

Hendersonville Police Department  
Public Monthly Report  
January 2025



## Chief's Monthly Summary

Well, 2025 is here! Temperatures have been frigid and we (at least me) long for the warmer temperatures spring will bring us. Stay warm and we will be there soon enough.

I want you to know that despite the cold winter weather, our employees continue making great strides in keeping this city safe. Just this month, we saw the sentencing and imprisonment of the man convicted of murdering a woman inside the McDonald's in October 2023.

We also made an arrest in the December 23, 2024, stabbing and homicide at 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Robinson Terrace. Currently, the suspect remains in the Henderson County Jail awaiting prosecution. These types of crimes are always tragic and senseless. We will continue to vigorously investigate these incidents by dedicating all available resources. We will bring to justice those people responsible for violence in this community.

Despite these incidents, Hendersonville remains one of the safest cities in North Carolina. You are highly unlikely to be the victim of violent crime in this city. I feel confident in the safety and sense of safety for everyone who lives and visits here.

Over the next several months we will continue working on establishing our budget for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026. We will be prioritizing personnel, operating expenses, and other capital expenditures. As a priority, we are always looking for ways to make our operations more efficient by utilizing technology.

We understand public concern about privacy whenever new technologies are employed by the government. Believe me, we share your concerns. We are citizens too after all. Please know, we are sworn to protect civil rights and privacy. We will never use technology to secretly collect your private information without first having undergone a judicial review and obtaining a warrant. Rather, we seek your guidance before we implement any new technology in the city. We are interested in technology that increases officer safety and makes the identification and apprehension of criminals faster and more accurate.

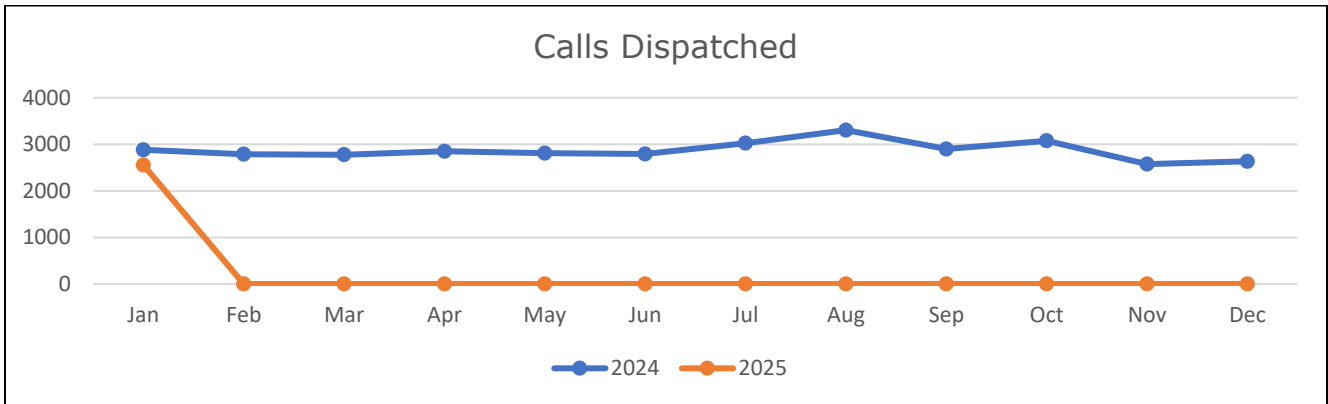
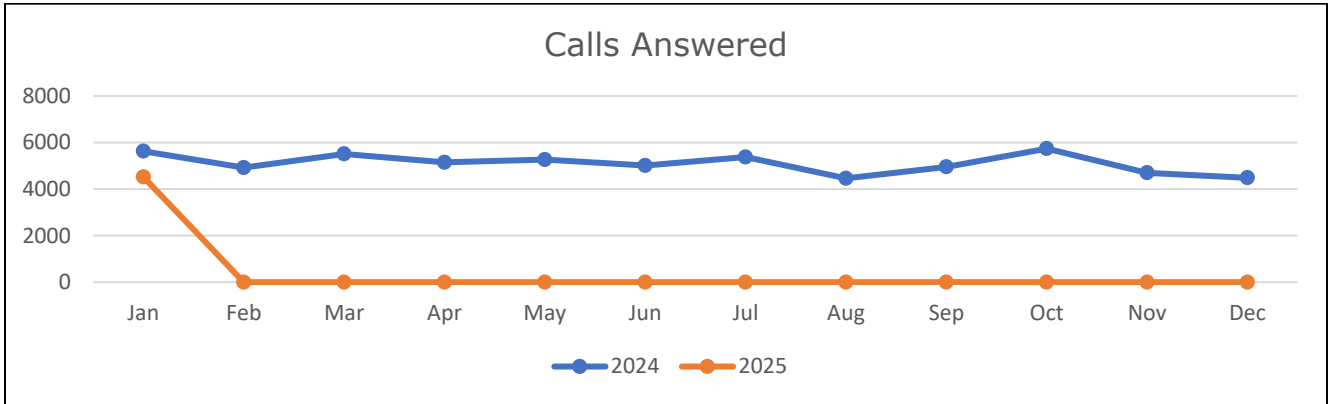
Currently, we are entering into a pilot program with the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) to deploy automatic license plate readers (ALPRs) on the state rights of way throughout the city. This pilot is being implemented across the state, so state legislators can decide if such an allowance should be permitted permanently. We have seen tremendous success in the apprehension of criminals using ALPRs already.

I am as concerned about the proper use of technology and our constitutional civil rights as you are. Moreover, I am committed to ensuring our rights are always protected here. However, I encourage your feedback and would love to hear your privacy concerns.

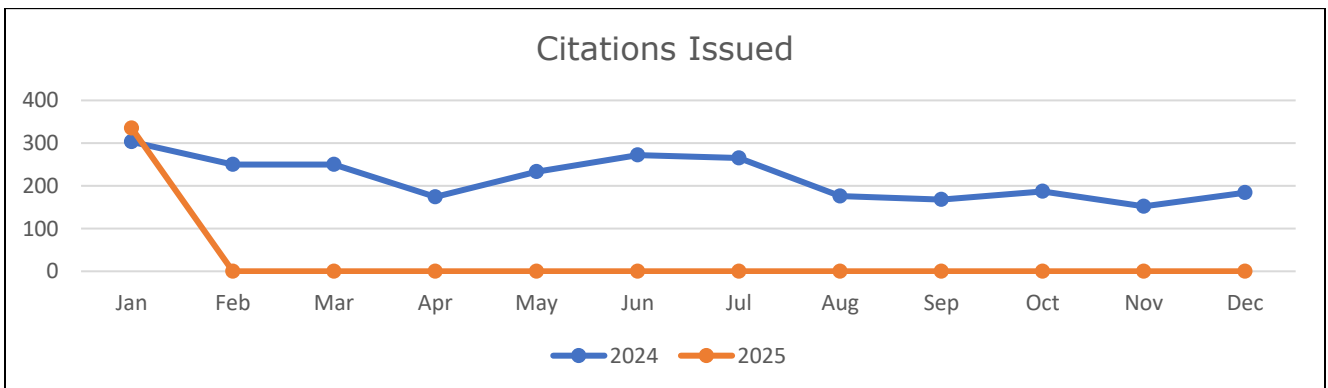
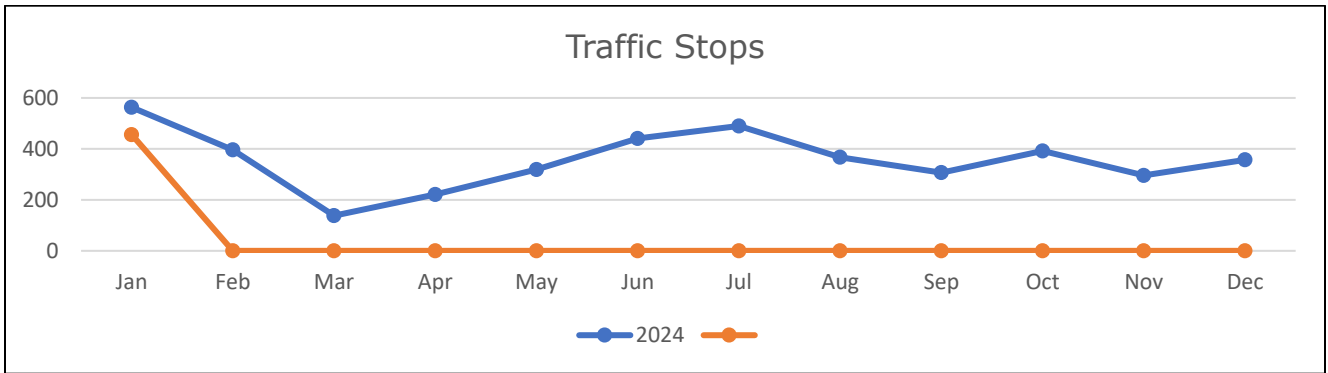


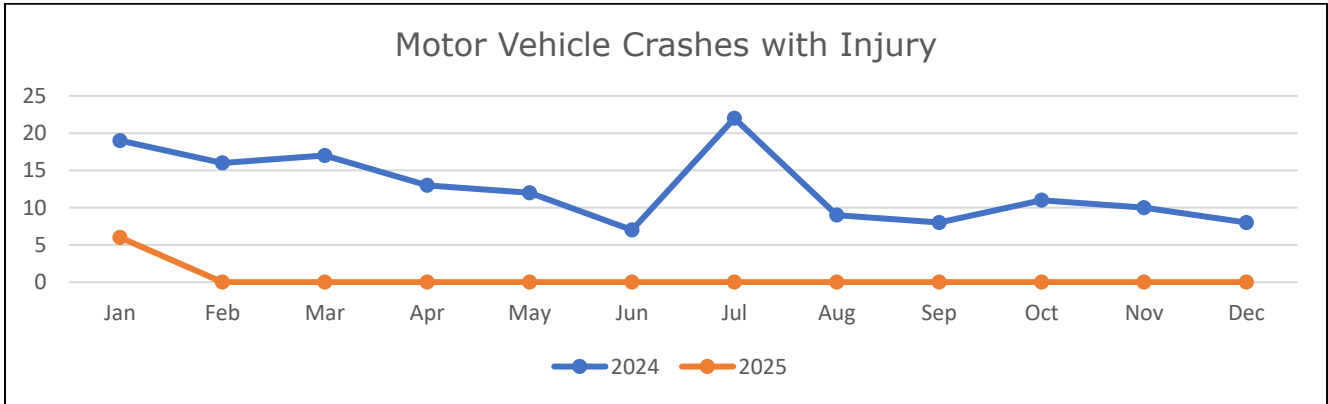
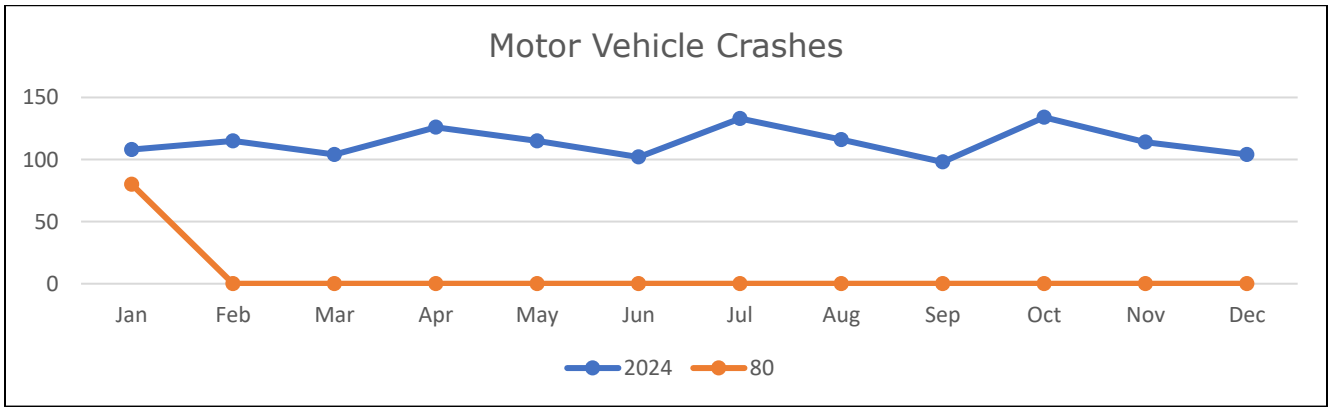
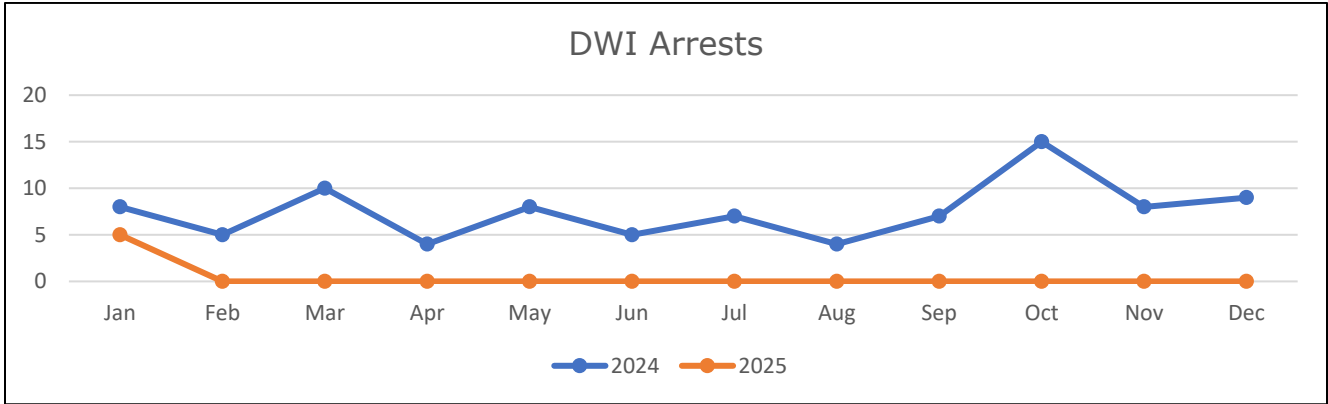
Blair Myhand  
Chief of Police

## Calls For Service



## Traffic Safety

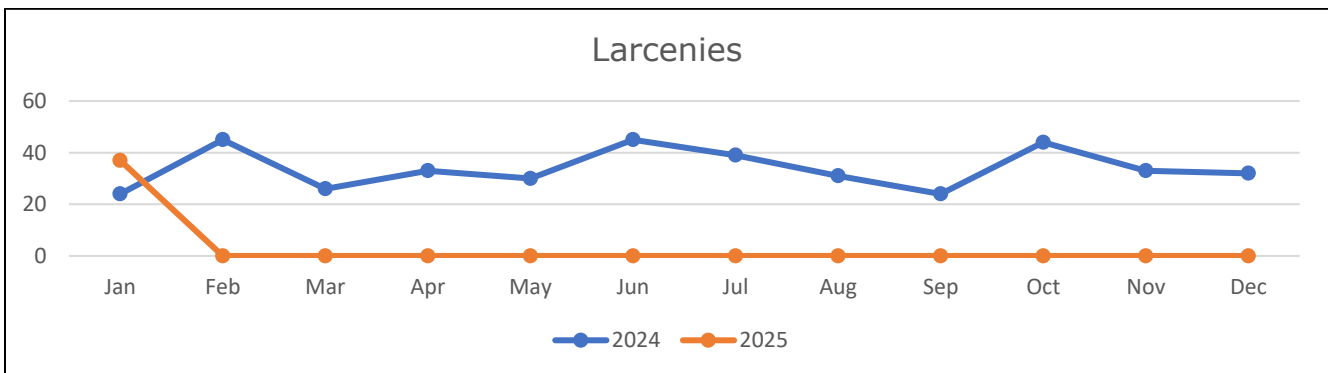
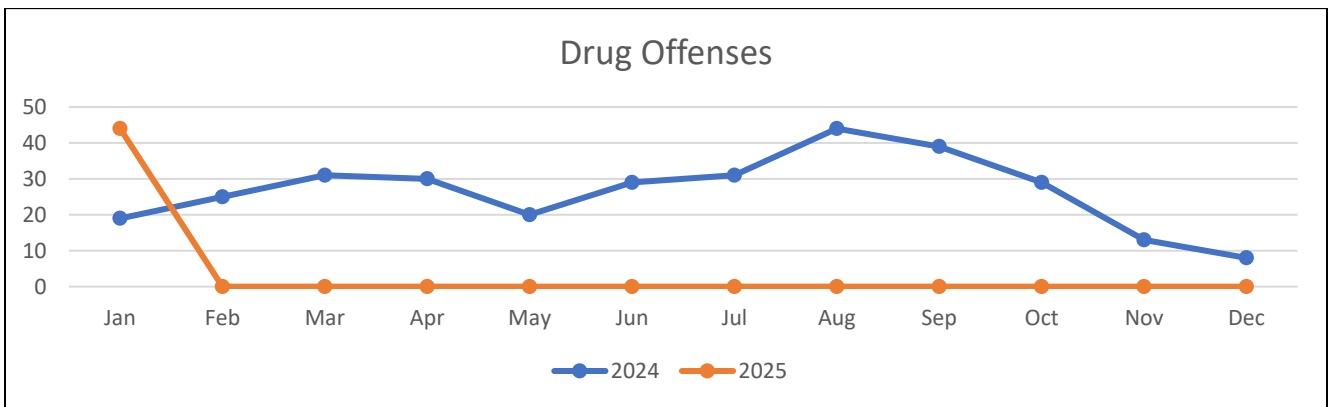
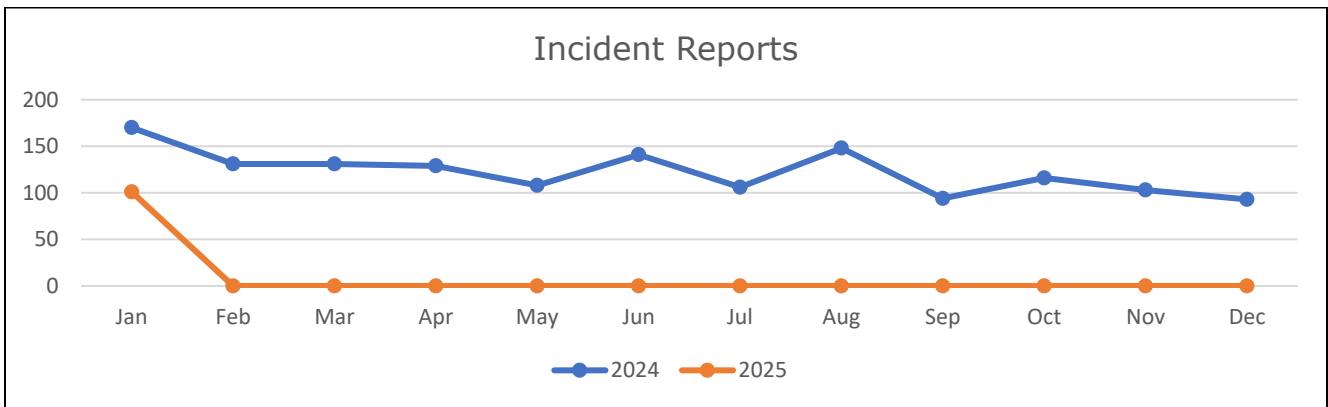
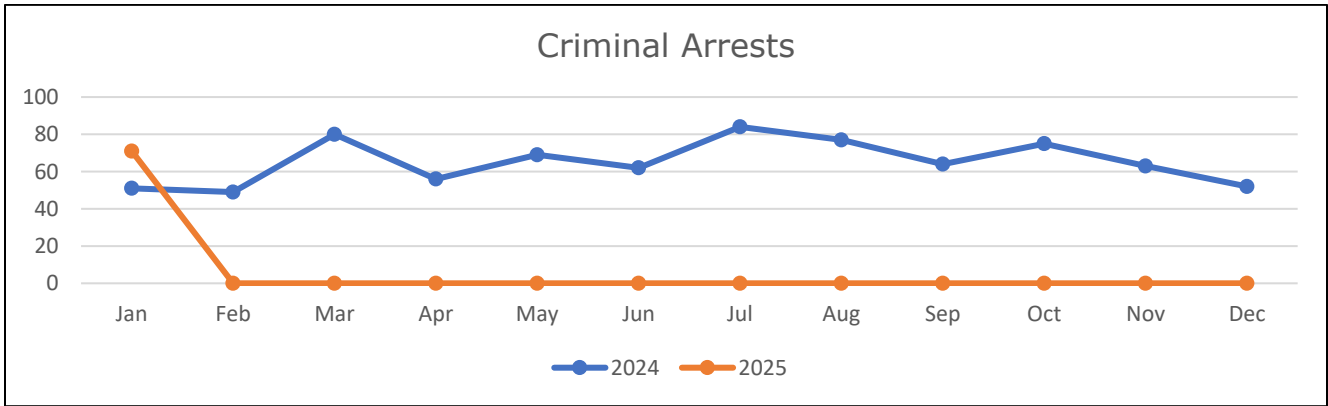


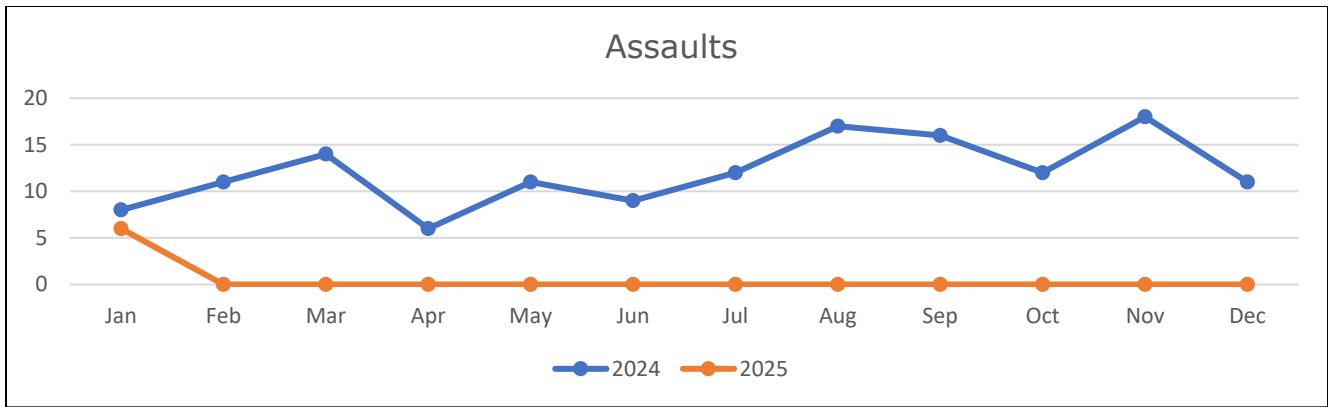


*Top five crash locations:*

|    |                                   |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| #1 | Public Vehicular Areas            |
| #2 | Four Seasons Blvd at Orrs Camp Rd |
| #3 | Four Seasons Blvd at Freeman St   |
| #4 | Blythe St at Teaneck Trail        |
| #5 | Shepherd St at Spartanburg Hwy    |

# Crimes, Reports, and Arrests





## Employee Actions

- Stand TALL made a significant monetary contribution allowing the agency to purchase handgun lock boxes for all sworn officers. These boxes provide officers with a secure method of locking their issued handgun at home. This public/private partnership saved the department \$.70 on the dollar in purchasing these lock boxes.



- Chief Myhand attended the North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police (NCACP) annual conference in Cherokee, NC on January 13-15, 2025. Chief Myhand officially transitioned off the executive board at the conclusion of this conference.
- Chief Myhand discussed the current situation for the department at the Rotary Club luncheon at Grace Lutheran Church on January 21, 2025.
- The annual State of the Department Address was held at the Hendersonville Police Department on January 23, 2025. During this meeting, 2024 priorities were summarized and the focus for 2025 was communicated to all department employees. This is an annual address held in January every year.
- Chief Myhand attended the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Winter Board meeting in San Antonio, TX. Topics discussed during the meeting involved administration immigration strategies, endorsement process for political nominees, the FBI, and other policing strategies.

## Safety Tip – Beware of Scams in the New Year!

Scammers are always looking for new ways to take advantage of people, don't let them catch you off guard! Stay alert for these common fraud schemes:

- **Hurricane Recovery Scams** – If you're donating to disaster recovery efforts, verify charities and organizations before giving. Scammers create fake websites and fundraisers to steal your money.
- **Toll & Fee Scams** – Receiving an unexpected toll or parking fee notice? Always check balances through official websites rather than clicking on unsolicited links. The Hendersonville Police Department will NEVER text a parking fee citation with a payment link!
- **Gift Card Scams** – No legitimate business or government agency will EVER ask you to pay with a gift card. If someone demands one as payment, it's a scam!
- **Personal Information Requests** – Never share personal or financial details with unknown contacts. Banks, law enforcement, and government agencies won't ask for sensitive information over the phone, text, or email.

If you ever think you're being targeted by a scam, please report it to the Hendersonville Police Department by calling (828) 697-3025, or report it online by visiting [www.ReportFraud.ftc.gov](http://www.ReportFraud.ftc.gov).

## Complaints and Findings

- A citizen filed a complaint alleging officers were rude. The investigation determined the complaint was not sustained. The matter is resolved.
- A citizen filed a complaint alleging patrol cars were speeding outside jurisdiction without justification. The complaint was sustained, and action was taken internally. The matter is resolved.

## Vehicle Pursuits and Findings

- None

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

- Officers responded to the scene of an accident where the suspect attempted to flee on foot. The suspect refused to comply with lawful commands, prompting officers to employ soft hand techniques to effect an arrest. The suspect was taken into custody without injury to either the suspect or the officers. The Use of Force was reviewed and determined to be lawful, reasonable and within department policy.
- December 2024: Officers responded to a disturbance at a business involving a suspect who was pointing a knife at employees. Officers utilized soft-hand techniques to take the suspect into custody. Neither the suspect nor the officers sustained injuries during the incident. The Use of Force was reviewed and determined to be lawful, reasonable and within department policy.

- December 2024: Officers responded to a shoplifting investigation and located the suspect. As the officer approached, the suspect fled on foot, ignoring lawful commands to stop. The officer pursued and ultimately caught the suspect by taking him to the ground. Neither the suspect nor the officer sustained injuries during the incident. The Use of Force was reviewed and determined to be lawful, reasonable and within department policy.

## Operations/Notable Events

- After a thorough investigation, detectives collected sufficient evidence and secured a warrant for Willie Lee Brown III for the murder of Kevin Copelin on December 23, 2024. Brown was arrested on January 12, 2025, and was charged with first-degree murder. The Henderson County US Marshals Fugitive Task Force assisted in Brown's arrest.

## Budget Summary

- We are approximately 60% through the fiscal year.
- We have spent or reserved \$4,153,572 or 56% of our budget.
- Link to the budget dashboard: [City of Hendersonville Budget](#)

## Community Outreach/Special Events

- Several members of the agency participated in the Battle of the Badges blood drive event on January 23, 2025. The purpose of the challenge is to encourage first responders to give blood to save lives in our community. Congratulations to the Henderson County Rescue Squad for donating the most blood and winning the competition.

## Grants Management

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

## Recruiting/Retention

- 0 of 14 non-sworn employee vacancies exist.
- 3 of 48 Police Officer vacancies exist.
  - (15) applications received
  - (3) in background
  - (1) conditional offer made
  - (0) rejected
  - (2) withdrew