G20

Public Safety Committee

September 24, 2026

Presented by:
Evan Coward, Patrol Captain
Jeremy Knighton, Chief, Emergency Management



G20

Early Planning

AFD/APD partnered for over 90 days to develop the Incident Command structure. This included:

- Complexity Analysis
- Developing Objectives
- Multiple Meetings

Preparation Makes a Difference

Multi-Agency Partnerships

Close, consistent communication with federal, state, local agency partners, and private partners was developed and maintained

Because of collaboration and support, APD/AFD maintained a continuity of normal public safety operations across the city

Supported technical and security operations on-site

Emergency Operations Center

Period: Activated Aug 28, Demobilized September 1

- Four 24-hour op periods
- One 12-hour op period
- Staffed by several City departments as well as our local, state and federal partners
- Served as City's coordination and consequence-management hub

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G20

Overall Collaboration

More than 44 agencies and organizations, including law enforcement, City and County departments, and private partners, came together to support this event.

On-Site Incidents

15 violations of the flight restriction by private drones occured

- APD drone unit and partners located 9 of those pilots

4 individuals made unauthorized entry onto the resort property

- One intercepted by the drone unit's contact team
- Three intercepted by the checkpoint posts

Off-Site Public Events

Two public gatherings / demonstrations occurred across the city for both G20 and Helene recovery.

- A march of approximately 25-30 individuals occupied the intersection of Charlotte St at Macon Ave briefly, but caused no disruption to the summit and little disruption to vehicular traffic.

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G20 Conclusion

- This event would not have been successful without the collaboration of so many people.

- APD is extremely grateful for the teamwork across city departments and the strong partnerships with our local, state, and federal partners.

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Questions

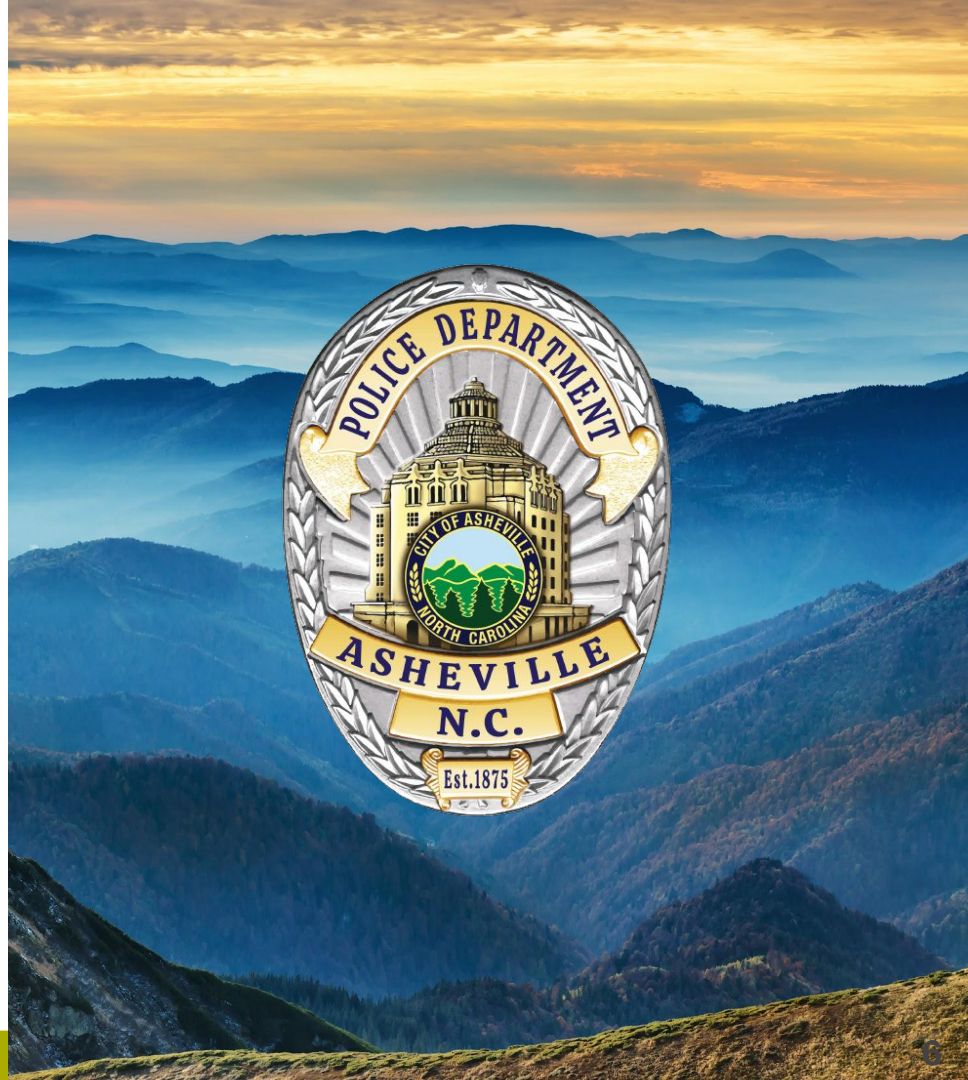


PGA Tour

Public Safety Committee

September 24, 2026

Presented by:
Jackie Stepp, Chief of Police



PGA Tour

Multi-Agency Collaboration

APD collaborated extensively prior to the event with Buncombe County Emergency Management and the Sheriff's Office to ensure the success of this event.

Presence & Parking

APD provided additional police presence at Biltmore Park to assist with parking for the event.

Traffic Management

APD also provided traffic control on Long Shoals at the start and end of the event.

Aerial Security

Drone provided aerial coverage for the event when and perimeter security as requested. APD also provided airspace monitoring to detect unauthorized flights.

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PGA Tour



Traffic & Pedestrian Safety

The drone provided vital support for our Traffic Safety Unit to ensure uninterrupted vehicular traffic and safe pedestrian walkways in Biltmore Park and on Long Shoals.



Emergency Plane Crash Response

A Cirrus plane crashed in a field adjacent to the airport after flying over the PGA event. APD Drone Unit was the first on scene providing live feed to responders on the ground.

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Questions

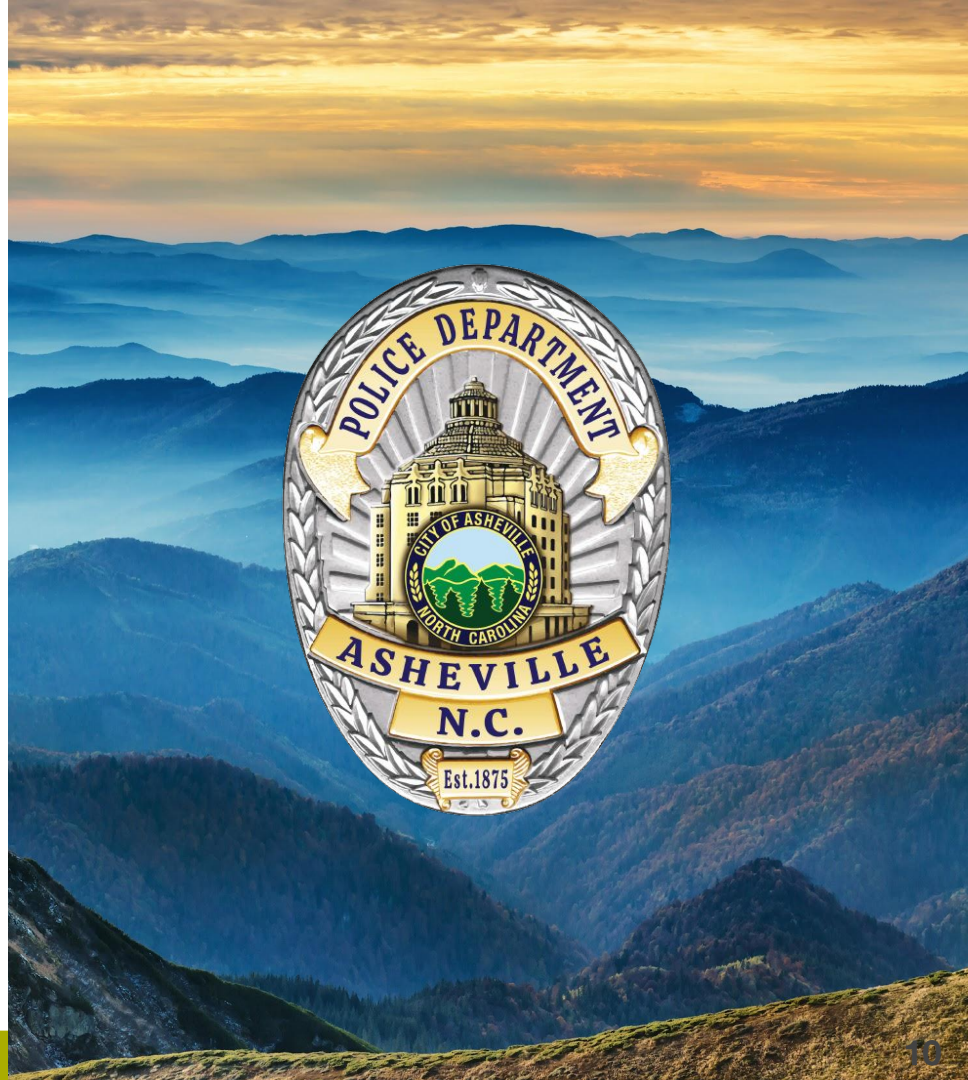


Update on Gun Violence Reduction Strategies and Data Review

Public Safety Committee

September 24, 2026

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



Violent Crime Summit

STEP 01

Summit Initiated

On April 30th a Violent Crime Summit was initiated by U.S. Attorney of the Western District, Russ Ferguson.

STEP 02

Joint Collaboration

Attorney Ferguson called multiple agencies together, along with State and Federal prosecutors and HACA leadership to roundtable efforts to reduce gun violence in Asheville.

STEP 03

Positive Impact

This multidisciplinary approach has made a significant positive impact.

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Partnerships

Federal Law Enforcement

- Alcohol Tobacco Firearms (ATF)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
- Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI)
- U.S. Marshals Service

State & County Partners

- NC State Bureau of Investigation (SBI),
- Buncombe County Sheriff's Office "IGRANT" Unit
- Vance County Sheriff's Office (VCSO)

Prosecutorial Offices

- Federal Prosecutor's Office
- State Prosecutor's Office

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Year-to-Date Crime Snapshot in HACA Neighborhoods

Overall Incidents

405 (-22%)

Overall, there have been 405 incidents in public housing properties YTD.

This is a 22% decrease from the 5-year average.

Violent Incidents

45 (-38%)

There have been 45 violent incidents in public housing YTD.

This is a 38% decrease from the 5-year average.

Domestic Incidents

59 (-32%)

There have been 59 domestic incidents in public housing YTD.

This is a 32% decrease from 5-yr average.

All units decreased except Livingston (+60%).

~1 in 5 domestic incidents citywide occur in public housing. Working with CEO Santos & Sheriff Miller to expand support to reduce domestic incidents.

As of August 27th, 2026

Additional Internal Initiatives

INITIATIVE 01

APD / HACA Overtime and Housing Team

APD re-evaluated HACA-funded overtime to ensure it complements the relaunched Housing Team's schedule and maximizes consistent police visibility in these neighborhoods.

INITIATIVE 02

APD Patrol Units

In August, APD reinforced expectations for high-visibility patrols in these neighborhoods.

INITIATIVE 03

DJJ Partnership

Entering into a partnership with DJJ to explore information sharing strategies to assist with juvenile offender placement and treatment decisions.

INITIATIVE 04

Crime Lab Partnership

Pro bono support from Roseanna Ander / University of Chicago Crime Lab to identify evidence-informed public safety strategies, CVI, and leadership guidance.

Next Steps: Review of APD current practices to include identifying strengths, areas for improvement and next steps.

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Overall Year-to-Date Violent Crime Snapshot

A comprehensive review of data through August 31st reveals a significantly improved long-term safety profile for the City of Asheville, with continued declines compared to last year.

2021–2024 AVERAGE

430 Cases

4-Year Historical Baseline (First 8 Months YTD)

2025 YTD

301 **(-30%)**

Substantial drop from historical 4-year baseline

2026 CURRENT YTD

286 **(-33%)**

33% BELOW 4-YR HISTORICAL AVERAGE

Lowest level in over 5 years

Year-Over-Year Change: Violent crime is down slightly compared to last year (286 incidents vs. 301 in 2025 // 15 fewer, a 5% reduction).

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Firearm-Related Homicides

Firearm-related Homicide / Murder Investigations

2021–2024 AVERAGE

7 Cases

4-Year Historical Baseline
(First 8 Months YTD)

2025 YTD

4 **(-43%)**

Significant drop from
historical 4-year baseline

2026 CURRENT YTD

4 **(-43%)**

43% BELOW 4-YR HISTORICAL AVERAGE

Sustained reduction
maintained year-over-year

Year-Over-Year Change: Firearm-related homicides remain 43% below the 4-year average, matching 2025's lower rate.

As of September 23rd, 2026

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Recent Shootings Update

Multi-agency investigation reveals connected shooting incidents across Western NC, with key suspects in custody and active charges forthcoming.

INCIDENTS

5 Connected Incidents

Investigators identified a nexus between 5 related shootings across 3 jurisdictions in Western NC, including the Biltmore double murder.

ASHEVILLE CASES

2 Charged / 3 In Custody

Charges filed in Lee Garden Ln (July) & Hillcrest (April) cases. A juvenile is responsible for both incidents has been apprehended along with two others.

STATUS

Next Steps

Multi-agency coordination continues actively. Additional arrests and formal charges are expected as the investigation progresses.

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Conclusion

The metrics over the past ~120 days again show that targeted internal initiatives, multi-agency operations, and rapid ballistic forensics are successfully disrupting violent networks in Asheville.

Targeted Internal Initiatives

Focused internal programs deploying specialized resources directly to high-priority areas and offenders to interrupt crime patterns.

Multi-Agency Operations

Collaborative inter-agency operations and joint efforts with regional partners to dismantle active offender networks and ensure appropriate prosecution.

Rapid Ballistic Forensics

Leveraging real-time ballistic intelligence and turnaround capabilities to swiftly trace and neutralize violent threats.

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Questions


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