

Hendersonville Police Department

Public Monthly Report

January 2022



Chief's Monthly Summary

January was a busy month for the department as we welcomed in the new year. We began with an entirely new policy manual revision. The major reason for this revision is to update old policies that were not always consistent with current industry best practices. Moreover, with societal expectation changes over the past few years, it was important that our policies and procedures reflect those expectations.

We completed several annual reports designed to ensure that we are conducting business in accordance with policy. Some of those reports involve annual analyses of our use of force incidents, vehicle pursuits, complaints, recruiting and hiring practices, early warning activations, bias-based policing, and much more.

We continue to struggle finding applicants who want to be police officers and dispatchers. The policing profession is not necessarily the most attractive profession it once was. We are working to change that but there is much work to do before I can comfortably say that we are beyond this public safety crisis. While we have openings like many other departments, we are not in near as bad a shape as some.

We have seven total vacancies throughout all levels of the agency. Overall, we are about 10% vacant for the agency. Most agencies are carrying a 10%-20% vacancy rate for their departments; some even more. We will continue exploring options to attract new applicants and care for our current employees.

We applied for several grants to help ease the financial burden on the taxpayers while enabling us to do more. We applied for a mental health pilot program grant, two accreditation grants, and a Governor's Highway Safety Grant (GHSP). We will use the GHSP grant, if awarded, to create a Traffic Safety Unit focused on addressing traffic congestion and motor vehicle crashes in the city. We should know more as we near the federal fiscal year in October 2022.

As you can see, things are indeed busy, and times are challenging. However, our commitment to you is that we will always answer your call and respond to your emergency. We will remain ever present where you work and live. We remain committed to never limiting our operations simply because we are short personnel. We will always strive to exemplify "Mountain Excellence."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Blair Myhand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "B" and "M".

Blair Myhand,
Chief of Police

Calls for Service

- 5,247

Traffic Safety Unit Activities

- *Total Traffic Stops:* **233**
- *Total Citations:* **151**
- *DWI Arrests:* **2**
- *Motor Vehicle Crashes:* **115** total (damage-82, injury-14, hit & run-19, fatal-0)

Complaints and Findings

- None

Vehicle Pursuits and Findings

- None

Use of Reasonable Force (UORF) Incidents and Findings

- 1 UORF incident this month- no injuries to suspect, minor injuries to officers, suspect arrested, incident under command level review per policy.

Operations/Notable Events

- *Arson* – Unknown suspects started a fire at a law office on 1st Ave., E. Case remains under investigation.
- *Shooting* – Adult male accidentally shot himself in the leg with a handgun. He was taken to area hospital and treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

Budget Summary

- Staff is preparing FY 22/23 operating budget requests. Operating costs include fuel, vehicle and equipment maintenance and repair, supplies and materials, professional development, etc., not including salaries and benefits.
- FY 21/22 operating budget - \$894,000 (*does not include capital outlay or salaries and benefits*)
- 74% of FY 21/22 operating budget has been encumbered to date.

Community Outreach/Special Events

- None

Grants Management

- Received approval for a non-matching NC Governor's Crime Commission grant equaling \$24,500. The grant will fund a video simulation device to train Officers how to react in use of force decision making. This machine provides video-based scenarios where Officers interact with scripted "actors" and make de-escalation and/or use of force decisions.
- Applied for a non-matching \$40,000 grant to fund accreditation. Grant period is two years beginning in October 2022.
- Applied for a non-matching \$50,000 grant to fund mental health treatment for our personnel. In late 2021, the City Council agreed to fund an embedded mental health professional for Police and Fire staff. Grant period is two years beginning in October 2022.
- Applied for a non-matching accreditation grant equaling \$11,000 to cover the initial enrollment fees for CALEA (Commission for Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies). This is a one-time grant.
- Applied for a matching NC Governor's Highway Safety Program grant to staff two new police officers, vehicles, and equipment. This is a three-year grant with an increasing local match from 15% to 50%.

Note: Grants are either matching or non-matching. A non-matching grant is one where no local tax dollars are required. A matching grant includes some percentage of local tax dollars as part of the grant process.

Recruiting/Retention

- 3 of 46 Police Officer vacancies exist.
- 2 of 6 telecommunicator vacancies exist
- 2 of 7 crossing guard vacancies exist.
- 5 Tele-communicator applications received.
- 5 Police Officer applications received.
- 4 pre-employment background investigations are being conducted: two for tele-communicators and two for police officer.
- 2 female applicants were hired as Police Recruits. Both in Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) at Blue Ridge Community College and expected to graduate in May 2022.
- 1 experienced Police Officer hired from Raleigh PD.
- 2 resignations received: one for part time dispatcher position and one for part time crossing guard position.