active in Process)
    - (2) in Background