



City of Richmond


Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee
From: Will Ng
Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge
Re: RCMP Monthly Activity Report – July 2021




Date: August 18, 2021
File: 09-5000-01/2021-Vol
01

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “RCMP Monthly Activity Report – July 2021”, dated August 18, 2021, from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment, be received for information.

for/  (insp)
Will Ng
Chief Superintendent, 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. 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

Activities and Noteworthy Files

Increased Volunteer Activities

On July 7, 2021, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release advising of increased volunteer activities as pandemic restrictions ease. Richmond RCMP volunteer deployments such as Lock Out Auto Crime and Speed Watch ramped up this month as BC moved into the next step of the province's restart plan.

Robberies

On July 21, 2021, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release seeking the public's assistance in identifying a suspect in a series of robberies. On July 15, 16 and 17, the suspect entered three separate businesses and made threats while demanding money. The robberies remain under investigation and may be linked to other recent robberies across the Lower Mainland.

Disturbance Call

On July 27, 2021, Richmond RCMP officers responded to a disturbance call at a fast-food restaurant in the Ironwood Plaza. While being arrested, a male suspect fought with police officers and sustained minor injuries. Two police officers and two restaurant employees also sustained minor injuries during the incident. The accused has been charged with several criminal offences.

Altercation

On July 28, 2021, Richmond RCMP officers responded to an altercation outside the Richmond courthouse on Elmbridge Way. A group of anti-hate demonstrators had gathered at the location when an altercation ensued with an individual who was attending the courthouse. A female suspect was arrested. The incident remains under investigation.

Analysis of Police Statistics

Arson

In July 2021, there were five reported arsons, which represents no change the previous month and is down three incidents from July 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of arsons this month is within the expected range.

Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)

There were 28 assault serious events in July 2021, which is up 40 per cent from the previous month and up 47 per cent from July 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of serious assaults this month is above the expected range.

Of the incidents reported this month, 35 per cent were domestic in nature and 53 per cent occurred in private dwellings.

Auto Theft

In July 2021, there were 28 incidents of auto theft, which is up 47 per cent from the previous month and up 65 per cent from July 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of auto thefts this month is within the expected range.

Drugs

In July 2021, there were 27 drug files, which is down 33 per cent from the previous month and down 16 per cent from July 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of drug incidents this month is within the expected range.

Mental Health

There were 145 mental health-related incidents in July 2021, which is down four per cent from the previous month and down 22 per cent from July 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of mental health-related incidents this month is within the expected range.

There were 104 police apprehensions this month and the average hospital wait time was 106 minutes. Both of these statistics are above the expected ranges. The longer than average hospital wait time has been attributed to a small proportion of incidents which required police to remain in hospital for an extended period of time.

Residential Break and Enter

There were 28 break and enters to residences in July 2021, which represents an 87 per cent increase from the previous month and is a 40 per cent increase from July 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of residential break and enters this month is within the expected range.

Commercial Break and Enter

In July 2021, there were 30 break and enters to businesses, which represents a 20 per cent increase from the previous month and is a 12 per cent decrease from July 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of commercial break and enters this month is within the expected range.

Robbery

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

Sexual Offences

In July 2021, there were 30 sexual offence files, which is double the number reported the previous month and is an 88 per cent increase from July 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of sexual offences this month is above the expected range.

Four of the incidents reported this month were historical reports and six were referrals received from the BC Integrated Child Exploitation Team.

Shoplifting

There were 57 reported shoplifting thefts in July 2021, which is a 26 per cent decrease from the previous month and is an eight per cent increase from July 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of shoplifting thefts this month is within the expected range.

Theft from Automobile

There were 139 theft from automobile incidents in July 2021, which is up 14 per cent from the previous month and up 32 per cent from July 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of thefts from automobiles this month is within the expected range.

Hate Crimes and Incidents

Table 1 presents the number of hate crimes and hate incidents reported between January 1, 2018 and July 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

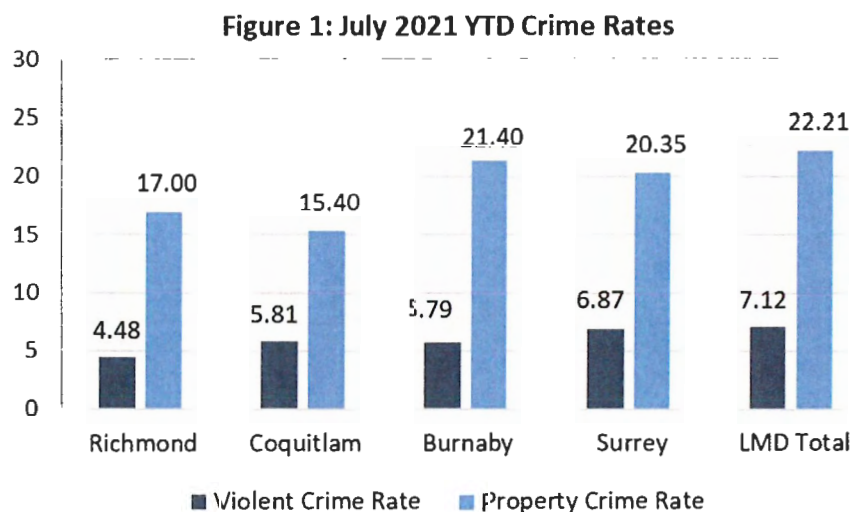
¹ The BC Hate Crimes Unit uses the terms hate-motivated crime and hate-motivated incident.

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 homophobic and racial slurs.

Table 1 – Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents			
Year	Hate Crime Files	Hate Incident Files	Total
2018	19	4	23
2019	11	9	20
2020	21	13	34
2021 YTD	18	22	40

Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions

Data on crime rates is presented in Figure 1.² In July 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.



Auxiliary Program

In July 2021, the Richmond RCMP Detachment had a complement of 30 Auxiliaries.³ Auxiliaries provided eight volunteer hours this month as they concluded pending administrative tasks. All Auxiliary activities remained suspended this month.

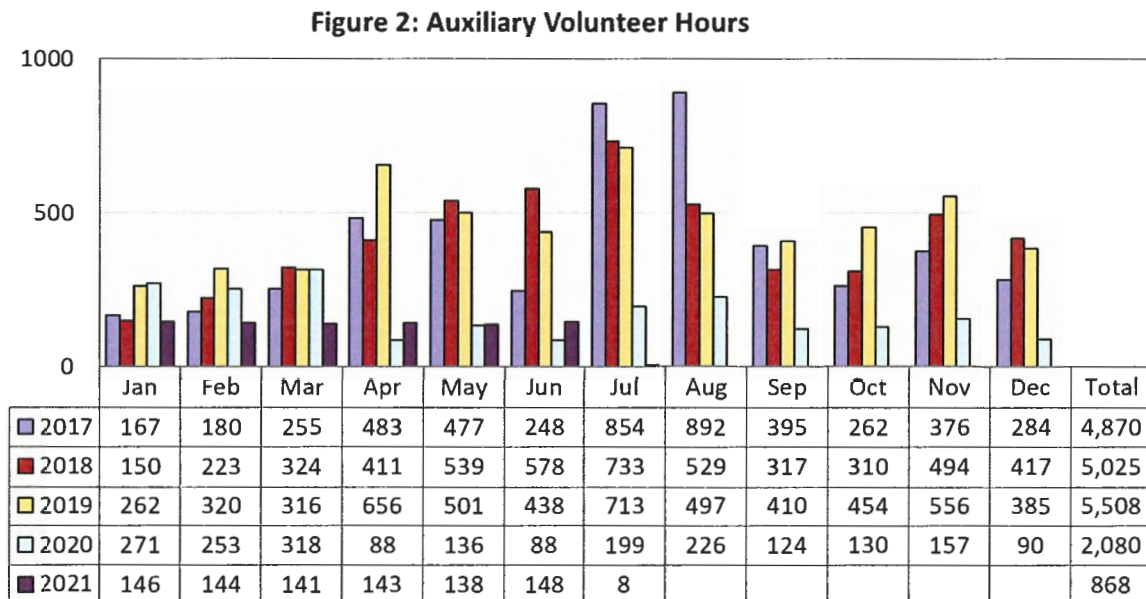
On June 23, 2021 the Province of British Columbia provided written correspondence to RCMP E-Division Headquarters advising that the Auxiliary Program and all related activities immediately must cease and all Auxiliary officer appointments rescinded. With this direction, the

² Crime rate is calculated per 1,000 people.

³ Previously referred to as Auxiliary Constables.

OIC of Richmond RCMP has stopped local Auxiliary programs and rescinded appointments. Negotiations between the Province of British Columbia and National RCMP Headquarters remain ongoing with the intention that they will result in a revised and viable program in the near future.

Figure 2 compares the monthly hours of service provided from 2017 to 2021.



Block Watch

At the end of July 2021, the Block Watch program had 303 groups totaling 6,938 participants. Currently, the program includes 436 captains and co-captains.

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

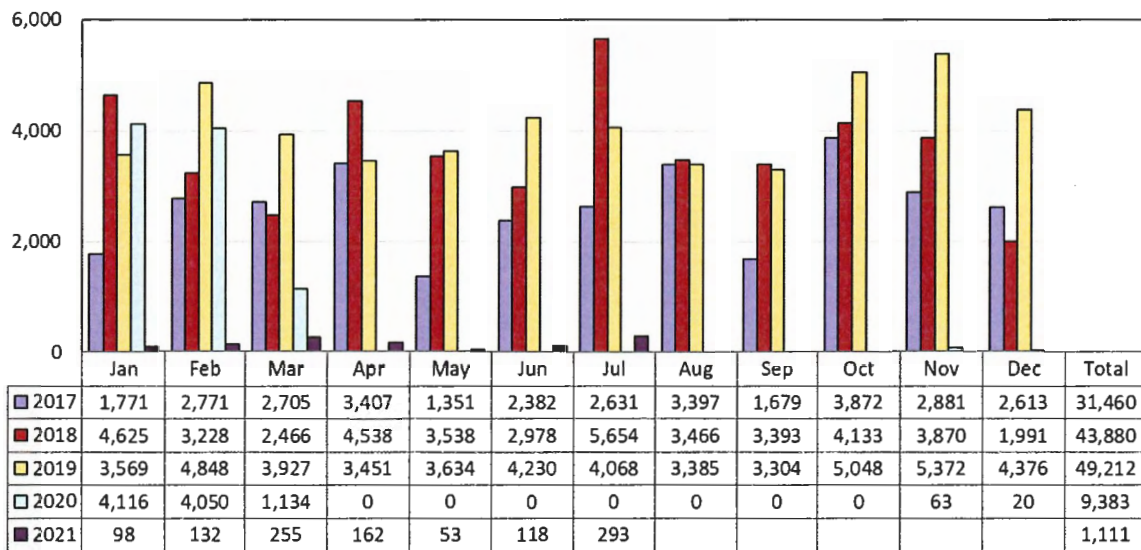
During the month of July volunteer highlights included:

- The deployment of three volunteer bike patrols, totalling 34 hours. These were the first bike patrols since February 2020.
- 11 Lock Out Auto Crime deployments took place, which resulted in 293 information letters being distributed.
- Speed Watch was conducted on 1,857 vehicles at multiple locations and 115 information letters were issued.
- There was one Fail to Stop deployment during which 69 information letters were issued
- July 1 – Eight Volunteers attended the Steveston Community Police Station and assisted RCMP officers with a Canada Day stand and Project 529 Bike Registry, where 45 bicycles were registered.
- July 20 – Seven volunteers received safety and COVID-19 protocol training in preparation for returning to bike patrol duties.
- July 26 – In collaboration with ICBC, volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a Lock Out Auto Crime deployment at Lansdowne Mall and Kwantlen Polytechnic University and issued 53 information letters.
- July 30 – A volunteer bike patrol deployment covered multiple locations including Garry Point Park and the West Dyke area.

Lock Out Auto Crime

Figure 3 provides a comparison by year of the number of vehicle notices issued.⁴

Figure 3: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice

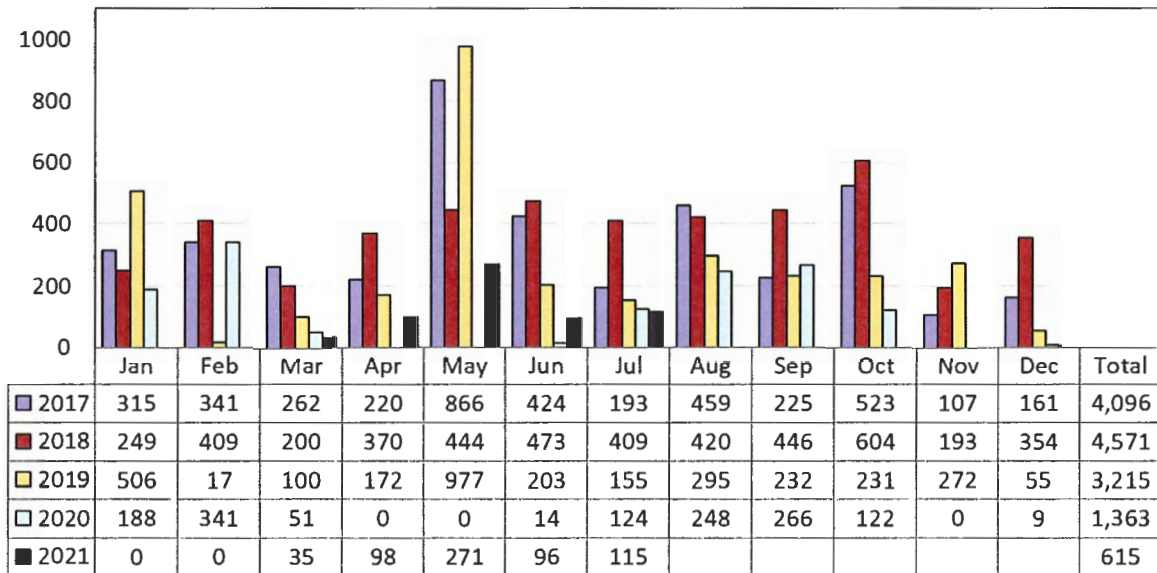


⁴ Beginning in November 2020, Lock Out Auto Crime letters were issued in place of notices.

Speed Watch

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

Figure 4: Speed Watch Letters Sent

Crime Prevention Unit

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

- Canada Day (Project 529)
- Community Outreach Patrols
- Diversity & Inclusion Initiatives
- Fail to Stop
- Lock Out Auto Crime
- Speed Watch

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 July 2021 to both May 2021 and June 2021. Violation Tickets were issued for the following infractions:

Table 2: Violation Tickets Issued

Infraction	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021
Distracted Driving	163	108	133
Driver License	250	146	134
Impaired	39	42	42
Intersection Offences	39	24	39
Moving Infractions ⁵	73	62	97
Speeding	419	265	286
Seatbelts	13	18	14
Vehicle Related ⁶	83	56	59
Other ⁷	2	6	2
Total	1,081	727	806

Victim Services

In July 2021, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 92 new clients and attended five 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 260 files. In July, Victim Services responded to a number of cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, mental health issues and frauds.

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 July, Youth Section highlights included:

- RCMP officers in the Youth Section conducted seven proactive elementary school visits and engaged with students during summer break.
- Planning began for the 2021-2022 Youth Academy. RCMP officers in the Youth Section started developing the training modules, scenarios and schedules for the upcoming year of the youth engagement program.

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 fail to remain at the scene of an accident and failing to stop for police.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

In July 2021, the Richmond RCMP conducted a number of noteworthy investigations, including a disturbance call and a series of robberies. Police statistics for this month indicate that most crime types were within the expected ranges, with the exception of serious assaults and sexual offences, which were elevated this month.

In July, the Richmond RCMP Community Engagement Team and volunteers conducted an increased number of road safety deployments focusing on speeding and crime prevention deployments targeting thefts from vehicles. 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 Administration
(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.

JULY 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.

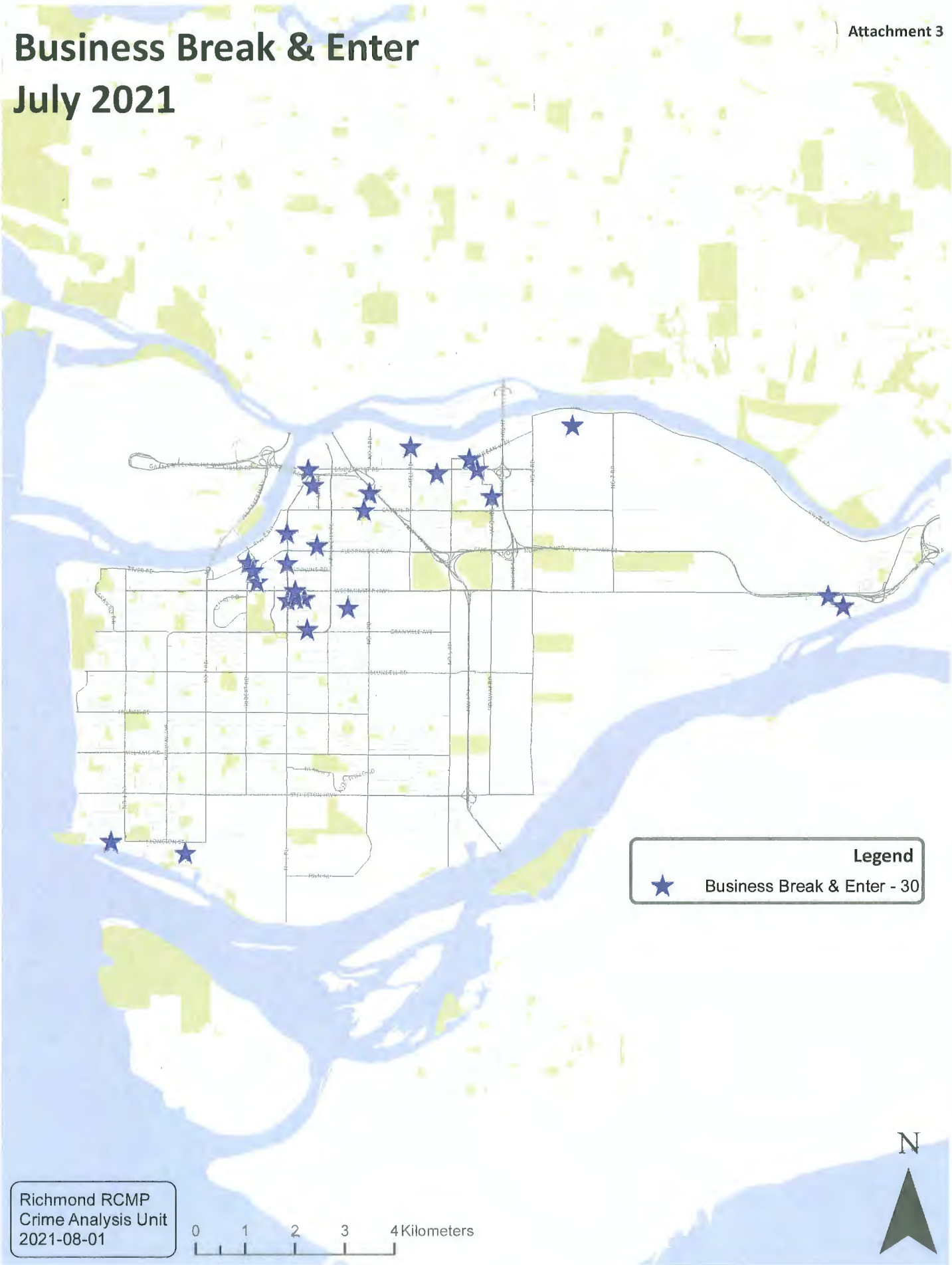
In 2019, changes were implemented regarding the collection of UCR data. The new standards provide much more stringent criteria to classify a file as unfounded. As a result, there will be an increase in many crime statistics, and clearance rates will conversely decline. This creates numerous challenges 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**.

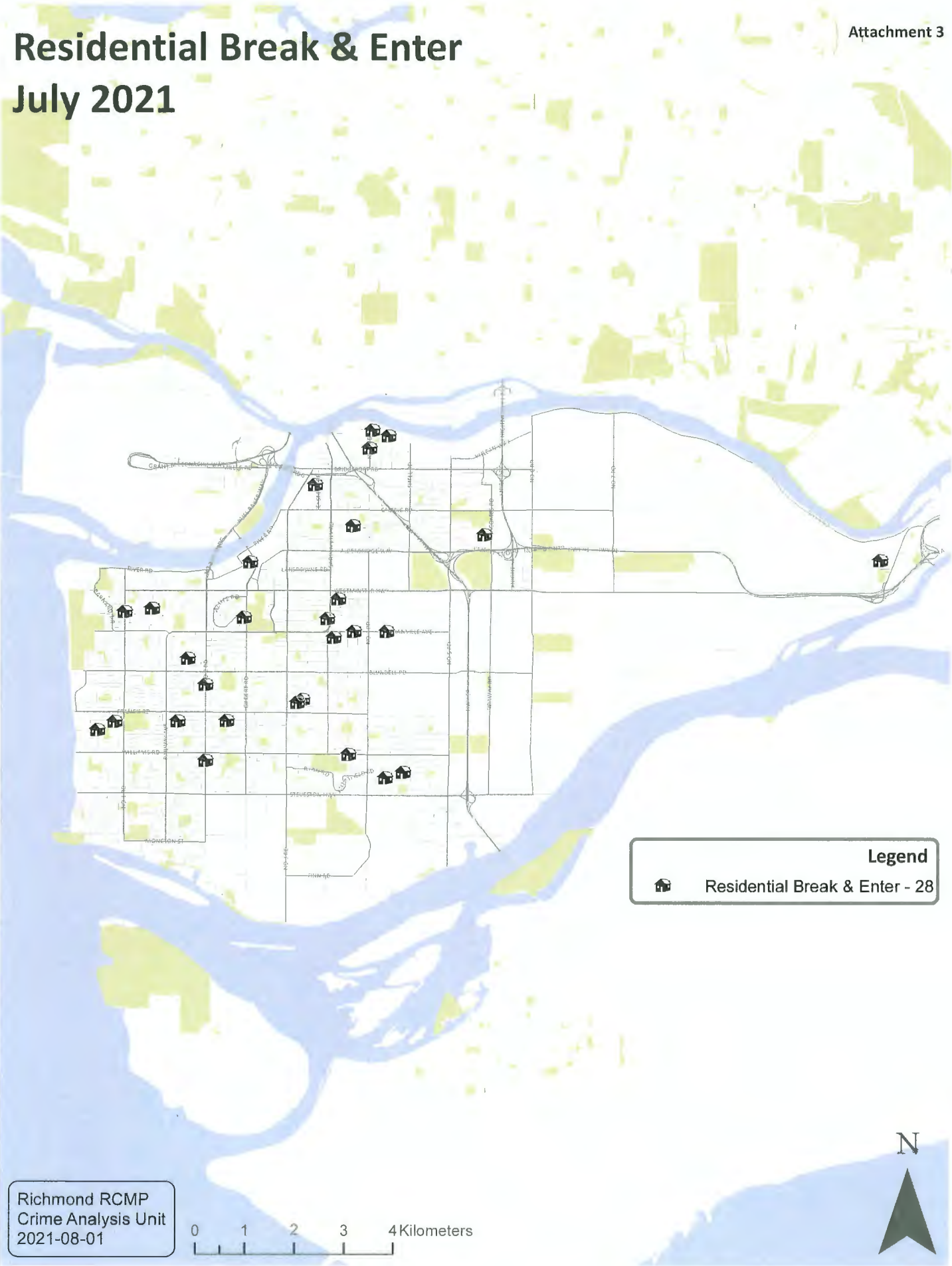
	Month	5-Yr Avg	5-Yr Range	Year to Date Totals			
	July-21	July		2020	2021	% Change	# Change
VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	160	126.0	103-149	958	1043	9%	85
Robbery <small>UCR 1510 (1-14)</small>	8	6.2	3-10	30	33	10%	3
Assault Common <small>UCR 1130</small>	47	43.8	37-50	350	316	-10%	-34
Assault Serious <small>UCR 1140</small>	28	15.0	10-20	85	119	40%	34
Sexual Offences <small>UCR 1440, 1450, 1460, 1470, 1480, 1490</small>	30	12.4	8-16	111	147	32%	36
PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	549	608.0	545-671	3643	3714	2%	71
Business B&E <small>UCR 2100 (1-14)</small>	30	27.0	20-34	220	183	-17%	-37
Residential B&E <small>UCR 2110 (1-14)</small>	28	36.8	20-53	226	202	-11%	-24
Auto Theft <small>UCR 2150 (1-14)</small>	28	27.2	21-33	142	146	3%	4
Theft from Auto <small>UCR 2170 (1-14)</small>	139	151.0	108-194	933	947	2%	14
Theft <small>UCR 2200 (1-14)</small>	48	88.4	65-112	432	390	-10%	-42
Shoplifting <small>UCR 2230 (1-14)</small>	57	59.8	42-78	342	422	23%	80
Fraud <small>UCR 2300 (1-14)</small>	76	76.4	69-84	485	517	7%	32
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	266	209.0	180-238	1242	1685	36%	443
Arson <small>UCR 3020 (1-14)</small>	5	4.6	2-7	42	48	14%	6
SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	976	943.0	879-1007	5987	6445	8%	458
DRUGS (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	27	54.6	39-70	440	256	-42%	-184
MHA RELATED CALLS (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	145	153.2	115-191	1168	916	-22%	-252

Prepared by Richmond RCMP Crime Analysts. Data collected from PRIME on 2021-08-01. Published 2021-08-03. 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 & Enter July 2021



Residential Break & Enter July 2021

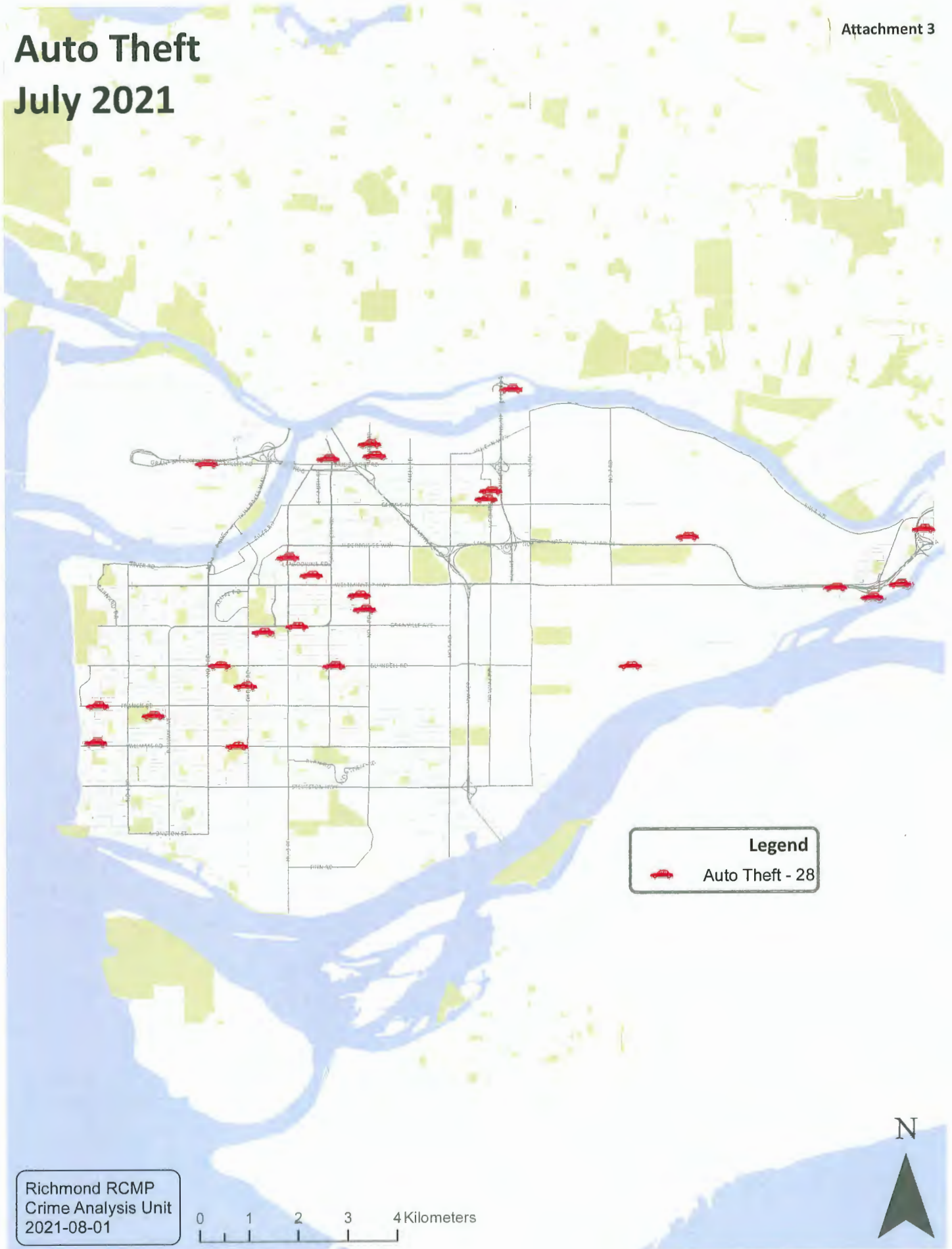


Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2021-08-01

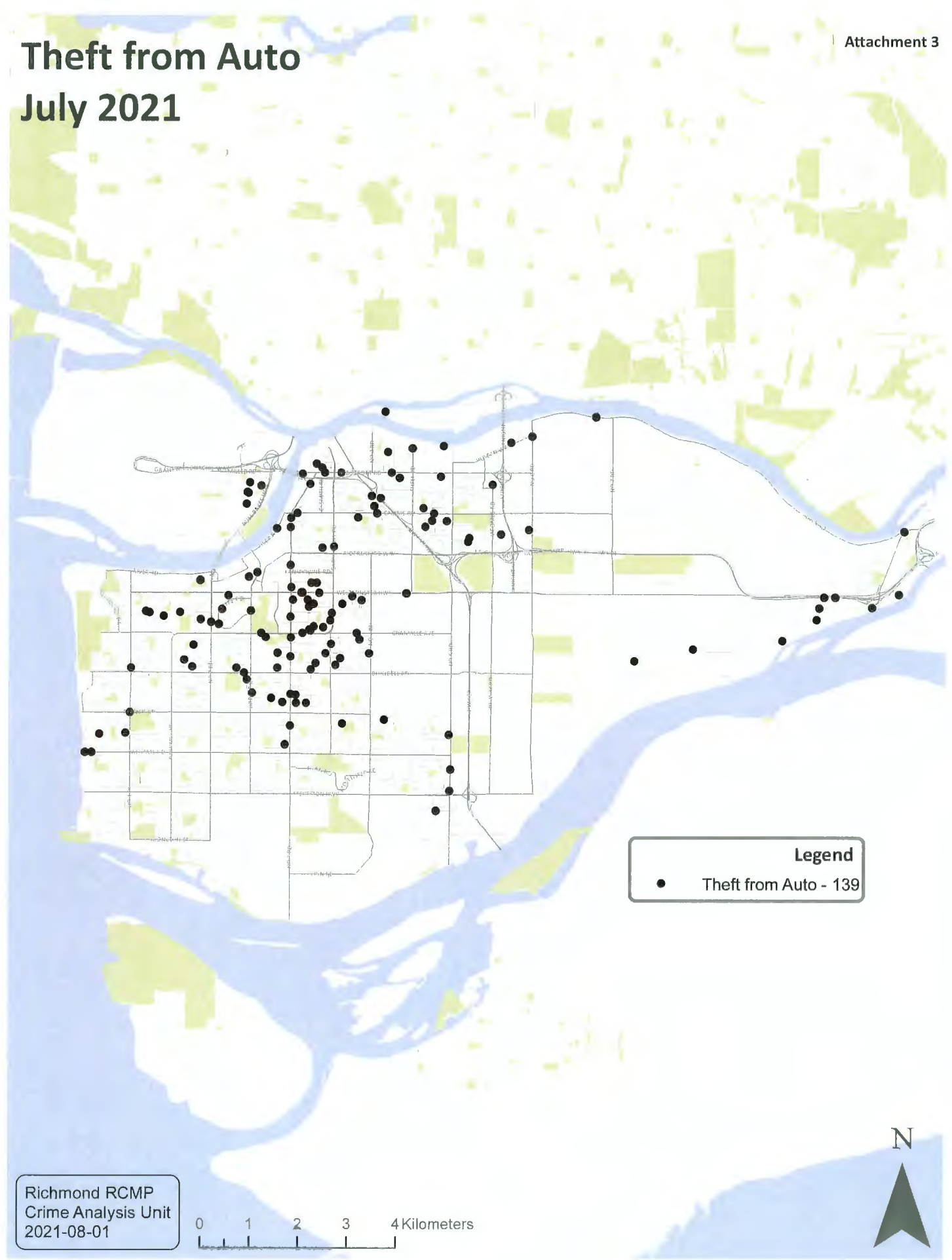
0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

CS - 100

Auto Theft July 2021



Theft from Auto July 2021



Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2021-08-01

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers