

# **Report to Committee**

To:

Community Safety Committee

Date:

June 19, 2018

From:

Will Ng, Superintendent

File:

09-5000-01/2018-Vol

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Re:

RCMP Monthly Activity Report – May 2018

Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment

## **Staff Recommendation**

That the report titled "RCMP Monthly Activity Report – May 2018", dated June 19, 2018, from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment, be received for information.

Superintendent, Officer in Charge (604-278-1212)

Att. 3

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS:
APPROVED BY CAO AV	

# **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 Crime Statistics
- 3. Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions
- 4. Auxiliary Constable Program
- 5. Block Watch
- 6. Community Police Stations and Programs
- 7. Crime Prevention Unit
- 8. Road Safety Unit
- 9. Victim Services
- 10. Youth Section

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #1 A Safe Community:

Maintain emphasis on community safety to ensure Richmond continues to be a safe community.

# **Analysis**

### Activities and Noteworthy Files

# Road Safety

During the month of May RCMP members and Speed Watch volunteers promoted Project Swoop, in partnership with ICBC. This Road Safety campaign focusses on confronting high-risk driving behaviours, such as speeding and distracted driving, in collision prone areas and school zones. This yearly initiative occurs in the spring and fall. Enforcement locations are identified through collaboration with the City of Richmond Transportation Department.

#### Police Week

National Police Week commenced on May 13, 2018. This annual event connects local police with the communities they serve through engagement in community activities and charitable events. This year, Richmond Detachment participated in and hosted a series of events which promoted outreach efforts aimed at vulnerable persons and youth. These included sporting competitions with youth at local schools and a BBQ at Pathways Clubhouse at Storeys Cafe. In addition, this year RCMP members from Richmond Detachment partnered with "Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives" to help seniors shop for groceries at Price Smart.

#### Sexual Assault

On May 15, 2018, Richmond RCMP officers responded to a report of a sexual assault of a minor on a Coast Mountain transit bus. Witnesses reported that a young female victim had been groped by an elderly male. Two witnesses followed the man after he exited the bus and remained with him until police arrived and arrested the suspect. The man is known to police and there is a likelihood that there are more victims. The Richmond RCMP issued a media release with a photo of the suspect to assist in identifying additional victims.

#### Homicide

On May 17, 2018, Richmond RCMP officers responded to a report of a body near the 1600 block of Dyke Road. The deceased male is known to police and the homicide appears to have been targeted. The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team is investigating and will be working in partnership with the Richmond RCMP.

# Shooting

On May 27, 2018, Richmond RCMP officers responded to the 9000 block of Saunders Road to reports of shots fired. Upon their arrival, police officers located a man with an apparent gunshot wound. The victim was quickly transported to hospital and received treatment. The victim is a Richmond resident and is well-known to police.

#### Assault

On May 30, 2018, a young woman approached a good samaritan for assistance after she had been held captive and assaulted. Police attended and were able to identify the residence where the victim had been held. Due to the close proximity to a local school, a brief hold and secure protocol was enacted in order to safeguard the students and staff. A successful negotiation with the suspect resulted in the 42-year-old male surrendering to police. The suspect faces seven charges, including kidnapping, assault with a weapon and sexual assault. The incident remains under investigation.

## Analysis of Crime Statistics

#### Arson

In May 2018, there were two incidents of arson, which is up one from the previous month and is three less than recorded in May 2017. This number is below the five year statistical average range.

## Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)

There were six assault serious events in May 2018, which is down 50 per cent from the previous month. In April 2018 the number of assault files was statistically high and above the five year average range. This month the number of files has significantly declined and is 65 per cent lower than in May 2017. Assault serious files are below the five year average.

#### Auto Theft

There were 24 auto theft incidents this month, which is up four per cent from April 2018. The number of auto thefts this month is within the five year average range and represents a four per cent increase from May 2017. Year to date, the number of auto thefts is 22 per cent lower than the same period last year.

### Drugs

In May 2018, there were 72 drug incidents, which is a 16 per cent increase from the previous month. This number represents a 31 per cent decrease from May 2017, when a statistically high number of drug files were recorded. The number of drug incidents this month remains within the five year average range.

#### Mental Health

In May 2018, 149 mental health incidents were recorded, which represents a 25 per cent increase from April 2018 and an 18 per cent increase from May 2017. The number of mental health incidents this month is outside of the five year average range.

A number of these files were produced by a high volume client, who repeatedly called police to report the same incident. The calls did not require police involvement. Of the total mental health incidents recorded this month, three involved high-risk missing persons, three involved assault and three involved mischief. The increase in mental health related calls for service can also be attributed to enhanced, proactive policing initiatives undertaken by the Detachment's Vulnerable Persons Unit.

#### Residential Break and Enter

There were 54 break and enters to residences in May 2018, which is a 13 per cent increase from the previous month. The total number of residential break and enters this month is within the expected range and represents a 15 per cent increase from May 2017.

#### Commercial Break and Enter

In May 2018, there were 25 break and enters to businesses, which is a 14 per cent decrease from April 2018. This number marks a 12 per cent decrease from May 2017 and is within the five year expected range. Year to date totals indicate there has been a 15 per cent decrease in residential break and enters over the same reporting period from 2017.

#### Robberv

There were two robbery incidents in May 2018, which represents no change from the previous month. The total this month is within the five year average range and represents a 60 per cent reduction from May 2017.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This individual generated 18 files, which equals 12 per cent of the total mental health-related files for May 2018.

#### Sexual Assault

In May 2018, 12 sexual offence files were recorded, which is down 25 per cent from the previous month. Although the total number of sexual assault files this month is 42 per cent higher than recorded in May 2017, the number is within the five year average range.

Year to date totals for 2018 indicate that there has been a 100 per cent increase in the number of sexual assault files compared to the same period in 2017. This increase can be largely attributed to the high numbers reported in January and April of this year. As noted in the reports for those months, files continue to be monitored for patterns or trends.

# Shoplifting

There were 47 shoplifting thefts in May 2018, which is a 32 per cent decrease from the previous month. In April 2018 the number of shoplifting thefts was outside the average range due to the residual effects of the previous month's Loss Prevention Project. The number of shoplifting files this month has returned to normal levels and represents a 26 per cent decrease from May 2017. Reports of shoplifting thefts are within the five year expected range.

#### Theft from Auto

There were 190 theft from auto incidents this month, which is a 17 per cent decrease from April 2018 and a 12 per cent decrease from May 2017. This number is within the five year average range.

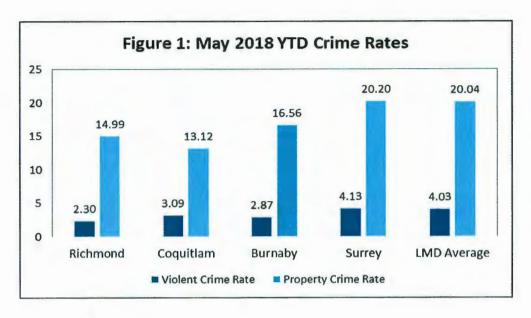
#### Crime Trends across Jurisdictions

On May 16, 2018, a Vancouver Island man was arrested in relation to a series of indecent and threatening phone calls made to women across the Lower Mainland from November 2017 to April 2018. This crime trend was featured in the RCMP Monthly Activity Report – March 2018.

In order to facilitate a meaningful comparison of crime types across jurisdictions, data on crime rates is presented on the following page (Figure 1). Out of the four largest RCMP Detachments in the Lower Mainland District (LMD), Richmond had the lowest violent crime rate in May. Richmond's violent crime rate in 2018 has decreased from 2017, while across the LMD, including Coquitlam, Burnaby and Surrey, the violent crime rate has increased. Richmond's property crime rate also remains low ranking second lowest among Burnaby, Surrey, Coquitlam and the Lower Mainland.

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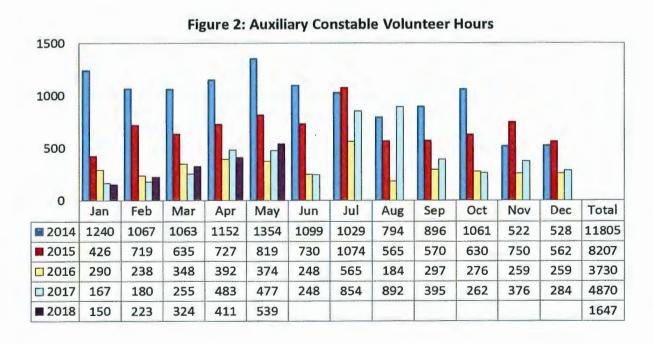
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Crime rate is calculated per 1,000 people (using 2017 populations)



# Auxiliary Constable Program

In May 2018, Richmond Detachment had a complement of 36 Auxiliary Constables, who provided a total of 539 volunteer hours. In the coming months, the Province of BC and RCMP "E" Division are expected to announce the new uniform and training standards for the Tier 3 program, however the details of these changes are not yet available. Once these details are known, the Auxiliary Constable program will commence recruitment of a new troop of Auxiliary Constables anticipated by the fall of 2018.

Figure 2 compares the monthly hours of service provided by month from 2014 to 2018.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/auxiliary-program-tiers

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### Auxiliary Constable Activities

Auxiliary Constables attend events in the community to promote a positive police presence, support RCMP members and provide traffic and crowd control. During the month of May Auxiliary Constables participated in:

- Crime Watch
- Distracted Driving Blitz
- Heart and Stroke Big Bike Event
- Mental Health Initiative

- Speed Watch Blitzes
- School Fairs
- School Sports
- Works Yard Open House

#### Block Watch

At the end of May 2018, the Block Watch program had 457 groups totaling 10,402 participants. Currently, the program includes 606 captains and co-captains.

## Community Police Station Programs

Community police stations continue to enhance the Detachment's policing services by providing an array of 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, events and the availability of volunteers.

During the month of May volunteer highlights included:

- The deployment of 35 foot/van patrols totalling 263 hours and 15 bike patrols totalling 143 hours.
- 44 Fail to Stop deployments, which resulted in 1,268 warning letters.
- Speed Watch was conducted on 6,012 vehicles at various locations.
- 76 Steering wheel locks were distributed to owners of older model vehicles.
- Six volunteer Speed Watch deployments occurred on River Road. These deployments resulted in 133 letters being sent out to registered vehicle owners.
- May 9 The Project SWOOP Blitz was held with deployments across Richmond and included the involvement of 28 volunteers and nine RCMP members. These activities resulted in 186 letters being sent out to registered vehicle owners.
- May 12 –Community Police Station volunteers provided bike registry information at the Works Yard Open House.
- May 16 and 23 Through a referral from the City's Transportation Department, Volunteer Speed Watch deployments occurred at General Currie School.

#### Distracted Drivers

Figure 3 provides a yearly comparison of the number of letters sent to registered vehicle owners.<sup>4</sup>

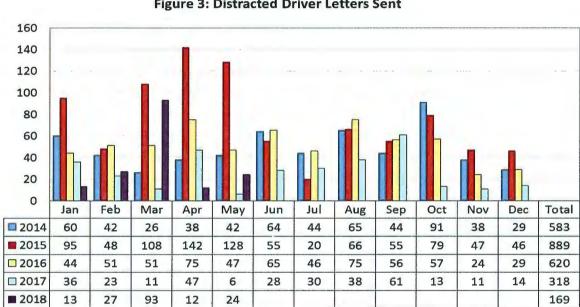


Figure 3: Distracted Driver Letters Sent

#### Lock-Out Auto Crime

Figure 4 provides a comparison by year of the number of vehicle notices issued.

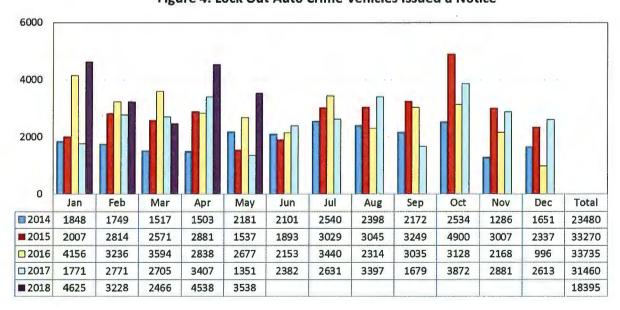


Figure 4: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The total for March 2018 includes 92 warning letters sent as a result of the multiple Distracted Driving Campaign Blitzes which occurred that month.

# Speed Watch

Figure 5 provides a yearly comparison of the number of letters sent to registered vehicle owners.

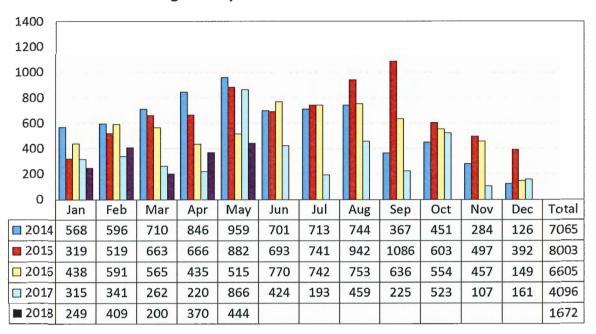


Figure 5: Speed Watch Letters Sent

## Crime Prevention Unit

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

- BBQ at Pathways (Police Week)
- Project SWOOP
- Senior Safety Presentation

- Sports Day
- Supporting Seniors (Police Week)
- Works Yard Open House

# 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. The following statistics compare May 2018 data to both March 2018 and April 2018. The Moving Violations category refers to violations such as unsafe lane change and unsafe passing. The Vehicle category refers to motor vehicle regulation defects such as no insurance and no lights. The Other category refers to other motor vehicle infractions such as miscellaneous charges including fail to remain at the scene of accident and failing to stop for police.

Violation Tickets were issued for the following infractions:

Infraction	March 2018	April 2018	May 2018
Distracted Driving	65	59	73
Driver License	170	126	205
Impaired	23	29	35
Intersection offences	99	99	89
Moving Violations	76	88	146
Speeding	225	159	200
Seatbelts	11	4	8
Vehicle Related	46	54	57
Other	16	10	10
Total	731	628	823

# Parking Tickets:

Name	Act	Example	Mar 2018	Apr 2018	May 2018
Parking	Municipal Bylaw	Municipal parking offences	31	19	19

## Victim Services

In May 2018, Richmond RCMP Victim Services attended to 67 new clients and attended 10 crime/trauma scenes. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 151 ongoing files. Victim Services responded to a number of cases involving family conflict, suicides, serious motor vehicle accidents and medical related sudden deaths.

#### Youth Section

The 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 include:

- Youth Section members participated in school sports events and Carnival Days at local schools.
- On May 11, 2018, a selection of private liquor stores began placing customer purchases in paper bags designed with safe driving messages from local Grade 5 students. The messages warned of the dangers of alcohol impaired driving and encouraged responsible drinking. This community safety initiative was introduced by two new Richmond RCMP officers in collaboration with the Detachment's DARE Officer.
- Members in the Youth Section ensured curfew checks were completed for a number of youth in the community who have court ordered curfews.

# **Financial Impact**

None.

## Conclusion

The Officer in Charge, Richmond Detachment continues to ensure Richmond remains a safe and desirable community.

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

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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

### Difference Maker Project

 The Difference Maker Project is an off-shoot of the School Sports Programs. Elementary school students are mentored by teachers, police officers and community ambassadors.
 This activity aims to encourage social and civic responsibility amongst elementary and secondary school aged youth through community projects.

## 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 201<mark>8 STATI</mark>STICS 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. For 2017, some inclusion criteria have been modified to improve accuracy and accommodate RCMP scoring regulations. For more information, contact Richmond Crime Analysts.

The Average Range data is based on activity in a single month over the past 5 years. If the current monthly total for an offence is above the expected average range (using a standard deviation), it will be noted in red, while below expected numbers will be noted in blue. Year-to-Date percentage increases of more than 10% are marked in red, while decreases of more than 10% are blue.

	Month	Month 5-Yr Avg 5-Yr Range				Year to Date Totals			
	May-18	May		2017	2018	% Change	# Change		
VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	102	117.2	96-139	548	506	-8%	-42		
Robbery	2	5.0	2-8	24	21	-13%	-3		
Assault Common	38	38.6	35-42	180	187	4%	7		
Assault Serious	6	13.4	10-17	54	48	-11%	-6		
Sexual Offences UCR 1345, 1330 1356 1310	12	11.4	8-15	34	68	100%	34		
PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	623	662.6	585-741	3372	3291	-2%	-81		
Business B&E	25	29.0	24-34	200	170	-15%	-30		
Residential B&E	54	54.4	44-65	309	321	4%	12		
Auto Theft	24	25.4	19-32	132	103	-22%	-29		
Theft from Auto	190	185.2	138-232	947	1053	11%	106		
Theft UGR 2 B0, 2 M0	76	110.4	94-127	507	449	-11%	-58		
Shoplifting UCR 2 133 2 143	47	62.4	46-78	265	328	24%	63		
Fraud	86	58.8	50-67	395	361	-9%	-34		
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	184	198.6	171-226	809	884	9%	75		
Arson UCR 529 2 110	2	7.0	3-11	17	9	-47%	-8		
SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	909	978.4	867-1090	4729	4681	-1%	-48		
<b>DRUGS</b> (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	72	74.2	60-88	312	260	-17%	-52		
MHA RELATED CALLS (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	149	108.4	98-119	635	597	-6%	-38		

Prepared by Richmond RCMP Crime Analysts.

Data collected from PRIME on 2018-06-07. Published 2018-06-07.

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