City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To:	Community Safety Committee	**Date:**	January 9, 2020
From:	Will Ng, Superintendent Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment	**File:**	09-5000-01/2020-Vol 01
Re:	**RCMP Monthly Activity Report – December 2019**		

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "RCMP Monthly Activity Report – December 2019", dated January 9, 2020, from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment, be received for information.

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

Att. 4

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

Staff Report

Origin

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

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

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

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

Analysis

In January 2019, important changes were implemented regarding the collection of Uniform Crime Reporting Survey data.[1] As a result of significant media attention in February 2017 regarding sexual assault reporting, the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) and the Police Information and Statistics Committee of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police worked to develop recommendations for changes to police records methodology, with particular attention on classifying founded and unfounded cases. These changes have impacted police statistics across Canada with effects on various crime types, not only sexual offences. The new standards classify a case as founded unless there is evidence that the offence did not occur. As a result, there was an increase in many police/crime statistics in 2019. These changes have created notable challenges when conducting comparisons with previous years' data. The information presented in this section must be evaluated within the context of this limitation. It is anticipated that the CCJS scoring changes will have a minimal impact in 2020 for year over year comparisons; however, comparisons using the five-year average will continue to be affected.

Activities and Noteworthy Files

Arrests

On December 2, 2019, Richmond RCMP officers responded to the 11000 block of Seaton Road for reports of a break and enter in progress. Two suspects rang the doorbell and when there was no answer, they broke into the home via a locked rear door. The homeowner was inside and

[1] Statistics Canada, https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2018001/article/54973-eng.htm

contacted police, who set up a security perimeter and were able to arrest the suspects quickly. Charges have been laid against two Richmond residents.

Suspicious Fire

On December 6, 2019, the Richmond RCMP released a video of suspects associated with a suspicious fire in a large business complex located in the 8100 block of Capstan Way, which occurred on March 30, 2019. Through a collaborative investigation between partner agencies, investigators located evidence which suggested the fire was deliberately set. Police have asked the public to report any information related to this incident.

Holiday Safety

On December 6, 2019, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release outlining helpful safety tips relating to home, vehicle and personal safety. These tips included:

- Make your home appear lived in all year long;
- Secure all windows and doors;
- Do not leave valuables in plain sight;
- Remove or keep garage door openers hidden;
- Make eye contact with drivers when you are crossing the road; and
- Only cross roadways in designated areas.

Pedestrian Fatality

On December 7, 2019, Richmond RCMP officers responded to a pedestrian fatality on Highway 99 near Steveston Highway. The deceased male sustained injuries consistent with being struck by a vehicle. The driver did not remain at the scene. The Richmond RCMP is assisting RCMP Deas Island Freeway Patrol with the investigation.

Sexual Offences

On December 21, 2019, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release advising that charges had been laid against a 49-year old Richmond man. In August 2018, the Richmond RCMP initiated an investigation into the accused, who was suspected of committing crimes against vulnerable women. On December 17, 2019, the BC Prosecution Service approved 14 charges against the accused, which included sexual assault, administering a noxious substance, transmitting intimate images without consent and possession of child pornography.

Analysis of Police Statistics

Arson

In December 2019, there was one reported incident of arson, which is down two incidents from the previous month and down three incidents from December 2018. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of arsons this month is within the five-year average range. There was an increase of one incident in the number of arsons in 2019 compared to the previous year.

Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)

There were seven assault serious events in December 2019, which represents a 50 per cent decrease from November 2019 and no change from December 2018. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of serious assaults this month is within the five-year average range. The number of serious assaults in 2019 increased by one incident over the previous year's total.

Auto Theft

There were 28 auto theft incidents this month, which represents a 27 per cent increase from the previous month and a 24 per cent decrease from December 2018. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of auto thefts this month is within the five-year average range. In 2019 the number of auto thefts decreased six per cent compared to 2018.

Drugs

In December 2019, there were 119 drug incidents, which represents an 18 per cent increase from the previous month. The number of drug incidents this month is approximately four times the number recorded in December 2018 and is significantly above the five-year average range. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of drug offences in 2019 increased 31 per cent from 2018.

In the last three months, the number of drug offences has been significantly above the average range. The majority of these offences have originated as Canada Customs seizures at YVR and the increase in drug offences is largely attributed to the processing of a backlog of drug exhibits.

Mental Health

There were 192 mental health incidents in December 2019, which is up 14 per cent from November 2019 and up 32 per cent from December 2018. No patterns or trends have been identified. Mental health-related incidents increased by 49 per cent compared to 2018.

There were 76 police apprehensions this month and hospital wait times averaged 86 minutes, indicating that both numbers have remained steady in recent months. A large number of the mental health-related files in 2019 were created by the Richmond RCMP Vulnerable Persons Unit, which have been forwarded to the Richmond RCMP Mental Health Car team for follow-up action.

Residential Break and Enter

There were 44 break and enters to residences in December 2019, which represents a 23 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 56 per cent decrease from December 2018. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of residential break and enters this month is below the five-year average range. In 2019 there was a significant 28 per cent reduction in residential break and enters compared to 2018.

The Richmond RCMP Property Crime Unit (PCU) conducted a number of successful investigations which helped contribute to this notable reduction in residential break and enters.

PCU collaborated with outside police agencies to target multi-jurisdictional crime groups and successfully arrested priority property crime offenders.

Commercial Break and Enter

In December 2019, there were 34 break and enters to businesses, which represents a 17 per cent decrease from November 2019 and a 26 per cent decrease from December 2018. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of commercial break and enters this month is below the five-year average range. In 2019, commercial break and enters increased four per cent over 2018.

Robbery

There were six robbery incidents in December 2019, which is down three incidents from the previous month and down one incident from December 2018. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of robberies this month is within the five-year average range. There was a 38 per cent increase in robberies in 2019 compared to 2018.

The number of reported robberies was elevated in June and July this year but significant arrests were made in August 2019 which helped contribute to the reduction observed in subsequent months. CCJS scoring changes also contributed to this increase.

Sexual Offences

There were 12 sexual offence files in December 2019, which represents a 29 per cent reduction from the previous month and no change from December 2018. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of sex offences this month is within the five-year average range. Sexual offences in 2019 increased 56 per cent compared to 2018.

Crime analysts have identified that this increase is likely due to CCJS scoring changes.

Shoplifting

There were 93 shoplifting thefts in December 2019, which represents a 45 per cent increase from the previous month and is approximately double the number reported in December 2018. No patterns or trends have been identified. Reported shoplifting thefts in December 2019 were above the five-year average range. Overall, incidents of reported shoplifting increased 46 per cent in 2019 compared to 2018.

The high number of shoplifting incidents in 2019 can be attributed to the targeted enforcement efforts of the Richmond RCMP Strike Force. The Strike Force is an enforcement and investigative team which targets property crime and prolific offenders.

Theft from Automobile

There were 200 thefts from automobile incidents in December 2019, which represents a seven per cent increase from the previous month and a four per cent increase from December 2018. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of thefts from automobiles this month is

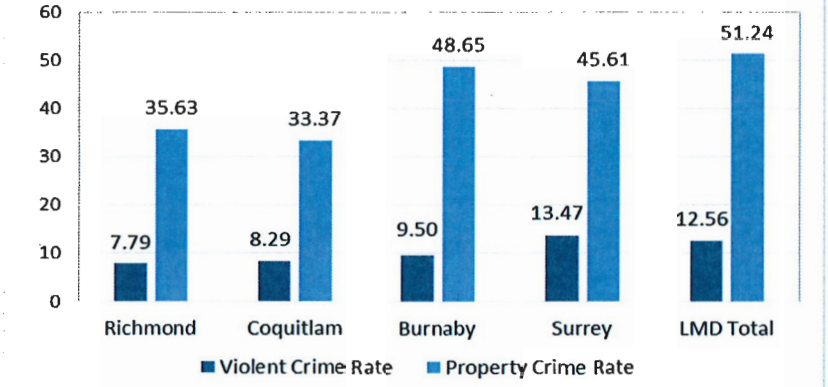
within the five-year average range. In 2019 there was an eight per cent decrease in thefts from automobiles compared to 2018.

Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions

Data on crime rates is presented below (Figure 1). Out of the four largest municipalities policed by the RCMP in the Lower Mainland District (LMD), Richmond had the lowest violent crime rate as well as the second lowest property crime rate in 2019. These rankings remained steady throughout the year.

In these jurisdictions, violent crime rates in 2019 increased between 22 and 51 per cent, with the LMD violent crime rate increasing 39 per cent compared to 2018. Richmond recorded a 35 per cent increase. These increases are largely attributed to CCJS scoring changes. Property crime rates also increased between three and 23 per cent in these jurisdictions, with an overall increase of 13 per cent in the LMD. Richmond recorded a nine per cent increase in the property crime rate in 2019 compared to 2018.

Figure 1: 2019 Crime Rates



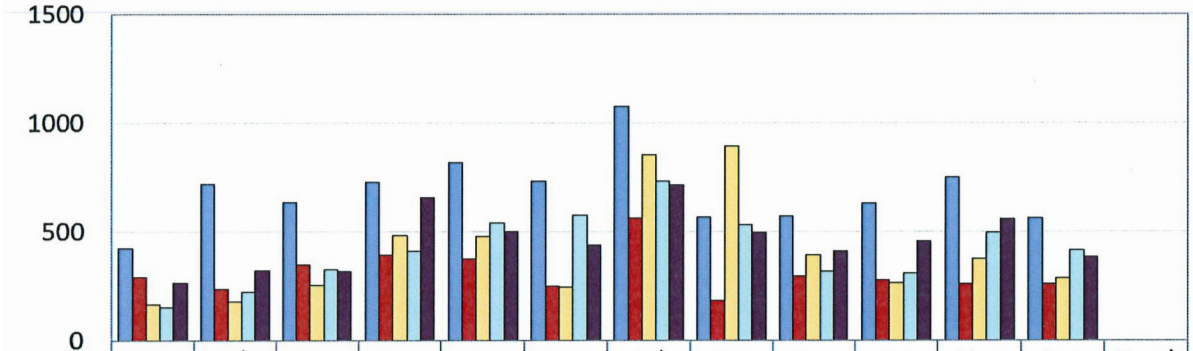
Crime rate is calculated per 1,000 people (using 2019 population projections)

Auxiliary Program

In December 2019, Richmond Detachment had a complement of 31 Auxiliaries.[2] Auxiliaries provided a total of 385 volunteer hours during the month of December.

Figure 2 compares the monthly hours of service provided from 2015 to 2019.

Figure 2: Auxiliary Volunteer Hours



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2015	426	719	635	727	819	730	1074	565	570	630	750	562	8207
2016	290	238	348	392	374	248	565	184	297	276	259	259	3730
2017	167	180	255	483	477	248	854	892	395	262	376	284	4870
2018	150	223	324	411	539	578	733	529	317	310	494	417	5025
2019	262	320	316	656	501	438	713	497	410	454	556	385	5508

Auxiliary Program Activities

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

- Crime Watch
- Home Security Checks
- Steveston Santa Parade
- Sunshine Foundation DreamLift
- Traffic Road Blocks
- Youth Squad

Block Watch

At the end of December 2019, the Block Watch program had 341 groups totaling 7,319 participants. Currently, the program includes 463 captains and co-captains.[3]

[2] Previously referred to as Auxiliary Constables.
[3] The variance from previous months' data is due to an ongoing database upgrade. Revised numbers will continue to reflect more accurate participation data.

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.

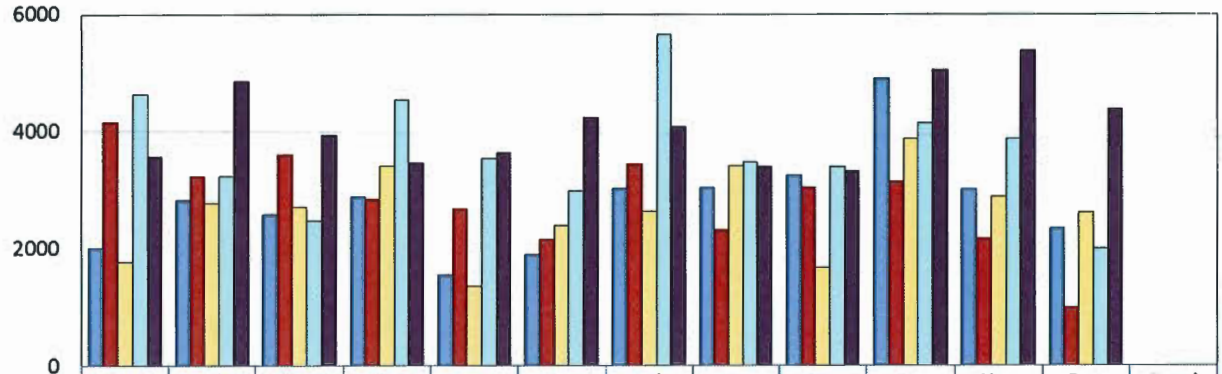
During the month of December volunteer highlights included:

- The deployment of 22 volunteer foot/van patrols totalling 172 hours and one bike patrol, totalling 14 hours.
- 27 Fail to Stop deployments took place, which resulted in 541 warning letters.
- Speed Watch was conducted on 1,156 vehicles at various locations.
- Five different Residential Break and Enter Outreach deployments were made in hot spot areas, including City Centre, Terra Nova and Broadmoor neighbourhoods. A total of 227 Block Watch brochures were distributed.
- December 5 – Volunteers and RCMP members participated in a volleyball sports event involving students at Mitchell Elementary School.
- December 10 – Eight volunteers received training related to Crime Watch.
- December 10 –Volunteers and an RCMP member conducted Commercial Break and Enter Outreach at the Blundell Centre in the 8100 block of No. 2 Road.
- December 13 – Upon receiving a referral, volunteers conducted van patrols near Cambie Secondary School.
- December 16 – Five volunteers and RCMP members conducted Break and Enter Outreach in the 10,000 block of Fisher Drive. They spoke to 37 residents and distributed Block Watch information.

Lock Out Auto Crime

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

Figure 3: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice

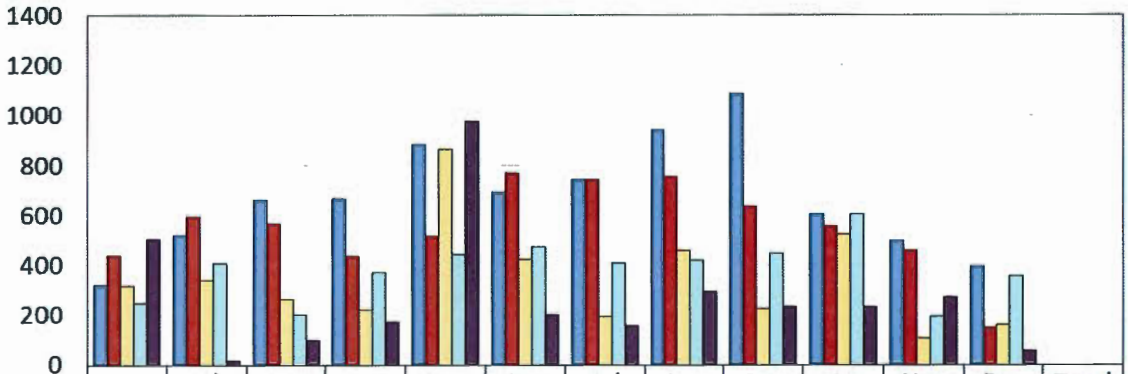


	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2015	2007	2814	2571	2881	1537	1893	3029	3045	3249	4900	3007	2337	33270
2016	4156	3236	3594	2838	2677	2153	3440	2314	3035	3128	2168	996	33735
2017	1771	2771	2705	3407	1351	2382	2631	3397	1679	3872	2881	2613	31460
2018	4625	3228	2466	4538	3538	2978	5654	3466	3393	4133	3870	1991	43880
2019	3569	4848	3927	3451	3634	4230	4068	3385	3304	5048	5372	4376	49212

Speed Watch

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

Figure 4: Speed Watch Letters Sent



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2015	319	519	663	666	882	693	741	942	1086	603	497	392	8003
2016	438	591	565	435	515	770	742	753	636	554	457	149	6605
2017	315	341	262	220	866	424	193	459	225	523	107	161	4096
2018	249	409	200	370	444	473	409	420	446	604	193	354	4571
2019	506	17	100	172	977	203	155	295	232	231	272	55	3215

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:

- Break and Enter Outreach
- Broadmoor Patrols
- Hot Spot Deployments
- School Sports Events
- Toy Drive Delivery
- Vulnerable Institution 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. The following statistics compare December 2019 data to both October 2019 and November 2019.

Violation Tickets were issued for the following infractions:

Table 1: Violation Tickets Issued

Infraction	October 2019	November 2019	December 2019
Distracted Driving	155	104	41
Driver License	236	280	235
Impaired	30	45	43
Intersection Offences	57	88	109
Moving Violations[4]	194	196	149
Speeding	332	387	357
Seatbelts	9	5	10
Vehicle Related[5]	63	61	76
Other[6]	5	4	13
Total	**1,081**	**1,170**	**1,033**

Victim Services

In December 2019, Richmond RCMP Victim Services attended to 63 new clients and 12 crime/trauma scenes. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 190 ongoing files. Victim Services responded to a number of cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, family conflict, interpersonal violence and property crime.

[4] Moving violations refers to unsafe lane change and unsafe passing.
[5] Vehicle related refers to vehicle defects, for example no lights and no insurance.
[6] Other refers to miscellaneous charges including fail to remain at the scene of an accident and failing to stop for police.

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 December, Youth Section highlights include:

- RCMP Youth Section members concluded this year's Youth Squad. This eight-week long program consisted of weekly classes at the Richmond Detachment which gave youth a better understanding of careers in emergency services. A total of 34 high school students were selected for the program. Participating agencies included Richmond Fire-Rescue, BC Ambulance and a variety of RCMP units including the Police Dog Section and the Emergency Response Team.

- Members in Youth Section participated in 14 DARE graduations.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

During the month of December, the Richmond RCMP issued media releases advising of notable arrests. One incident involved a break and enter in progress and another was the result of a lengthy investigation into multiple sexual offences against vulnerable women.

In December 2019, both residential and commercial break and enters were below the five-year average range, while statistics for 2019 indicate that a number of crime types experienced elevated numbers. These increases have been attributed to a number of factors including the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics scoring changes, increased enforcement and other non-operational reasons. The Officer in Charge of the Richmond Detachment will continue to ensure that Richmond remains a safe and desirable community.

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

Att. 1: Community Policing Programs
2: Crime Statistics
3: Crime Maps
4: 1st Quarter 2020 Crime Prevention Newsletter

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 2019 STATISTICS

RICHMOND RCMP

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

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

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

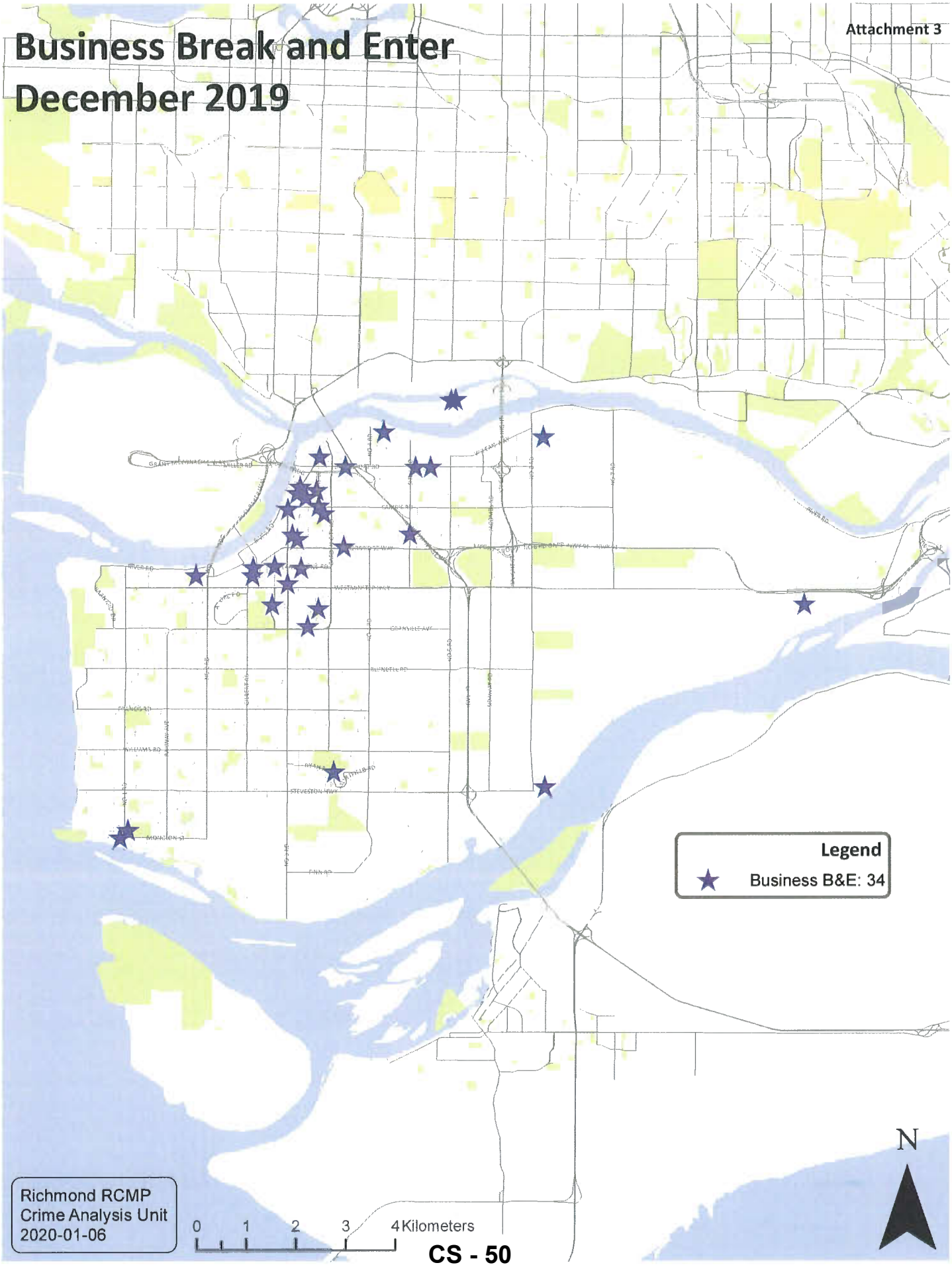
Year-to-Date percentage change is used to numbers from the prior year, but the new CCJS/UCR standards reduce the utility of this metric. 2019 YTD numbers will be biased to increase from the 2018 totals, despite any positive police action.

	Month	5-Yr Avg	5-Yr Range	Year to Date Totals			
	Dec-19	*December*		*2018*	*2019*	*% Change*	*# Change*
VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	129	106.4	90-122	1369	1733	27%	364
Robbery UCR 1610-1630	6	6.6	1-12	60	83	38%	23
Assault Common UCR 1430	59	40.6	33-48	506	631	25%	125
Assault Serious UCR 1410, 1420	7	10.0	7-13	126	127	1%	1
Sexual Offences UCR 1345, 1320, 1350, 1310, 3450 33-58	12	8.6	5-12	142	221	56%	79
PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	673	693.4	619-768	7728	7831	1%	103
Business B&E UCR 2120-1	34	43.4	42-45	379	395	4%	16
Residential B&E UCR 2120-2	44	86.4	46-127	814	583	-28%	-231
Auto Theft UCR 2132-1, 2132-2, 2173	28	31.2	25-38	321	302	-6%	-19
Theft from Auto UCR 2132, 2142	200	200.4	172-228	2224	2041	-8%	-183
Theft UCR 2130, 2140	103	100.8	86-116	1045	1159	11%	114
Shoplifting UCR 2132, 2143	93	56.6	49-64	711	1037	46%	326
Fraud UCR 2160-2180, 2185, 2186	70	61.8	50-74	876	894	2%	18
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	194	183.0	162-204	2151	2329	8%	178
Arson UCR 1629, 2110	1	3.4	2-5	34	35	3%	1
SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	996	982.8	889-1076	11248	11873	6%	625
DRUGS (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	119	43.4	31-55	568	746	31%	178
MHA RELATED CALLS (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	192	126.6	112-141	1541	2291	49%	750

Prepared by Richmond RCMP Crime Analysts. Data collected from PRIME on 2019-12-02. Published 2019-12-02. These data are operational and subject to change. This document is not to be copied, reproduced, used in whole or part or disseminated to any other person or agency without the consent of the originator(s).

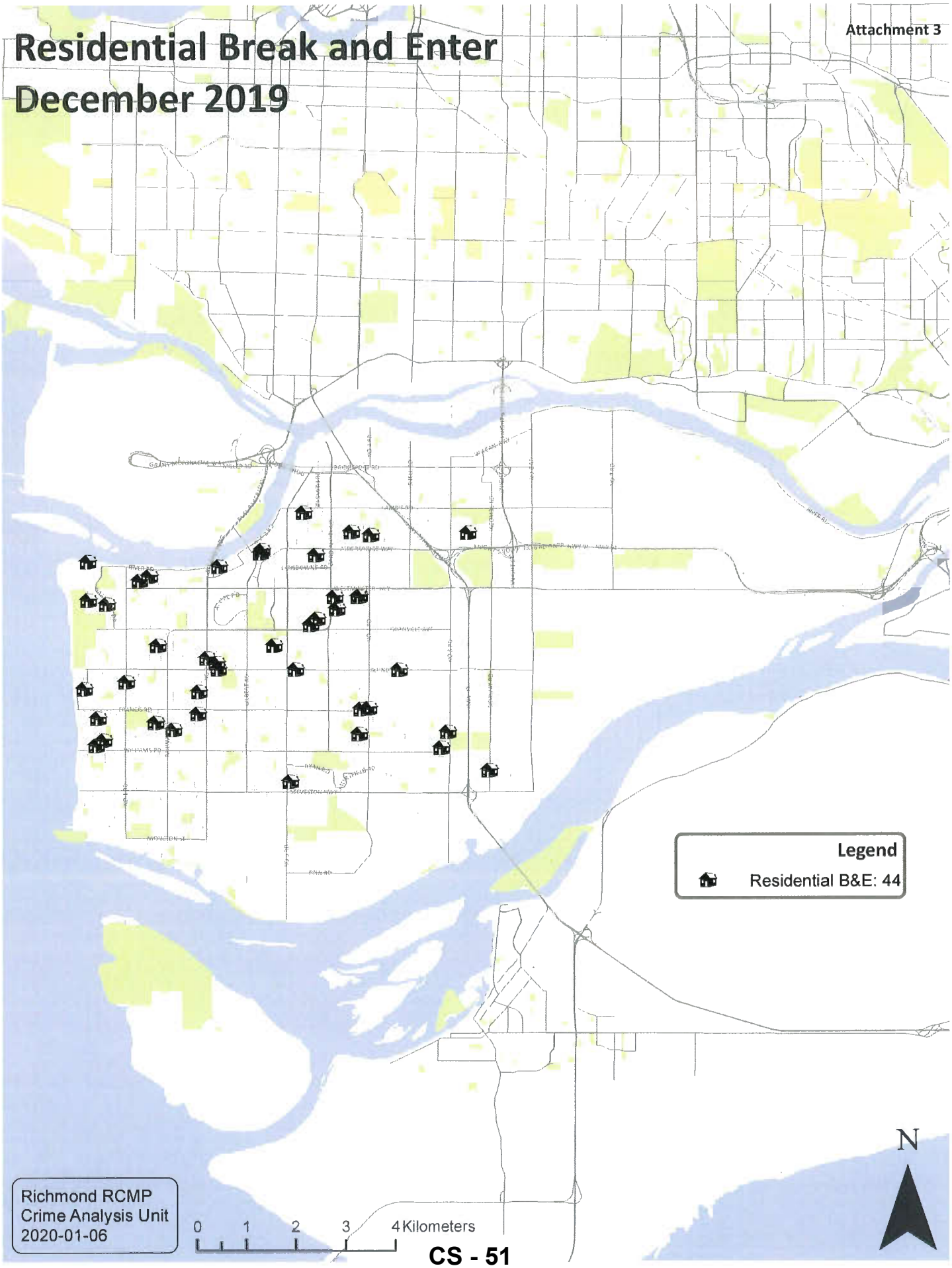
Business Break and Enter
December 2019

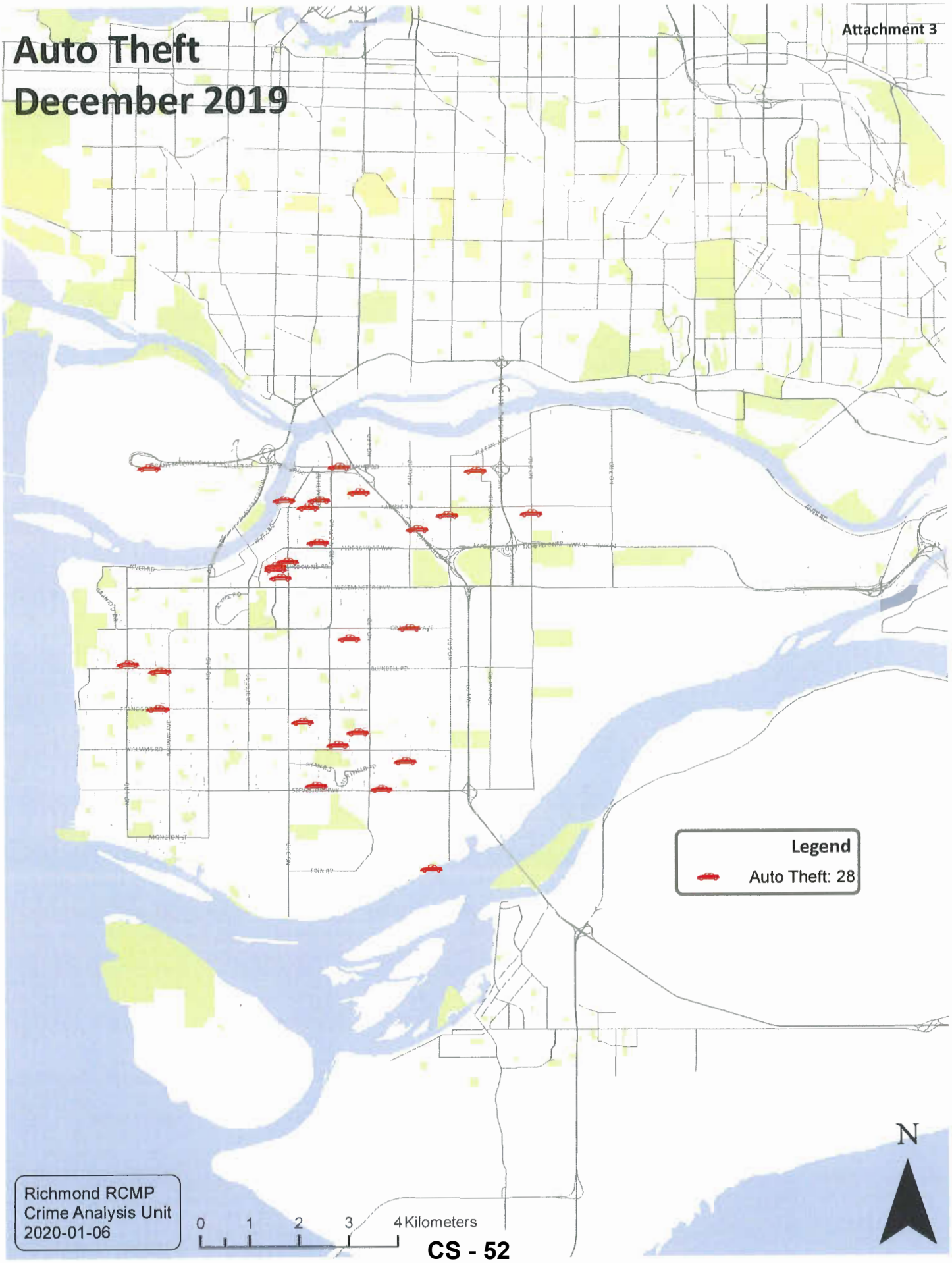
Attachment 3



Residential Break and Enter
December 2019

Attachment 3

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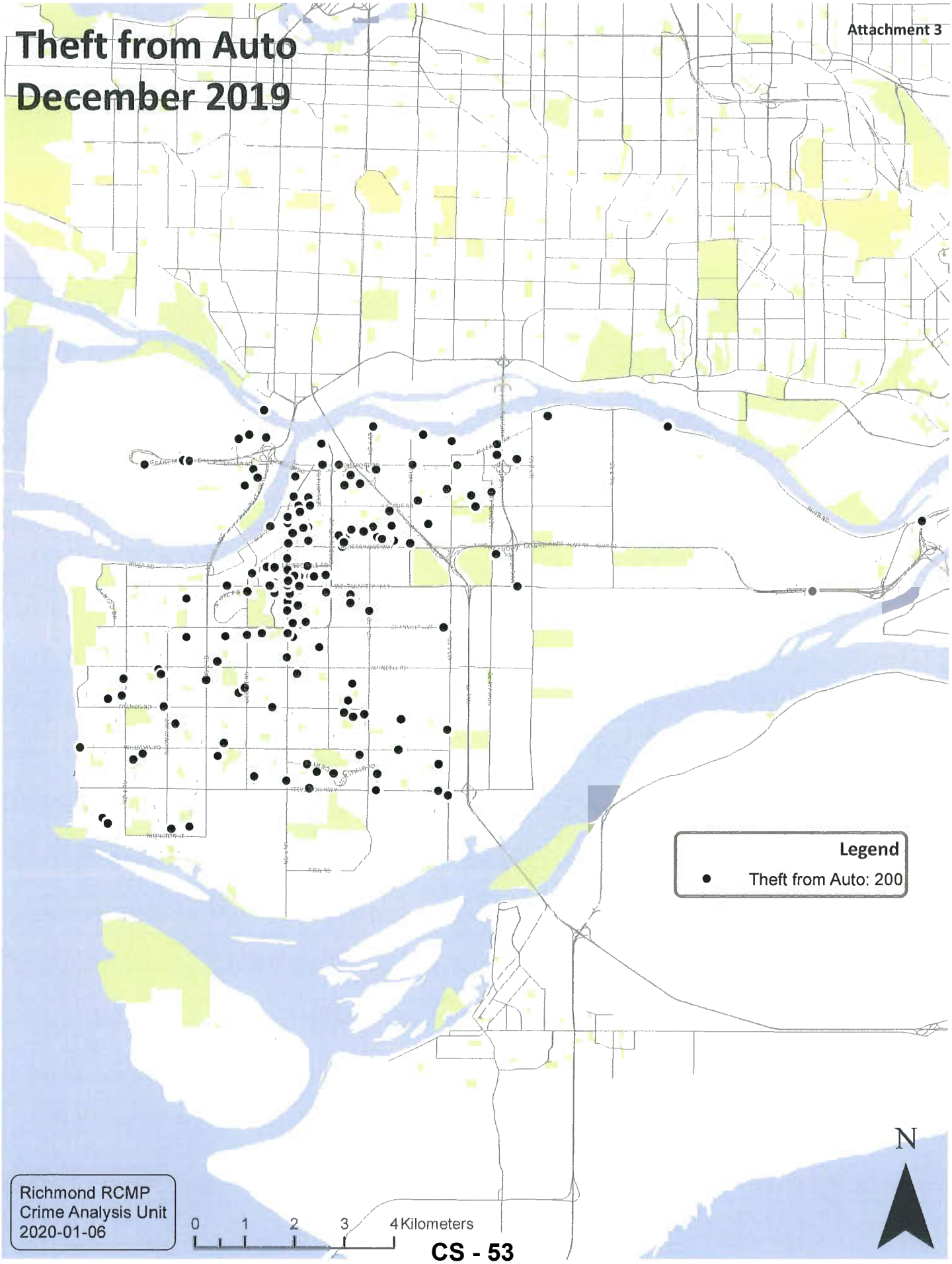
Auto Theft
December 2019
Legend
Auto Theft: 28
Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2020-01-06
0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers
N


Theft from Auto
December 2019
Attachment 3
Legend
Theft from Auto: 200
Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2020-01-06
0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers
N

Richmond RCMP 1st Quarter—2020

CRIME PREVENTION

WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME NEWSLETTER

What To Do When An Emergency Vehicle Approaches

Emergency Vehicle is Approaching

-Pull over to the nearest curb (ideally on the right hand side) and stop your vehicle

-Wait for emergency vehicle to pass

-Signal and safely return into flow of traffic

-Vehicles travelling in both directions are required to pull over for emergency vehicles

-FINE for **Failing to Yield for an Emergency Vehicle** –Section 177: $109.00

Passing a Vehicle with Flashing Lights

-This includes emergency vehicles (Police, Ambulance, Fire) and maintenance vehicles (Tow Truck, Commercial Vehicle Safety Enforcement personnel, animal control workers, maintenance workers, etc.)

-Slow down

-Speed of 70km/h when area has a posted speed limit of 80km/h or higher

-Speed of 40km/h when area has a posted speed limit of under 80km/h

-When travelling on a multi-lane road, you must also move over to another lane when passing if safe to do so

-FINE for **Failing to Adjusting Speed or Failing to Move over**: $173.00

Police behind you with lights and sirens on

-DO NOT continue driving to the nearest street or driveway

-Slow down, pull over, and stop

-Wait for police to come to your vehicle, do not get out unless requested by officer

-You may be asked to unroll your window and provide a valid driver's licence and registration

-FINE for **Failing to Stop for Police** –Section 73(1): $138.00

-FINE for **Failing to Obey Police Direction** –Section 123: $109.00

DO NOT:

-Stop in the middle of the road

-Continue driving

-Drive away when police are attempting to pull you over

-Step out of your vehicle unless directed to do so

-Block intersection

Condominium Safety

With more condos and high rise structures being built, it is important to consider the different steps you can take for keeping your home, self, and property safe. It is always strongly encouraged to know your neighbours and the regulars of the building such as cleaners, property managers, and concierges. This will make you more alert when someone you haven't seen before tries entering the building. Even though you require a key or fob to enter the building, always keep your front and patio doors along with all your windows locked. When you move into the building, be sure to change the locks as you do not know who still has a key for the old ones. Always inform the building concierge or strata if you lose the key or fob for the building. Do not hold the door for people that you don't know and always wait for the parking garage gate to close before driving away. When walking in the parkade, take into consideration your own personal safety. It is important be aware of your surroundings and always know where the closest exits are. Always keep your vehicle locked and never leave valuables in sight. Be confident in your actions and trust your instinct. Look before entering the elevator and do not enter if you feel uncomfortable. If something feels wrong, remove yourself from the situation. Storage lockers are targets of theft due to being in isolated areas of the building. Do not leave valuables in your storage unit and always keep the door closed and locked.

Keeping Thieves off your Property

- Install a fence with a gate to clearly divide the public space from your private residence
- Have security cameras installed that cover entrances to your home and can be seen by potential thieves
- Install motion sensor lights around your home to remove the cover of darkness for criminals

- Keep your lawn clear of valuables as this can attract thieves to your property
- Make sure your shed/ storage around your home is secured
- Maintain low shrubs and cut low tree limbs around windows and doors to reduce places for hiding
- Place caging around lights and cameras so they cannot be tampered with
- Make sure there are unobstructed views of your home from the street to increase natural surveillance

Preparing our Captains for an Emergency

In late November, Block Watch hosted an event for Captains and Co-Captains to prepare themselves for a potential large-scale emergency. The emergency Preparedness Team came out to help educate everyone about the importance of having a plan in place and what are the steps that can be taken to prepare themselves and their neighbourhood. The Block Watch Program is working to connect residents with their neighbours to form a cohesive bond within the neighbourhood. In collaboration with other Community Safety units, Block Watch hopes to provide residents of Richmond with invaluable information to keep people safe in all aspects of life.

To start a Block Watch group:

1. **Select a Block Captain and a Co-Captain**
   - ◊ Each Captain/Co-Captain must submit an application and be deemed a suitable candidate by passing a Criminal Record Check.
2. **Recruit and build your group**
   - ◊ Recruit homes on your side of the street, across the street and behind you. Try and get at least 10 households to participate.
3. **Captain and Co-Captain must complete a Captains training session**
4. **Setup 1st Block Watch group meeting/ training session with participants**
5. **Activation of your group**
   - ◊ Submit a participating household list of your group then a Block Watch street sign will be provided and activation is complete.

Crime Prevention is Everyone's Responsibility!

Stay CONNECTED!

Email your name and street address to blockwatch@richmond.ca to receive break and enter alerts that occur in your neighbourhood.

Visit our facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/richmondblockwatch

Contact Numbers

RCMP (emergency) **9-1-1**

RCMP (non-emergency) ..**604-278-1212**

Visit www.richmond.ca/crime for neighbourhood crime information and www.richmond.ca/homesafety for home security tips.

If your home has been broken into, **DO NOT** touch anything and call the Police non-emergency line at 604-278-1212. If a suspect is present, call 9-1-1.

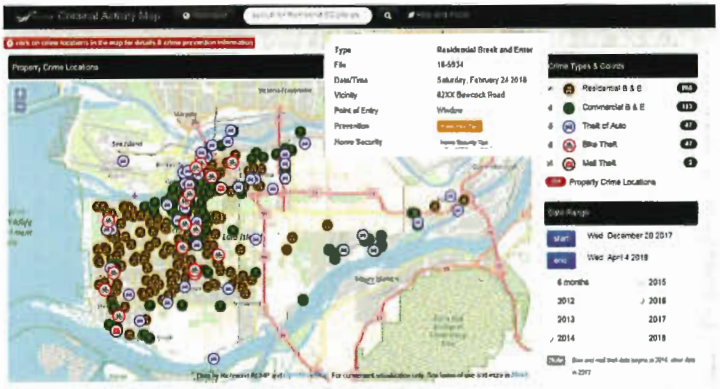
Report all suspicious or criminal activity to the police.

BUSINESS LINK

WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME NEWSLETTER

Parkade Security

- Install gates and pedestrian entrances to your parkade that require either FOB or key access. Have gates close within 5 seconds of the vehicle passing through to reduce the possibility of another car following in behind without legitimate access to the parkade.
- Require key or FOB access to enter main building from parkade.
- Keep the parkade clean and well-lit. Replace burned out lighting, remove any unwanted writing from walls, and maintain the space with regular upkeep. Illuminate any dark or deep recesses that can be used as cover by potential criminals
- Make sure signs are large and clear to show the location of stairwells and exits
- Paint the ceiling white
- Clearly mark stalls and levels of parkade to help users locate their vehicle.
- Maintain good sightlines throughout the parkade to reduce risk of individuals being targeted and increase the safety of patrons. Reduce the number of hiding places for criminals to use.
- Expose stairwells and hallways with doors that have glass panelling and windows between the staircases and the parking area. This can also include using convex mirrors to eliminate blind corners for people.
- Install security cameras that are noticeable and that cover areas which can be more likely to be targeted. Have security do roving patrols of the parking garage on an always varying schedule.



Visit the above webpage on www.richmond.ca/crime for an interactive map of Richmond that lets you know about current crime summaries and business security tips.

Please help by reporting any suspicious behaviour: RCMP Non-Emergency line **604-278-1212**. If you witness a crime in progress, dial **9-1-1**.

Email Break & Enter Alerts

To receive email alerts of neighbourhood commercial break and enters, register your business name and street address at:
RCMP_Business_Link@richmond.ca