



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** October 12, 2023

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

Re: RCMP Monthly Activity Report – September 2023

Recommendation from the OIC

That the report titled “RCMP Monthly Activity Report – September 2023”, dated October 12, 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

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

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 #1 Proactive in Stakeholder and Civic Engagement:

Proactive stakeholder and civic engagement to foster understanding and involvement and advance Richmond's interests.

Analysis

Activities and Noteworthy Files

School Zone

On September 2, 2023, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release reminding all road users of the resumption of reduced speed limits in school zones. Police also provided E-scooter, bicycle and pedestrian safety tips. Social media posts were shared throughout the month as part of enhanced public education efforts.

Graffiti

On September 8, 2023, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release requesting the public's assistance in identifying four suspects involved in vandalizing Pride crosswalks with anti-LGBTQ2S+ graffiti. Between August 1 and August 29, 2023, police investigated nine such incidents. Richmond RCMP officers also conducted increased patrols of the targeted areas.

Collision

On September 14, 2023, Richmond RCMP officers responded to a collision involving a motorcycle and pedestrian in the 8500 block of Granville Ave. Both the motorcyclist and pedestrian sustained significant injuries and were transported to hospital. The Richmond RCMP Criminal Collision Investigation Team is investigating.

Distracted Driving Enforcement

On September 18, 2023, the Richmond RCMP partnered with BC Highway Patrol, the Integrated Road Safety Unit, ICBC and the City, to conduct enforcement during the Province-wide Distracted Driving & Occupant Restraint Campaign. The deployment resulted in 62 violation tickets for various infractions, including 38 for electronic device infractions.

Homicide

On September 24, 2023, Richmond RCMP officers responded to the 8000 block of Anderson Road for a report of a shooting. Upon attendance, police located a 29-year-old man suffering from gunshot wounds. The victim succumbed to his injuries at the scene. The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team is investigating.

Analysis of Police Statistics

Arson

In September 2023, there were seven reported arsons, a decrease of three incidents from the previous month and a decrease of two incidents from September 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 18 serious assault events in September 2023, a 22 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 38 per cent increase from September 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of serious assaults this month is above the average range.

Approximately 21 per cent of assaults in September 2023 involved family violence. There was one stranger assault reported this month. The incident remains under investigation.

Auto Theft

In September 2023, there were 18 auto theft incidents, a six per cent increase from the previous month and a 25 per cent decrease from September 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of auto thefts this month is below the average range.

Drugs

In September 2023, there were 41 drug offences, a 25 per cent decrease from the previous month and more than double the number reported in September 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of drug incidents this month is within the average range.

Approximately 63 per cent of the files in August 2023 occurred at YVR. This month's increase in drug incidents has been attributed to processing a backlog of drug exhibits originating as Canada Customs seizures at YVR.

Mental Health

There were 236 mental health-related incidents in September 2023, which represents no change from the previous month and is a four per cent increase from September 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of mental health-related incidents this month is within the average range.

There were 80 police apprehensions this month, representing a 15 per cent reduction from the previous month. However, the average hospital wait time increased to 162 minutes, which exceeds the average range. This increase has been attributed to 10 files with exceptionally long wait times.

Residential Break and Enter

There were 25 break and enters to residences in September 2023, a 47 per cent increase from the previous month and a 47 per cent increase from September 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of residential break and enters this month is within the average range.

Commercial Break and Enter

In September 2023, there were 22 break and enters to businesses, representing a 12 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 24 per cent decrease from September 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of commercial break and enters this month is below the average range.

Robbery

There were four robberies in September 2023, representing half the number of incidents reported the previous month and a decrease of two incidents from September 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of robberies this month is within the average range.

Seven persons of interest have been identified to date. Half of the robberies involved the use of burning liquid/caustic spray.¹

Sexual Offences

In September 2023, there were 13 sexual offence files, a 32 per cent decrease from the previous month and an eight per cent increase from September 2022.² No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of sexual offences this month is within the average range.

Approximately 62 per cent of the incidents were sexual assaults. Suspects have been identified in 62 per cent of the offences reported in September 2023.

¹ The category of burning liquid/caustic spray includes a wide-range of liquid substances, including bear and pepper spray.

² 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.

Shoplifting

There were 125 reported shoplifting thefts in September 2023, an 11 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 51 per cent increase from September 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of shoplifting thefts this month is above the average range.

Theft from Automobile

There were 106 thefts from automobile incidents in September 2023, a 43 per cent increase from the previous month and a 19 per cent decrease from September 2022. The number of thefts from automobiles this month is below the average range.

Hate Crimes and Incidents

Table 1 presents the number of hate crimes and hate incidents reported between January 1, 2019 and September 30, 2023.³ 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. There was one hate incident in September 2023, which involved a man uttering threats to police and racial slurs.

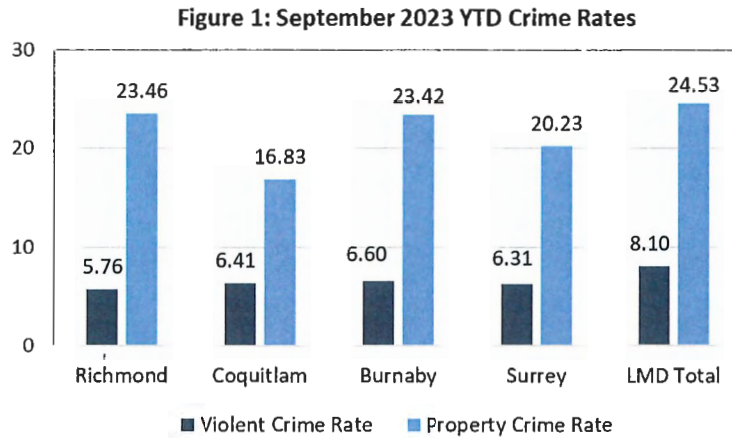
Table 1 – Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents			
Year	Hate Crime Files	Hate Incident Files	Total
2019	11	9	20
2020	21	13	34
2021	21	24	45
2022	8	26	34
2023 (YTD)	6	17	23

Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions

Data on crime rates is presented in Figure 1.⁴ In September 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.

³ The BC Hate Crimes Unit uses the terms hate-motivated crime and hate-motivated incident.

⁴ Crime rate is year to date (YTD) and calculated per 1,000 people.



Block Watch

At the end of September 2023, the Block Watch program had 307 groups, totalling 7,091 participants. Currently, the program includes 440 captains and co-captains. In September, Block Watch ran bus shelter ads to enhance the program’s visibility and aid in recruiting.

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 improve 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 September, volunteer highlights included:

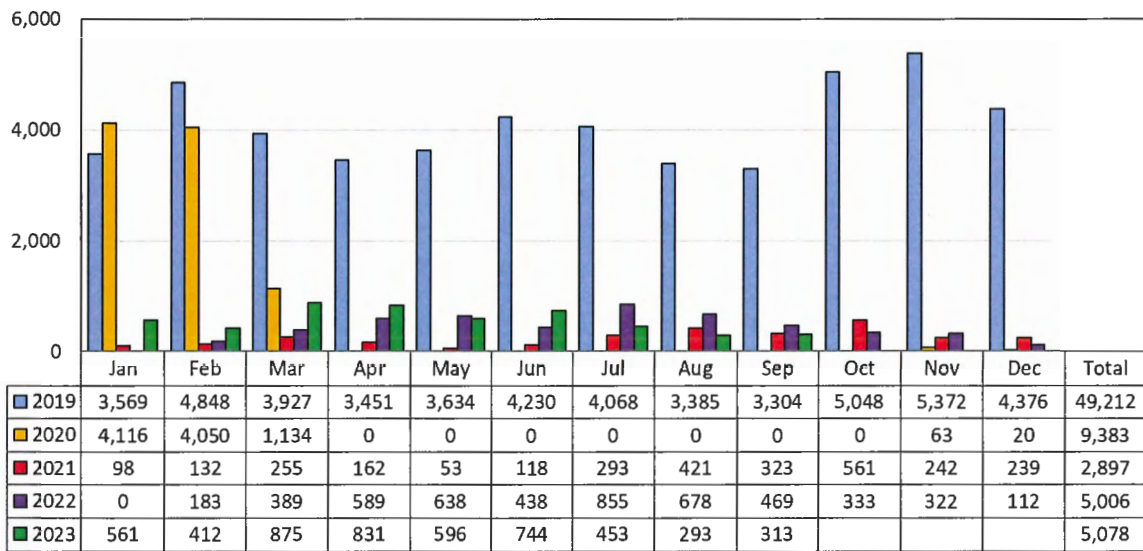
- The deployment of one volunteer bike patrol, totalling four hours and three volunteer foot/van patrols, totalling six hours.
- A total of seven Fail to Stop deployments took place, resulting in 219 information letters issued.
- There were 29 Lock Out Auto Crime deployments, resulting in 313 information letters issued.
- Speed Watch was conducted on 1,245 vehicles, resulting in 132 information letters issued.
- September 5 – Volunteers conducted Speed Watch deployments at Hamilton Elementary School and Choice Elementary School.
- September 6 – Volunteers attended Minoru Park and distributed E-Scooter safety cards while engaging with and educating users of shared pathways.
- September 7 – Volunteers assisted RMCP officers with a Coffee with a Cop event at the McDonald’s on Bridgeport Road.

- September 8 – Volunteers attended the Hamilton Night Out event and engaged with participants while promoting crime prevention programs and the Community Safety app.
- September 12 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a Coffee with a Cop event at Thompson Community Centre. They promoted RCMP recruiting, crime prevention programs, E-Scooter safety and the Community Safety app.
- September 14 – Volunteers conducted “Think of Me” deployments at Westwind Elementary School and William Cook Elementary School. More than 180 Think of Me cards were distributed to drivers.⁵
- September 15– Volunteers assisted police with a large-scale Distracted Driving blitz.
- September 24 – Volunteers and RCMP officers attended the Autism Speaks Walk and promoted Crime prevention programs and the Community Safety App. Mountie cut-outs were used for photo ops.

Lock Out Auto Crime

Figure 2 provides a yearly comparison of the number of vehicle notices issued.⁶

Figure 2: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice



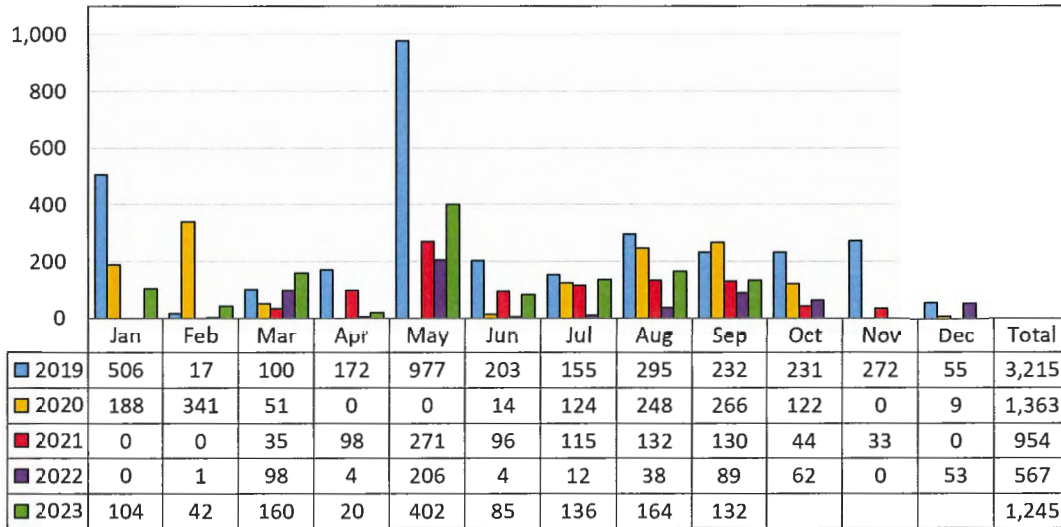
⁵ The Think of Me Campaign uses cards illustrated by children, which contain depictions of what children would like drivers to think about when they are driving in school zones and in the community.

⁶ 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.

Speed Watch

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

Figure 3: Speed Watch Letters Sent



Crime Prevention Unit

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

- Autism Speaks Walk
- Business Outreach
- Coffee with a Cop
- Distracted Driving
- Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives
- Place of Worship Patrols

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 September 2023 to both August 2023 and July 2023. Violation tickets were issued for the following infractions:

Table 2: Violation Tickets Issued

Infraction	July 2023	August 2023	September 2023
Distracted Driving	106	97	89
Driver License	226	178	175
Impaired	41	32	28
Intersection Offences	45	38	47

Infraction	July 2023	August 2023	September 2023
Moving Infractions ⁷	105	79	56
Speeding	198	180	195
Seatbelts	21	14	6
Vehicle-Related ⁸	132	151	112
Other ⁹	27	29	20
Total	901	798	728

Victim Services

In September 2023, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 58 new clients and attended nine crime/trauma scenes after hours. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 103 files. In September, Victim Services responded to several cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, mental health issues and frauds.

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 September, Youth Section highlights included:

- RCMP officers in the Youth Section conducted 51 proactive school visits at secondary schools and 67 visits at elementary schools. Police officers engaged with students during recess, lunch, and morning and afternoon supervision.
- DARE launched the first term of the 2023-2024 school year, with classes delivered to 280 elementary school students in 11 classes.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

In September 2023, the Richmond RCMP conducted several noteworthy investigations and activities, including a series of hate-related graffiti and a serious collision involving a motorcyclist and pedestrian. Police statistics for this month indicate that most crime types were within the average ranges, except for serious assaults and shoplifting, which were elevated, and commercial break and enters, auto thefts and thefts from vehicles, which were below average.

In September, the Community Engagement Team and volunteers continued promoting crime prevention and road safety initiatives, including a Distracted Driving campaign. The Officer in

⁷ Moving infractions refers to unsafe lane change and unsafe passing.

⁸ Vehicle related refers to vehicle defects, for example no lights and no insurance.

⁹ Other refers to miscellaneous charges including failing to remain at the scene of an accident and failing to stop for police.

October 12, 2023

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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
- 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.

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.



SEPTEMBER 2023 STATISTICS

RICHMOND RCMP

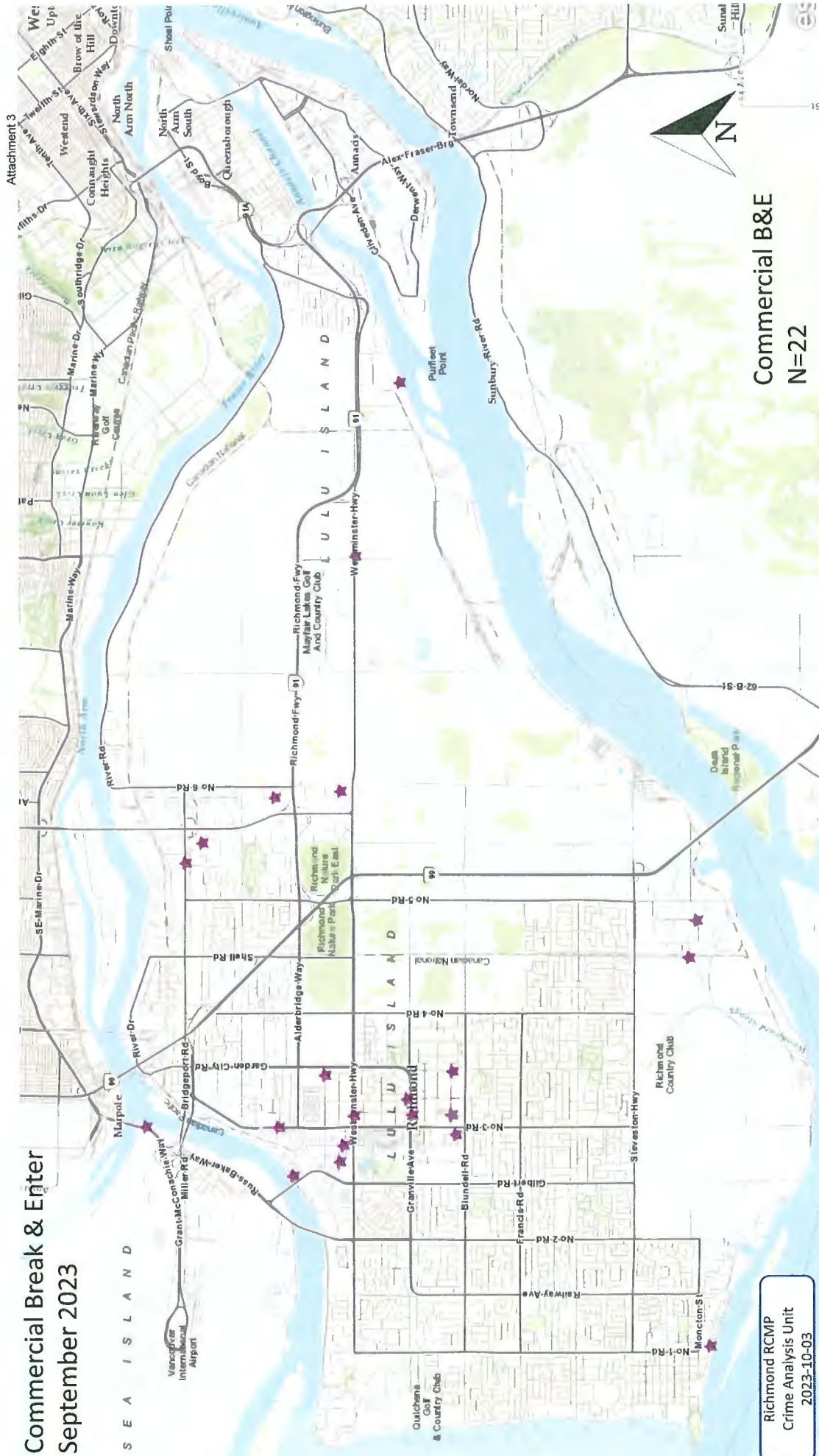
The following information is a limited list of select crime-type samples, which does not comprise the entirety or assortment of all crimes captured by the RCMP. The statistics in this chart should be considered independently of the analysis provided as the data is unrelated to the research provided earlier 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 is based on activity within a single month over the past 5 years. If the current monthly total for an offence falls outside the 5 year range (using one standard deviation) due to crime trends, patterns, or spikes, it will be noted in **red** if higher and **blue** if below. If the current monthly total for an offence is above the 5 year range due to primarily non-operational reasons such as the new UCR

	Month	5-Yr Avg	5-Yr Range	Year to Date Totals			
	Sep - 23	September		2022	2023	% Change	# Change
VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	139	134.8	128-143	1123	1380	23%	257
Robbery <small>UCR 1001 (1)</small>	4	5.2	4-7	46	40	-13%	-6
Assault Common <small>UCR 1002</small>	52	45.8	42-49	400	447	12%	47
Assault Serious <small>UCR 1001 (1420)</small>	18	10.4	6-15	143	187	31%	44
Sexual Offences <small>UCR 1001 (1420), 1421, 1422, 1423, 1424, 1425, 1426, 1427, 1428, 1429, 1430, 1431, 1432, 1433, 1434, 1435, 1436, 1437, 1438, 1439, 1440, 1441, 1442, 1443, 1444, 1445, 1446, 1447, 1448, 1449, 1450, 1451, 1452, 1453, 1454, 1455, 1456, 1457, 1458, 1459, 1460, 1461, 1462, 1463, 1464, 1465, 1466, 1467, 1468, 1469, 1470, 1471, 1472, 1473, 1474, 1475, 1476, 1477, 1478, 1479, 1480, 1481, 1482, 1483, 1484, 1485, 1486, 1487, 1488, 1489, 1490, 1491, 1492, 1493, 1494, 1495, 1496, 1497, 1498, 1499</small>	13	16.0	11-21	140	174	24%	34
PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	634	610.6	555-666	4474	5828	30%	1354
Business B&E <small>UCR 2001</small>	22	32.4	25-39	245	226	-8%	-19
Residential B&E <small>UCR 2002</small>	25	40.8	17-65	218	216	-1%	-2
Auto Theft <small>UCR 2003 (119)</small>	18	30.0	25-35	159	192	21%	33
Theft from Auto <small>UCR 2132, 2133</small>	106	155.2	135-175	921	1096	19%	175
Theft <small>UCR 2003 (119), 2004 (119), 2005 (119), 2006 (119), 2007 (119), 2008 (119), 2009 (119), 2010 (119), 2011 (119), 2012 (119), 2013 (119), 2014 (119), 2015 (119), 2016 (119), 2017 (119), 2018 (119), 2019 (119), 2020 (119), 2021 (119), 2022 (119), 2023 (119), 2024 (119), 2025 (119), 2026 (119), 2027 (119), 2028 (119), 2029 (119), 2030 (119), 2031 (119), 2032 (119), 2033 (119), 2034 (119), 2035 (119), 2036 (119), 2037 (119), 2038 (119), 2039 (119), 2040 (119), 2041 (119), 2042 (119), 2043 (119), 2044 (119), 2045 (119), 2046 (119), 2047 (119), 2048 (119), 2049 (119), 2050 (119), 2051 (119), 2052 (119), 2053 (119), 2054 (119), 2055 (119), 2056 (119), 2057 (119), 2058 (119), 2059 (119), 2060 (119), 2061 (119), 2062 (119), 2063 (119), 2064 (119), 2065 (119), 2066 (119), 2067 (119), 2068 (119), 2069 (119), 2070 (119), 2071 (119), 2072 (119), 2073 (119), 2074 (119), 2075 (119), 2076 (119), 2077 (119), 2078 (119), 2079 (119), 2080 (119), 2081 (119), 2082 (119), 2083 (119), 2084 (119), 2085 (119), 2086 (119), 2087 (119), 2088 (119), 2089 (119), 2090 (119), 2091 (119), 2092 (119), 2093 (119), 2094 (119), 2095 (119), 2096 (119), 2097 (119), 2098 (119), 2099 (119), 2100 (119)</small>	98	77.0	59-95	694	1042	50%	348
Shoplifting <small>UCP 1001</small>	125	63.8	47-81	528	923	75%	395
Fraud <small>UCR 2001 (119), 2002 (119), 2003 (119), 2004 (119), 2005 (119), 2006 (119), 2007 (119), 2008 (119), 2009 (119), 2010 (119), 2011 (119), 2012 (119), 2013 (119), 2014 (119), 2015 (119), 2016 (119), 2017 (119), 2018 (119), 2019 (119), 2020 (119), 2021 (119), 2022 (119), 2023 (119), 2024 (119), 2025 (119), 2026 (119), 2027 (119), 2028 (119), 2029 (119), 2030 (119), 2031 (119), 2032 (119), 2033 (119), 2034 (119), 2035 (119), 2036 (119), 2037 (119), 2038 (119), 2039 (119), 2040 (119), 2041 (119), 2042 (119), 2043 (119), 2044 (119), 2045 (119), 2046 (119), 2047 (119), 2048 (119), 2049 (119), 2050 (119), 2051 (119), 2052 (119), 2053 (119), 2054 (119), 2055 (119), 2056 (119), 2057 (119), 2058 (119), 2059 (119), 2060 (119), 2061 (119), 2062 (119), 2063 (119), 2064 (119), 2065 (119), 2066 (119), 2067 (119), 2068 (119), 2069 (119), 2070 (119), 2071 (119), 2072 (119), 2073 (119), 2074 (119), 2075 (119), 2076 (119), 2077 (119), 2078 (119), 2079 (119), 2080 (119), 2081 (119), 2082 (119), 2083 (119), 2084 (119), 2085 (119), 2086 (119), 2087 (119), 2088 (119), 2089 (119), 2090 (119), 2091 (119), 2092 (119), 2093 (119), 2094 (119), 2095 (119), 2096 (119), 2097 (119), 2098 (119), 2099 (119), 2100 (119)</small>	93	71.4	64-78	532	735	38%	203
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	279	235.2	200-270	1927	2443	27%	516
Arson <small>UCR 3001, 3002</small>	7	4.6	2-7	59	57	-3%	-2
SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	1052	980.6	928-1033	7530	9655	28%	2125
DRUGS (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	41	38.2	20-57	382	425	11%	43
MHA RELATED CALLS (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	236	246.0	207-285	1646	2147	30%	501

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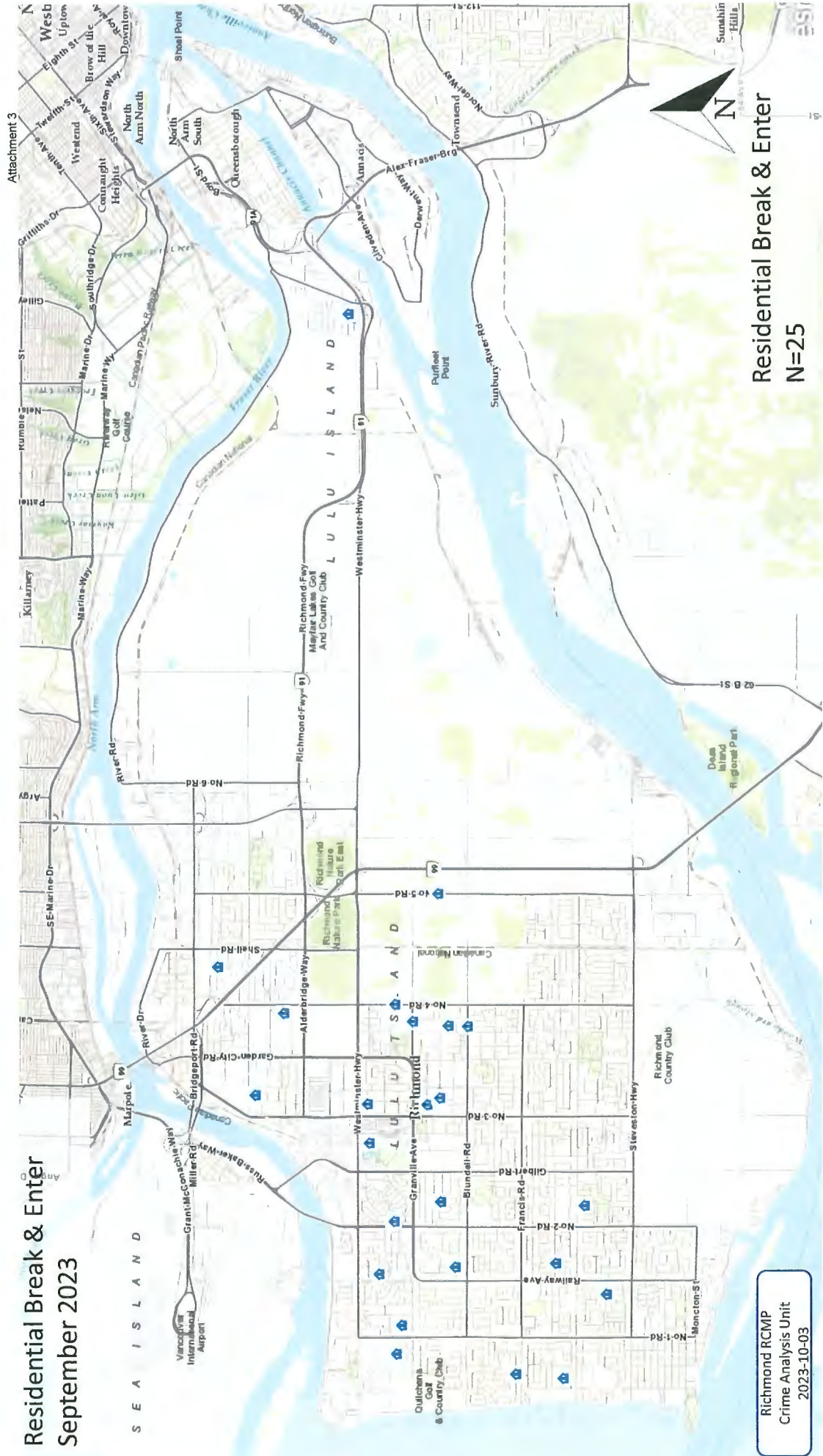


Attachment 3
Commercial Break & Enter
September 2023

Commercial B&E
N=22

Richmond RCMP
 Crime Analysis Unit
 2023-10-03

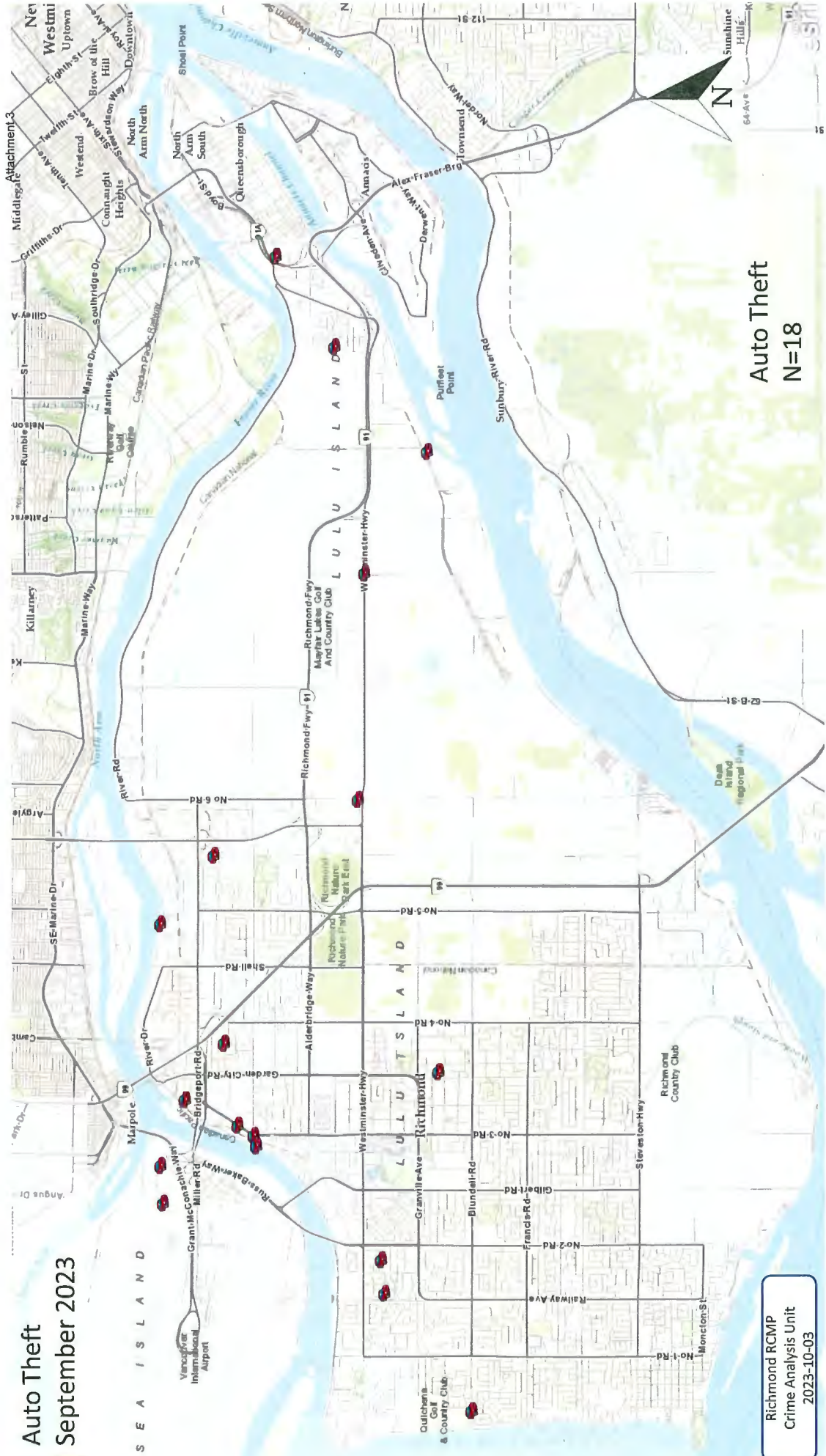
Residential Break & Enter
September 2023



Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2023-10-03

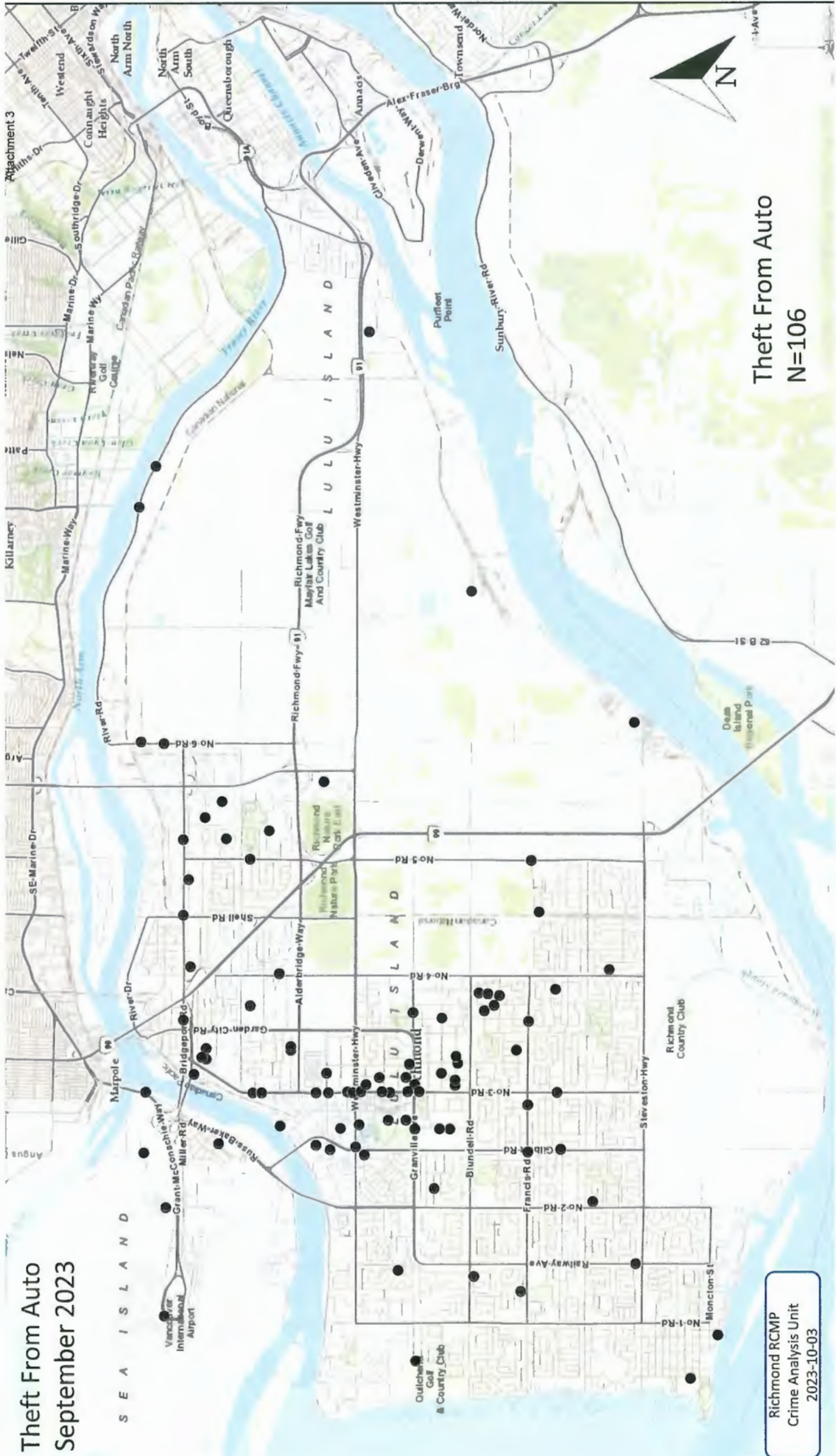
Residential Break & Enter
N=25

**Auto Theft
September 2023**



**Auto Theft
N=18**

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2023-10-03



**Theft From Auto
September 2023**

**Theft From Auto
N=106**

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2023-10-03