

Asheville has seen a 33% year to date increase in violent crime (homicide, rape, robbery aggravated assault) this year compared to the average for the last 3 years. The increase is due almost entirely to an increase in aggravated assaults, which have seen a 50% increase from last year. Property crime is down 3% compared to averages over the past 3 years, and since most crime committed is property crime, our overall crime rate is down slightly.

Since January 1st of 2022, APD has lost 17 sworn officers to resignation, and 1 has been terminated. We are currently down 59 sworn positions (25% down). Of the current 179 sworn, 39 are currently unavailable:

- 12 are in field training (available November)
- 13 are in basic law enforcement Training (available May 2023)
- 4 are assigned to light duty
- 8 are on Family Medical leave
- 2 are on military leave

*No officers are out for COVID at this time. This number has the potential to change rapidly.

The month of July was particularly difficult for APD. We began the month with 147 officers available for duty. We have lost 8 since. As of 8/15/2022 APD is down almost 42% of staff on a daily basis. We have a Lieutenant retiring later this month. This lieutenant manages our recruitment effort and must be replaced.

Of the 13 officers in field training, there is no guarantee all will graduate to full patrol status. Also, it would be imprudently optimistic to assume APD will not continue to see departures. Therefore, major reallocation of resources must occur.

The **APD Traffic Safety Unit** is normally staffed by 7 officers and a sergeant. The unit's primary functions include proactive traffic enforcement and serious accident investigation. In July the Unit was temporarily disbanded as only a single officer and sergeant remained. The assets were reallocated to patrol. Serious accident investigation has been transferred to non-sworn forensic technicians and trained officers on an as needed basis.

The **APD Public Housing Unit** is normally staffed by 8 officers and a sergeant. Resignations have claimed 5 of those officers. APD will be temporarily disbanding this unit. The sergeant of the unit will be transferred to the School Resource Unit which had a vacancy in the position of sergeant. The 3 remaining officers will be moved to the Impact Team which currently has 3 vacancies. The Impact Team has been instrumental in addressing the City's growing violent crime and needs the resources.

The **APD Community Unit** is intended to be staffed by a sergeant and 8 sworn officers. Their operations are overseen by a captain and a lieutenant. This unit is responsible for addressing chronic neighborhood complaints and addressing issues related to the City houseless population. At the start of July only 2 sworn officers and a sergeant remained in the Community Unit. By July's end, both officers resigned; leaving only a single sergeant. The lieutenant overseeing the Unit will be transferred to fill the vacancy created by the retiring lieutenant who directed recruitment. The sergeant will be transferred to patrol to fill an existing vacancy. Captain Lamb, who Commands this Division will remain. His duties have yet to be finalized; but, will no doubt entail a significant amount of community outreach work.

It is the intent of APD to reconstruct these units as staffing increases. It is difficult to provide a timetable, as much can happen before November when potentially 12 new sworn officers are available for solo patrol. The next wave of reinforcements will not be available till May of 2023. APD will continue to adapt and adjust as necessary.