

**Hendersonville Police Department**

**Public Monthly Report**

**March 2022**



## Chief's Monthly Summary

Hello again. We are together again with our third public monthly report. I hope you find these reports informative and useful. Several of you have offered suggestions about these reports and we will make changes as this effort of openness continues.

March remained busy for us as you will see in the pages that follow. The data in the tables below shows an increase in almost every category this month. One emerging trend we are seeing is an apparent increase in homelessness throughout the city. There is a belief among some that Asheville homeless are being displaced and finding their way here. I cannot say if that is true or not, but I can say we are seeing newer faces in town lately.

I understand community fears about homelessness and recognize homelessness as a polarizing issue. You are likely on one side of the issue or the other. It does not seem many people reside in the middle. Please understand though, homelessness is a community issue, not solely a police one. The city is working together with our community partners to provide resources and get people housed. Simply rounding up homeless people, as some want us to do, is simply unconstitutional. Officers will enforce crimes committed by homeless individuals just like we do with anyone else. No more. No less.

On another note, we are hiring people again and nearing 100% staffing (fingers crossed). We feel fortunate to be in a position so many other departments are not with respect to hiring. We have three female cadets in Basic Law Enforcement Training right now and waiting on an experienced Officer to move here from California. Hopefully, they will be in uniform by June 2022. We also hired a Hendersonville native as a new telecommunicator this month. I hope I can soon report that we have filled every vacancy. That said, if you know someone who is, or would be a great public servant in Hendersonville, send 'em our way.

Lastly, we co-hosted a training event with Chiefs Whisnant (Hickory PD) and Beddingfield (Biltmore Forest PD) at Blue Ridge Community College as part of the North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police. Police leaders discussed recruiting new employees and retaining existing ones, and mental wellness. We have an embedded mental health counselor here. She works one day per week, and we are seeing quantifiable gains in officer resiliency and operational readiness from her counsel. Thank you to the City Council for funding this program. We are truly leading the way with this effort.

We appreciate all your support, and we welcome every opportunity to do better. And, as always, know that we will be open and honest with you, and we will always strive to for "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									

**Traffic Safety Unit Activities**

*Total Traffic Stops:*

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

*Total Citations Issued:*

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

*DWI Arrests:*

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

*Motor Vehicle Crashes:*

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

*Top five crash locations:*

#1	US 176 & Grove St (4)
#2	US 64 & Harris St (3)
#3	US 64 & Highlands Square (3)
#4	N Church St & Bearcat Blvd (2)
#5	US 176 & Old Spartanburg Rd (2)

**Crimes, Reports, and Arrest Activities**

*Criminal Arrests:*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
90	93	140*									

(\*felony - 57, misdemeanor - 83)

*Incident Reports:*

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

*Drug Offenses:*

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

*Larcenies:*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
42	49	47*									

(\*6 from motor vehicles)

*Assaults:*

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

**Complaints and Findings**

- Citizen complaint: A complaint was received alleging an officer ran a stop sign. A review confirmed the officer did not come to a complete stop and the complaint was sustained.

**Vehicle Pursuits and Findings**

- None

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

- None

**Operations/Notable Events**

- Larceny from motor vehicles: four suspects broke into several parked vehicles at motels on Upward Road. The suspects fled in two vehicles east on I-26. They were involved in a high-speed pursuit and crash in Virginia a week later. Two were seriously injured and all four have been charged for a multitude of crimes in three different states.
- Dangerous Dog: The Animal Services Advisory board deemed a dog dangerous for four reported attacks on other animals causing injuries to three dogs and

death to one cat. The dangerous dog remains at the Henderson County Animal Shelter awaiting a court hearing with its owner.

### **Budget Summary**

- We are approximately 75% through the fiscal year.
- \$745,674.00, or 85.9% of the FY 21/22 operating budget has been encumbered to date.
- FY 22/23 budget discussions are actively taking place.

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

- *March for Hendersonville* – 41 Officers and residents joined together to pick up trash in Sullivan and Patton Parks and along the Oklawaha Greenway. Over 20 bags of trash were collected and disposed of.
- *We are Hope Week* – Henderson County School students made a public pledge to promise to remain substance abuse free. Celebration of their efforts was done on the steps of the Historic Courthouse.
- *Boys and Girls Club* – SRO's celebrated Ry-lei as the NC Center for Missing Children poster award winner. She will represent the state at the national level.
- Raised \$3,000.00 through community donations to send 5<sup>th</sup> graders to STAR Camp this upcoming summer.

### **Awards and Recognitions**

- None

### **Grants Management**

- City Council approved the sole-source vendor for the purchase of the virtual training simulator. Procurement is in progress.
- \$40,000 accreditations grant is pending review and approval. (Oct 2022)
- \$50,000 mental health is pending review and approval. (Oct 2022)
- \$11,000 accreditation fee grant is pending review and approval. (Fall 2022)
- The NCGHSP grant to create a Traffic Safety Unit is pending review and approval. (Oct 2022)
- PD is working with Safelight to consider a \$500,000 multi-year grant to fund a domestic violence advocate position. No application decision has been made.

### **Recruiting/Retention**

- 2 of 46 Police Officer vacancies remain.
- 1 of 6 telecommunicator vacancies remain.

- 1 of 7 crossing guard vacancies remain. 1 part-time crossing guard is vacant.
- 1 Telecommunicator application received.
- 9 Police Officer applications received.
- 4 pre-employment background investigations are being conducted: three for officer, one for telecommunicator.