



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

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**To:** Community Safety Committee **Date:** May 11, 2023

**From:** Dave Chauhan **File:** 09-5000-01/2023-Vol  
Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge 01

**Re:** RCMP Monthly Activity Report – April 2023

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### Recommendation from the OIC

That the report titled “RCMP Monthly Activity Report – April 2023”, dated May 11, 2023, from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment, be received for information.

Dave Chauhan  
Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge  
(604-278-1212)

Att. 3

<b>REPORT CONCURRENCE</b>	
<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>	
<b>SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b>
<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b>	

## 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. Block Watch
5. Community Police Station Programs
6. Crime Prevention Unit
7. Road Safety Unit
8. Victim Services
9. Youth Section

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #3 A Safe and Prepared Community:

*Community safety and preparedness through effective planning, strategic partnerships and proactive programs.*

*3.2 Leverage strategic partnerships and community-based approaches for comprehensive safety services*

### Analysis

#### Activities and Noteworthy Files

##### *Assault*

On April 11, 2023, Richmond RCMP officers responded to a residence in the 9000 block of Geal Road for a robbery. The 67-year-old resident sustained serious but non-life-threatening injuries after being assaulted by two men. The suspects ransacked the home before fleeing the scene. Police believe the incident was targeted and are investigating.

##### *Robbery*

On April 17, 2023, Richmond RCMP officers responded to a business in the 5000 block of Gilbert Road for a robbery. The male suspect pulled out a knife and threatened an employee before departing the scene. Police conducted patrols of the surrounding area and subsequently arrested the suspect.

### *Suspected Assault*

On April 19, 2023, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release requesting information on the circumstances surrounding a man found in medical distress. On March 20, 2023, a man was in the 8900 block of No. 3 Road with a wound to his head. Police believe he had been the victim of an assault. The incident is under investigation.

### *Cell Phone Scam*

On April 27, 2023, the Richmond RCMP received two reports of fraudulent online cell phone sales. In both instances, buyers responded to an online ad and met a seller who showed them an authentic phone. After the victim provided payment, the original phone was switched out for a counterfeit version. The incidents are under investigation.

### Analysis of Police Statistics

#### *Arson*

In April 2023, there were six reported arsons, representing no change from the previous month and a decrease of four incidents from April 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of arsons this month is within the average range.

#### *Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)*

There were 19 serious assault events in April 2023, which is a 14 per cent decrease from the previous month and represents no change from April 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of serious assaults this month is within the average range.

To date, suspects have been identified in 84 per cent of the incidents. Bear spray was used in eight of the assaults reported in April 2023.

#### *Auto Theft*

In April 2023, there were 22 incidents of auto theft, which is a 12 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 24 per cent decrease from April 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of auto thefts this month is within the average range.

#### *Drugs*

In April 2023, there were 51 drug files, representing no change from the previous month and an 18 per cent decrease from April 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of drug incidents this month is within the average range.

#### *Mental Health*

There were 253 mental health-related incidents in April 2023, which is a seven per cent increase from the previous month and an eight per cent increase from April 2022. No patterns or trends

have been identified. The number of mental health-related incidents this month is above the average range.

Six individuals were involved in three or more files each, resulting in 12 per cent of mental health-related incidents in April 2023. In response, the Vulnerable Persons Unit has implemented specific procedures to provide assistance and better serve client needs. There were 68 police apprehensions, and the average hospital wait time was 104 minutes; these statistics are within the average ranges.

#### *Residential Break and Enter*

There were 19 break and enters to residences in April 2023, which is a 21 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 42 per cent decrease from April 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of residential break and enters this month is below the average range.

#### *Commercial Break and Enter*

In April 2023, there were 19 break and enters to businesses, representing a 37 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 39 per cent decrease from April 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of commercial break and enters this month is within the average range.

#### *Robbery*

There were two robberies in April 2023, decreased by two incidents from the previous month and representing no change from April 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of robberies this month is within the average range.

Both incidents are described in this report's Activity and Noteworthy Files section.

#### *Sexual Offences*

In April 2023, there were 20 sexual offence files, which is a 67 per cent increase from both the previous month and April 2022.<sup>1</sup> No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of sexual offences this month is within the average range.

Suspects have been identified in 90 per cent of the incidents this month. Of the files reported in April 2023, 15 per cent were historical reports and 15 per cent were referrals from the BC Integrated Child Exploitation Unit.

#### *Shoplifting*

There were 87 reported shoplifting thefts in April 2023, which is a 22 per cent decrease from the previous month and a one per cent increase from April 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of shoplifting thefts this month is within the average range.

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<sup>1</sup> The Sexual Offences category comprises a range of offences including: sexual assault, sexual interference, making and distributing child pornography, possessing and accessing child pornography and indecent acts/exposing.

*Theft from Automobile*

There were 115 theft from automobile incidents in April 2023, which is a 21 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 22 per cent decrease from April 2022. The number of thefts from automobiles this month is within the average range.

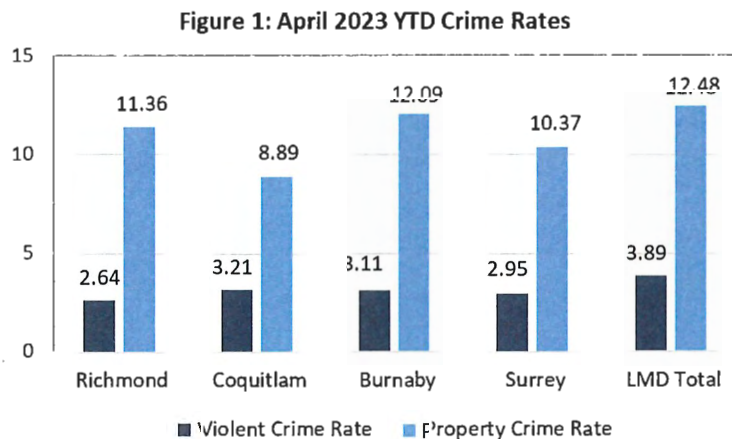
*Hate Crimes and Incidents*

Table 1 presents the number of hate crimes and hate incidents reported between January 1, 2019 and April 30, 2023.<sup>2</sup> 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. The two incidents reported this month were related to the use of derogatory racial comments.

Table 1 – Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents			
Year	Hate Crime Files	Hate Incident Files	Total
2019	11	9	20
2020	21	13	34
2021	21	24	45
2022	8	26	34
2023 (YTD)	0	8	8

Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions

Data on crime rates is presented in Figure 1.<sup>3</sup> In April 2023, out of the four largest municipalities policed by the RCMP in the Lower Mainland District (LMD), Richmond had the lowest violent crime rate. The property crime rate for Richmond was below the LMD average.



<sup>2</sup> The BC Hate Crimes Unit uses the terms hate-motivated crime and hate-motivated incident.

<sup>3</sup> Crime rate is year to date (YTD) and calculated per 1,000 people.

### Block Watch

At the end of April 2023, the Block Watch program had 304 groups totalling 7,045 participants. Currently, the program includes 441 captains and co-captains. This month, a Block Watch outreach event at the Hamilton Community Centre featured an information booth and crime prevention resources.

### Community Police Station Programs

Community police stations continue to enhance the Richmond Detachment's policing services by providing various crime prevention resources and community safety initiatives. City staff and volunteers pursue safety initiatives to enhance crime prevention program awareness, community engagement and police accessibility. These initiatives help to reduce anxiety and fear related to crime. The program activities vary from month to month, reflective of weather conditions, seasonal initiatives and the availability of volunteers.

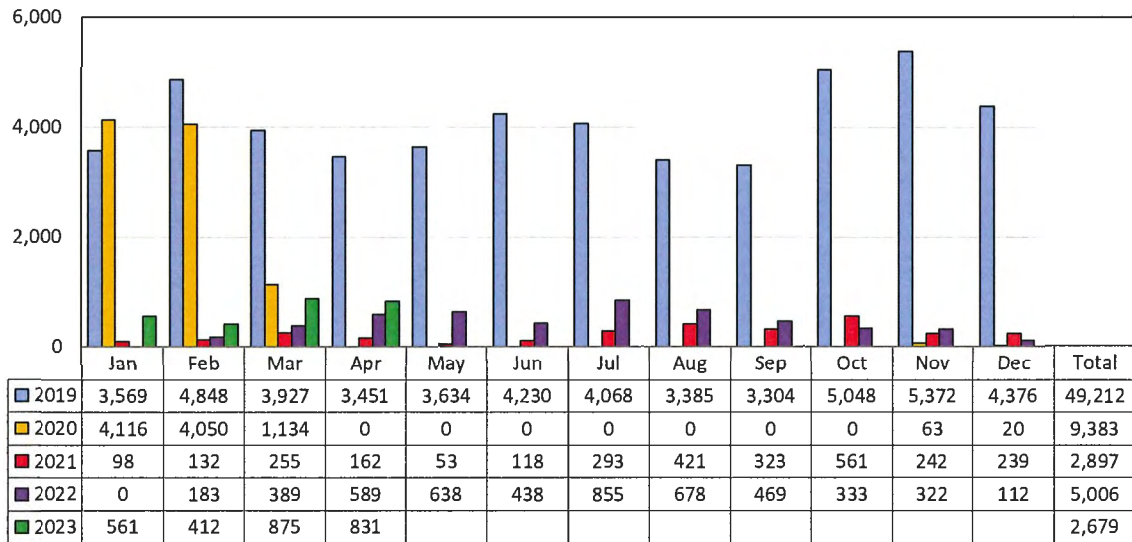
During the month of April, volunteer highlights included:

- The deployment of eight volunteer foot/van patrols, totalling 34 hours.
- A total of 22 Fail to Stop deployments took place, resulting in 680 information letters issued.
- There were 47 Lock Out Auto Crime deployments, resulting in 831 information letters issued.
- Speed Watch was conducted on 772 vehicles, resulting in 20 information letters issued.
- April 1 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a Car Seat Safety Clinic at Lansdowne Mall.
- April 4 – Volunteers participated in a Block Watch Pop-Up Detachment event at Hamilton Park.
- April 11 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a Car Seat Safety Clinic at General Currie Elementary School.
- April 12 – Volunteers distributed Catalytic Converter Bulletins at the South Arm Community Centre and Broadmoor Shopping Centre.
- April 13 – Speed Watch training was delivered to 16 volunteers.
- April 18 – Volunteers participated in a Lock Out Auto Crime Blitz at the Minoru Centre for Active Living, where they checked 313 vehicles for security vulnerabilities and issued 26 information letters. The Spot the Target initiative was also featured.
- April 20 – Volunteers participated in a Lock Out Auto Crime Blitz at Lansdowne Mall, where they checked 425 vehicles for security vulnerabilities and issued 54 information letters.
- April 22 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with an Earth Day event at the Cambie Community Centre and registered 11 bicycles through the Project 529 bike registry
- April 25 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with Road Safety Day at Palmer Secondary, collaborating with ICBC, Richmond Fire Rescue and the BC Ambulance Service.
- April 26 – A total of 60 volunteers attended a volunteer appreciation event at the West Richmond Community Centre.

*Lock Out Auto Crime*

Figure 2 provides a yearly comparison of the number of vehicle notices issued.<sup>4</sup>

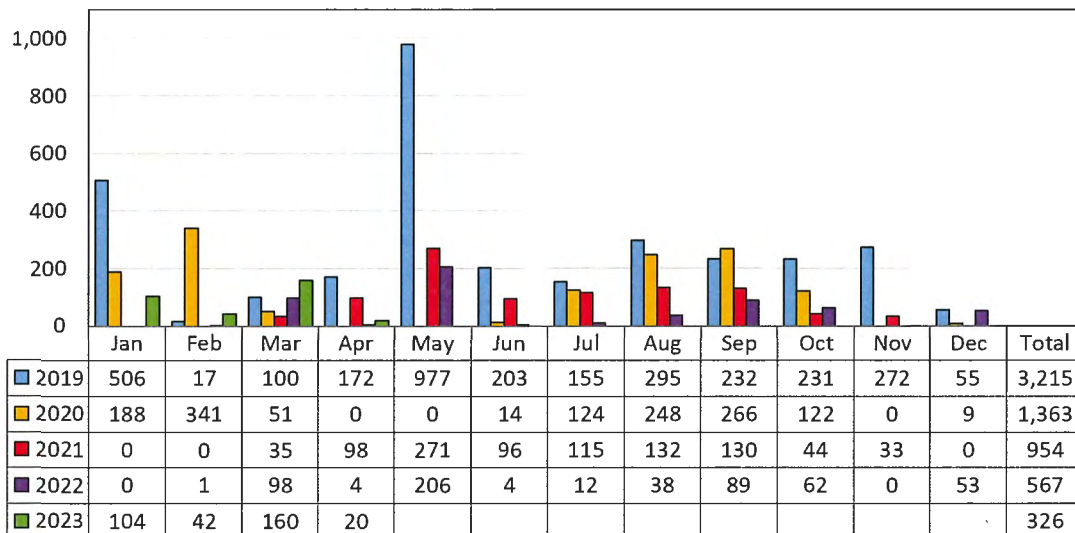
**Figure 2: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice**



*Speed Watch*

Figure 3 provides a yearly comparison of the number of letters sent to registered vehicle owners.

**Figure 3: Speed Watch Letters Sent**



<sup>4</sup> Beginning in November 2020, Lock Out Auto Crime letters were issued in place of notices. Letters are only issued to vehicles displaying security vulnerabilities; whereas previously, notices were issued to all vehicles. This has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of letters issued.

Crime Prevention Unit

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

- Business Outreach
- Car Seat Safety Clinics
- Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives
- Lock Out Auto Crime
- Place of Worship Patrols
- Road Safety Day

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 2 compares statistics for April 2023 to both February 2023 and March 2023. Violation tickets were issued for the following infractions:

Table 2: Violation Tickets Issued

<b>Infraction</b>	<b>February 2023</b>	<b>March 2023</b>	<b>April 2023</b>
Distracted Driving	76	133	52
Driver License	183	181	164
Impaired	29	27	52
Intersection Offences	38	42	27
Moving Infractions <sup>5</sup>	65	64	54
Speeding	155	152	156
Seatbelts	19	15	10
Vehicle Related <sup>6</sup>	141	144	111
Other <sup>7</sup>	10	11	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>642</b>

Victim Services

In April 2023, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 63 new clients and attended nine crime/trauma scenes after hours. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 75 files. In April, Victim Services responded to several cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, property crimes and family conflicts.

<sup>5</sup> Moving infractions refers to unsafe lane change and unsafe passing.

<sup>6</sup> Vehicle related refers to vehicle defects, for example no lights and no insurance.

<sup>7</sup> Other refers to miscellaneous charges including failing 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 contributing to safe and healthy behaviours essential to developing productive and civic-minded adults. During the month of April, Youth Section highlights included:

- RCMP officers in the Youth Section conducted 10 proactive school visits at secondary schools and 26 visits at elementary schools. Police officers engaged with the students at recess and lunch and during morning and afternoon supervision.
- DARE launched for the final term of the 2022-2023 school year with classes delivered to approximately 500 students in 14 classes.

### **Financial Impact**

None.

### **Conclusion**

In April 2023, the Richmond RCMP conducted several noteworthy investigations, including two robberies and cell phone frauds. Police statistics for this month indicate that most crime types were within the average ranges, except for residential break-and-enters, which were lower than average and mental health-related incidents, which were elevated.

In April, the Community Engagement Team and volunteers continued promoting crime prevention and road safety initiatives, including multiple events targeting vehicle thefts. The Officer in Charge of the Richmond RCMP Detachment will continue to ensure that Richmond remains a safe and desirable community.



Edward Warzel  
Manager, Police Services  
(604-207-4767)

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

### 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](mailto:blockwatch@richmond.ca)
- For more information, visit [www.richmond.ca/safety/police/prevention/blockwatch.htm](http://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](http://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](http://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.

### Spot the Target

- This initiative consists of frequently stolen items being placed in the volunteer van for participants to identify in order to enhance awareness of thefts from automobiles.

### 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.

## APRIL 2023 STATISTICS

### RICHMOND RCMP

The following information is a limited list of select crime-type samples, which does not comprise the entirety or assortment of all crimes captured by the RCMP. The statistics in this chart should be considered independently of the analysis provided as the data is unrelated to the research provided earlier in this report.

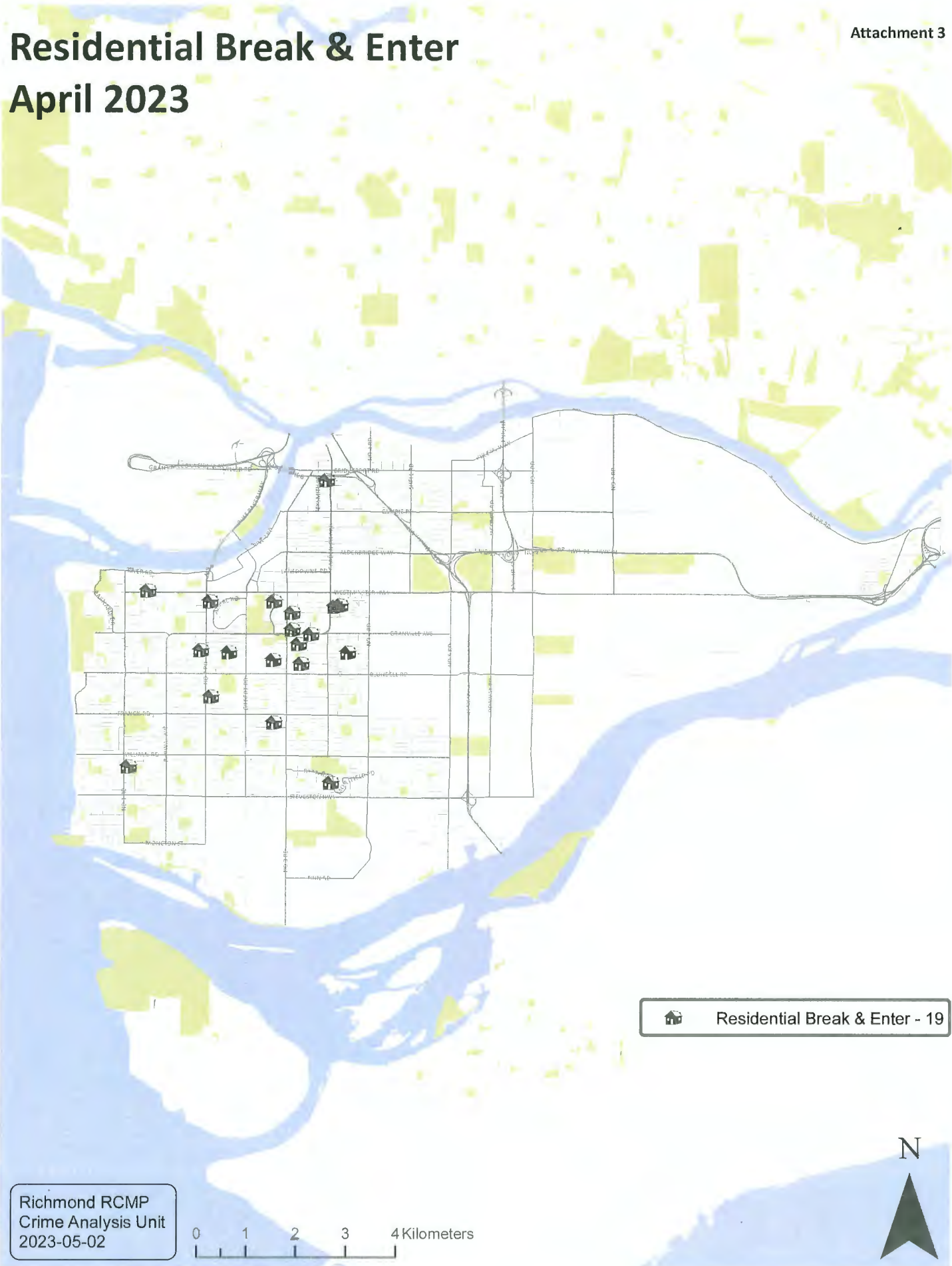
This chart identifies the monthly totals for founded Criminal Code incidents, excluding traffic-related Criminal Code incidents. Based on Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) scoring, there are three categories: (1) Violent Crime, (2) Property Crime, and (3) Other Criminal Code. Within each category, particular 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.

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			
	April - 23	April		2022	2023	% Change	# Change
<b>VIOLENT CRIME</b> (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	<b>152</b>	<b>127.6</b>	<b>112-143</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>47</b>
Robbery	2	3.2	2-4	24	10	-58%	-14
Assault Common	54	43.8	36-52	187	190	2%	3
Assault Serious	19	14.0	11-17	63	80	27%	17
Sexual Offences	20	18.2	14-22	65	72	11%	7
<b>PROPERTY CRIME</b> (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	<b>617</b>	<b>565.2</b>	<b>473-658</b>	<b>2248</b>	<b>2571</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>323</b>
Business B&E	19	26.0	21-31	145	111	-23%	-34
Residential B&E	19	38.6	31-46	131	85	-35%	-46
Auto Theft	22	19.6	14-26	86	93	8%	7
Theft from Auto	115	153.0	112-194	521	567	9%	46
Theft	127	73.8	50-98	299	435	45%	136
Shoplifting	87	64.2	45-83	269	378	41%	109
Fraud	82	67.2	55-80	278	322	16%	44
<b>OTHER CRIMINAL CODE</b> (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	<b>254</b>	<b>201.6</b>	<b>161-242</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>1050</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>186</b>
Arson	6	7.2	2-12	21	27	29%	6
<b>SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES</b> (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	<b>1023</b>	<b>894.8</b>	<b>777-1013</b>	<b>3661</b>	<b>4213</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>552</b>
<b>DRUGS</b> (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	<b>51</b>	<b>44.8</b>	<b>29-61</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>-18%</b>	<b>-35</b>
<b>MHA RELATED CALLS</b> (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	<b>253</b>	<b>221.4</b>	<b>206-237</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>1005</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>72</b>

Prepared by Richmond RCMP Crime Analysts. Data collected from PRIME on 2023-05-02. Published 2023-05-04. 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).

# Residential Break & Enter April 2023

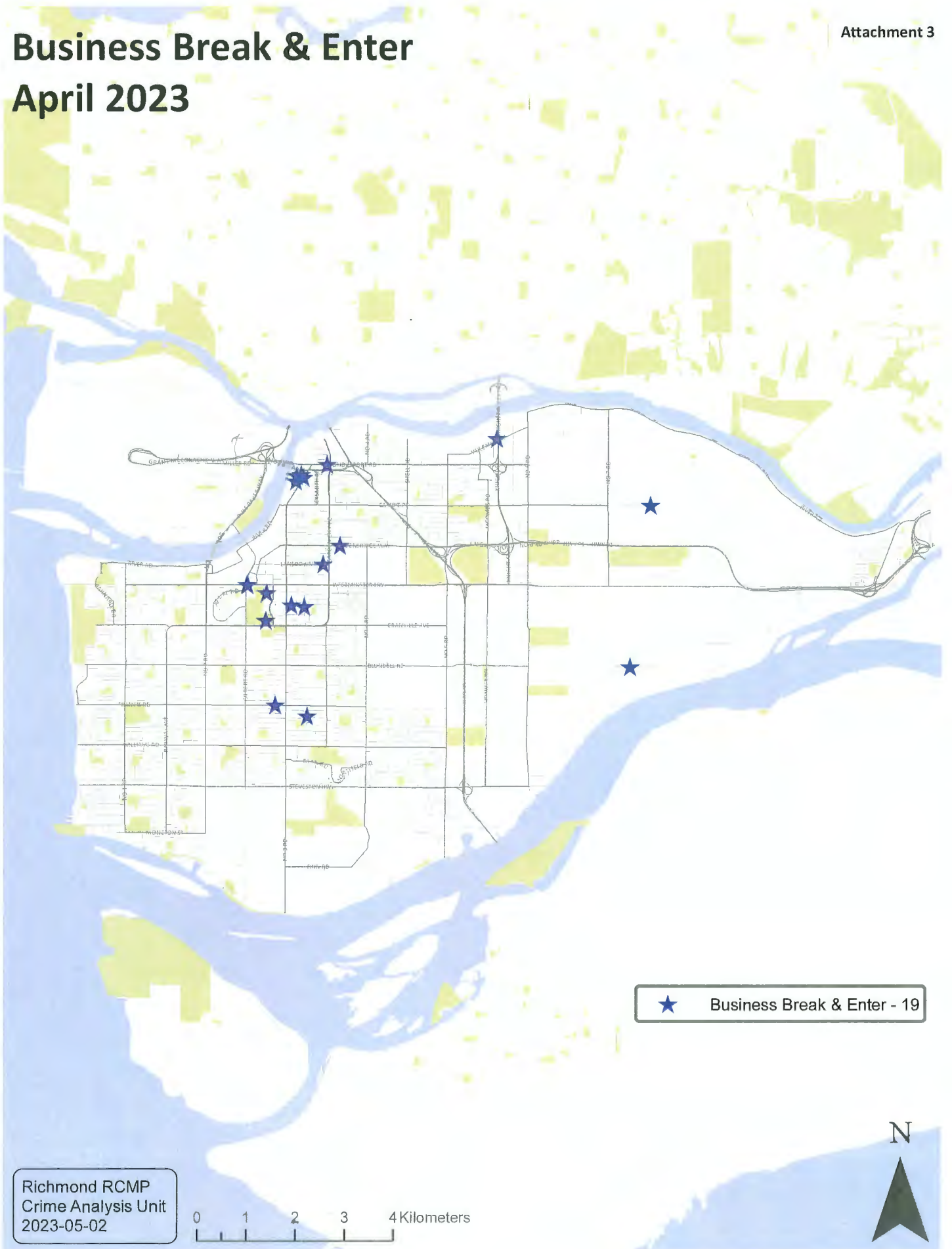


Richmond RCMP  
Crime Analysis Unit  
2023-05-02

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

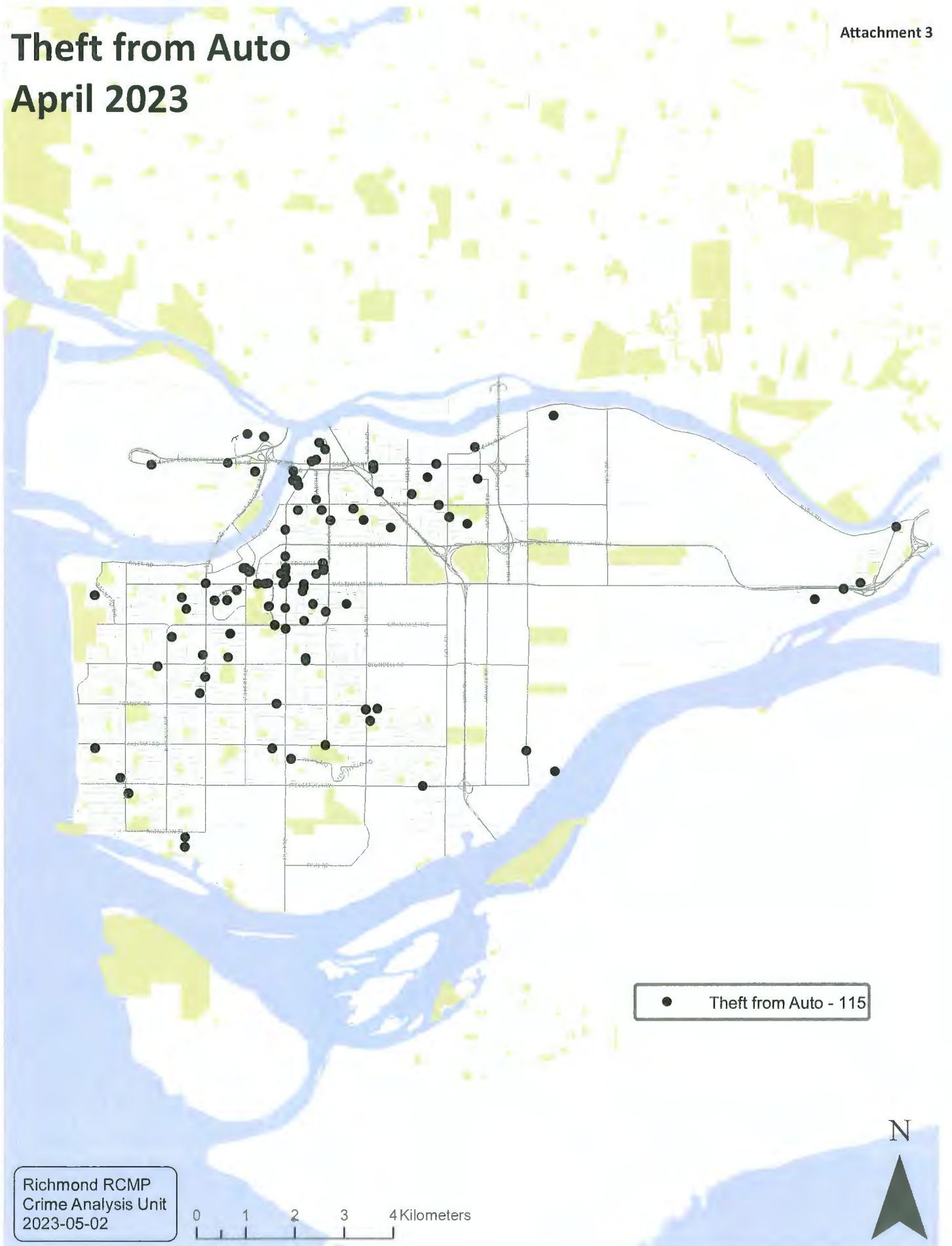


# Business Break & Enter April 2023



Richmond RCMP  
Crime Analysis Unit  
2023-05-02

# Theft from Auto April 2023



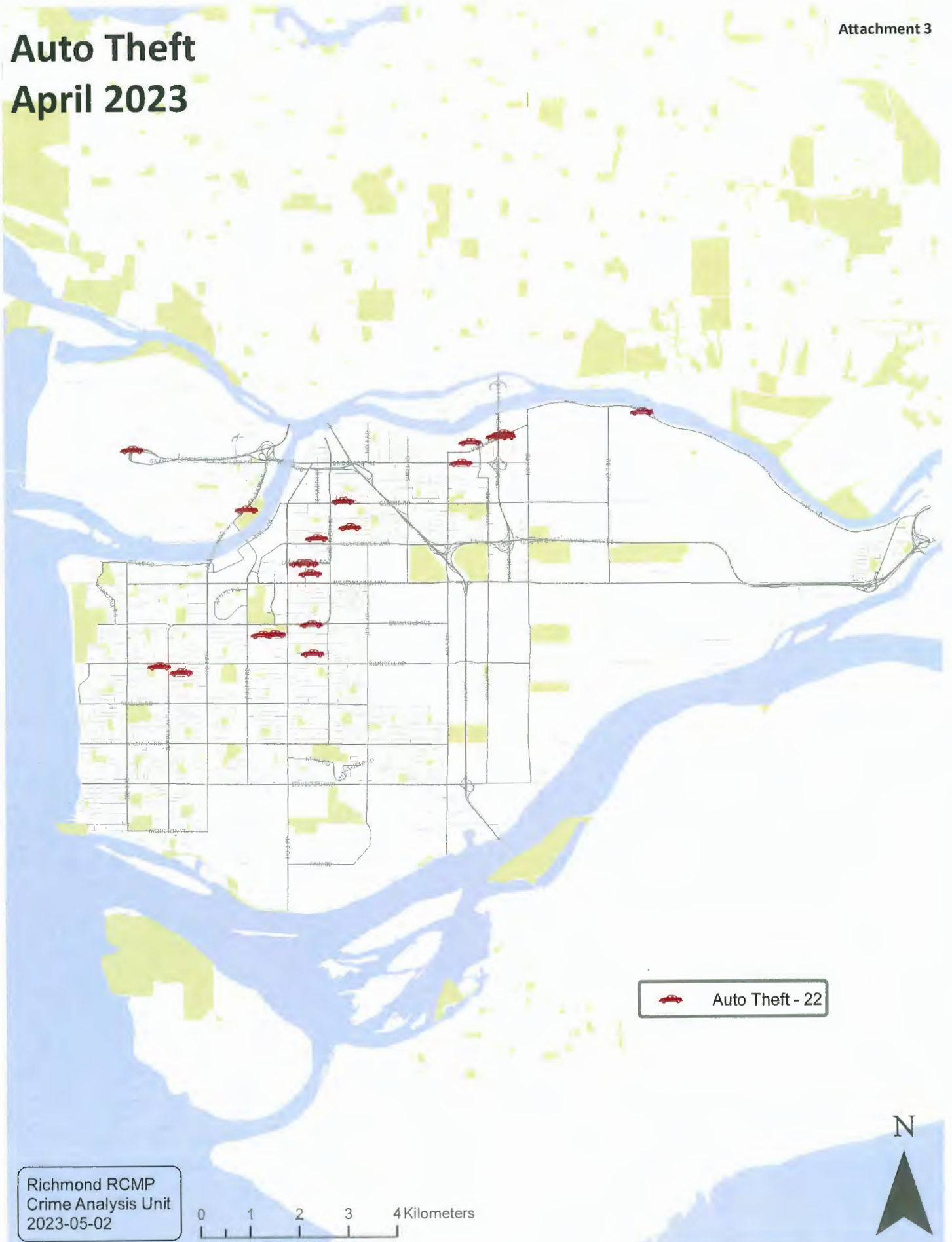
Richmond RCMP  
Crime Analysis Unit  
2023-05-02

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

● Theft from Auto - 115

N

# Auto Theft April 2023



Richmond RCMP  
Crime Analysis Unit  
2023-05-02

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers