

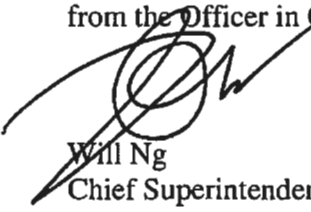


To: Community Safety Committee
From: Will Ng
Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge
Re: RCMP Monthly Activity Report – May 2021

Date: June 14, 2021
File: 09-5000-01/2021-Vol
01



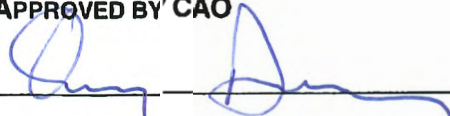
Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “RCMP Monthly Activity Report – May 2021”, dated June 14, 2021, from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment, be received for information.



Will Ng
Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge
(604-278-1212)

Att. 3

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS:
	
APPROVED BY CAO	
	

Staff Report

Origin

At the request of the Community Safety Committee, the Officer in Charge will keep Council informed on matters pertaining to policing in the Richmond community. This monthly activity report for the RCMP provides information on each of the following areas:

1. Activities and Noteworthy Files
2. Analysis of Police Statistics
3. Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions
4. Auxiliary Program
5. Block Watch
6. Community Police Station Programs
7. Crime Prevention Unit
8. Road Safety Unit
9. Victim Services
10. Youth Section

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #1 A Safe and Resilient City:

Enhance and protect the safety and well-being of Richmond.

Analysis

Activities and Noteworthy Files

Unidentified Remains

On May 3, 2021, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release requesting the public's assistance in identifying a male whose body was recovered from the shores of the Fraser River on July 8, 2004. Richmond RCMP Serious Crime investigators released a forensic facial reconstruction sketch to help identify the man. The circumstances surrounding the man's death are still under investigation.

Homicide Shooting

On May 9, 2021, Richmond RCMP officers responded to the Vancouver International Airport for a shooting outside the international departure area. Upon arrival, police located a man with gunshot wounds who was pronounced deceased at the scene. The suspects fled the area in a vehicle and later fired shots at a marked police vehicle. Police believe the incident to be targeted. The Richmond RCMP and Integrated Homicide Investigation Team are investigating.

Hate Incident

On May 13, 2021, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release relating to a hate incident, which occurred on May 1, 2021. A male suspect was observed yelling at the occupants of a vehicle. A video of the incident was subsequently posted on social media. Police investigation was able to

identify and locate the suspect. Mediation and collaboration involving the victim and suspect resulted in the matter being resolved through alternative measures.

Impaired Boating

On May 17, 2021, the Richmond RCMP responded to a report of a vessel operating erratically in Steveston Harbour. Upon arrival, police discovered that a commercial fishing vessel had run a ground on some rocks. The Richmond RCMP patrol boat was deployed and two men onboard were rescued. The incident remains under investigation as drugs and alcohol are believed to have been contributing factors to the incident.

Analysis of Police Statistics

Arson

In May 2021, there were 10 reported arsons, which represents no change from the previous month and is up nine incidents from May 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of arsons this month is within the expected range.

Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)

There were 18 assault serious events in May 2021, which is up 38 per cent from the previous month and is more than double the number of incidents reported in May 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of serious assaults this month is within the expected range.

Auto Theft

In May 2021, there were 15 incidents of auto theft, which is up 36 per cent from the previous month and is more than double the number of thefts reported in May 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of auto thefts this month is within the expected range.

Drugs

In May 2021, there were 37 drug files, which is up nine per cent from the previous month and up 28 per cent from May 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of drug incidents this month is within the expected range.

Mental Health

There were 121 mental health-related incidents in May 2021, which is down three per cent from the previous month and down 41 per cent from May 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of mental health-related incidents this month is within the expected range.

There were also 94 police apprehensions this month and the average hospital wait time was 93 minutes. Both of these statistics are within the expected range.

Residential Break and Enter

There were 22 break and enters to residences in May 2021, which represents a 42 per cent decrease from the previous month and is a 29 per cent increase from May 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of residential break and enters this month is within the expected range.

Commercial Break and Enter

In May 2021, there were 26 break and enters to businesses, which represents an 18 per cent increase from the previous month and is an eight per cent increase from May 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of commercial break and enters this month are within the expected range.

Robbery

There were four robbery incidents in May 2021, which represents no change from the previous month and is an increase of one incident from May 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of robberies this month is within the expected range.

Sexual Offences

In May 2021, there were 27 sexual offence files, which is a 42 per cent increase from the previous month and is almost double the number reported in May 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of sexual offences this month is within the expected range.

Shoplifting

There were 39 shoplifting thefts in May 2021, which are down 32 per cent from the previous month and up eight per cent from May 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of reported shoplifting thefts this month are within the expected range.

Theft from Automobile

There were 120 theft from automobile incidents in May 2021, which is down nine per cent from the previous month and up 17 per cent from May 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of thefts from automobiles this month is within the expected range.

COVID-19 Statistics

Table 1 outlines the number of police calls for service related to COVID-19. In May 2021, there were 45 COVID-19-related files. The majority of incidents were related to reports of social gatherings, failure to wear masks and quarantine violations. Police issued approximately three Violation Tickets this month.¹

¹ The total number of Violation Tickets is subject to change as it is based on the physical tickets submitted at the time of writing and there may be delays in the submission of tickets.

Table 1: COVID-19-related Calls for Service May 2021	
Quarantine Act (Federal)	8
Public Health Act (Provincial)	0
Emergency Program Act	37
Total	45

Hate Crimes and Incidents

Table 2 presents the number of hate crimes and hate incidents reported between January 1, 2018 and May 31, 2021. A “hate crime” refers to any criminal offence targeting an identifiable group. The criteria for an offence to be considered a hate crime as per the *Criminal Code* carries a higher threshold and usually involves one or more criminal offences. A “hate incident” may be motivated by the same factors as a hate crime, but does not reach the threshold of being a criminal offence. Most of the events reported this month were related to the use of racial slurs, anti-Semitic comments and homophobic remarks. One incident involved a man spitting at a person at a political protest.

Table 2 – Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents			
Year	Hate Crime Files	Hate Incident Files	Total
2018	19	4	23
2019	11	9	20
2020	21	13	34
2021 YTD	13	17	30

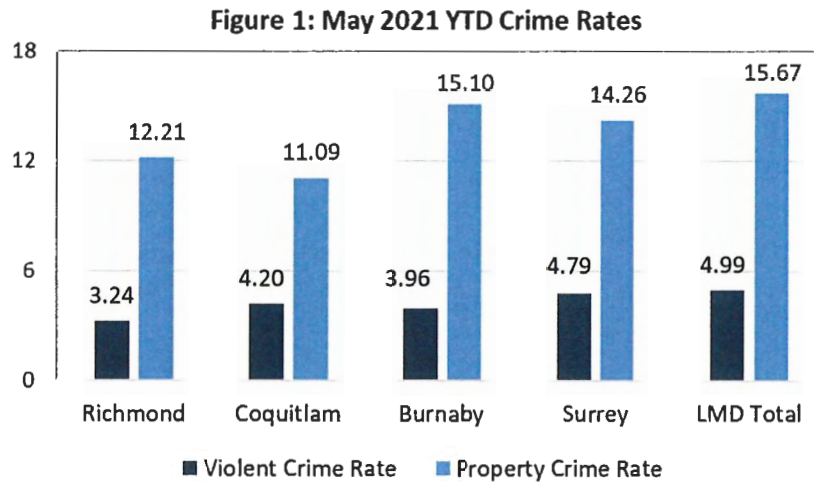
Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions

In recent months, there has been an increase in gang-related homicides and public shootings in the Lower Mainland. In response to these incidents, local policing agencies have been working collaboratively to provide a coordinated response to combat gang-related violence. On May 21, 2021, police officers in the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU-BC) were conducting proactive enforcement patrols in Richmond.² These efforts resulted in the arrest of a gang-involved male and female who were in the possession of a loaded handgun. Richmond RCMP officers provided assistance in taking the suspects into custody.

Data on crime rates is presented in Figure 1.³ In May 2021, out of the four largest municipalities policed by the RCMP in the Lower Mainland District (LMD), Richmond had the lowest violent crime rate and the second lowest property crime rate.

² CFSEU-BC is the Provincial Integrated Anti-Gang Agency

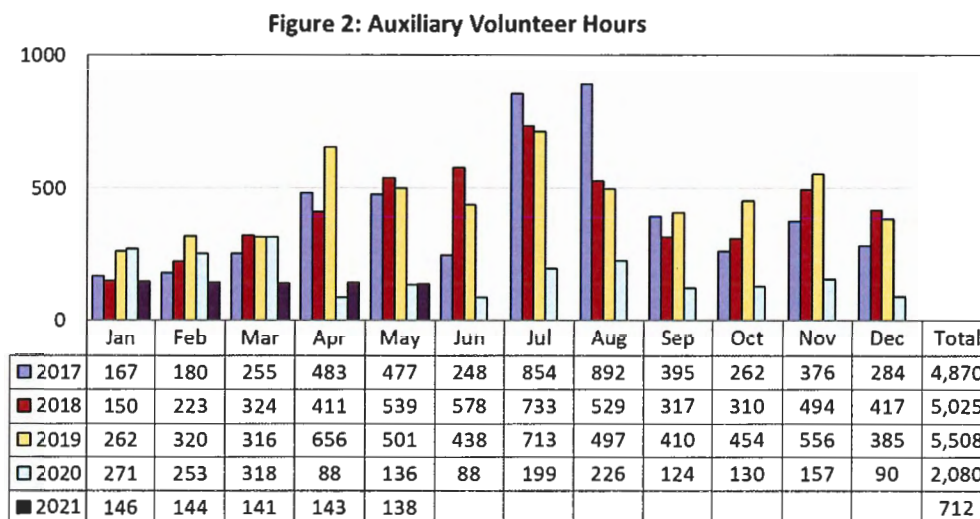
³ Crime rate is calculated per 1,000 people.



Auxiliary Program

In May 2021, the Richmond RCMP Detachment had a complement of 30 Auxiliaries.⁴ Due to COVID-19 safety protocols, volunteer activities have been significantly reduced. Auxiliaries provided a total of 138 volunteer hours during the month of May. On June 24, 2021, the Province of British Columbia provided written correspondence to RCMP E-Division Headquarters advising that the Auxiliary Program and all related activities immediately must cease and all Auxiliary officer appointments rescinded. With this direction, the OIC of Richmond RCMP has stopped local Auxiliary programs and rescinded appointments. Negotiations between the Province of British Columbia and National RCMP Headquarters remain ongoing with the intention that they will result in a revised and viable program in the near future.

Figure 2 compares the monthly hours of service provided from 2017 to 2021.



⁴ Previously referred to as Auxiliary Constables.

Auxiliary Program Activities

Auxiliaries attend events in the community to promote a positive police presence, support RCMP members and assist with community policing and crime prevention initiatives, as well as traffic and crowd control. During the month of May, Auxiliaries participated in:

- Bait Car
- Diversity Initiatives
- Doors Open Richmond Video
- National Police Week
- Pedestrian Safety
- Youth Academy

Block Watch

At the end of May 2021, the Block Watch program had 304 groups totaling 6,977 participants. Currently, the program includes 436 captains and co-captains. This month, the Block Watch program continued virtual training for new captains.

Community Police Station Programs

Community police stations enhance the Richmond RCMP Detachment's policing services by providing an array of crime prevention resources and community safety initiatives. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all three community police stations have been closed to the public since March 2020. Volunteer deployments resumed in June 2020, in accordance with the guidelines established by RCMP "E" Division's Crime Prevention Services; however, the scope of volunteer activities has been limited. City staff and volunteers continue to pursue safety initiatives to enhance crime prevention program awareness, community engagement and police accessibility.

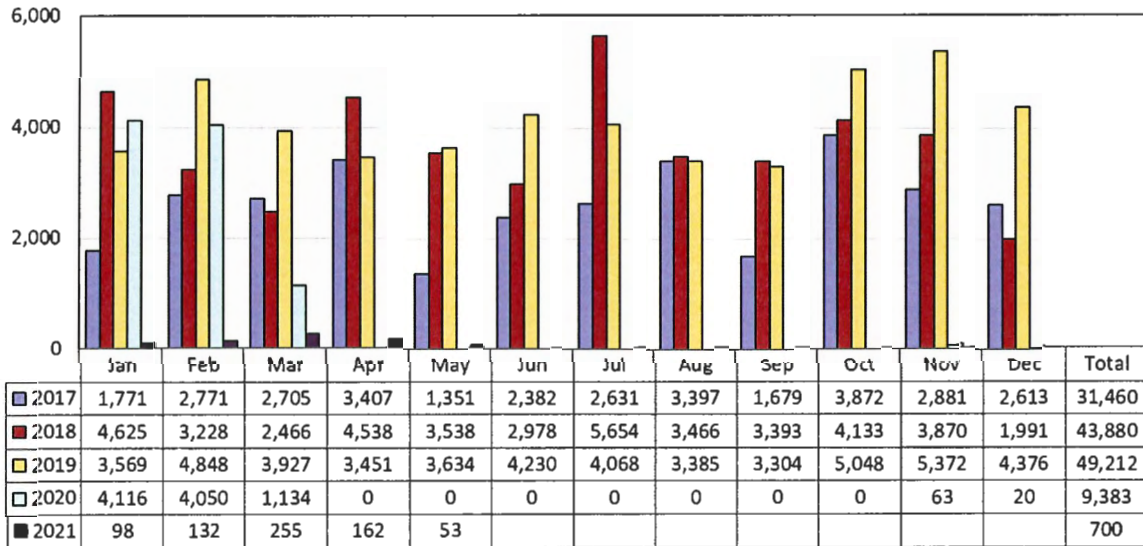
During the month of May volunteer highlights included:

- Three Lock Out Auto Crime deployments took place, which resulted in 53 information letters being distributed.
- Speed Watch was conducted on 6,479 vehicles at multiple locations and 271 information letters were issued.
- May 11 – In collaboration with ICBC, volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a Speed Watch Blitz near No. 3 Road and Ryan Road. A total of 610 vehicles went through the deployment and 23 information letters were issued.
- May 20 – In collaboration with ICBC, volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a Speed Watch Blitz in the 7600 block of No. 4 Road. A total of 1,582 vehicles went through the deployment and 26 information letters were issued.
- May 22 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers at a Project 529 Bike Registry event at Iona Beach. Approximately 300 people attended and 15 bikes were registered.
- May 28 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a Speed Watch deployment near Blundell Elementary School and issued 41 information letters. Police also issued two Violation Tickets and one 24-hour driving prohibition.

Lock Out Auto Crime

Figure 3 provides a comparison by year of the number of vehicle notices issued.⁵

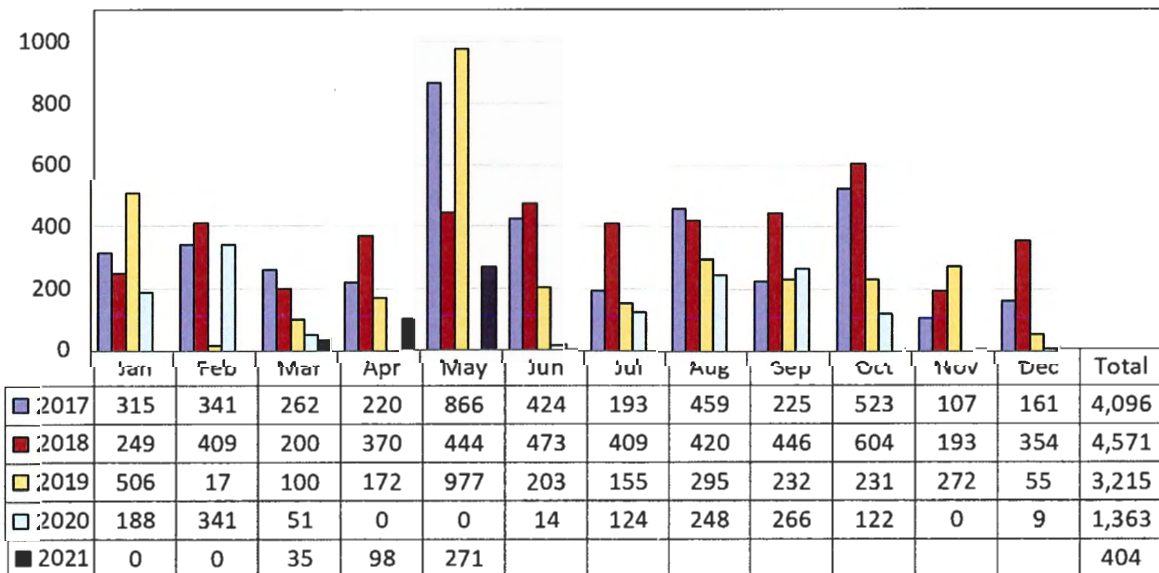
Figure 3: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice



Speed Watch

Figure 4 provides a yearly comparison of the number of letters sent to registered vehicle owners.

Figure 4: Speed Watch Letters Sent



⁵ Beginning in November 2020, Lock Out Auto Crime letters were issued in place of notices.

Crime Prevention Unit

The Crime Prevention Unit reduces crime and enhances community engagement through public awareness and education initiatives. During the month of May, the Crime Prevention Unit participated in the following events/activities:

- Community Outreach Patrols
- Diversity & Inclusion Initiatives
- Lock Out Auto Crime
- Place of Worship Patrols
- Fraud Prevention Presentation
- Speed Watch

Road Safety Unit

The Road Safety Unit makes Richmond's roads safer through evidence-based traffic enforcement, investigation of serious vehicle collisions and public education programs. Table 3 compares statistics for May 2021 to both March 2021 and April 2021. Violation Tickets were issued for the following infractions:

Table 3: Violation Tickets Issued

Infraction	March 2021	April 2021	May 2021
Distracted Driving	254	139	163
Driver License	227	161	250
Impaired	56	34	39
Intersection Offences	50	38	39
Moving Infractions ⁶	103	98	73
Speeding	177	184	419
Seatbelts	21	8	13
Vehicle Related ⁷	98	75	83
Other ⁸	0	6	2
Total	986	743	1,081

Victim Services

In May 2021, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 87 new clients and attended nine crime/trauma scenes after hours. Victim Services reduced in-person client services in March 2020 and began offering services by phone but continue to attend some of the more serious calls in person. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 251 files. In May, Victim Services responded to a number of cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, mental health issues and frauds.

⁶ Moving infractions refers to unsafe lane change and unsafe passing.

⁷ Vehicle related refers to vehicle defects, for example no lights and no insurance.

⁸ Other refers to miscellaneous charges including fail to remain at the scene of an accident and failing to stop for police.

Youth Section

The Richmond RCMP Detachment's Youth Section focuses on strategies that contribute to safe and healthy behaviours essential to the development of productive and civic-minded adults. During the month of May, Youth Section highlights included:

- 58 Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) classes were delivered to Grade 5 students in 16 schools via Zoom.
- RCMP officers in the Youth Section conducted 61 proactive school visits at Secondary Schools and 81 visits at Elementary Schools. Police officers engaged with the students at recess and lunch, as well as during morning and afternoon supervision.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

In May 2021, the Richmond RCMP conducted a number of noteworthy investigations, including a targeted shooting homicide at the Vancouver International Airport. Police statistics for this month indicate that most crime types were within the expected ranges.

In May, the Richmond RCMP Community Engagement Team and volunteers conducted road safety deployments focusing on speeding. In addition, the DARE program continued its third term, which was delivered via virtual lessons. The Officer in Charge of the Richmond RCMP Detachment will continue to ensure that Richmond remains a safe and desirable community.



Edward Warzel
Manager, RCMP Administration
(604-207-4767)

EW:

- Att. 1: Community Policing Programs
2: Crime Statistics
3: Crime Maps

Auxiliary Constables

- The primary mandate of Richmond's Auxiliary Constables is to support community policing activities related to public safety and crime prevention.
- For more information, visit www.richmond.ca/safety/police/prevention/auxiliary.htm

Block Watch

- Community-based crime prevention program aimed at helping neighbors organize themselves to prevent crime.
- Residents can receive email alerts of neighbourhood residential break and enters by registering their email addresses at: blockwatch@richmond.ca
- For more information, visit www.richmond.ca/safety/police/prevention/blockwatch.htm

Distracted Driving Program

- Trained volunteers monitor intersections and observe distracted drivers.
- A letter is sent to the registered owner of the offending vehicle with information on the safety risks associated to the observed behaviour and applicable fine amounts.
- For more information, visit www.richmond.ca/safety/police/prevention/programs.htm

Fail to Stop

- Trained volunteers monitor areas that have been referred to the program by local businesses or residents where drivers are not making a full stop at the stop sign, or running a red light.
- An information letter is sent to the registered owner of the vehicle advising them the date, time and location and applicable fine amounts if the driver received a violation ticket.

Lock Out Auto Crime

- Co-sponsored by the Insurance Corporation of BC (ICBC), volunteers patrol city streets and parking lots looking for automobile security vulnerabilities.
- Notices supplied by ICBC are issued to every vehicle inspected indicating to the owner what issues need to be addressed in order to keep the vehicle and contents secure.

- For more information, visit
- www.richmond.ca/safety/police/personal/vehicle.htm

Project 529

- This program allows riders to easily and securely register their bikes. This up-to-date database of bikes alerts its registrants if a fellow 529 bike is stolen.
- Project 529 is a unique, multi-national registry that holds a database of all registered and stolen bikes.

Speed Watch

- Co-sponsored by ICBC, promotes safe driving habits by alerting drivers of their speed.
- Trained volunteers are equipped with radar and a speed watch reader board that gives drivers instant feedback regarding their speed.
- Volunteers record the license plate number and the speed, and a letter is sent to the registered owner of the offending vehicle. The letter includes the date, time and location and applicable fine amounts if the driver received a violation ticket.

Stolen Auto Recovery

- Co-sponsored by ICBC, trained volunteers equipped with portable computers identify stolen vehicles.
- These volunteers recover hundreds of stolen vehicles each year throughout the Lower Mainland.

Volunteer Bike and Foot Patrol Program

- Trained volunteers patrol Richmond neighbourhoods reporting suspicious activities and providing a visible deterrent to crime and public order issues.

MAY 2021 STATISTICS

RICHMOND RCMP

This chart identifies the monthly totals for founded Criminal Code incidents, excluding traffic-related Criminal Code incidents. Based on Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) scoring, there are three categories: (1) Violent Crime, (2) Property Crime, and (3) Other Criminal Code. Within each category, particular offence types are highlighted in this chart. In addition, monthly totals for Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) incidents and MHA-related calls for service are included. Individual UCR codes are indicated below the specific crime type.

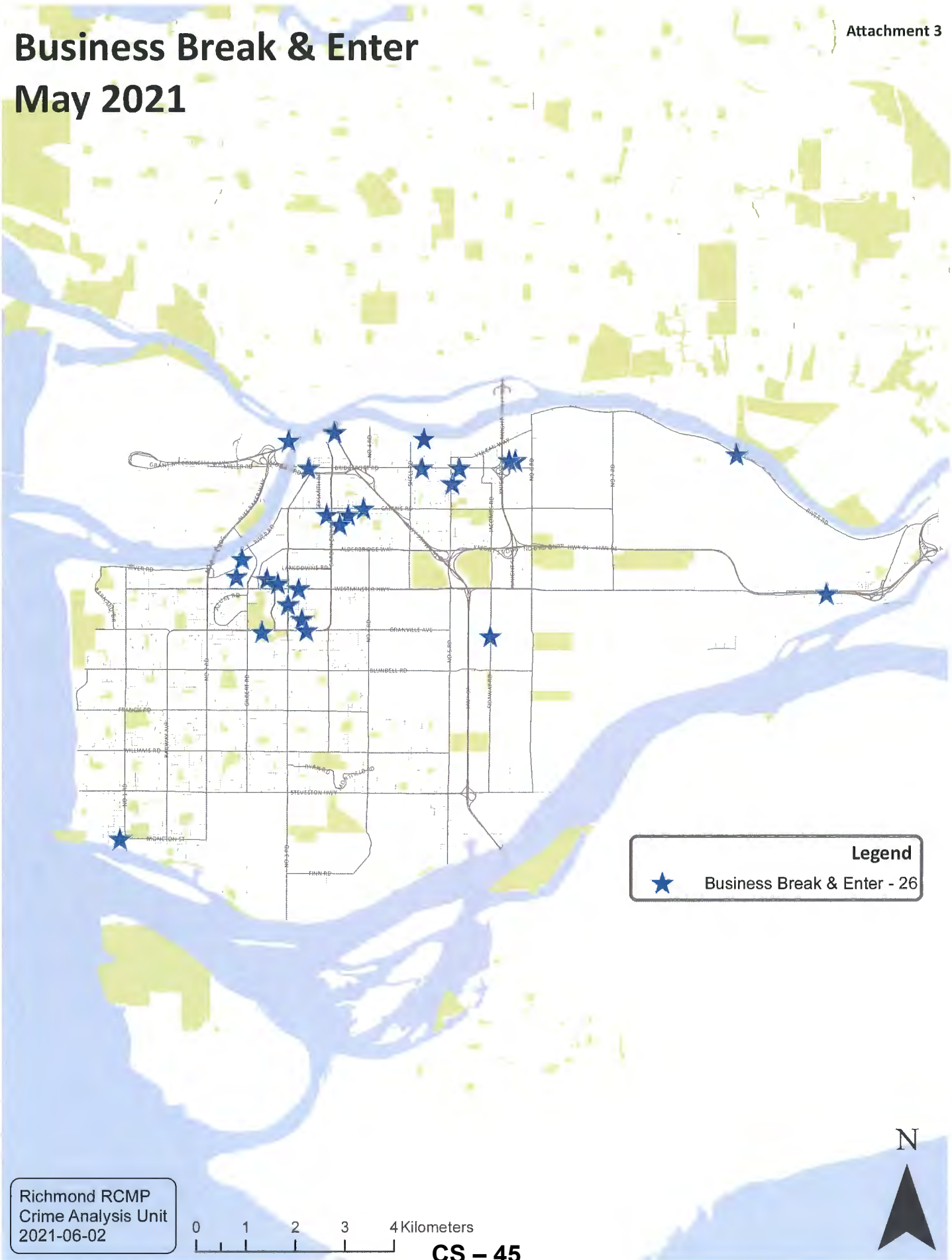
In 2019, changes were implemented regarding the collection of UCR data. The new standards provide much more stringent criteria to classify a file as unfounded. As a result, there will be an increase in many crime statistics, and clearance rates will conversely decline. This creates numerous challenges when comparing previous years' data. Full details on the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey are available at Statistics Canada: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2018001/article/54973-eng.htm>. For more information, contact Richmond Crime Analysts.

The 5 year average range data is based on activity within a single month over the past 5 years. If the current monthly total for an offence is above the expected average range (using one standard deviation) due to crime trends, patterns, or spikes, it will be noted in **red**. If the current monthly total for an offence is above the expected average range due to primarily non-operational reasons such as the new UCR standards or other scoring issues, the total will be noted in **purple**. Below expected numbers will be noted in **blue**.

	Month	5-Yr Avg	5-Yr Range	Year to Date Totals			
	May-21	May		2020	2021	% Change	# Change
VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	180	132.4	114-151	645	744	15%	99
Robbery <small>UCR 111, 112, 113</small>	4	4.0	3-5	21	23	10%	2
Assault Common <small>UCR 430</small>	54	45.0	38-52	250	228	-9%	-22
Assault Serious <small>UCR 410, 412</small>	18	11.8	7-17	53	71	34%	18
Sexual Offences <small>UCR 242, 130, 76, 1, 11, 45, 17, 26</small>	27	14.2	8-21	75	102	36%	27
PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	496	608.0	514-702	2615	2656	2%	41
Business B&E <small>UCR 210-1</small>	26	23.8	21-27	153	128	-16%	-25
Residential B&E <small>UCR 210-2</small>	22	39.8	27-52	186	159	-15%	-27
Auto Theft <small>UCR 2135(1-10), 2178</small>	15	21.6	14-29	109	99	-9%	-10
Theft from Auto <small>UCR 2132, 2142</small>	120	162.8	125-201	698	686	-2%	-12
Theft <small>UCR 2130, 2140</small>	51	82.8	62-104	305	277	-9%	-28
Shoplifting <small>UCR 2133, 2143</small>	39	64.0	42-86	253	288	14%	35
Fraud <small>UCR 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104</small>	75	73.4	66-81	333	379	14%	46
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	276	193.0	175-211	876	1160	32%	284
Arson <small>UCR 303, 210</small>	10	5.4	1-10	25	38	52%	13
SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	952	933.4	823-1044	4137	4562	10%	425
DRUGS (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	37	58.2	31-85	367	189	-49%	-178
MHA RELATED CALLS (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	121	151.2	119-183	797	620	-22%	-177

Prepared by Richmond RCMP Crime Analysts. Data collected from PRIME on 2021-06-01. Published 2021-06-02. These data are operational and subject to change. This document is not to be copied, reproduced, used in whole or part or disseminated to any other person or agency without the consent of the originator(s).

Business Break & Enter May 2021



Legend
★ Business Break & Enter - 26

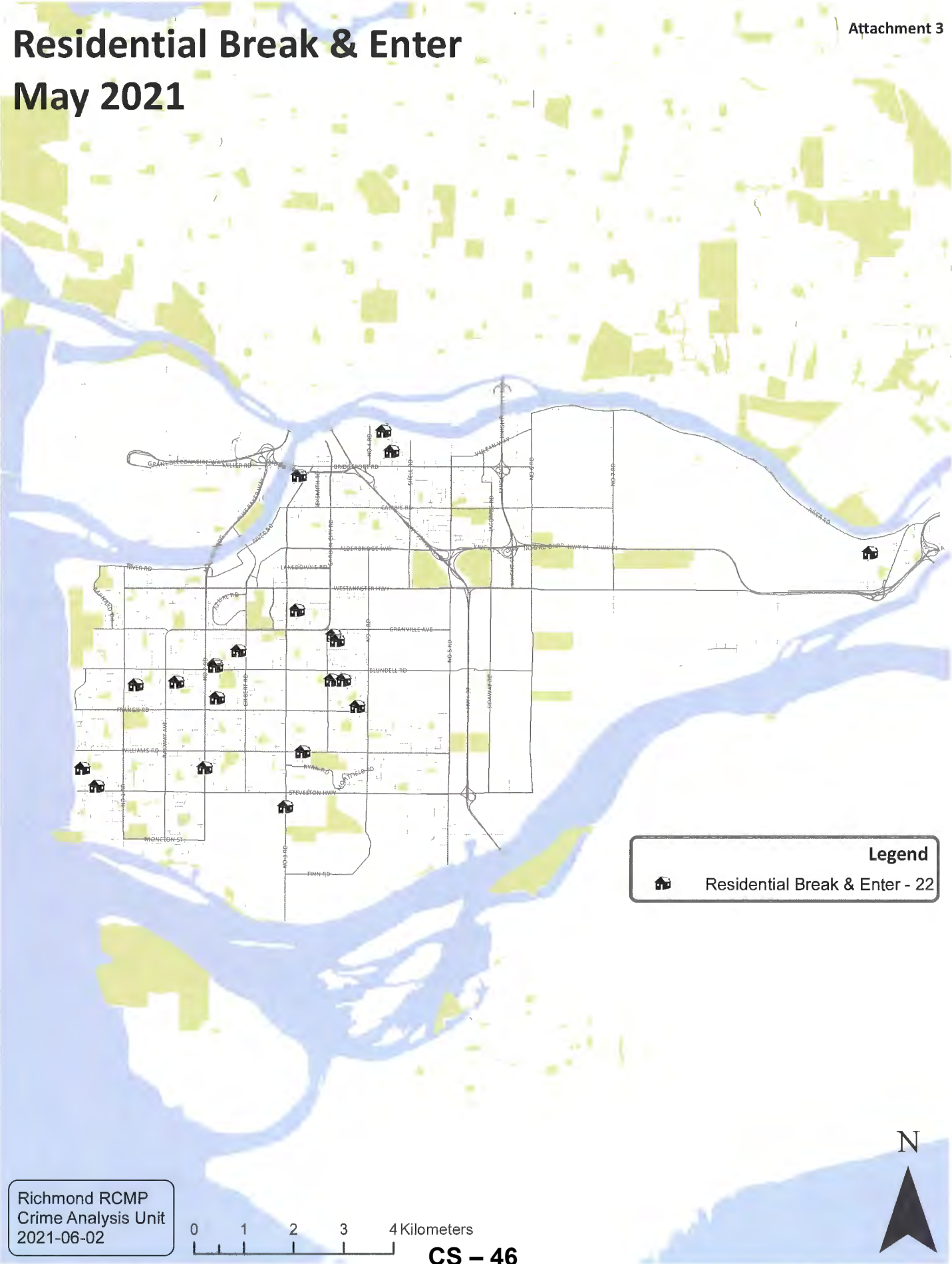
Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2021-06-02

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CS - 45



Residential Break & Enter May 2021



Legend

 Residential Break & Enter - 22

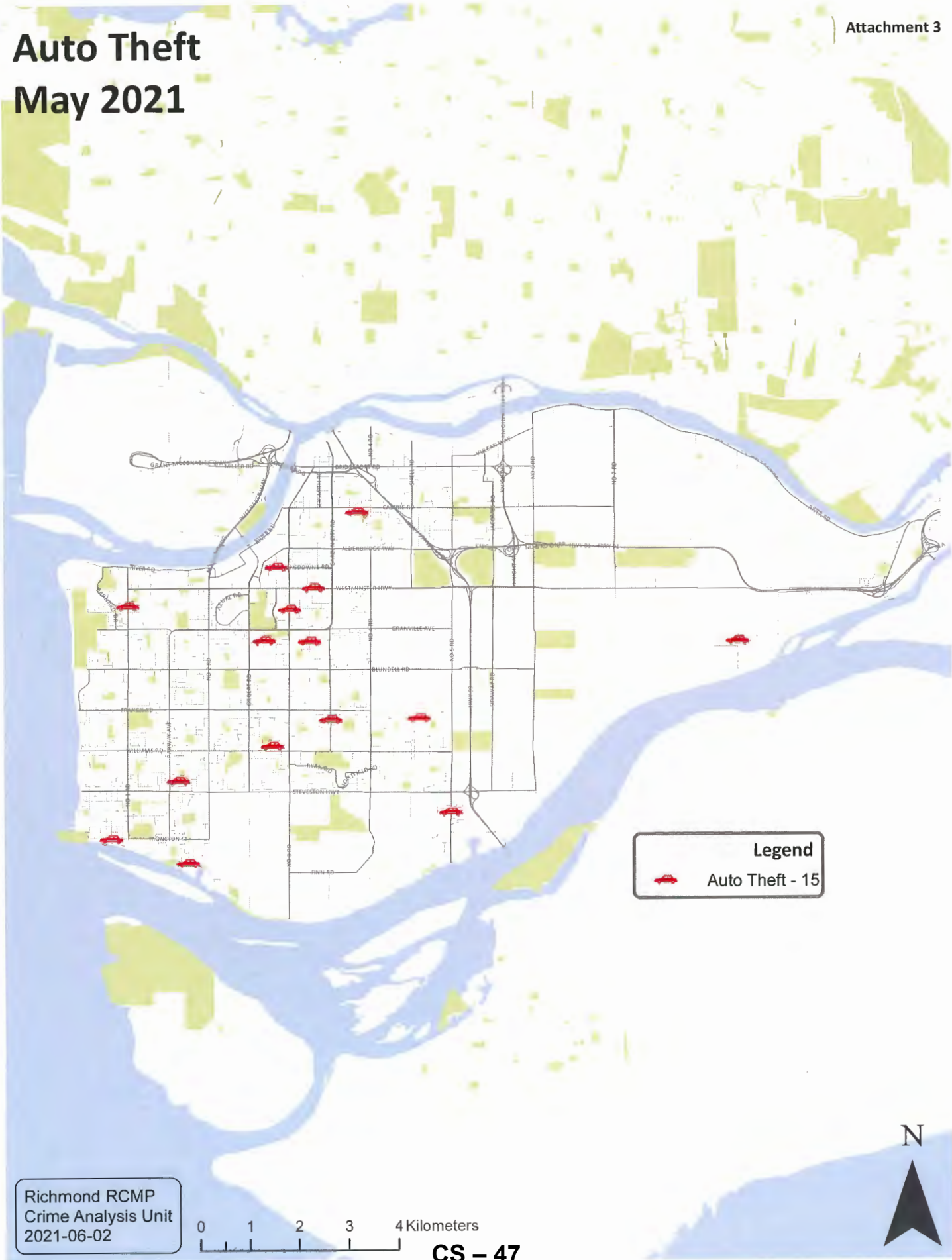
Richmond RCMP
 Crime Analysis Unit
 2021-06-02

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

CS - 46



Auto Theft May 2021



Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2021-06-02

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

CS - 47

Theft from Auto May 2021

