



To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** January 12, 2022

From: Julie Drotar **File:** 09-5000-01/2021-Vol
Superintendent, Acting Officer in Charge 01

Re: RCMP Monthly Activity Report – December 2021

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “RCMP Monthly Activity Report – December 2021”, dated January 12, 2022, from the Acting Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment, be received for information.

Julie Drotar
Superintendent, Acting 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. 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 2018-2022 Strategy #1 A Safe and Resilient City:

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

Analysis

Activities and Noteworthy Files

Police Officer Assaulted

On December 2, 2021, a Richmond RCMP officer responded to a theft in the 4600 block of No. 3 Road. While attempting to arrest the suspect, a struggle ensued and the suspect was able to flee from the area. The officer sustained minor injuries and the incident remains under investigation.

Preventing Property Crime

On December 9, 2021, the Richmond RCMP began promoting the #9PMcheck campaign, which aims to enhance public awareness of increased property crimes during the holiday season. The month-long initiative included daily social media posts on Twitter and provided recommendations of actions the public could take to safeguard their personal property.

Impaired Driving Awareness

On December 15, 2021, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release reminding drivers to plan a safe ride home during the holiday season. The Think of Me initiative was expanded to include collaboration with the local BC Government Liquor Stores to encourage safe driving. Local students decorated liquor store paper bags with "Get home safe" artwork and messages as a reminder to drivers not to drink and drive.

Drug Charges

On December 22, 2021, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release advising that charges had been laid in connection with an eight-month clandestine lab project conducted in 2020. The six accused face a combined 47 charges related to firearms, drug production and drug trafficking. The media release also provided information on identifiable indicators of drug labs in the community.

Analysis of Police Statistics

Arson

In December 2021, there were six reported arsons, which is down two incidents from the previous month and down 10 incidents from December 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of arsons this month is within the expected range.

In 2021, reported arsons decreased by 16 per cent compared to the previous year. This decrease is within the expected year over year statistical variance.

Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)

There were 15 assault serious events in December 2021, which is down six per cent from the previous month and down 40 per cent from December 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of serious assaults this month is within the expected range.

In 2021, serious assaults increased by five per cent compared to the previous year. This increase is within the expected year over year statistical variance.

Auto Theft

In December 2021, there were 18 incidents of auto theft, which is down five per cent from the previous month and down 31 per cent from December 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of auto thefts this month is within the expected range.

In 2021, auto thefts decreased by nine per cent compared to the previous year. This decrease is within the expected year over year statistical variance.

Drugs

In December 2021, there were 24 drug files, which represents no change from the previous month and is down 14 per cent from December 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of drug incidents this month is within the expected range.

In 2021, drug offences decreased by 33 per cent compared to the previous year. This decrease has been attributed to a high number of files in January 2020, which resulted from the processing of a backlog of drug exhibits, originating as Canada Customs seizures at the Vancouver International Airport (YVR).

Mental Health

There were 137 mental health-related incidents in December 2021, which is a 12 per cent increase from the previous month and is a three per cent decrease from December 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of mental health-related incidents this month is within the expected range.

In 2021, mental health-related incidents decreased by 17 per cent compared to the previous year. This decrease is within the expected year over year statistical variance.

There were 95 police apprehensions this month and the average hospital wait was 100 minutes. Both of these statistics are within the expected ranges.

Residential Break and Enter

There were 33 break and enters to residences in December 2021, which is a 14 per cent increase from the previous month and is a 30 per cent decrease from December 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of residential break and enters this month is within the expected range.

In 2021, residential break and enters decreased by 27 per cent compared to the previous year. This decrease has been partially attributed to the successful targeting of crime groups responsible for these offences in 2020.

Commercial Break and Enter

In December 2021, there were 34 break and enters to businesses, which is more than double the number reported the previous month and is a 36 per cent increase from December 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of commercial break and enters this month is within the expected range.

In 2021, commercial break and enters decreased by 13 per cent compared to the previous year. This decrease is within the expected year over year statistical variance.

Robbery

There were seven robbery incidents in December 2021, which is up three incidents from the previous month and up three incidents from December 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of robberies this month is within the expected range.

In 2021, robberies increased by six per cent compared to the previous year. This increase is within the expected year over year statistical variance.

Sexual Offences

In December 2021, there were 19 sexual offence files, which is down 24 per cent from previous month and is approximately double the number of incidents reported in December 2020. No

patterns or trends have been identified. The number of sexual offences this month is above the expected range.

In 2021, sexual offences increased by 28 per cent compared to the previous year, which has been partially attributed to a 115 per cent increase in referrals from the BC Integrated Child Exploitation Team (BC ICE). Reasons behind this increase include increased internet use by children and more electronic service providers monitoring their sites.

Referrals from the BC ICE accounted for a significant proportion of the files this month (47 per cent). The other reported incidents included seven sexual assaults, one indecent act and one incident of sexual interference.

Shoplifting

There were 57 reported shoplifting thefts in December 2021, which is a 14 per cent decrease from the previous month and is a 12 per cent decrease from December 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of shoplifting thefts this month is within the expected range.

In 2021, shoplifting thefts increased by nine per cent compared to the previous year. This increase is within the expected year over year statistical variance.

Theft from Automobile

There were 90 theft from automobile incidents in December 2021, which is down 26 per cent from the previous month and down 36 per cent from December 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of thefts from automobiles this month is below the expected range.

In 2021, thefts from automobiles decreased by six per cent compared to the previous year. This decrease is within the expected year over year statistical variance.

Hate Crimes and Incidents

Table 1 presents the number of hate crimes and hate incidents reported between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2021.¹ 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 events reported this month were related to the use of racial slurs. While in 2020 there was an increase in hate-related files relating to racial slurs against Chinese people, in 2021 the increased occurrences included racist slurs and actions towards other ethnic groups.

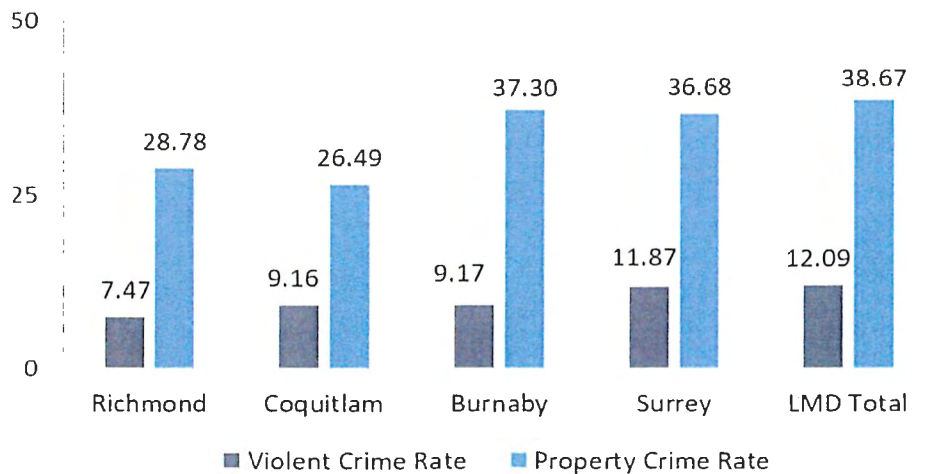
¹ The BC Hate Crimes Unit uses the terms hate-motivated crime and hate-motivated incident.

Year	Hate Crime Files	Hate Incident Files	Total
2018	19	4	23
2019	11	9	20
2020	21	13	34
2021	19	29	48

Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions

Data on crime rates is presented in Figure 1.² In 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. In 2021, property crime numbers in Richmond were the lowest they had been in over a decade.

Figure 1: 2021 Crime Rates



Block Watch

At the end of December 2021, the Block Watch program had 305 groups totaling 7,136 participants. Currently, the program includes 441 captains and co-captains.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person training was suspended and other Block Watch events remained limited in 2021. In response to this, the Block Watch program enhanced the availability of digital and online materials and began offering virtual training opportunities. In total, eight virtual Block Watch training sessions were held in 2021. Despite these challenges, the number of participants grew by six per cent from the previous year.

² Crime rate is calculated per 1,000 people.

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 have continued to pursue safety initiatives to enhance crime prevention program awareness, community engagement and police accessibility.

While volunteer activities remained limited in 2021, there were 35 active volunteers who contributed 1,714 hours to community policing programs, including 162 hours of volunteer bike patrols. In 2021, volunteers also distributed 7,107 Pedestrian Safety reflectors and issued 632 Fail to Stop letters, 954 Speed Watch letters and 2,897 Lock Out Auto Crime letters.

During the month of December, volunteer highlights included:

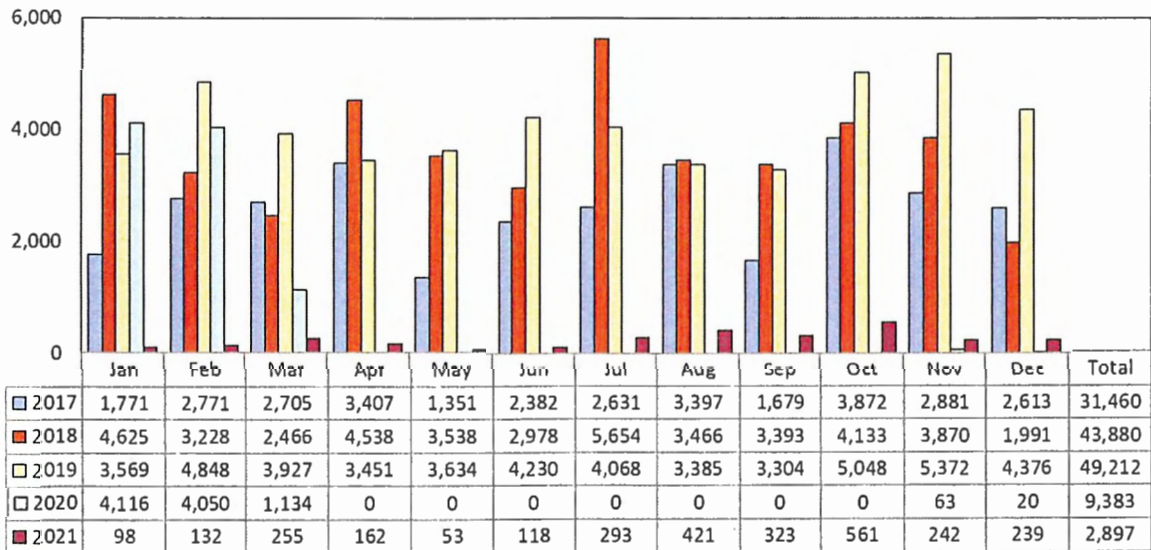
- Eight Lock Out Auto Crime deployments took place, which resulted in 239 information letters being distributed.
- There was one Fail to Stop deployment during which 58 information letters were issued.
- December 8 – Volunteers conducted a Lock Out Auto Crime Deployment at two locations in central Richmond and checked 347 vehicles. A total of 74 information letters were issued.
- December 9 – Volunteers were recognized with long service awards for five, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years of service to the community.
- December 10 – Volunteers conducted a Lock Out Auto Crime Deployment in central Richmond and issued 23 information letters.
- December 12 – Volunteers participated in a Crime Watch deployment in central Richmond and discovered a stolen license plate while checking vehicles through the Stolen Auto Recovery program.³ The incident was reported to police for investigation. In total, volunteers checked 206 vehicles at multiple locations throughout the city.

³ During Crime Watch deployments volunteers check for stolen vehicles and report suspicious activities to police

Lock Out Auto Crime

Figure 2 provides a comparison by year of the number of vehicle notices issued.⁴

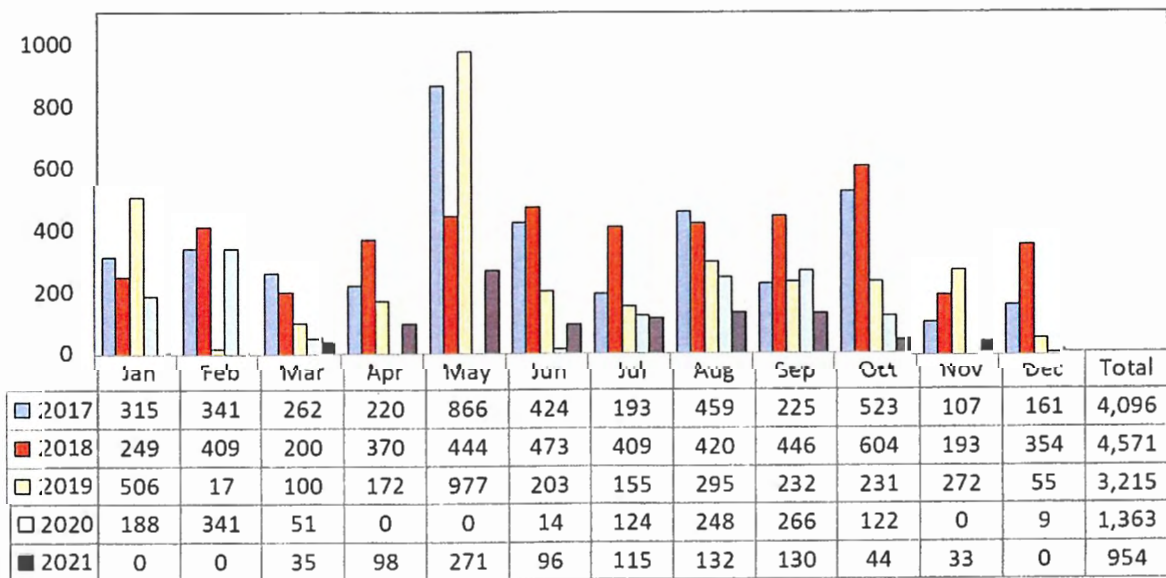
Figure 2: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice



Speed Watch

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

Figure 3: Speed Watch Letters Sent



⁴ 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 December, the Crime Prevention Unit participated in the following events/activities:

- Business Outreach
- Community Foot Patrols
- Lock Out Auto Crime
- Menorah Lighting Ceremony
- Santa's Arrival in Steveston
- Volunteer Recognition Event

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 December 2021 to both October 2021 and November 2021. Violation Tickets were issued for the following infractions:

Table 2: Violation Tickets Issued

Infraction	October 2021	November 2021	December 2021
Distracted Driving	114	133	92
Driver License	161	154	145
Impaired	40	28	33
Intersection Offences	34	52	40
Moving Infractions ⁵	128	171	61
Speeding	204	201	113
Seatbelts	9	7	4
Vehicle Related ⁶	89	76	77
Other ⁷	7	7	4
Total	786	829	569

Victim Services

In December 2021, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 79 new clients and attended six 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 116 files. In December, Victim Services responded to a number of cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, property crimes and mental health issues.

⁵ Moving infractions refers to unsafe lane change and unsafe passing.

⁶ Vehicle related refers to vehicle defects, for example no lights and no insurance.

⁷ 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 that contribute to safe and healthy behaviours essential to the development of productive and civic-minded adults. During the month of December, Youth Section highlights included:

- RCMP officers in the Youth Section prepared for the delivery of the Youth Academy program in 2022. The Youth Academy aims to provide high school students who have an interest in policing with the experience to pursue their career aspirations. The program includes presentations and scenario-based training.
- RCMP officers in the Youth Section conducted 43 proactive school visits at Secondary Schools and 45 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 December 2021, the Richmond RCMP conducted a number of noteworthy investigations, including the assault of a police officer who was carrying out an arrest. Police statistics for this month indicate that most crime types were within the expected ranges with the exception of sexual offences, which were elevated and thefts from automobiles, which were below the expected range. In 2021, property crime numbers were the lowest they had been in over a decade.

In December, the Richmond RCMP promoted a social media campaign to prevent property crimes during the holiday season, in addition to reminding drivers not to drink and drive. 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 Police Services
(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.

DECEMBER 2021 STATISTICS

RICHMOND RCMP

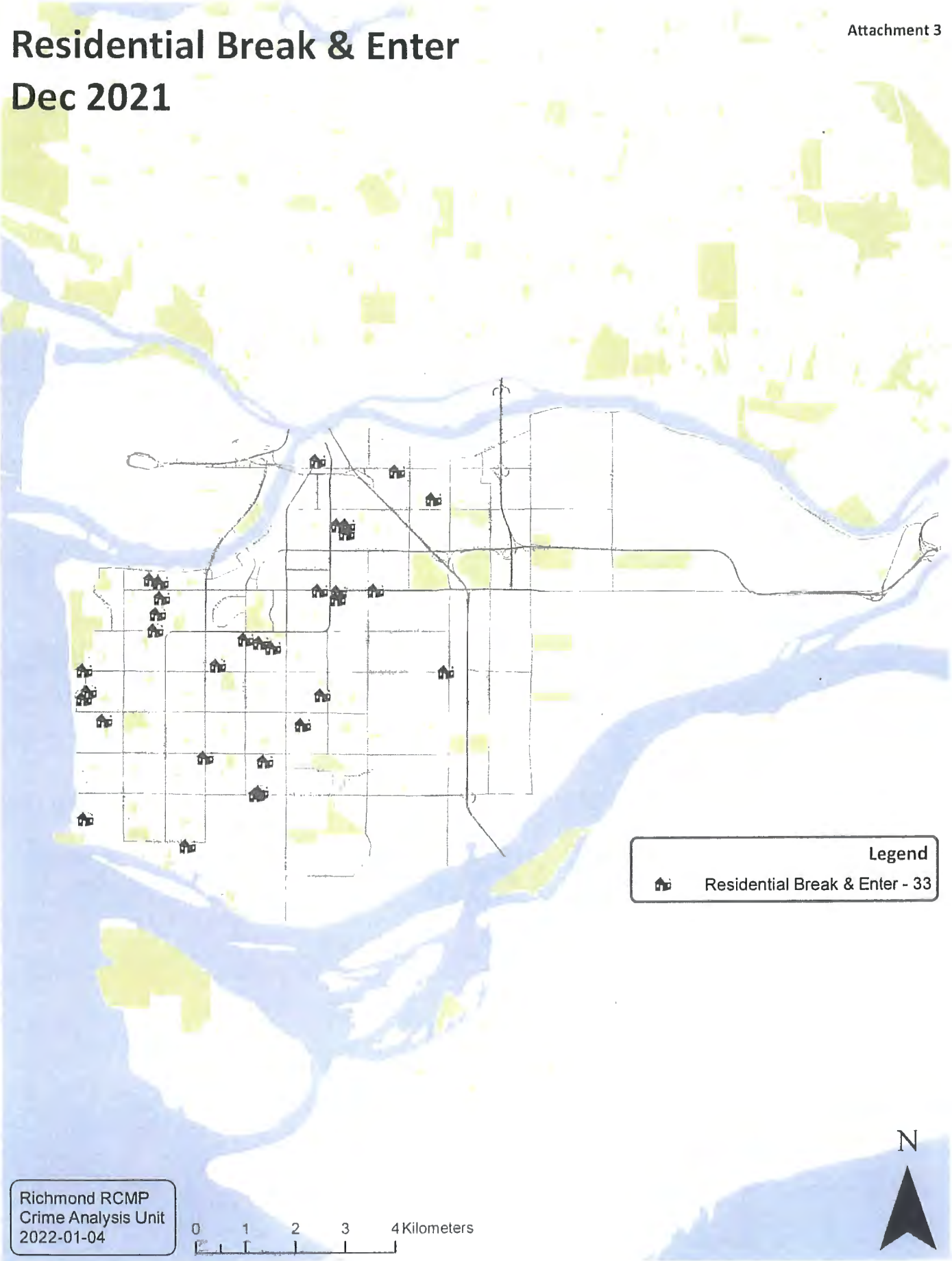
This chart identifies the monthly totals for founded Criminal Code incidents, excluding traffic-related Criminal Code incidents. Based on Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) scoring, there are three categories: (1) Violent Crime, (2) Property Crime, and (3) Other Criminal Code. Within each category, particular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

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			
	Dec-21	December		2020	2021	% Change	# Change
VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	144	119.4	98-141	1704	1725	1%	21
Robbery	7	4.8	3-7	54	57	6%	3
Assault Common	44	48.4	40-56	611	562	-8%	-49
Assault Serious	15	12.2	5-19	173	182	5%	9
Sexual Offences	19	9.2	6-12	189	241	28%	52
PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	474	655.4	602-709	6712	6254	-7%	-458
Business B&E	34	38.6	31-47	379	330	-13%	-49
Residential B&E	33	65.2	45-86	462	336	-27%	-126
Auto Theft	18	27.8	23-33	277	252	-9%	-25
Theft from Auto	90	186.6	152-221	1671	1564	-6%	-107
Theft	89	84.6	65-104	703	736	5%	33
Shoplifting	57	65.4	50-81	641	701	9%	60
Fraud	67	69.4	60-79	874	863	-1%	-11
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	245	182.8	161-204	2316	2907	26%	591
Arson	6	5.0	1-11	87	73	-16%	-14
SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	866	957.8	892-1024	10878	10892	0%	14
DRUGS (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	24	55.8	21-90	599	400	-33%	-199
MHA RELATED CALLS (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	137	148.4	125-171	1907	1592	-17%	-315

Prepared by Richmond RCMP Crime Analysts. Data collected from PRIME on 2022-01-04. Published 2022-01-05. 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 Dec 2021

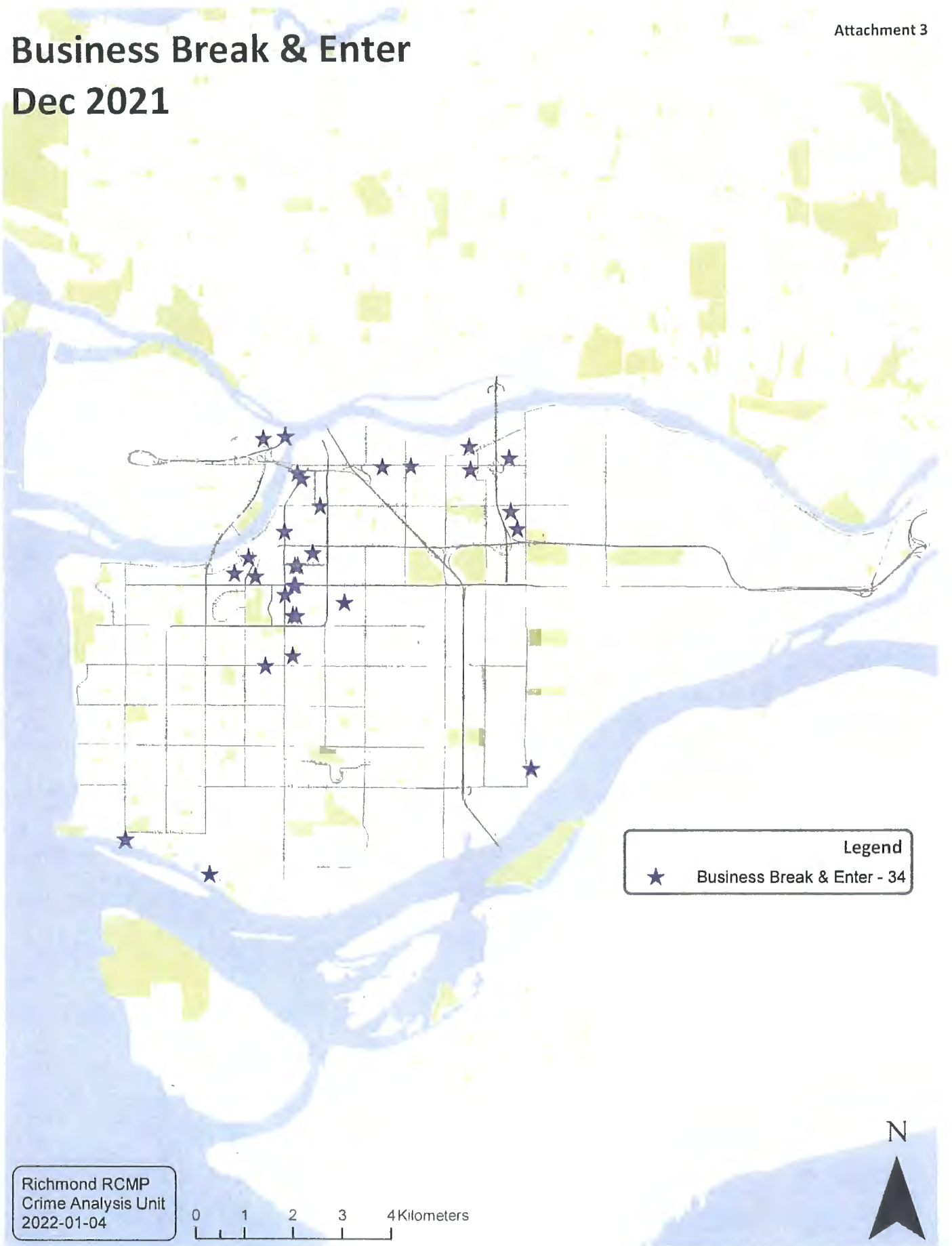


Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2022-01-04

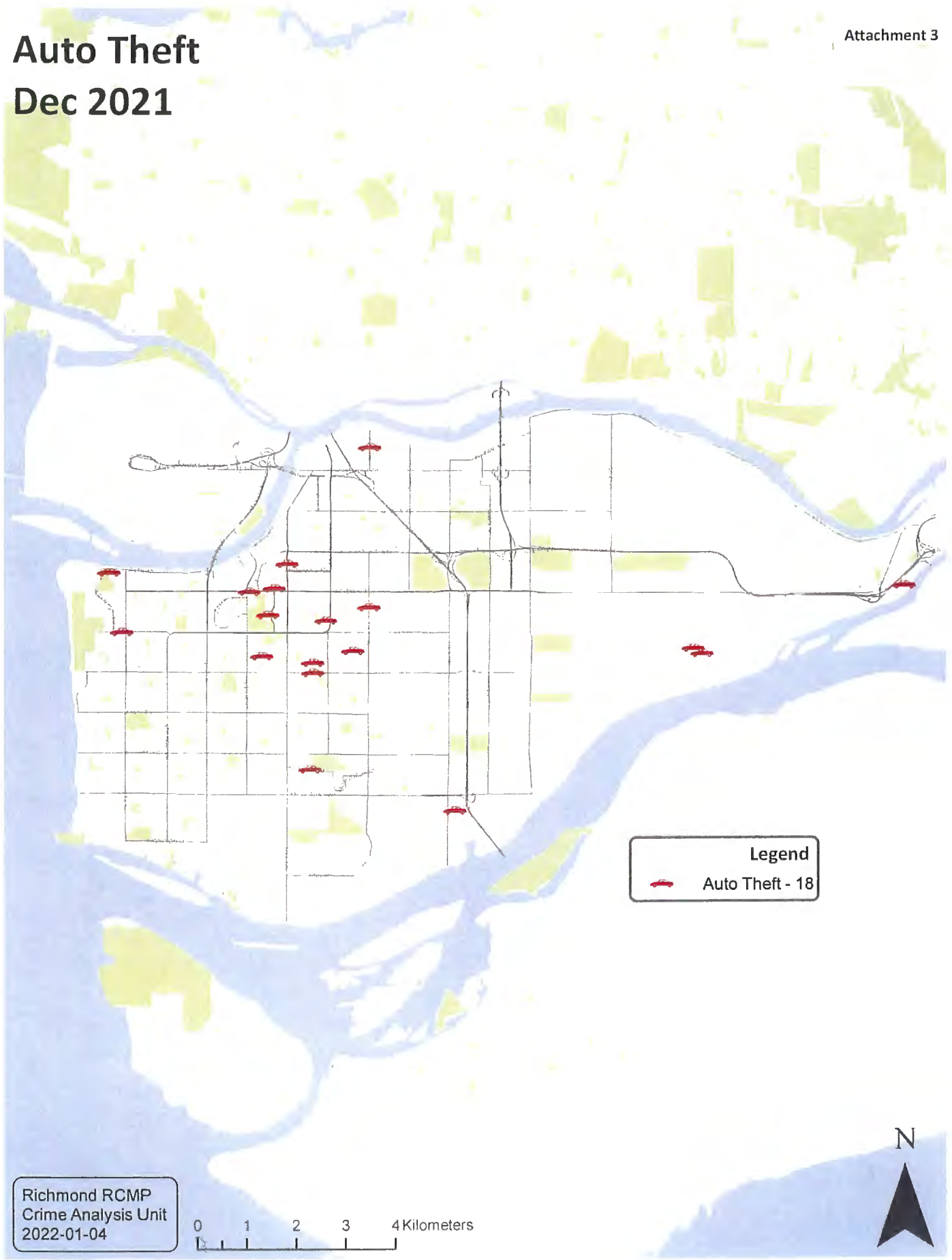
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Business Break & Enter Dec 2021



Auto Theft Dec 2021

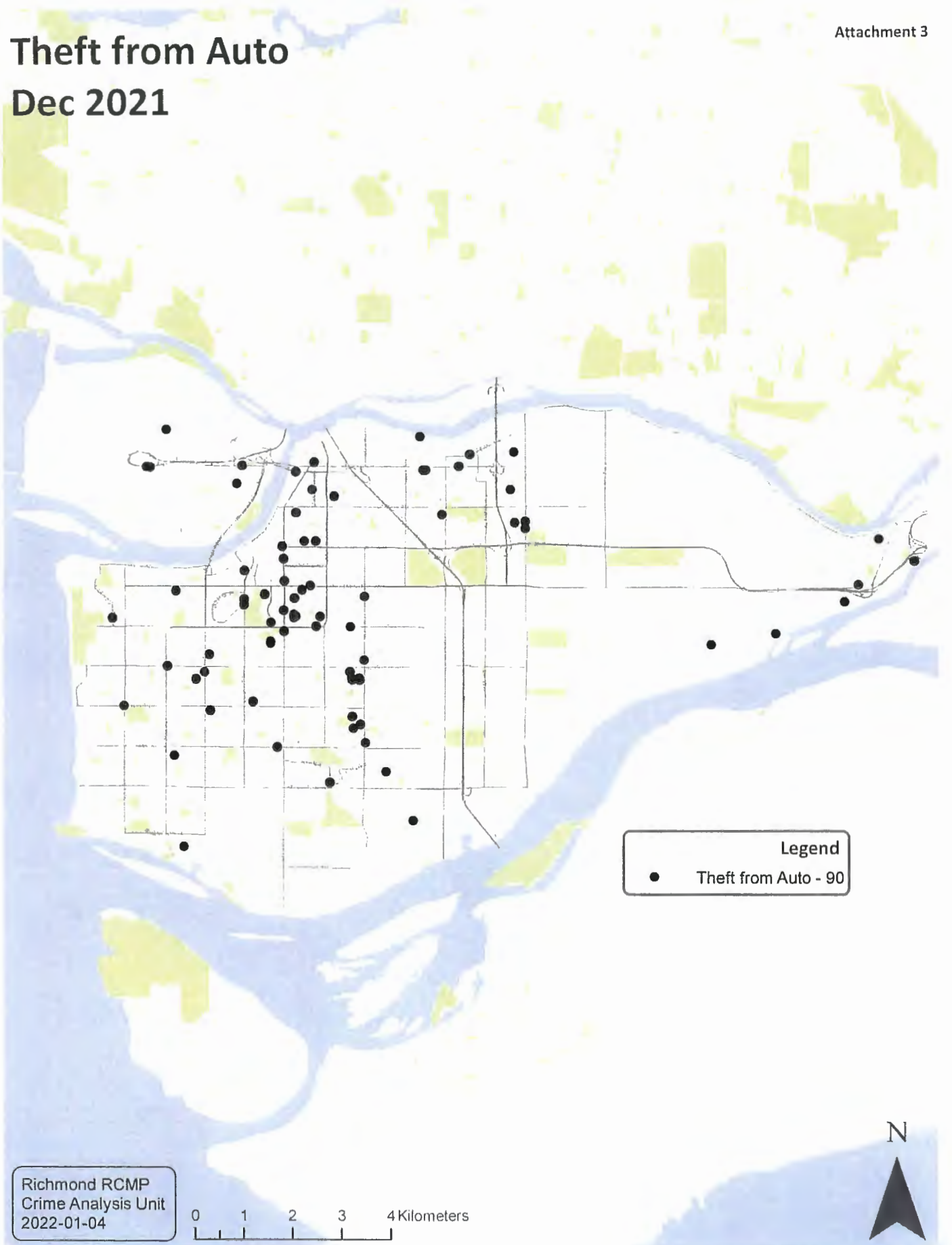


Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2022-01-04

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers



Theft from Auto Dec 2021



Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2022-01-04

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

