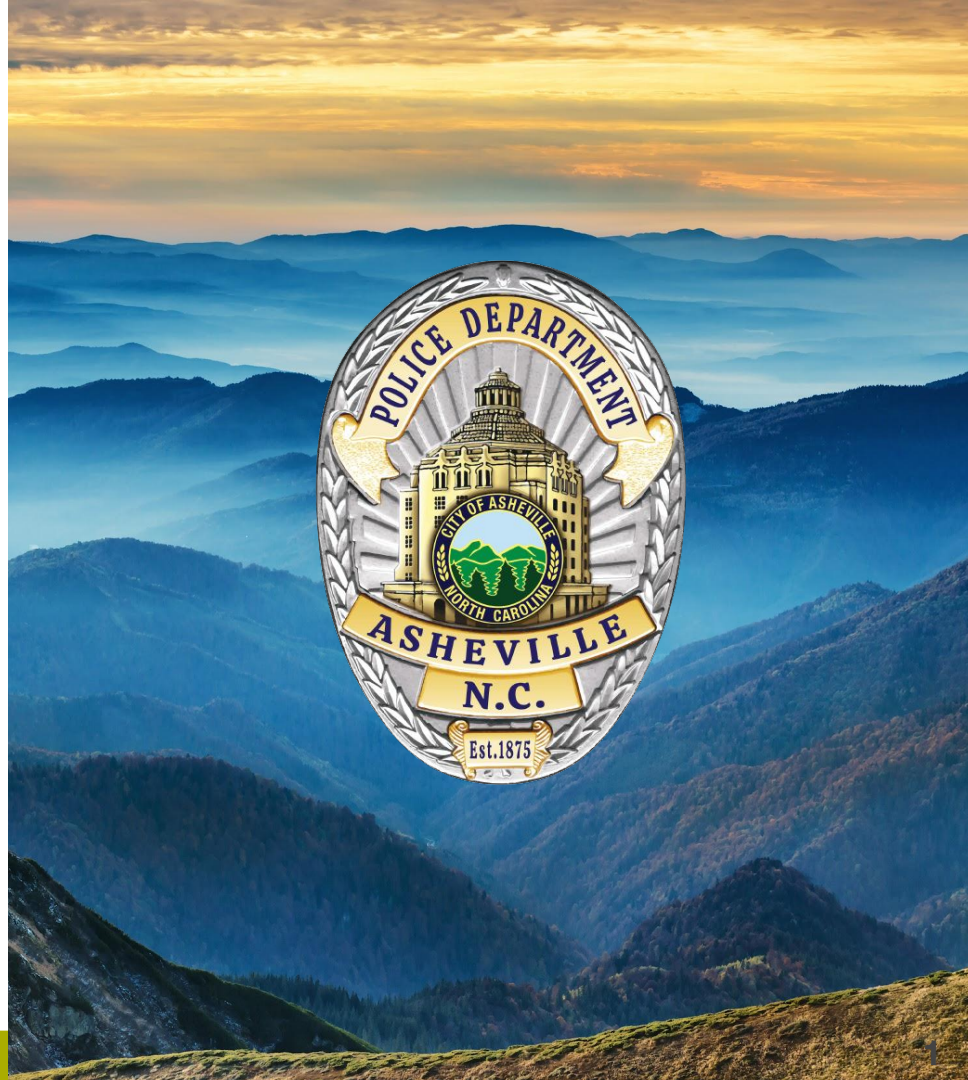
Gun Violence and Year-to Date Crime

Public Safety Committee

July 29, 2026

Presented by:
Jackie Stepp, Chief of Police
Sean Aardama, Deputy Police Chief





The Asheville Police Department is committed to two things: holding accountable those who threaten our community and standing beside those we serve. Through strong partnerships with our community, local, state, and federal partners, we will continue the work of creating a safer Asheville.

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Current Gun Violence Strategies

Targeted Action

Offender Focus

Prioritizing resources to focus directly on gun offenders and their active use of firearms against others.

Housing Team

Dedicated Housing Team implemented to enhance safety within HACA neighborhoods.

Multi-Agency Ally

Embedded Task Forces

APD Task Force Officers are directly embedded with key federal agencies: FBI, ATF, DEA, and USMS.

Gun Violence Meetings

Monthly collaborative sessions (est. 2020) including FBI, ATF, DEA, USMS, NCDPS, SBI, BCSO, and prosecutors to share intelligence and coordinate cases.

Community Connection

Partner Collaboration

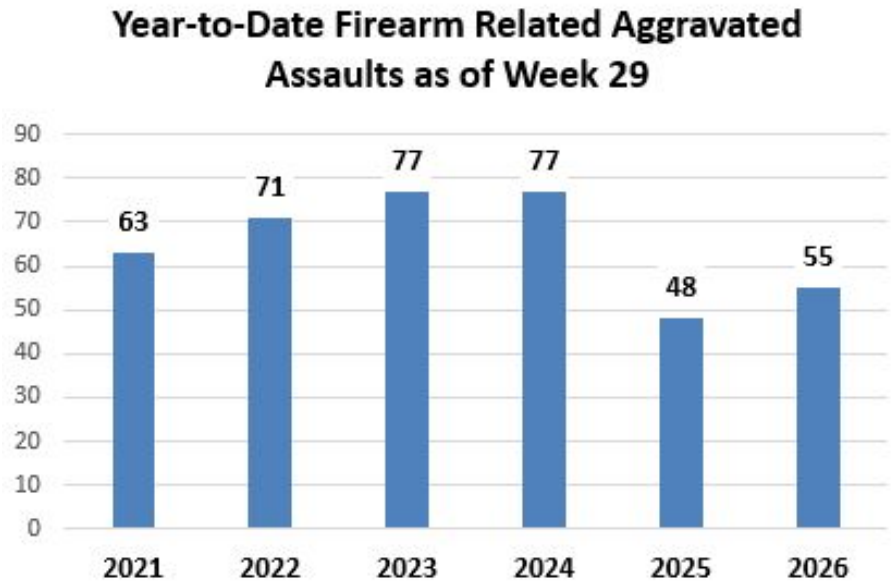
Maintaining open lines of communication with community partners to build trust and gather insights.

Local Perspectives

Leveraging community voices to understand neighborhood events and underlying dynamics that may not be visible through law enforcement channels alone.

Gun Violence

- Assaults committed with firearms are on an upward trajectory this year
- Evidence and intelligence in these cases gathered by investigators and analysts indicate that many are retaliatory acts



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Gun Violence

- 97 firearms have been seized as evidence year-to-date in 2026
- Several of these weapons have illicit modifications allowing for automatic fire
- We are working with our federal partners to address illegal firearms and modifications to them



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Gun Violence

- The City of Asheville has experienced four firearm-related homicides in 2026
- At this point in 2025, APD investigated three firearm-related homicides, the same number reported during the same time period in 2024.



While overall crime trends may fluctuate, firearm-related violence remains a significant public safety priority requiring targeted enforcement, prevention, and community partnerships.

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Gun Violence

Public assistance remains vital to the Biltmore Avenue investigation. We ask anyone with information, no matter how insignificant it may seem, to contact us. You may call the Asheville Police Department directly at 828-252-1110. There is also a way to report information anonymously by using the TIP2APD App.

- Download the free Asheville PD app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store by searching “AshevillePD.”
- If you don’t have a smartphone, you can still help. Text the keyword TIP2APD and your message to 847411.

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Operational Updates

Community Resource Officers (CRO) have been assigned to the patrol districts

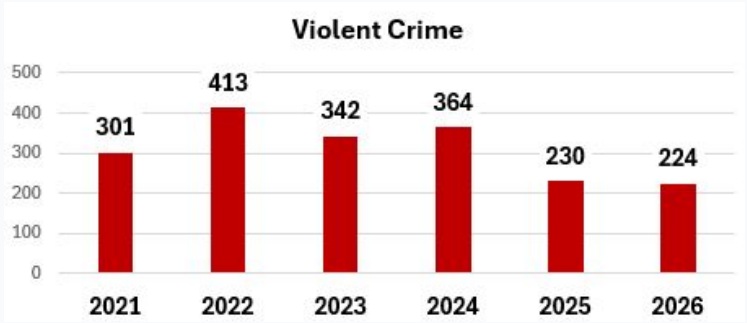
- An additional CRO designated to the high-traffic zones as defined by city ordinance
- CROs will work side-by-side with officers assigned to patrol district on strategic problem-solving, addressing longer-term community complaints, and providing resources on a more granular level

Housing Authority of the City of Asheville (HACA) Team

- The team began work on July 6th, and have established regular meetings with the HACA executive team, site managers, and resident councils
- To date, the team has seized 7 firearms through intelligence-led investigations, including one AK-47 rifle with a high-capacity drum magazine, and has investigated and made arrests in 12 felony drug cases

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Year-to Date Crime Snapshot





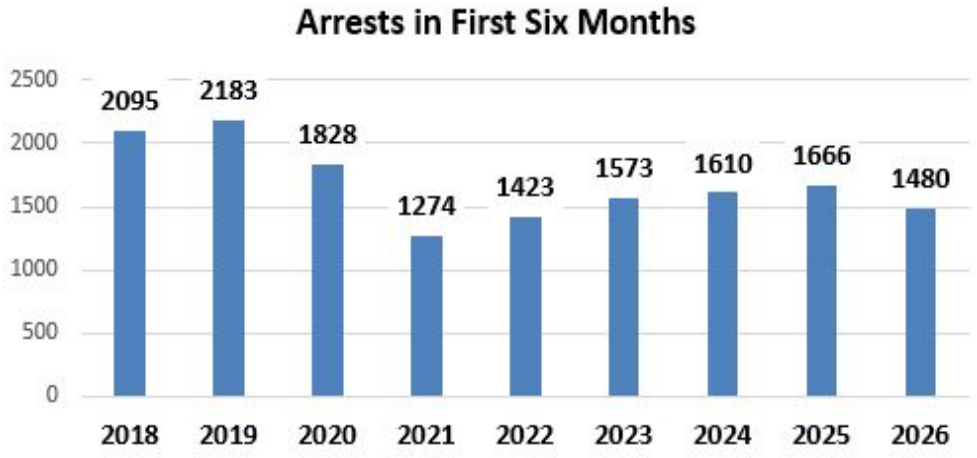
as of July 19th, 2026

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Recent Crime Trends and Enforcement Efforts

Highlights

- With fewer reported crimes, **arrests** are down 7% compared to previous years
- **Citations** issued have been above normal for the last 4 quarters; currently 1,000 more than last year
- The data demonstrates our commitment to issuing citations and diversion options in lieu of arrests where appropriate



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Questions


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