

**From:** Christina Hallingse <challengse@ashevillenc.gov>  
**Sent:** 7/23/2020 1:25:13 PM  
**To:** Laura Cole <lcole@colepromedia.com>  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Fwd: Chief Interview - Assistance in Information Gathering  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#), [image.png](#), [image.png](#)

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Laura,

Good morning (on the west coast)! Just wanted to get your assistance and feedback on an interview that the Chief will be doing with our local television station (WLOS) next Thursday (30). The items that they wish to discuss are below. In addition, and in order to better understand/provide context, we have asked our Crime Analyst to pull some additional figures (in the email string below). Can you please review and let me know your thoughts? Also, would you be available next Tuesday or Wednesday to assist me in prepping the Chief for the interview?

Hope all is well,  
Christina

**WLOS interview requests:**

1. Looks like homicides are up this year in Asheville already compared to last BUT arrests have been made in most of the cases (which is great news if there is a silver lining.)Â Compared to last year, when a majority of the homicides remain â€œunsolved.â€
2. There is definitely an argument to be made that there is racial disparity in among homicide victims.Â This year, 5 of the 7 victims are African American males.Â I know Chief Zack is working hard to address Black Lives Matters issues, and this definitely sticks out at the moment.Â

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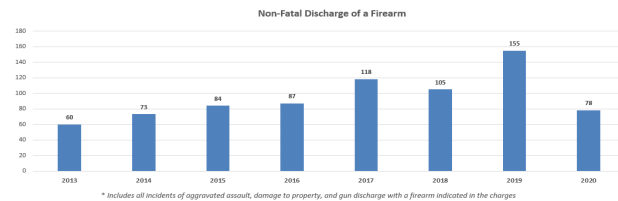
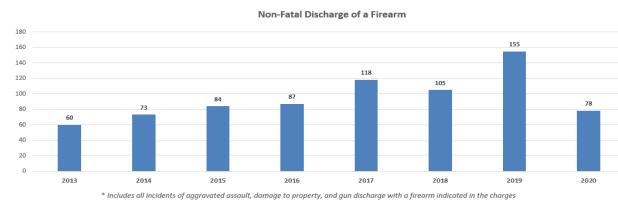
**From:** Douglas R. Oeser <[doeser@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:doeser@ashevillenc.gov)>  
**Date:** Thu, Jul 23, 2020 at 10:38 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Chief Interview - Assistance in Information Gathering  
**To:** Christina Hallingse <[challengse@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:challengse@ashevillenc.gov)>

Christina,Â

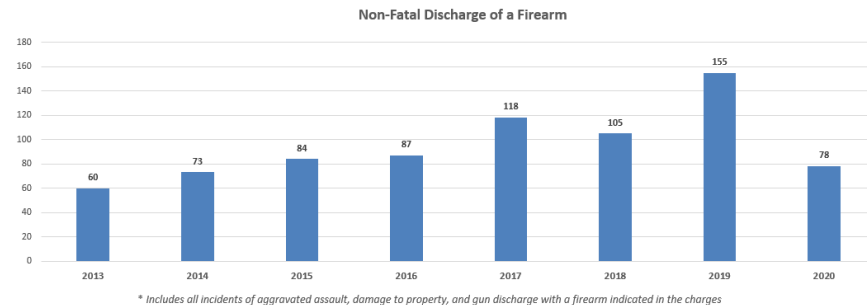
To keep the data consistent and simple to explain to reporters, I pulled crime data from the time period you indicated and limited the searchÂ to only incidents that listed a firearm in the charges. I kept my response specificÂ to the questions you asked. It might also be worth mentioning that homicidesÂ and gun violence disproportionatelyÂ impacts communities of color. Due to historic red lining, Asheville residency remains segregated. Therefore, when APD seeks to deploy proactive measures to address homicides and gun violence, the measures are applied where the incidents have occurred; which has disproportionately communities of color. If you have any questions or further requests, please let me know.Â Â

**Homicide Information (2013-Present):** Excluding blocked cases, there have been 54 incidents of homicide since 2013; one of which was a justifiable homicide (16-031721). Homicides have increased this year, already exceeding 2019 by two incidents. While there were 10 incidents in 2018, the annual average for the past 7 years has been

6.5 homicides per year. In all, there were 65 homicide suspects and 72 victims. In terms of racial disparity, while black residents comprise [approximately 12%](#) of Asheville's population, 62% of homicide victims and 67% of homicide suspects have been black. Black males, in particular, comprise 52% of all homicide victims and 65% of all homicide suspects. For more information, see the following two tables.



**Non-Fatal Shootings (2013-Present):** Non-fatal shootings have increased over the past three years as well. When considering all incidents of aggravated assault, damage to property, and gun discharge with a firearm indicated in the charges, there have been 760 incidents since 2013; 93 (12%) of which were domestic related. While the annual average from 2013-2016 was 63 incidents a year, over the past three years the average has increased to 114 per year (when excluding domestic violence). 2019 was the highest year in the past seven with 148 incidents.



**Shots Fired Calls:** Forensics does process evidence on scene and if warranted an incident report is created, even if it is just for a damage to property. However, if there is no evidence, witnesses, or the officer identified an alternative source for noise, then the call is cancelled and it is notated in the call notes. What I can say, based on the data, is that since 2013 APD has received 4,139 calls for service for a gun discharge or a gunshot wound. Of those, 400 calls were cancelled. While there were 3,739 incidents in which an officer identified shots were fired, only 777 of those calls led to the creation of an incident report.

**Douglas Oeser**  
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On Wed, Jul 22, 2020 at 3:28 PM Christina Hallingse <[challengse@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:challengse@ashevillenc.gov)> wrote:  
Douglas,

Good afternoon! The Chief is going to be interviewing with WLOS at the end of next week (most likely on Thursday, July 27). He has asked me to work with you to gather some information that you would be helpful. I have copied WLOS' request below so that you can see what they would like to speak to him about.

Based on conversations with the Chief, the information he would find helpful to have is as follows:

- Homicide information (let's do the last five years (2013-Present), unless you think otherwise, denoting victim race/gender and offender race/gender (if known)
- How many non-fatal shootings have we had during this same time frame?
- Are shots fired calls confirmed (i.e. was there evidence at the scene - bullet holes, shell casings, etc)? \*\*I think with this question he is probably getting at the number of shots fired calls (total) vs. confirmed (but I could be wrong)\*\*

Is this something you can assist with? Would it be possible to have this information by early next week (late Monday/early Tuesday)?

Thank you,

Christina Hallingse  
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