



City of Richmond

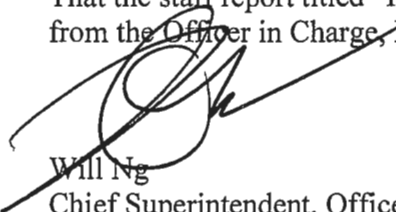
Report to Committee

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




Date: May 11, 2021
File: 09-5000-01/2021-Vol
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Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "RCMP Monthly Activity Report – April 2021", dated May 11, 2021, from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment, be received for information.


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

Pedestrian Collision

On April 7, 2021, the Richmond RCMP responded to a vehicle collision involving a pedestrian at the intersection of Capstan Way and Garden City Road. The driver of the vehicle remained at the scene and was cooperative with police. The pedestrian was transported to hospital with serious but non-life-threatening injuries. The collision is under investigation.

National Volunteer Week

The Richmond RCMP acknowledged the important contributions of its volunteers with an online video in recognition of National Volunteer Week, which was observed from April 18 to 24. While the COVID-19 pandemic has limited many volunteer activities this past year, volunteers in the Auxiliary program, Block Watch, Victim Services and Community Policing have continued to provide support for a variety of crime prevention and community engagement programs.

Hit and Run

On April 13, 2021, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release appealing for witnesses in relation to a serious collision involving a cyclist, which occurred on March 17, 2021. A

Richmond RCMP frontline officer found the injured cyclist in the area of River Drive and No. 4 Road during a routine patrol. The collision remains under investigation.

Hate-Motivated Incidents

On April 14, 2021, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release outlining the multifaceted approach that police have implemented to target hate-motivated incidents. These measures include updated training for frontline officers, the creation of a specialized unit, mental health considerations and consultation with local partners.

Analysis of Police Statistics

Arson

In April 2021, there were 10 reported arsons, which is up one incident from the previous month and down three incidents from April 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 13 assault serious events in April 2021, which is down one incident from the previous month and represents no change from April 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of serious assaults this month is within the expected range.

Auto Theft

In April 2021, there were 11 incidents of auto theft, which represents a 70 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 39 per cent decrease from April 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of auto thefts this month is below the expected range.

Drugs

In April 2021, there were 34 drug files, which is down 23 per cent from the previous month and up 62 per cent from April 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of drug incidents this month is within the expected range.

Mental Health

There were 125 mental health-related incidents in April 2021, which is down eight per cent from the previous month and up 26 per cent from April 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of mental health-related incidents this month is within the expected range.

Police apprehension numbers declined to 82 events this month, representing a 16 per cent decrease from the previous month. The average hospital wait time, however, increased to 105 minutes, reflecting a seven per cent increase from the previous month. This number is higher than average and has been attributed to a small number of incidents which required police to remain in hospital for an extended period of time.

Residential Break and Enter

There were 38 break and enters to residences in April 2021, which represents a 19 per cent increase from the previous month and is a 35 per cent increase from April 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 April 2021, there were 22 break and enters to businesses, which represents a 35 per cent decrease from the previous month and is a 27 per cent reduction from April 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 four robbery incidents in April 2021, which represents no change from the previous month and is an increase of one incident from April 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of robberies this month is within the expected range.

Sexual Offences

In April 2021, there were 19 sexual offence files, which is a 10 per cent decrease from the previous month and represents no change from April 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of sexual offences this month is within the expected range.

Shoplifting

There were 57 shoplifting thefts in April 2021, which are down 10 per cent from the previous month and up 84 per cent from April 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of reported shoplifting thefts this month is within the expected range.

Theft from Automobile

There were 132 theft from automobile incidents in April 2021, which is down 26 per cent from the previous month and up 26 per cent from April 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of thefts from automobiles this month is within the expected range.

COVID-19 Statistics

Table 1 outlines the number of police calls for service related to COVID-19. In April 2021, there were 61 COVID-19-related files. The majority of incidents were related to reports of social gatherings, failure to wear masks and quarantine violations. Police issued approximately seven Violation Tickets this month.¹

¹ The total number of Violation Tickets is subject to change as it is based on the physical tickets submitted at the time of writing and there may be delays in the submission of tickets.

Table 1: COVID-19-related Calls for Service April 2021	
Quarantine Act (Federal)	7
Public Health Act (Provincial)	3
Emergency Program Act	51
Total	61

Hate Crimes and Incidents

Table 2 presents the number of hate crimes and hate incidents reported between January 1, 2018 and April 30, 2021. 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.

Table 2 – 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	9	10	19

Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions

Data on crime rates is presented in Figure 1.² 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 April 2021.



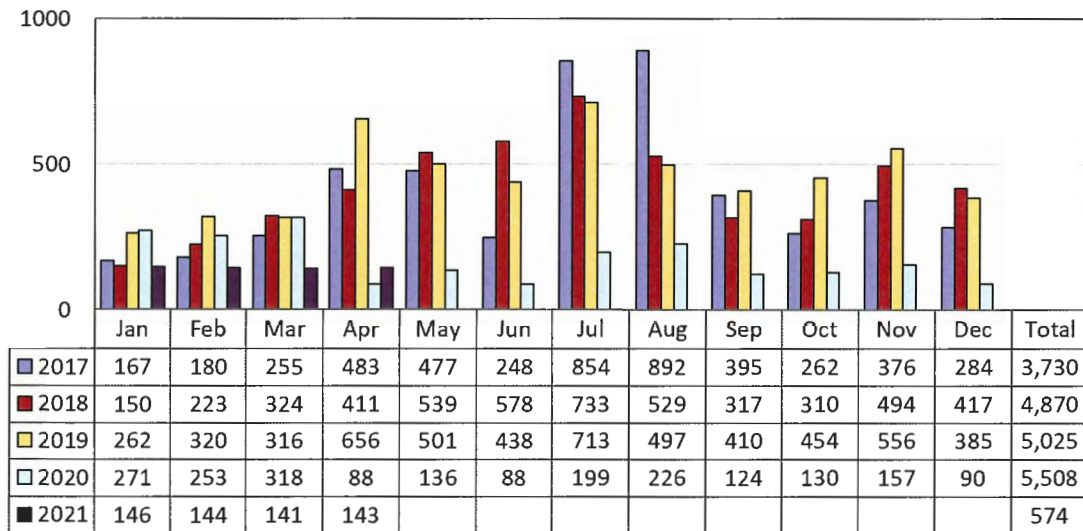
² Crime rate is calculated per 1,000 people.

Auxiliary Program

In April 2021, the Richmond RCMP Detachment had a complement of 30 Auxiliaries.³ Due to COVID-19 safety protocols, volunteer activities have been significantly reduced. Auxiliaries provided a total of 143 volunteer hours during the month of April.

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

Figure 2: Auxiliary Volunteer Hours



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 April, Auxiliaries participated in:

- Bait Car
- Hate Has No Place Campaign
- Mobile App Project
- Volunteer Appreciation Week
- Volunteers are Stars – Virtual Ceremony

Block Watch

At the end of April 2021, the Block Watch program had 304 groups totaling 6,979 participants. Currently, the program includes 439 captains and co-captains. This month, the Block Watch program continued virtual training for new captains.

³ Previously referred to as Auxiliary Constables.

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 April volunteer highlights included:

- Five Lock Out Auto Crime deployments took place, which resulted in 162 information letters being distributed.
- Speed Watch was conducted on 1,930 vehicles at multiple locations, which resulted in 98 information letters being distributed.
- April 14 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a Lock Out Auto Crime deployment near Bridgeport Road and issued 50 information letters.
- April 21 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a Lock Out Auto Crime deployment at Richmond Centre Mall and issued 63 information letters.
- April 28 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a Lock Out Auto Crime deployment in central Richmond and issued 19 information letters.
- April 30 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a Fail to Stop deployment on Ryan Road and issued 15 information letters.

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

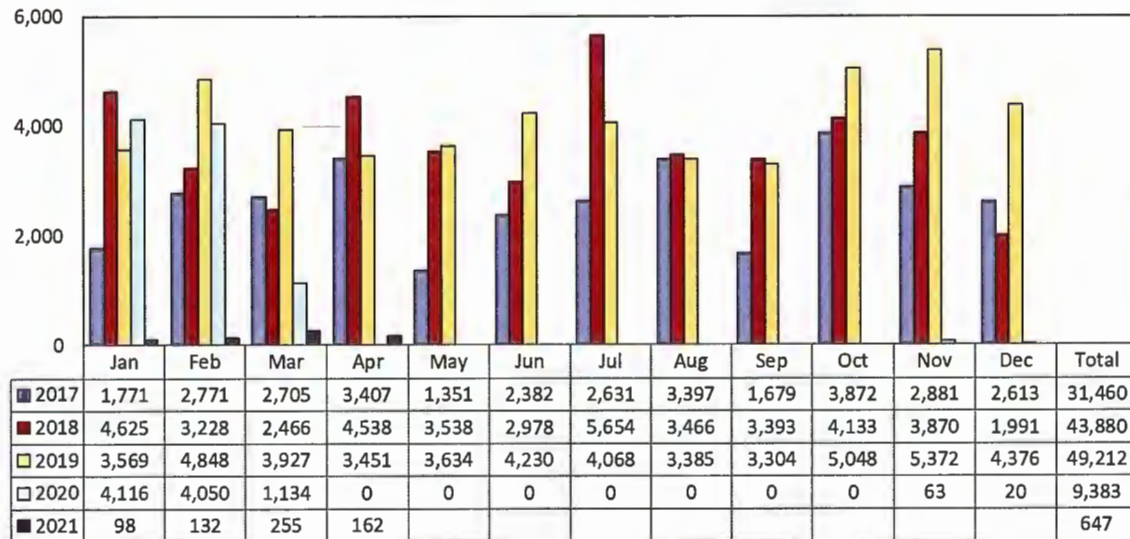
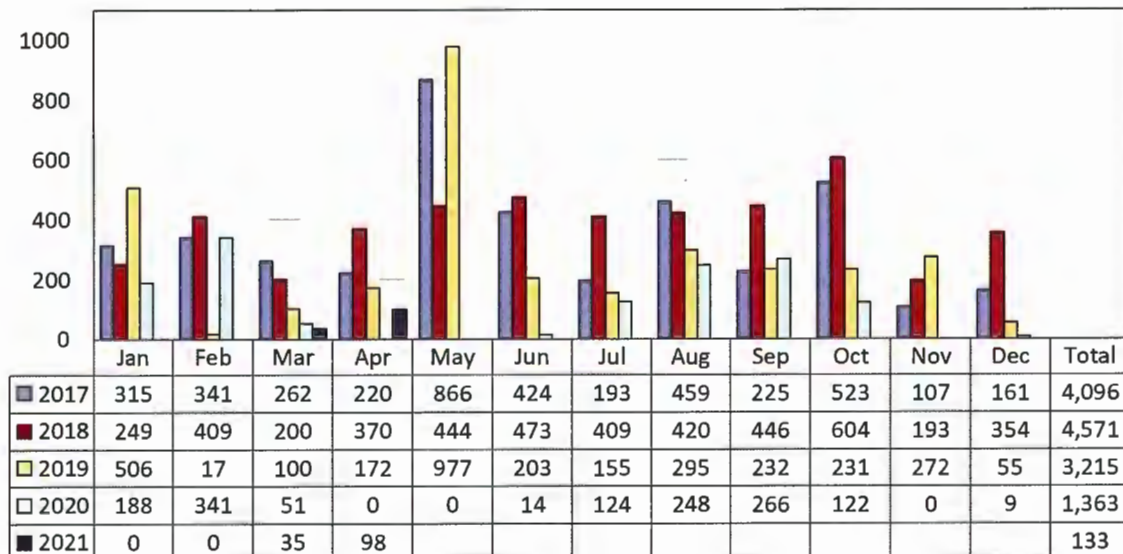
*Speed Watch*

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

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

- Cops for Cancer
- Diversity & Inclusion Initiatives
- Lock Out Auto Crime
- Proactive Community Patrols
- Safe Place Program
- 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 3 compares statistics for April 2021 to both February 2021 and March 2021. Violation Tickets were issued for the following infractions:

Table 3: Violation Tickets Issued

Infraction	February 2021	March 2021	April 2021
Distracted Driving	105	254	139
Driver License	157	227	161
Impaired	24	56	34
Intersection Offences	54	50	38
Moving Infractions ⁵	135	103	98
Speeding	272	177	184
Seatbelts	0	21	8
Vehicle Related ⁶	87	98	75
Other ⁷	5	0	6
Total	839	986	743

Victim Services

In April 2021, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 75 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 246 files. In April, Victim Services responded to a number of cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, mental health issues and property crime.

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.

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 April, Youth Section highlights included:

- 94 Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) classes were delivered to Grade 5 students in 17 schools via Zoom.
- RCMP officers in the Youth Section conducted 52 proactive school visits at Secondary Schools and 80 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 April 2021, the Richmond RCMP conducted a number of noteworthy investigations, including two separate serious vehicle collisions involving a pedestrian and a cyclist. Police statistics for this month indicate that most crime types were within the expected ranges, with the exception of auto theft, which was below the expected range.

In April, the Richmond RCMP Community Engagement Team and volunteers conducted crime prevention deployments focusing on thefts from vehicles. In addition, the DARE program continued its third term, which was delivered via virtual lessons. 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.

APRIL 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.

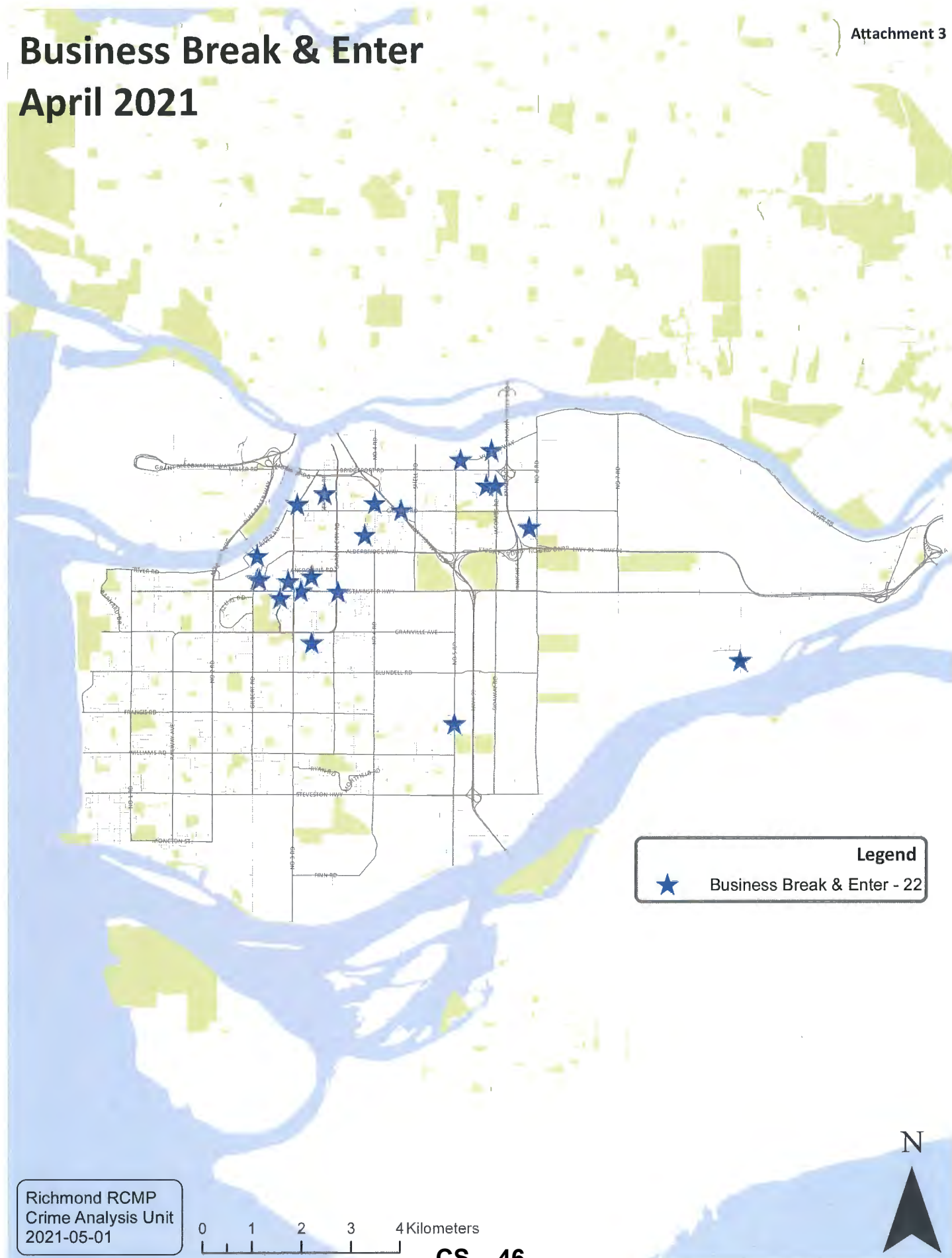
In 2019, changes were implemented regarding the collection of UCR data. The new standards provide much more stringent criteria to classify a file as unfounded. As a result, there will be an increase in many crime statistics, and clearance rates will conversely decline. This creates numerous challenges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

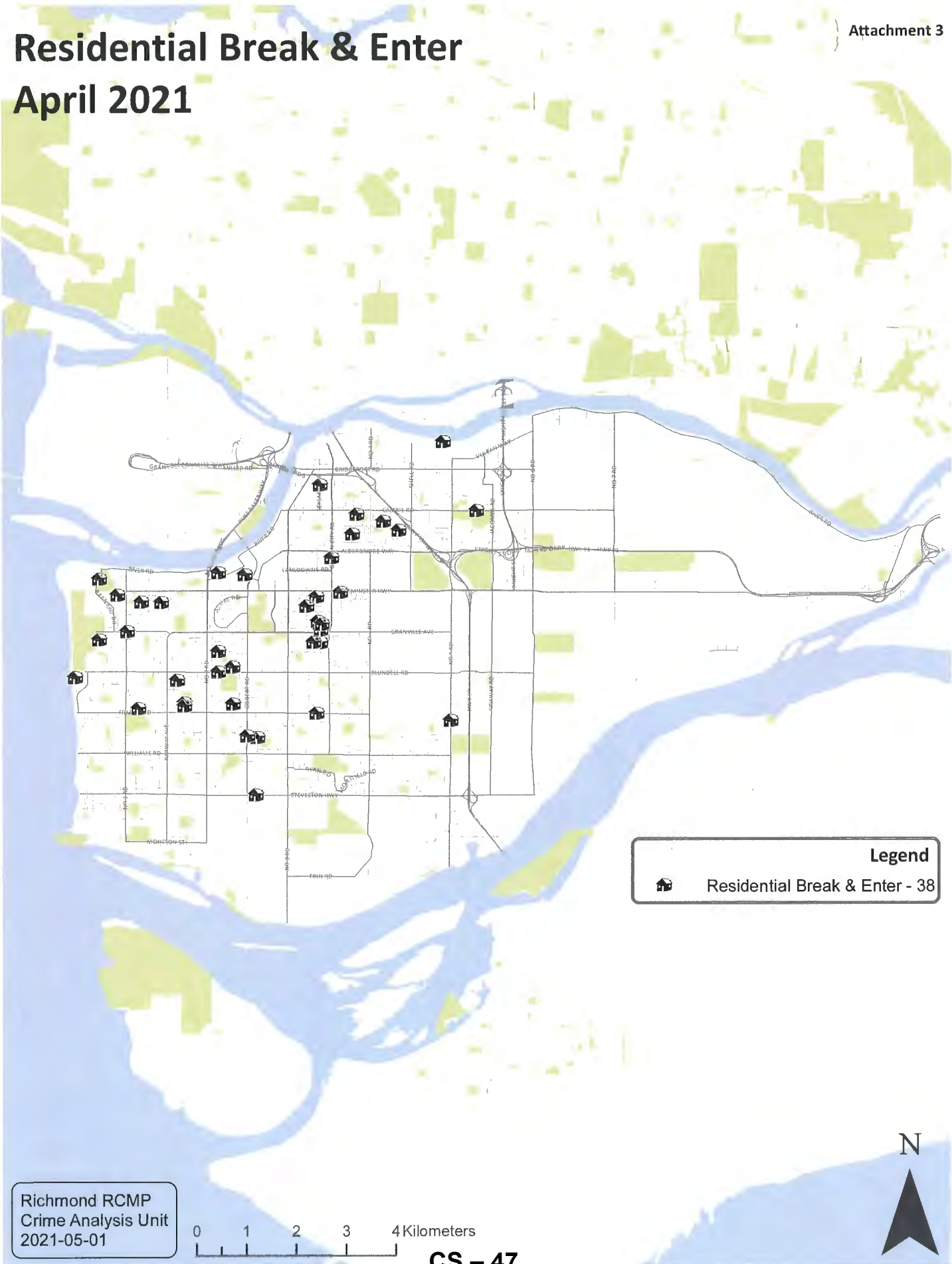
	Month	5-Yr Avg	5-Yr Range	Year to Date Totals			
	April-21	April		2020	2021	% Change	# Change
VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	137	116.2	103-129	510	564	11%	54
Robbery UCR 1 31	4	4.8	2-8	18	19	6%	1
Assault Common UCR 1 32	37	40.0	33-47	195	174	-11%	-21
Assault Serious UCR 1 33	13	11.2	9-13	46	53	15%	7
Sexual Offences UCR 1 34	19	14.8	8-22	61	75	23%	14
PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	518	588.6	495-682	2177	2160	-1%	-17
Business B&E UCR 2 10	22	25.6	21-30	129	102	-21%	-27
Residential B&E UCR 2 11	38	48.2	37-60	169	137	-19%	-32
Auto Theft UCR 2 12	11	22.8	17-28	102	84	-18%	-18
Theft from Auto UCR 2 13	132	171.8	126-217	595	566	-5%	-29
Theft UCR 2 14	50	80.6	59-102	253	226	-11%	-27
Shoplifting UCR 2 15	57	57.4	41-73	217	249	15%	32
Fraud UCR 2 16	76	61.6	53-70	263	304	16%	41
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	262	170.6	149-192	689	884	28%	195
Arson UCR 3 01	10	5.0	1-9	24	28	17%	4
SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	917	875.6	770-981	3377	3610	7%	233
DRUGS (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	34	57.4	29-86	338	152	-55%	-186
MHA RELATED CALLS (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	125	129.0	108-150	593	499	-16%	-94

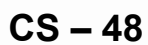
Prepared by Richmond RCMP Crime Analysts. Data collected from PRIME on 2021-05-01. Published 2021-05-04. These data are operational and subject to change. This document is not to be copied, reproduced, used in whole or part or disseminated to any other person or agency without the consent of the originator(s).

Business Break & Enter April 2021



Residential Break & Enter April 2021





Theft from Auto April 2021

