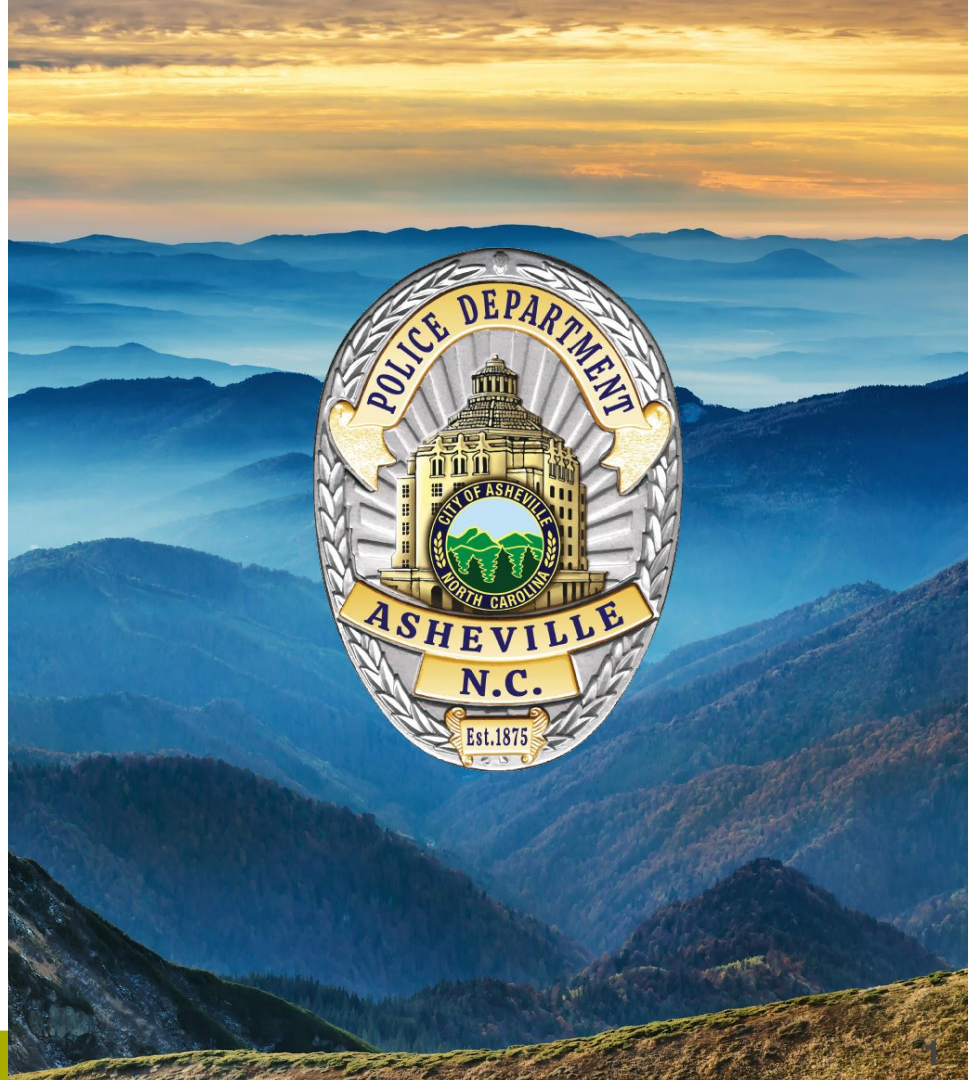
Public Safety Committee Meeting

Chief Mike Lamb
Deputy Chief Sean Aardema
Deputy Chief Jackie Stepp
July 29, 2025



Quarterly Crime Stats

Quarterly Crime Stats Key Takeaways

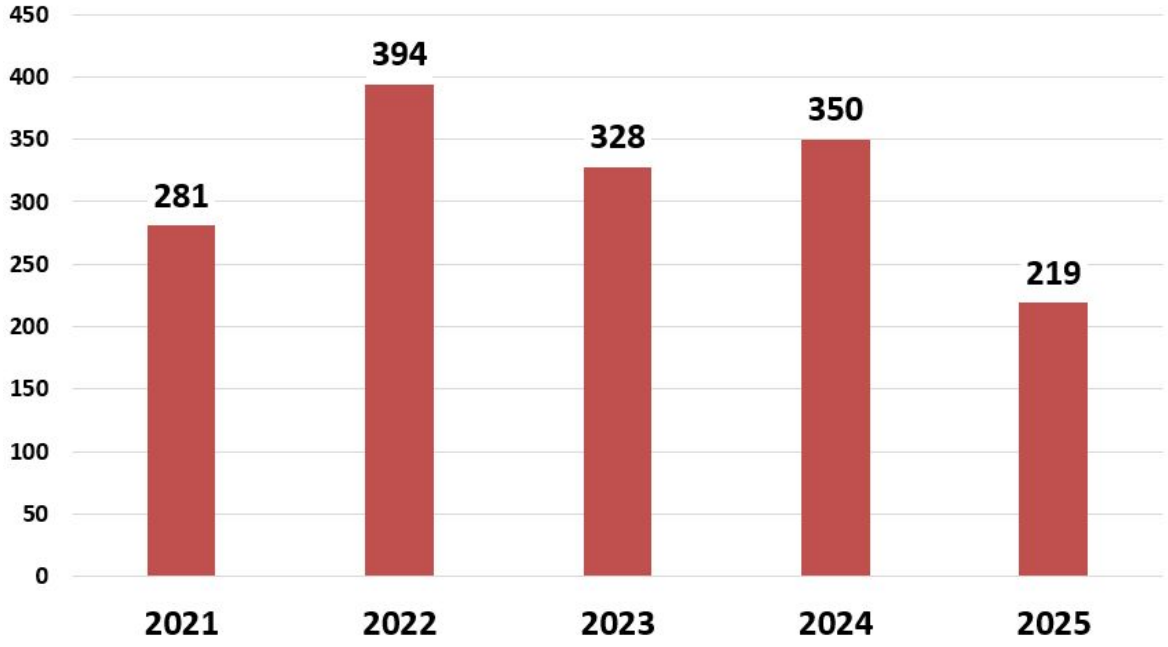
- Fewer violent crimes reported year-to-date; a 37% reduction compared to 2024.
- Property crimes have increased slightly as a result of more larcenies and motor vehicle burglaries.

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Data Analysis and Analytics

- Data analysis helps identify patterns in crime so we can respond more effectively and anticipate future activity.
- Crime mapping and predictive analytics can place officers where they are most needed; improving coverage, reducing response times, and helping prevent crime before it occurs.
- Key performance indicators, such as officer response times and case outcomes, are continuously monitored to evaluate what is working and to guide improvements.
- Instead of simply reacting to crime after it happens, data-driven approaches allow us to plan ahead and prevent incidents through early intervention and focused strategies.
- Data supports better decision-making by turning raw information into insights that guide staffing, and long-term planning aligned with our overall public safety goals.

Year to Date Citywide Violent Crime

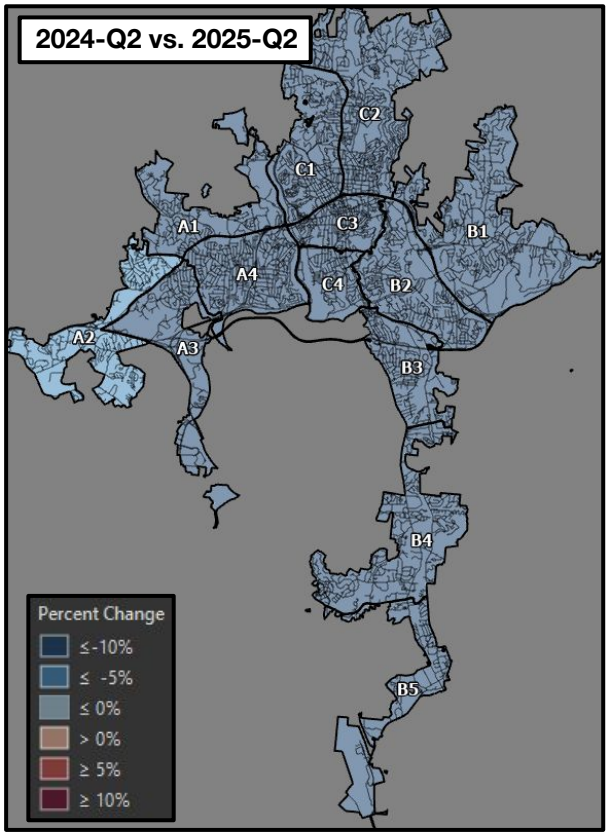


Uniform Crime Reporting Part I Violent Crime
as of July 12th

- Citywide violent crime has improved compared to last year.
- Proactive policing and community engagement have contributed to a 37% reduction in violent crime year to date.

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Citywide Violent Crime Q1 (April 1 - June 30)



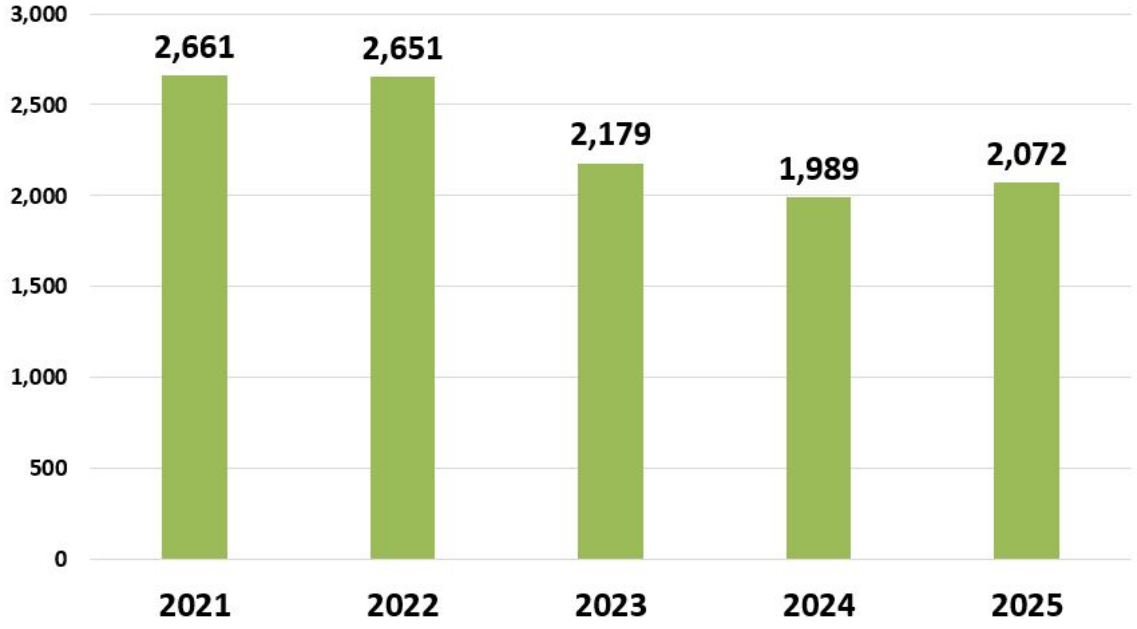
Violent Crime Comparison

Beat Name	2024-Q2	2025-Q2	Count Change	Percent Change
Adam1	14	8	-6	-43%
Adam2	12	11	-1	-8%
Adam3	3	2	-1	-33%
Adam4	21	9	-12	-57%
Baker1	13	8	-5	-38%
Baker2	28	13	-15	-54%
Baker3	10	5	-5	-50%
Baker4	8	5	-3	-38%
Baker5	8	4	-4	-50%
Charlie1	15	6	-9	-60%
Charlie2	5	2	-3	-60%
Charlie3	35	20	-15	-43%
Charlie4	14	12	-2	-14%

- **Charlie District/ Downtown/North** had 20 fewer (-40%) violent crimes.
- **Baker/East/South District** reported a 35 fewer (-48%) violent crimes.
- **Adam/West District** has reported 29 fewer (-42%) violent crimes.

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Year to Date Citywide Property Crime

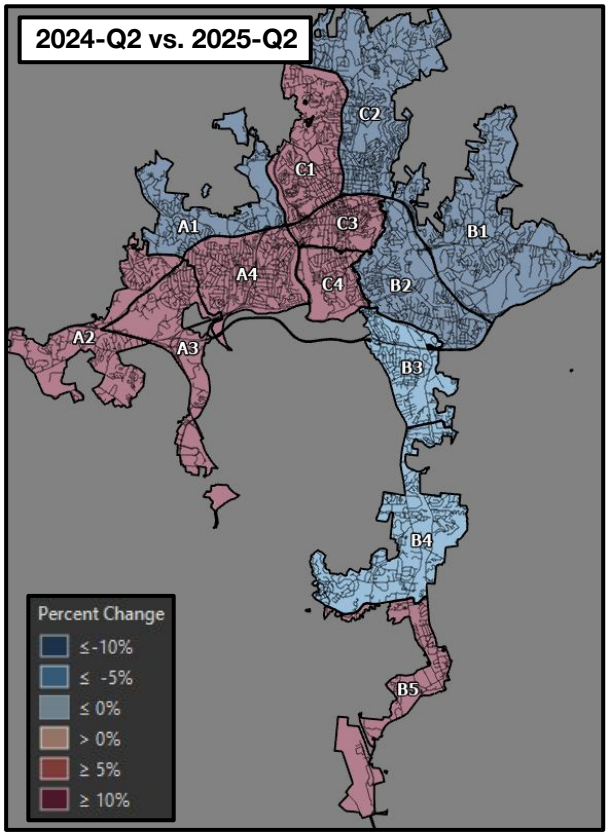


Uniform Crime Reporting Part I Property Crime
as of July 12th

- Citywide property has increased compared to last year.
- The 4% increase in property crime is due primarily to increases in unsecured motor vehicle burglaries.

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Citywide Property Crime Q1 (April 1 - June 30)



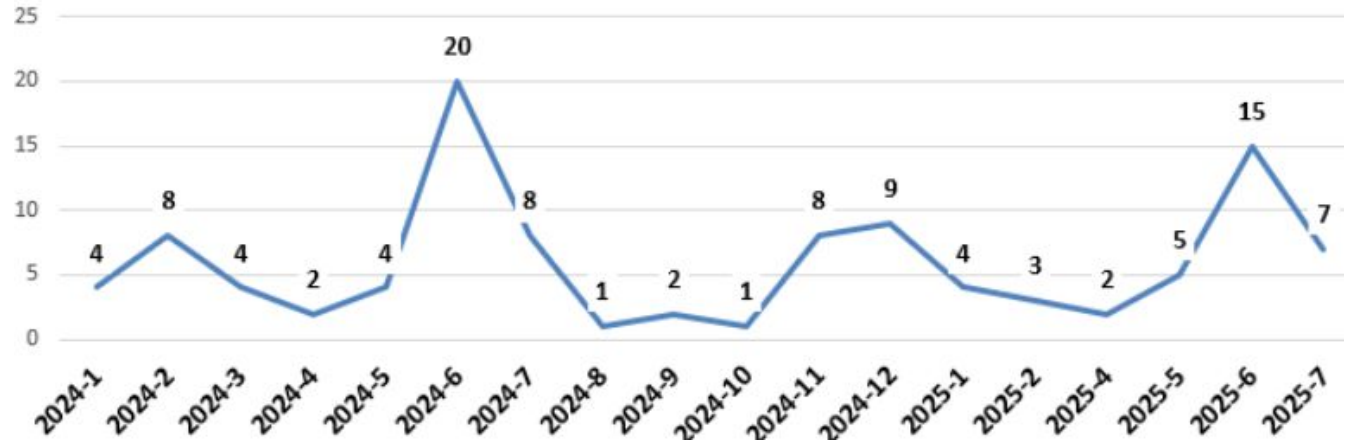
Property Crime Comparison

Beat Name	2024-Q2	2025-Q2	Count Change	Percent Change
Adam1	54	45	-9	-17%
Adam2	69	77	8	12%
Adam3	40	101	61	153%
Adam4	92	130	38	41%
Baker1	106	78	-28	-26%
Baker2	228	193	-35	-15%
Baker3	33	31	-2	-6%
Baker4	55	50	-5	-9%
Baker4	58	98	40	69%
Charlie1	44	52	8	18%
Charlie2	29	26	-3	-10%
Charlie3	93	103	10	11%
Charlie4	32	39	7	22%

- **Charlie District/ Downtown/North** had 98 more (+38%)property crimes.
- **Baker/East/South District** reported a 30 fewer (-6%) property crimes.
- **Adam/West District** has reported 22 more (+11%) property crimes.

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Gun Violence Statistics Overview



Overall, gun violence is down compared to the same time period last year.

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Gun Violence Intelligence

- We experienced four shooting incidents in a four day period last week, including one late afternoon incident at a Parks and Recreation facility.
- The evidence in these cases clearly demonstrate that the shootings are gang-related, typically retaliatory, and unfortunately often involve juvenile offenders.
- We cannot end this violence alone; we are emphasizing to the community that they have the opportunity to interrupt acts of violence, and we will stand with them as partners in doing so.

Gun Violence Response

- Our Gun Violence Task Force and Crime Analysis Unit are leveraging partnerships and intelligence to address these incidents, and have begun meeting on a more frequent basis to more quickly respond.
- These partnerships involve working closely with the FBI, the ATF, the NCSBI, and the United States and District Attorneys Offices to hold firearm offenders accountable.
- Our Patrol and Community Engagement Divisions receive intelligence bulletins from the task force and utilize the data to enhance their increased presence in areas affected by these incidents.

Quarterly Crime Stats Key Takeaways

- Fewer violent crimes reported year-to-date; a 37% reduction compared to 2024.
- Property crimes have increased slightly as a result of more larcenies and motor vehicle burglaries.

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Discussion/Questions?

Expansion of Panhandling Ordinance/High Traffic Zones

Expansion of Panhandling Ordinance Takeaways

- Panhandling occurs most frequently in commercial areas and near high traffic corridor (i.e. S Tunnel Rd, Patton Ave, interstate exits).
- In some areas known for panhandling, there are a high number of pedestrian motor vehicle collisions.
- It is recommended that additional areas be considered for High Traffic Zone designation based on traffic patterns and calls for service
    - Areas for consideration: Patton Avenue, Haywood Road, and South Tunnel Road
    - It is recommended that Zone 1 be expanded to include sections of Merrimon Avenue and South Slope.
- City Ordinance 11-5.2(a) will need to be amended to include the boundaries of each new zone

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High Traffic Zones

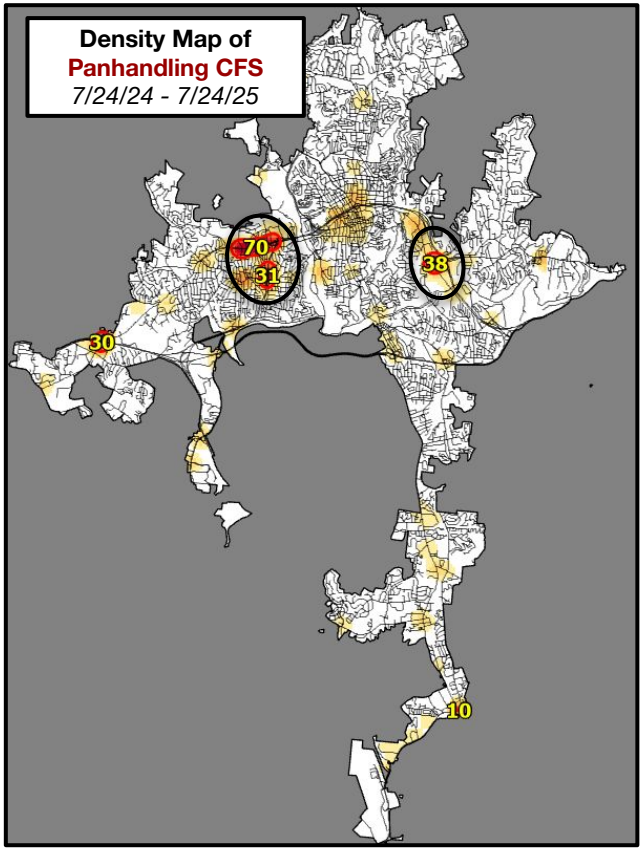
- High Traffic Zones are currently defined as geographic areas within the city, and are discussed in city ordinance 11-5, Public Solicitation.
- The current zones encompass the majority of the central business district, as well as Biltmore Village.
- City Ordinance 11-5 may only be enforced within defined high traffic zones.

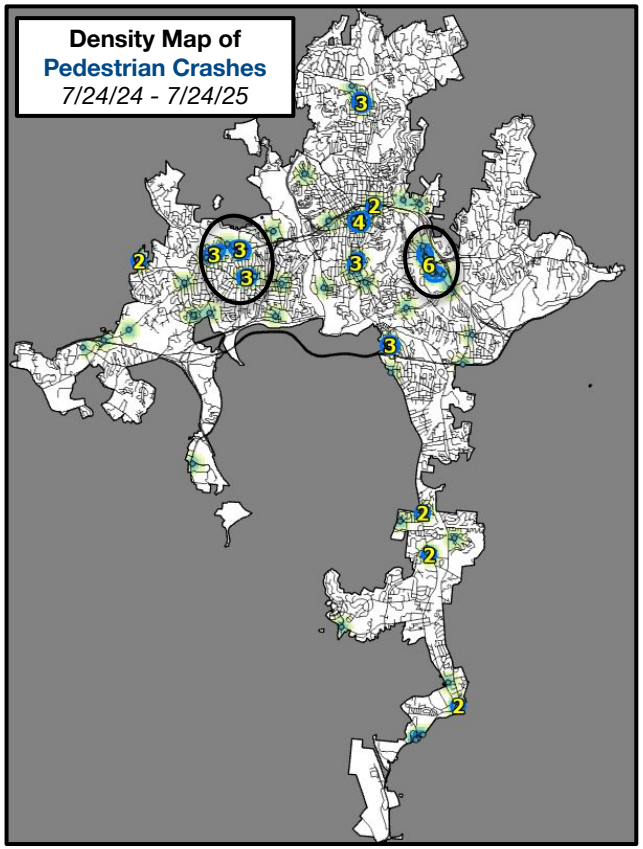




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Panhandling and Pedestrian Crashes





- In the past 12 months, there were **325 panhandling CFS** and **67 pedestrian collisions** citywide.
- The maps show overlapping hotspots along **Patton Ave**, **Haywood Rd**, and **South Tunnel Rd**, where both panhandling activity and pedestrian collisions are concentrated.

Consideration of additional High Traffic Zones

City of Asheville Code of Ordinances

Chapter 11-5. Public solicitation and begging regulated

- Prohibits the acts of solicitation based under certain conditions, such as physical or aggressive behavior, location, time or under the influence of alcohol or controlled substance. (Sec. 11-5.b.1)
- In addition to the restrictions set forth in section (b)(1), it is unlawful for any person to verbally beg, solicit, or panhandle within any **high traffic zone**. (Sec. 11-5.b.2). *NOTE: Solicitation with a printed sign is permitted.*
- There are currently only two areas designated as “high traffic zones”:
  - Portions of the Central Business District (specified by street)
  - Biltmore Village Historic District

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City of Asheville Solicitation Ordinance

10 Years of Panhandling Calls for Service

- Over 10,000 calls for service since 2015.
- Number of calls for service from 2021 to 2025 dropped.
- Reductions began during the 2020 pandemic, but dropped sharply in mid-2021; which corresponds with the change in APD response.
- Over the past five years, the highest volume of calls for service include South Tunnel Road, Patton Avenue, Brevard Road, Smokey Park Highway, Merrimon Avenue and Haywood Road.

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City of Asheville Solicitation Ordinance

Relationship between panhandling and pedestrian crashes (2025)

- 1 out of every 4 pedestrian crashes occurs within 25ft of reported panhandling locations (approximately 30%).
- 3 out of every 4 pedestrian crashes happen within 500ft of a panhandling location (approximately 70%).
- Several areas have both panhandling and pedestrian crashes, such as Patton Ave, Haywood Rd, Merrimon Ave, N & S Tunnel Rd, Exit 44.
- And there are areas with pedestrian crashes with little to no reports of panhandling, such as Biltmore Village, near the VA Hospital, and Hendersonville Rd near Mills Gap Rd.

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Expansion of Panhandling Ordinance Takeaways

- Panhandling occurs most frequently in commercial areas and near high traffic corridor (i.e. S Tunnel Rd, Patton Ave, interstate exits).
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- City Ordinance 11-5.2(a) will need to be amended to include the boundaries of each new zone

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Requested Action

- Motion to expand the City's current public solicitation ordinance
- Current High Traffic Zone 1 expansion, and the addition of new zones:
  - Haywood Road corridor
  - Patton Avenue
  - Tunnel and South Tunnel Roads

Next steps: Vote to move forward to full Council in August/September

THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE


Discussion/Questions?



Technology in Public Safety

Technology in Public Safety Key Takeaways

- Technology is no longer just a support tool in public safety, it's now essential.
  - It enhances real-time awareness, coordination, data use, and case solvability.
- We are launching a Technology & Intelligence Division to consolidate our future Real-Time Intelligence Center, drone operations, crime analysis, and all police technology.
  - This division, along with its equipment needs, will be built within our existing budget (with the exception of a reclassification of a current position to a Captain position), with future needs identified as operations grow.
- Our Drone Unit continues to expand through public/private partnerships and plans to centralize drone services citywide for planning, emergency response, and infrastructure monitoring.

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Technology in Public Safety

As technology rapidly evolves, and within it, the complexity of crime and emergencies, the APD is launching a dedicated Technology and Intelligence Division.

Our Flock LPR system now connects to over 19,000 cameras across 1,500+ networks within 500 miles.

This division will:

- Operate a Real-Time Intelligence Center (RTIC)
- Manage and deploy drone technology.
- Oversee all departmental technology from body-worn cameras, license plate readers, context cameras, in-car systems, fingerprint scanners and beyond.
- Engage with the community to assist residents who wish to register or integrate their cameras.

It will also integrate civilian crime and public safety analysts to support investigations, mapping, and data driven decision-making.

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Technology Policy and Procedure

Policies and practices being used to protect individual privacy

- Data Minimization
  - Our applications only collect the data necessary for its operation.
    - LPR = vehicle information and time/date stamps
    - BWC = recording of incident(s) and supportive metadata of the event.
    - Drone = recording of incident(s) and the supportive metadata of that event.
- Access Control
  - Access control is limited/restricted to authorized personnel only.
- AES256 Encryption -
  - All data that is ingested into Evidence.com and/or either LPR systems are stored securely with Advanced Encryption Standard 256. This is a very secure method of encryption that scrambles readable text into code that's almost impossible to break.

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Technology Policy and Procedure cont…

Policies and practices being used to protect individual privacy cont…

- Data Retention
  - Per NC General Statute 20-183.32 - LPR data can only be retained for 90 days.
  - The North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Division of Archives and Records Government Records Section publish the “Records Retention and Disposition Schedule” and sets the record retention for all items produced by local government agencies.
  - NC General Statute 20-134-1.4A governs the release of all recordings of LEO.
- Transparency Page
  - APD publishes data on both Axon and Flock LPR systems.
  - APD continues to collaborate with the different Drone Management System companies to develop a public transparency portal for Drone Operations.

Technology Policy and Procedure cont..

Policies and practices being used to protect individual privacy

- All LPR and Evidience.com data is 100% owned by APD.
  - APD can decide to share or not with other local, state and federal agencies.
- User training and guidelines
  - Only employees that have been properly trained are allowed to utilize the LPR systems and we limit access control search data to a very limited number of employees.
  - Only employees that have been properly trained are allowed to utilize the UAS systems.
  - Periodic Audits are conducted on Body Cameras, Fleet Cameras and LPR data to ensure proper utilization of the technology.
- APD does not utilize the License Plate Reader (LPR) systems or any other systems to alert to immigration violators.

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Command Bus (Mobile Technology)

- Integral part of our Emergency Operations Plan/System
- An example of the “E” in P.O.E.T.E.E. (Plan, Organize, Equip, Train, Exercise, Evaluate)
- Interoperability, situational awareness, and common operating picture to support responders on the ground







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Drone Technology

- The Drone as First Responder (DFR) program continues to improve situational awareness.
- APD's Drone Unit will centralize citywide drone operations to deliver high-quality 2D/3D imagery for planning, response, and infrastructure monitoring. This will include a system to streamline imagery requests to create a centralized portal to enhance interdepartmental coordination.



- Standardized Training & Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will unify drone operations citywide, with a certified pilot roster, operational protocols, and shared GIS tools.

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Drone Technology Continued…..

- Drone First Response supports more than just Police. Heat imagery of fire at Goodwill used by AFD to more efficiently put the fire out.



Technology Next Steps

- **Centralized Drone Coordination -** Our Drone Unit will collaborate with other city departments to maintain an active list of certified pilots and streamline all imagery requests through a centralized portal.

- **Division Launch –** Launch the new Technology & Intelligence Division, allowing for a more focused and unified approach to all technology and intelligence-related initiatives.

- **New Leadership Position -** A new Police Captain position has been requested through the Compensation and Review Committee that will be reclassified using an existing officer position to provide executive-level oversight of the division.

- **Resource Reallocation -** Additional staffing is being reallocated from existing positions within the department.

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Technology Next Steps cont…

- **Community Engagement** - The division will prioritize transparency and public trust by offering community outreach, educational sessions, and a public-facing portal for camera registration and technology updates.
- **Training -** All staff will be trained to effectively use new and existing technology, ensuring consistency and maximizing the value of available tools.
- **Upfit** - Minor construction and equipment needs will be addressed using existing budgeted funds.
- **Grant Funding -** We are actively seeking grant opportunities to fund the FUSUS software, which will be a key platform within the Real-Time Intelligence Center (RTIC).

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Technology in Public Safety Key Takeaways

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