

Hendersonville Police Department

Public Monthly Report

April 2025



Chief's Monthly Summary

Recruitment and retention are our greatest priorities currently. Not only are they critical for us, but the same is true for agencies across the state. Just this month, we saw leaders and Officers come and go. The sad reality is that law enforcement is seeing more departures than entries into the profession, an unsustainable trend.

In April, we helped the Buncombe County Sheriff's Office as they assessed the qualities of individuals seeking promotion to Captain. It was encouraging to see BCSO engaged in a competitive process to select the most qualified person to be their next Captain.

Secondly, was the retirement of longtime Police Chief in the City of Monroe, Bryan Gilliard. Bryan is an excellent person and leader. Having logged more than 30 years for the Monroe Police Department, his retirement is well deserved, but he will be missed. Best of luck to Rhett Bolin as he assumes the role of Chief of Police in Bryan's absence.

Next, we had the privilege of swearing in a new officer for the department, Joshua Lynch. Officer Lynch is experienced and already proving to be an excellent hire for the department. We also had the honor of offering a job to Daniel Gamez as Police Officer. Like Officer Lynch, Gamez is experienced and should make an excellent officer for the department.

Lastly, we said "goodbye" to Police Social Worker Intern, Tori Thompson. Her time with us ended with her graduation from graduate school. Tori was an excellent addition to the team, and she really helped build our community care program. We hated to lose her but fully support her priority of family first.

All this underscores the challenges of getting and keeping highly qualified people for work here. We continue to struggle hiring police officers. We are building our brand and always looking to promote our agency to people interested in police work. The sad reality is that we have no problems finding people who are willing to work for the police department; so few want to wear the badge though.

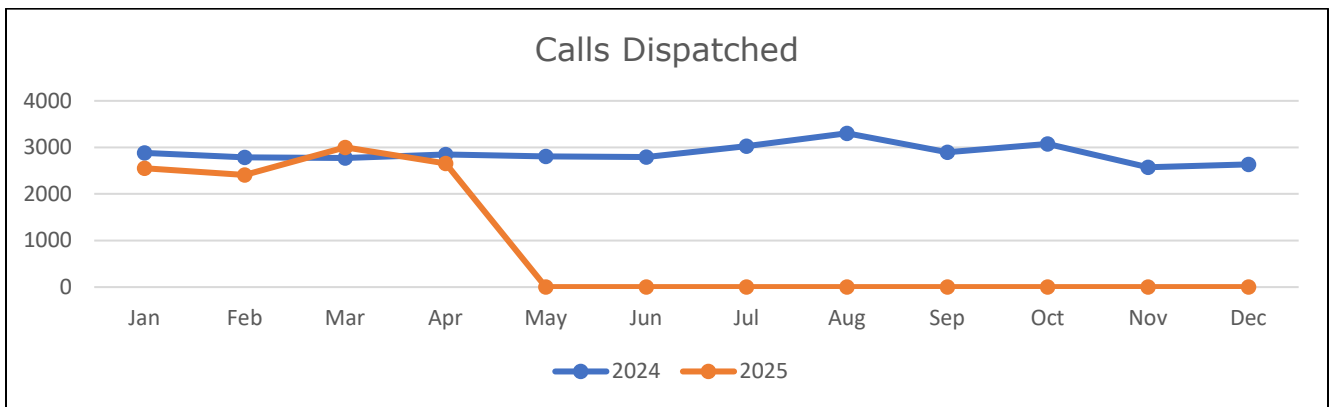
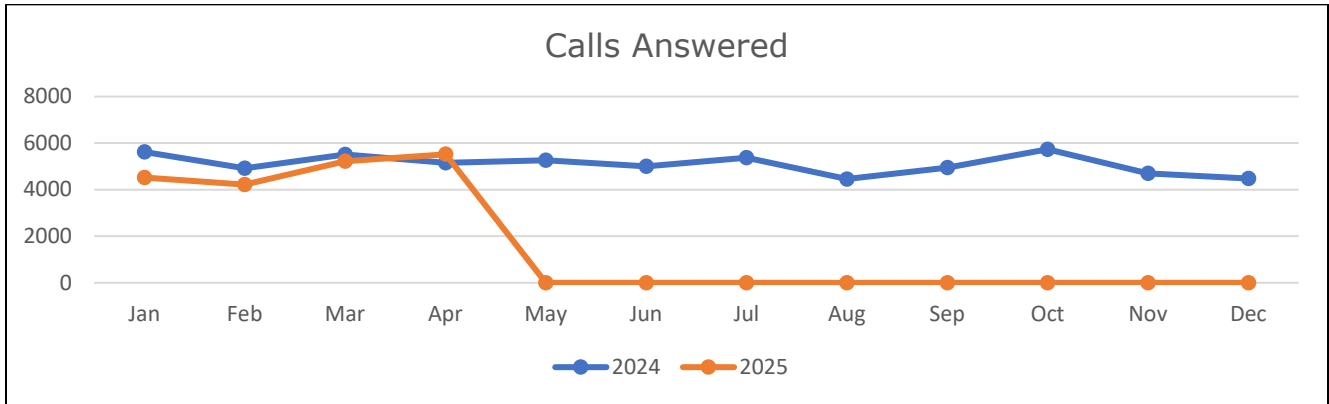
In talking with other law enforcement leaders, so many of us see the same challenges. We are all working to rebuild our reputation and make law enforcement an attractive profession again. The pendulum will swing back in our favor one day. Until then, we will continue to seek continuous improvement. We will always focus our efforts on trust-building, and we will adjust as necessary to maintain what we enjoy in Hendersonville. Thanks for always being there and for the tremendous support you share.

#OneTeamOneFight

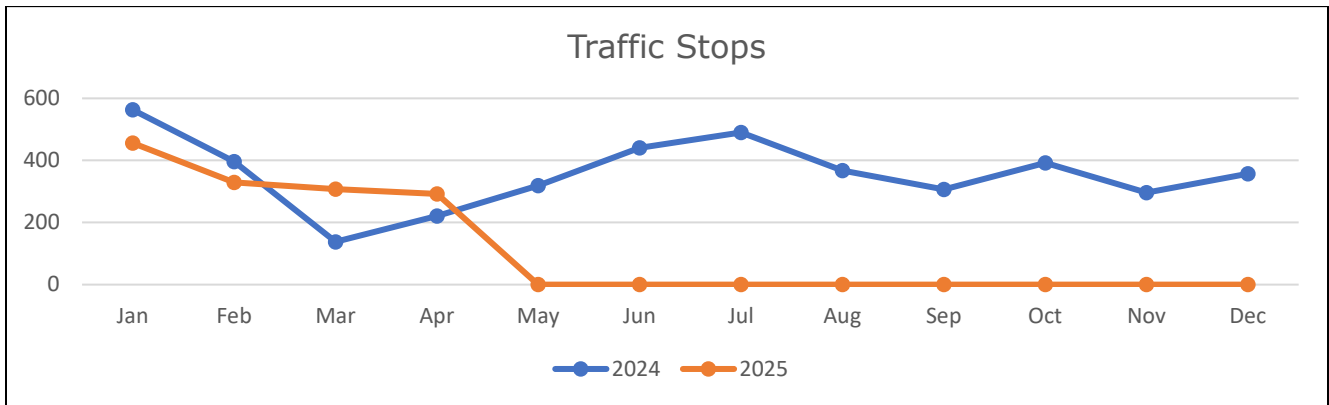


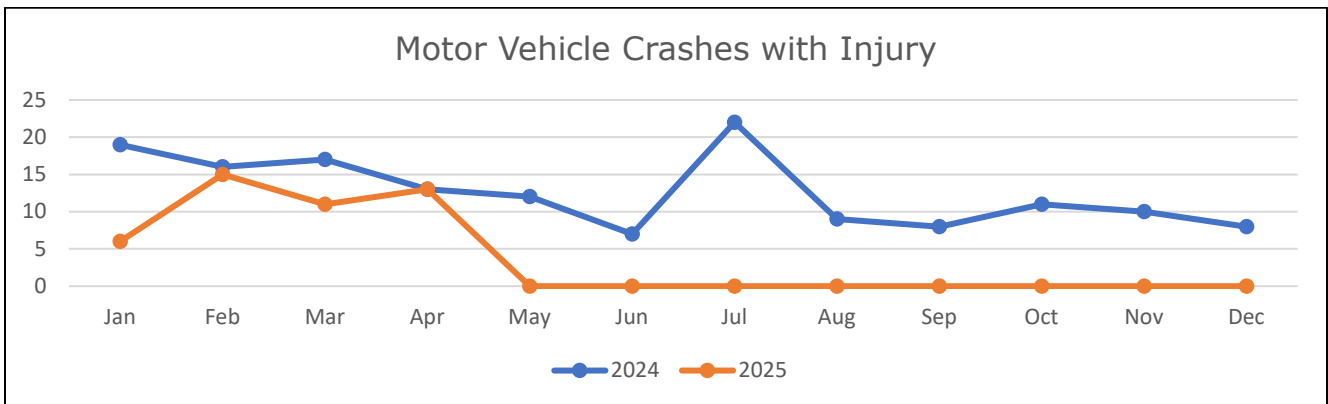
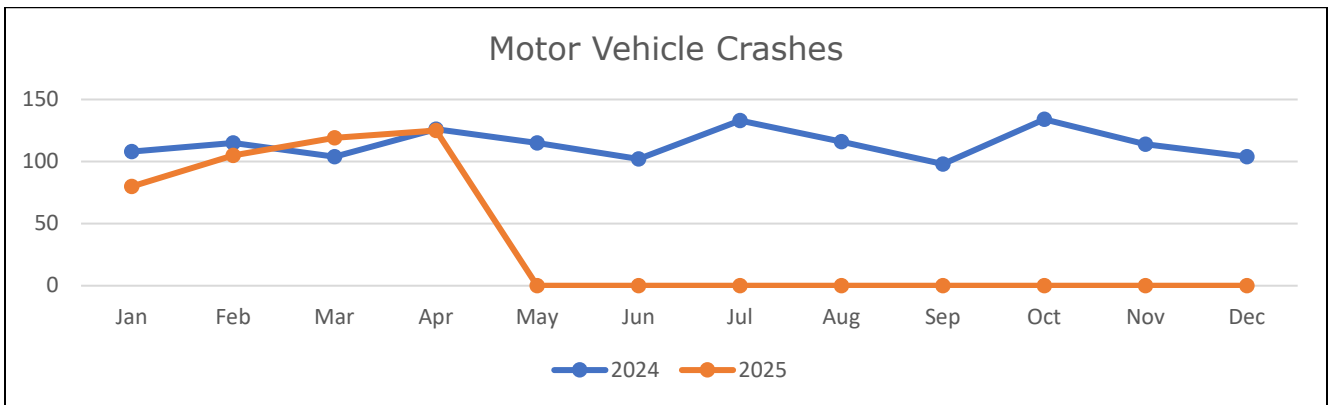
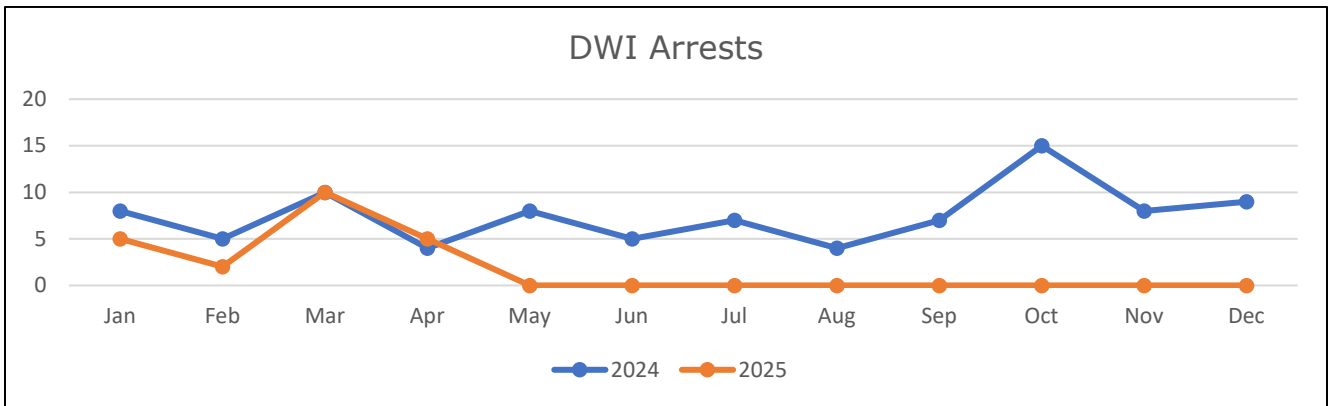
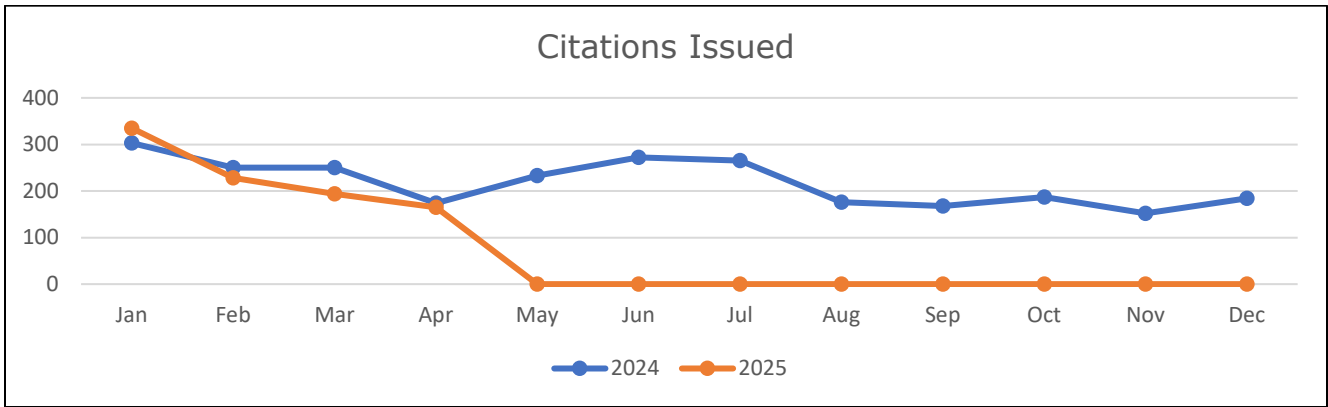
Blair Myhand
Chief of Police

Calls For Service



Traffic Safety

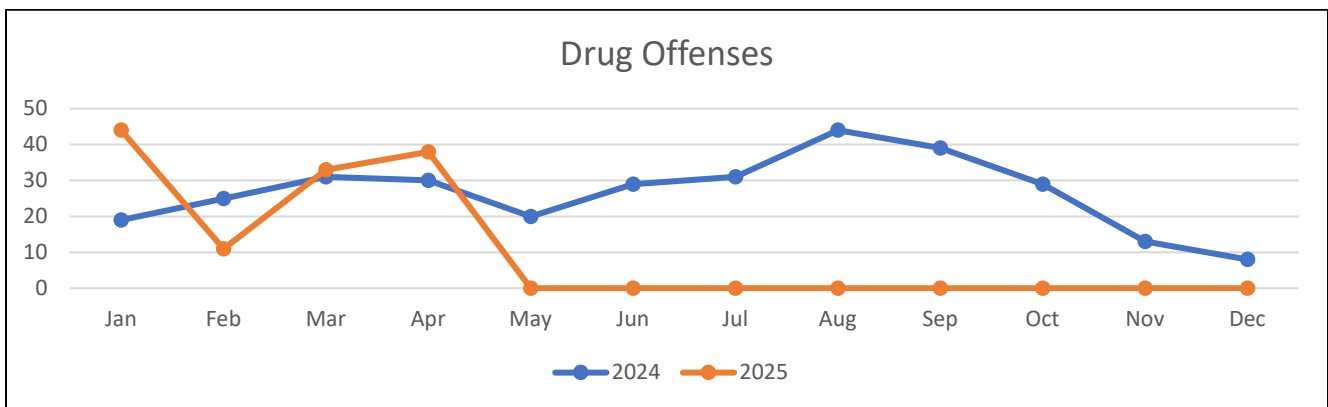
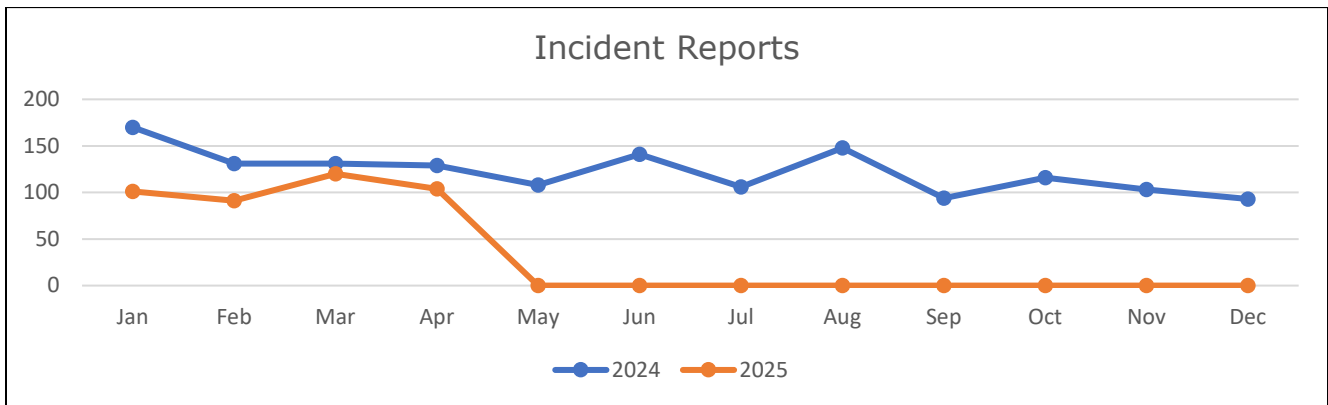
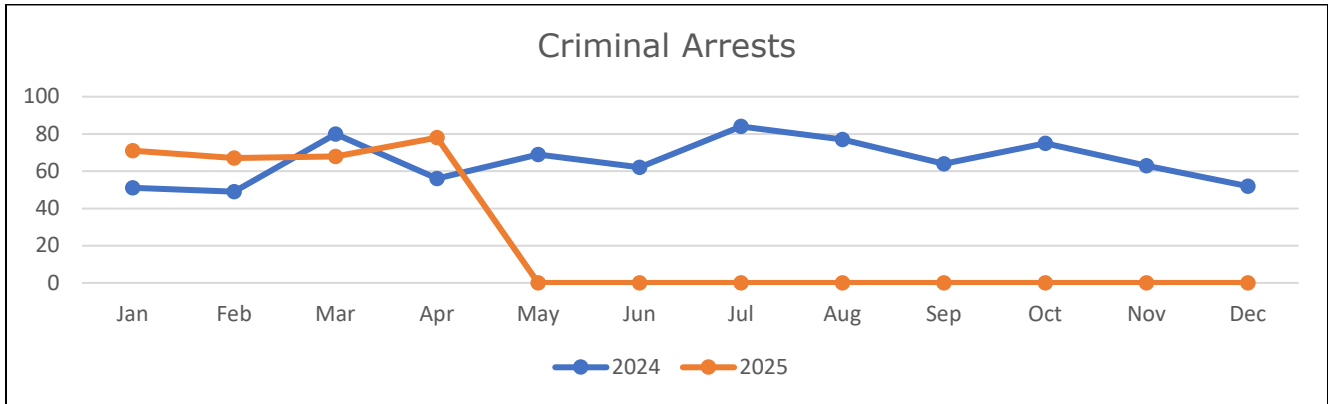


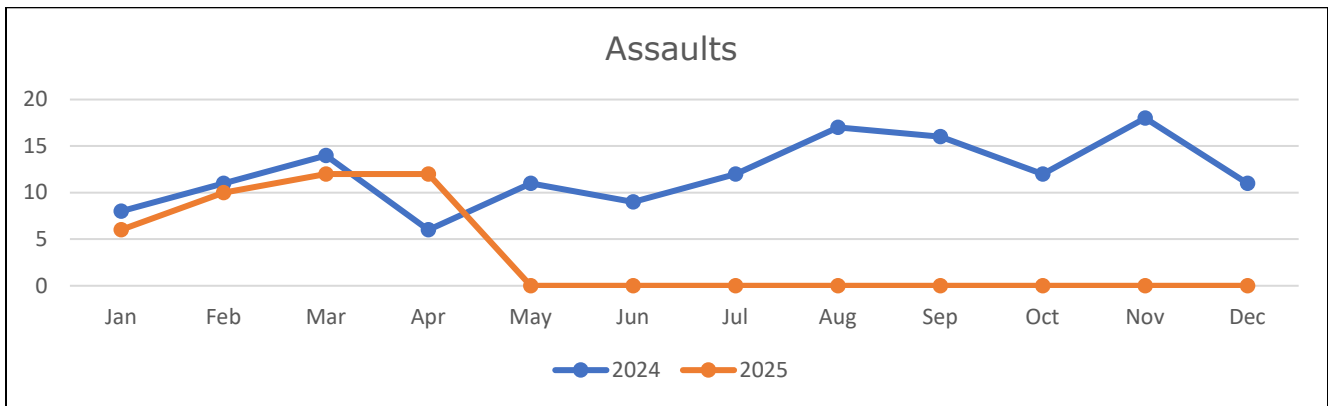
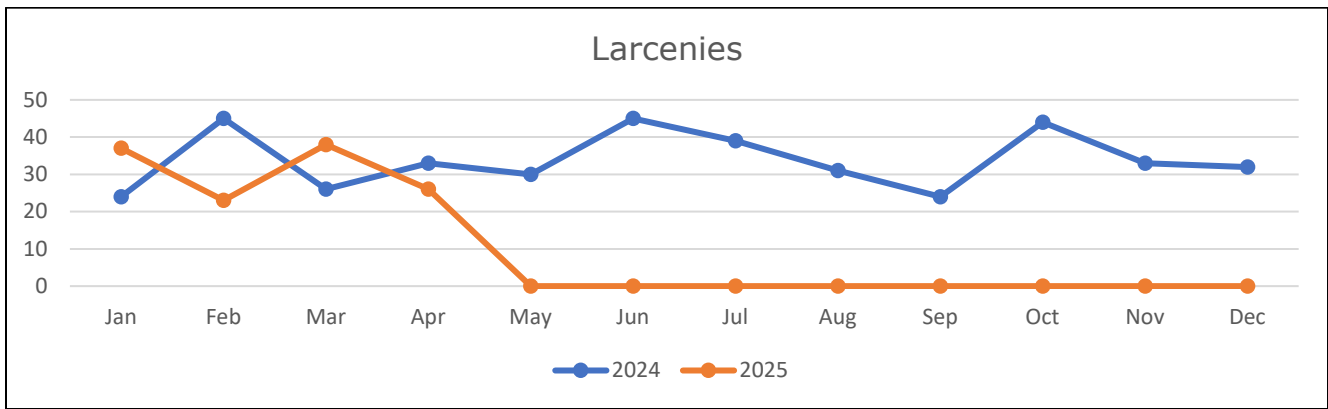


Top five crash locations:

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|----|--|
| #1 | 6 th Ave E at King St |
| #2 | Four Seasons Blvd at Thompson/Freeman St |
| #3 | Howard Gap Rd at Chimney Rock Rd |
| #4 | Church St at 7 th Ave W |
| #5 | King St at 7 th Ave E |

Crimes, Reports, and Arrests





Employee Actions

- National Telecommunicator Week was April 13-19, 2025. We show a deep appreciation for our dedicated telecommunicators. They are Tiffany Gibbs, Liz Gardin, Cassie Murray, Lindsey Rezendes, Rachel Hall, and Wanda Burcham. Amber Kleppe is the 911 Supervisor. If you missed it, please send them a note of thanks when you can. They do a great job for us!
- Detective Colby Torbett graduated from Lees McRae College earning his master's degree in criminal justice. Detective Torbett maintained a 4.0 GPA while balancing home and work life. Excellent work Colby!
- Evidence Custodian Kathe Ingram was elected to serve as President of the NC Association of Property and Evidence Technicians. She previously held various positions on the Board of Directors and chaired the Audit Committee for the association. We are honored that our own Evidence Custodian is so well respected throughout the state to be accepted by her peers to lead the association. Way to go Kathe!
- Thursday, April 17th was National Animal Control Officers Day where we recognized Kelsey Galloway. Kelsey has adapted well to this environment and does great work as our Animal Services Officer.

- Detective Colby Torbett received the Knights of Columbus Shield Award at their annual ceremony. Detective Torbett was nominated for his work in the December 2024, homicide on 7th Avenue resulting in the arrest of the suspect.
- Chief Myhand attended Chief's Legislative Day at the General Assembly in Raleigh. The purpose of this event is to encourage law makers to consider bills that help secure the safety of communities around North Carolina.
- Chief Myhand, City Manager John Connet, Assistant City Manager Brian Pahle, Utilities Director Adam Steurer, and former Councilman Jeff Miller presented at the NCLM City Vision Conference about the city's response and recovery from Hurricane Helene in Greenville, NC.



Safety Tip – Internet Safety

Internet fraud is the fastest growing crime worldwide. Every year, thousands of people are taken advantage of and defrauded of billions of dollars collectively. Seniors are a favorite victim of criminals. Use the tips below to make yourself less enticing for criminals.

Protect your passwords: Never give your account password to anyone. Be especially wary about people you do not know personally, even if they claim to be from your Internet Service Provider.

Use Wi-Fi wisely: Public wireless internet service is convenient and commonplace. Do not conduct financial or personal business in public domains. Doing so can expose your personal information to criminals.

Protect private information: Emailing personal information like credit card numbers, your social security number, or bank account information is dangerous. Criminals can potentially hack into your accounts and steal your personal information.

Use secure websites: Personal information should only be submitted through secure websites (look for <https://> and/or a "lock" icon in the browser bar). Navigate your own way to the secure site rather than clicking a link in an email.

Use privacy settings: Use privacy settings on all social networking sites to hide your information from people you do not know. Use caution when posting information or images online that you want to remain private particularly when away from home.

Choose your "friends" wisely: Think carefully before you befriend someone online. Once you become online friends, consider setting up a special group status that limits their access to your information and their ability to post comments. This is an especially important protection for seniors as this is a common tactic to exploit them financially.

Complaints and Findings

- A citizen filed a complaint alleging excessive force during an arrest. The investigation found that there was no excessive force used and that the incident only involved handcuffing the suspect. The complaint was Not Sustained.

Vehicle Pursuits and Findings

- None

Use of Reasonable Force (UORF) Incidents and Findings

- A suspect assaulted an officer from another agency before fleeing their custody. The suspect later approached an HPD officer in a manner that the officer assumed he might also be assaulted. To prevent further incidents, the Officer struck the suspect in the head once with a closed fist. The suspect was treated on the scene by EMS. The officer was not injured. This use of force in this incident was reviewed and found to have been both reasonable and necessary.
- Officers encountered a suspect involved in a damage to property incident. The suspect resisted arrest and attempted to flee the scene. Officers used light hand techniques to successfully detain the suspect. There were no injuries in this incident to either the suspect or the officers. This matter is still under review.
- An officer responded to a motor vehicle crash finding that the driver of the vehicle fled the scene. The officer located the suspect and attempted to detain him. The suspect then refused to obey lawful commands and appeared to be intoxicated. After repeated commands, the Officer then deployed their taser at the suspect with effect. The suspect complied and was taken into custody. This matter is still under review.
- Officers attempted to arrest a person suspected of DWI. The intoxicated suspect was combative and assaultive towards the officers. Officers used several techniques including joint manipulation, soft-hands, and taser deployment. There were no known injuries to either the suspect or officers in this incident. This incident is still under review.

Operations/Notable Events

- Officers and Detectives responded to the area of Towhee Drive in reference to gunshots being heard. Officers quickly determined that unknown suspect(s) fired a gun. No injured people were found. Several suspects have been identified, and the investigation is still ongoing.
- Officers and Detectives responded to Brittany Place apartments regarding a person in the parking lot with a gunshot wound. Officers arrived and located the individual and immediately rendered aid. The shooter was still on scene and was apprehended without incident. The victim was transported to Mission Hospital and is recovering. The shooter was arrested and charged with assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury with intent to kill.

- Officer and Detectives conducted a search warrant on Tebeau Drive for drug offenses. Various controlled substances were seized. The owner was charged with various drug related charges including possession of a controlled substance and maintaining a dwelling for the use of controlled substances.

Budget Summary

- We are approximately 84% through the fiscal year.
- We have spent or reserved \$5,676,626.00 or 77% of our budget.
- Link to the budget dashboard: [City of Hendersonville Budget](#)

Community Outreach/Special Events

- Officers attended the annual Taser recertification training. This is a requirement for all sworn officers to recertify to carry this less-lethal option.
- All sworn officers attended a scenario-based virtual simulation training this month. In it, Officers are exposed to a variety of different scenarios requiring them to think, use officer-safety tactics, and deescalate when necessary. This is an ongoing training program designed to enhance an officer's skills in dealing with complex and stressful situations in a training environment.



Grants Management

- GHSP Grant – Applied for grant for Overtime Enforcement Activities – Pending Award

Recruiting/Retention

- 1 of 14 non-sworn employee vacancies exist.
- 4 of 47 Police Officer vacancies exist.
 - (0) applications received
 - (4) in background
 - (1) conditional offer made
 - (0) rejected
 - (0) withdrawn