

HIGH POINT PROSPERITY, LIVABILITY, & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, April 10, 2025 - 9:00 AM
Municipal Office Building
211 S. Hamilton Street
High Point, NC 27260

Prosperity and Livability Committee - Council Member Monica Peters, Chair

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Peters called the Meeting of the High Point Prosperity, Livability, & Safety Committee to order at 9:00 AM and stated the following members were present.

Present: Chair Monica Peters, Council Member Patrick Harman, Council Member Vickie McKiver, Council Member Tyrone Johnson (participating virtually)

PRESENTATION OF ITEMS

2025-136 **High Point Police Department 2024 Annual Report**
The High Point Police Department will present the 2024 Annual Report.

Curtis Cheeks, Chief of Police, presented the item. He pointed out the QR Code on the first page of the presentation and encouraged the Committee to scan for the full report. He commended Police Communications Specialist Victoria Rubio for her work on the report and said that feedback from the community had been positive.

Chief Cheeks pointed out that calls for service in 2024 were down ten percent from 2023. He shared the top ten calls for service and said the numbers included self-initiated calls, like school safety checks. He said that any suspicious activities on school property are taken very seriously. He explained that the criminal process category included warrant services. He shared the 2024 crime overview and said overall crime was down six percent from 2023. He pointed out that the 2024 property crime rates were down by three percent from 2023 and said that vehicle larceny was down in part due to social campaigns encouraging citizens to lock vehicles and working with car manufacturers to provide wheel locks for highly targeted vehicles. He spoke on the violent crime rates and said the small increase in aggravated assaults was not bad if you looked at the actual scale. He said that the criminal homicide rate in 2024 was the lowest since 2013 and that there had been none so far in 2024. He pointed out that only one criminal homicide case from 2024 remained unsolved.

He spoke on the decision by RTI International to feature High Point Police Department (HPPD) in its Project Clear as an example to help agencies in the Case Closed Project that don't have the same success rates as HPPD. He said the company will provide a case report pointing out what HPPD is doing well and make recommendations. He noted that it was good to help surrounding agencies, so their problems don't trickle to High Point.

He talked about the HPPD and High Point Community Against Violence (HPCAV) Violent Offender Notification event to address criminals tied to gang and gun violence. He said the initiative offered the criminals tools and resources to become contributing members of society. He said that out of the nine people who took part in the December event, so far, only two were pending federal prosecution. He spoke on the violent crime index and shared a graph outlining violent crime in High Point from 1997-2024 with the population increase highlighted in the chart. He pointed out that decreases in all categories and said they have really focused on violent crime not increasing due to population growth, and emphasized that HPPD had to grow with the City.

Chief Cheeks spoke on traffic operations and said HPPD was focusing on mitigating traffic problems. He shared the statistics on traffic crashes since 2020 and said that fatal traffic incidents have outpaced homicides. He spoke on the necessity of a Hit-and-Run Investigator due to the high number of hit-and-runs and shared statistics of the top citations issued in 2024. He talked about collaborative events where HPPD partnered with other agencies to focus on traffic enforcement and indicated that over 3000 citations were issued during these events.

He noted that HPPD started categorizing the uses of minor force and equipment applications as Minor Force, and shared that every use of force incident is reviewed by the officer's chain of command and the Chief of Police.

He spoke on the success of community engagement strategies and events like the Community Day event and the Angels in Blue Christmas initiative. He pointed out that these types of initiatives let the community see the non-enforcement side of HPPD and that the events help to strengthen community perception. He announced that the 2025 Community Day would be held at Moorehead Recreation Center and that it was moved from Washington Terrace so it could be moved inside in the case of inclement weather.

He went over some of the 2024 highlights, including the new Axon Body Worn Camera Program; the completion of the Real Time Crime Center (RTCC) in June; the first HPPD Youth Athletic Camp; the designation of HPPD as a National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) site; HPPD being featured at the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Conference in October; the deployment of HPPD officers to Western North Carolina for aid during the Hurricane Helene disaster; and the addition of K9 Jacky to the Street Crimes Unit.

He spoke about the NIBIN designation and said that the long process was finally completed in September 2024. He pointed out that there were now three NIBIN sites in the Triad, including Winston-Salem and Greensboro, and that it allowed HPPD to partner with other agencies to indicate if recovered firearms had been involved in crimes nationwide. He said they have had 59 NIBIN leads since they began in September.

He said that the video featured at the IACP Conference highlighted the HPPD Employee Wellness Program and said that during the yearly physical, staff now also have a wellness appointment to ensure they are coping and to make them aware of the resources offered.

In response to Council Member Harman, Chief Cheeks said K9 Jacky is trained to detect gunpowder and other scents to find firearms.

Chief Cheeks shared some of the items they had in the works and hoped to have fully accomplished in 2025. He spoke on the Alternate Response Team that would help to remove the law enforcement component of mental health calls. He shared that they would have two caseworkers and a lead clinician that could intervene and also provide a follow-up component as well. He said they have been working with Library Director Mary Sizemore and others to ensure a comprehensive approach.

He explained the Civilian Traffic Crash Investigators initiative, and said the program would free up officers by employing non-sworn investigators for non-priority traffic crashes.

He spoke on the North Carolina Law Enforcement Accreditation (NCLEA) and said the department was in the process of verifying all the materials before the assessment takes place.

He talked about the process the department uses to evaluate and compare present statistics to the same time last year as well as the 5-year-plan. He indicated that staff held a monthly command staff meeting to talk about trends and overall goals.

In response to Council Member Harman, Chief Cheeks said the HPPD Community Engagement Division has consistent contact with community partners, including monthly meetings with neighborhood watch groups. He emphasized the importance of consistency with programs and initiatives offered by HPPD and community partners.

Council Members Harman and McKiver commended Chief Cheeks on the presentation and the successes of HPPD.

Chair Peters pointed out that speeding is not unique to High Point and is a problem around the nation. She thanked Chief Cheeks for the presentation and said she really appreciated HPPD monitoring the use-of-force.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Prosperity, Livability, & Safety Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:39 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Monica Peters, Chair

Attest:

Alison Glynn, Deputy City Clerk