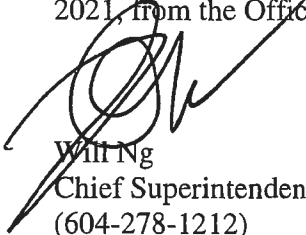




To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** March 8, 2021
From: Will Ng **File:** 09-5000-01/2021-Vol
 Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge 01
Re: **RCMP Monthly Activity Report – February 2021**




Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “RCMP Monthly Activity Report – February 2021”, dated March 8, 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

Shots Fired

On February 1, 2021, Richmond RCMP officers responded to reports of multiple gunshots in the 22300 block of Chaldecott Drive. The occupants of two vehicles exchanged gunfire and fled the scene at a high rate of speed. No injuries were reported in connection with the shooting. The incident remains under investigation.

Pedestrian Struck

On February 4, 2021, Richmond RCMP officers responded to a vehicle collision involving a pedestrian near the intersection of Railway Avenue and Lancing Road. The driver of the vehicle remained at the scene and was cooperative with police. The pedestrian was transported to hospital with serious injuries. The incident is under investigation. Police have identified poor visibility and weather as factors in the collision.

Accidental Death

On February 11, 2021, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release advising that a man had succumbed to injuries relating to a fall in the 11700 block of River Road. The Richmond RCMP were contacted by the BC Coroners Service requesting clarification on the circumstances of the incident. The Richmond RCMP Serious Crime Unit is investigating.

Personating a Peace Officer

On February 15, 2021, the Richmond RCMP issued a media releasing advising that charges had been laid in connection with a man who posed as a peace officer at a Richmond residence on January 29, 2021. The suspect faces one count of Personating a Peace Officer and one count of Carrying a Concealed Weapon. The Richmond RCMP Serious Crime Unit is investigating.

Analysis of Police Statistics

Arson

In February 2021, there were two reported arsons, which is down five incidents from the previous month and down three incidents from February 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. After two consecutive months of elevated numbers, this month the number of arsons returned to within the expected range.

Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)

There were 10 assault serious events in February 2021, which is down six incidents from the previous month and up three incidents from February 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of serious assaults this month is above the expected range.

Half of the incidents reported this month involved individuals who were known to each other. One notable incident occurred at an unlicensed drinking establishment where police also issued numerous Violation Tickets under the *Emergency Program Act*.

Auto Theft

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

Drugs

In February 2021, there were 33 drug files, which is down 20 per cent from the previous month and down 50 per cent from February 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of drug incidents this month is within the expected range.

Mental Health

There were 114 mental health-related incidents in February 2021, which is down eight per cent from the previous month and down 34 per cent from February 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of mental health-related incidents this month is within the expected range.

There were 89 police apprehensions this month and the average hospital wait time was 72 minutes. Both of these statistics are within the expected range.

Residential Break and Enter

There were 28 break and enters to residences in February 2021, which represents a 28 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 53 per cent decrease from February 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of residential break and enters this month is below the expected range.

Commercial Break and Enter

In February 2021, there were 23 break and enters to businesses, which represents no change from the previous month and is a 23 per cent reduction from February 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 six robbery incidents in February 2021, which is up one incident from the previous month and down one incident from February 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of robberies this month is within the expected range.

Sexual Offences

In February 2021, there were 20 sexual offence files, which represents a 33 per cent increase from the previous month and is more than double the number reported in February 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of sexual offences this month is above the expected range.

Of the files this month, 20 per cent relate to referrals received from the BC Integrated Child Exploitation Unit. While the referrals were received this month, the incidents may have occurred up to several months prior.

Shoplifting

There were 58 shoplifting thefts in February 2021, which are down 18 per cent from the previous month and down 15 per cent from February 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 122 theft from automobile incidents in February 2021, which is down nine per cent from the previous month and down 21 per cent from February 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of thefts from automobiles this month is below the expected range.

COVID-19 Statistics

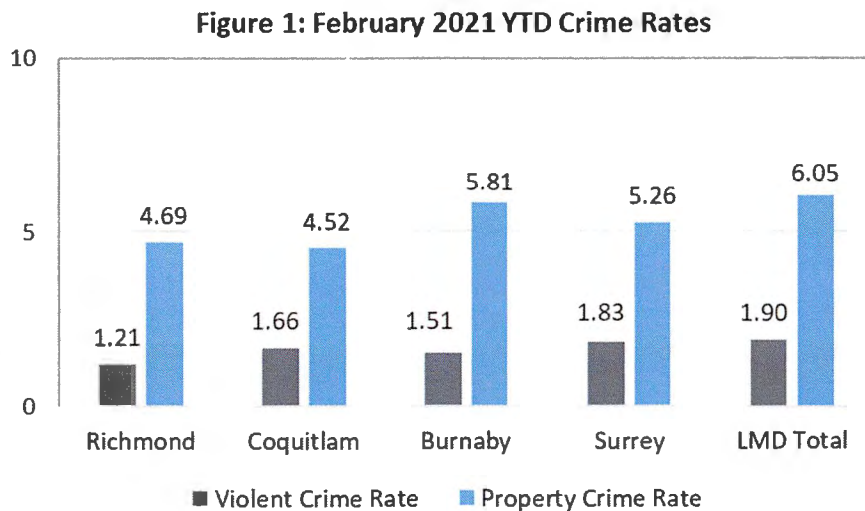
Table 1 outlines the number of police calls for service related to COVID-19. In February 2021, there were 51 COVID-19-related files. The majority of incidents were related to reports of social gatherings and failure to wear masks. Police issued approximately 151 Violation Tickets this

month, the majority of which were in relation to large gatherings, unlicensed drinking establishments, house parties and commercial locations operating like nightclubs/karaoke bars.¹

Table 1: COVID-19-related Calls for Service February 2021	
Quarantine Act (Federal)	5
Public Health Act (Provincial)	2
Emergency Program Act	44
Total	51

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 February 2021.



¹ 148 Violation Tickets were issued under the *Emergency Program Act* and three under the *Quarantine Act*. 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.

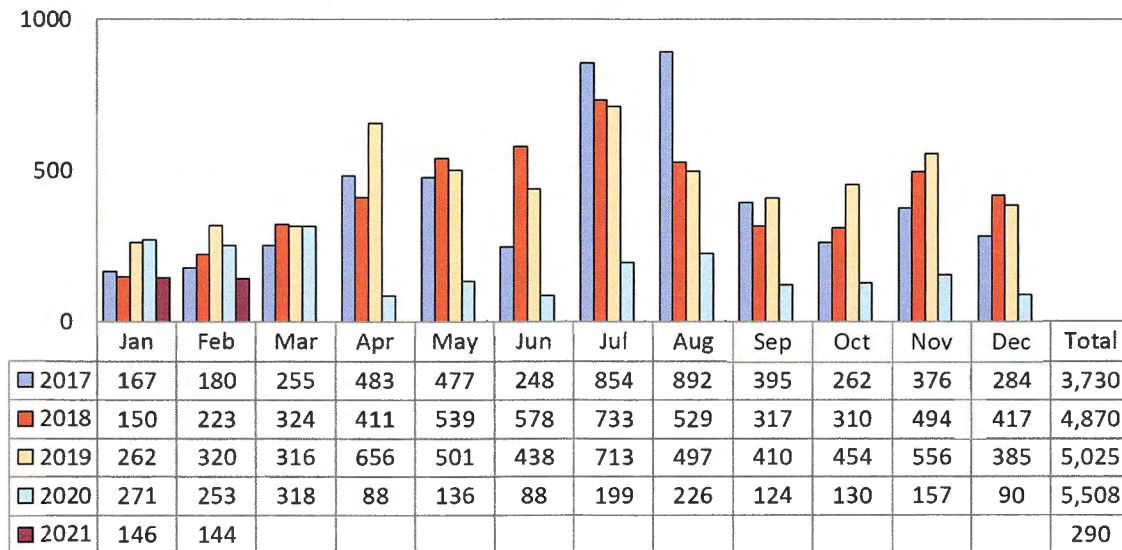
² Crime rate is calculated per 1,000 people.

Auxiliary Program

In February 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 144 volunteer hours during the month of February.

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 February, Auxiliaries participated in:

- Administrative Support
- Bait Car
- Diversity Unit

Block Watch

At the end of February 2021, the Block Watch program had 306 groups totaling 6,584 participants. Currently, the program includes 439 captains and co-captains. This month, the Block Watch program launched virtual training for captains and new participants.

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 February volunteer highlights included:

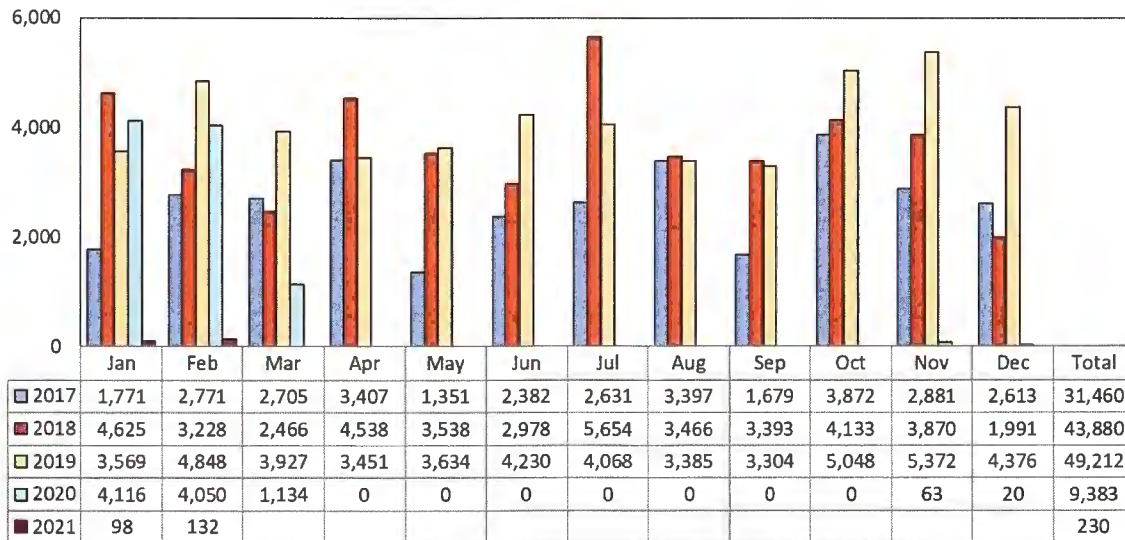
- February 2 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a Lock Out Auto Crime and Stolen Auto Recovery deployment at Richmond Centre and issued eight information letters.⁴
- February 5 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a Lock Out Auto Crime and Stolen Auto Recovery deployment in Central Richmond and issued 33 information letters.
- February 15 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a Lock Out Auto Crime and Stolen Auto Recovery deployment in the area of No. 5 Road and Cambie Road and located a stolen vehicle with stolen license plates. A total of 12 information letters were also issued during the deployment.
- February 17 and 18 – 14 volunteers participated in mandatory COVID-19 safety training in order to return to volunteer program activities.
- February 19 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a Lock Out Auto Crime and Stolen Auto Recovery deployment in the area of Bridgeport Road and St. Edwards Road and issued 27 information letters.
- February 24 and 26 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with Lock Out Auto Crime and Stolen Auto Recovery deployments in the area of Bridgeport Road and Gage Road and issued 52 information letters.

⁴ Crime prevention notices have been temporarily replaced by information letters, which are mailed to registered vehicle owners.

Lock Out Auto Crime

Figure 3 provides a comparison by year of the number of vehicle notices issued.⁵

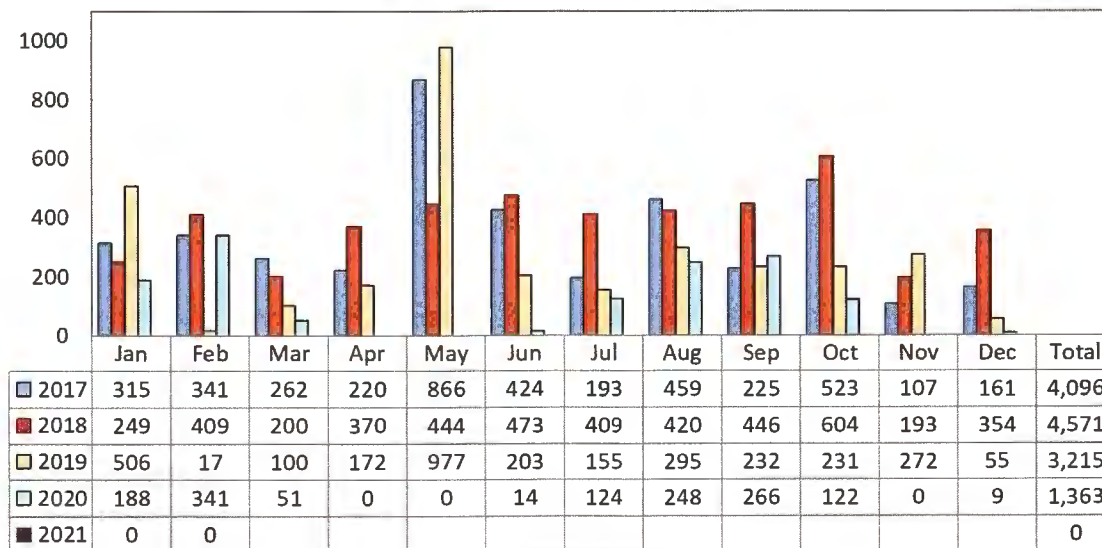
Figure 3: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice



Speed Watch

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

Figure 4: Speed Watch Letters Sent



⁵ 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 February, the Crime Prevention Unit participated in the following events/activities:

- Diversity & Inclusion Initiatives
- Lock Out Auto Crime
- Foot Patrols
- Road Safety Presentation
- Safe Place Program
- Volunteer COVID-19 Safety Training

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 February 2021 to both December 2020 and January 2021. Violation Tickets were issued for the following infractions:

Table 2: Violation Tickets Issued

Infraction	December 2020	January 2021	February 2021
Distracted Driving	122	82	105
Driver License	198	183	157
Impaired	35	26	24
Intersection Offences	55	57	54
Moving Infractions ⁶	204	168	135
Speeding	289	320	272
Seatbelts	2	1	0
Vehicle Related ⁷	109	98	87
Other ⁸	49	11	5
Total	1,063	946	839

Victim Services

In February 2021, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 58 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 232 files. In February, Victim Services responded to a number of cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, suicides, drug overdoses and mental health issues.

⁶ Moving infractions refers to unsafe lane change and unsafe passing.

⁷ Vehicle related refers to vehicle defects, for example no lights and no insurance.

⁸ 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 February, Youth Section highlights included:

- 104 Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) classes were delivered via Zoom as the program continued through virtual lessons. Grade 5 students in 17 schools are participating in the second term of the DARE program.
- RCMP officers in the Youth Section conducted 68 proactive school visits at Secondary Schools and 153 visits at Elementary Schools. Police officers engaged with the students at recess and lunch, as well as during morning and afternoon supervision.

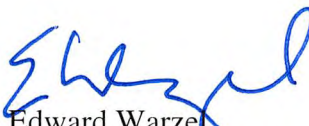
Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

In February 2021, the Richmond RCMP conducted a number of noteworthy investigations, including a serious collision involving a pedestrian and a shooting. Police statistics for this month indicate that most crime types were within the expected range. However, serious assaults and sexual offences were above the expected range, while residential break and enters and thefts from automobiles were below the expected range.

In February, the Richmond RCMP Community Engagement Team and volunteers conducted crime prevention deployments focusing on automobile theft and theft from vehicles. In addition, the DARE program continued its second term, which is being 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.

FEBRUARY 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.

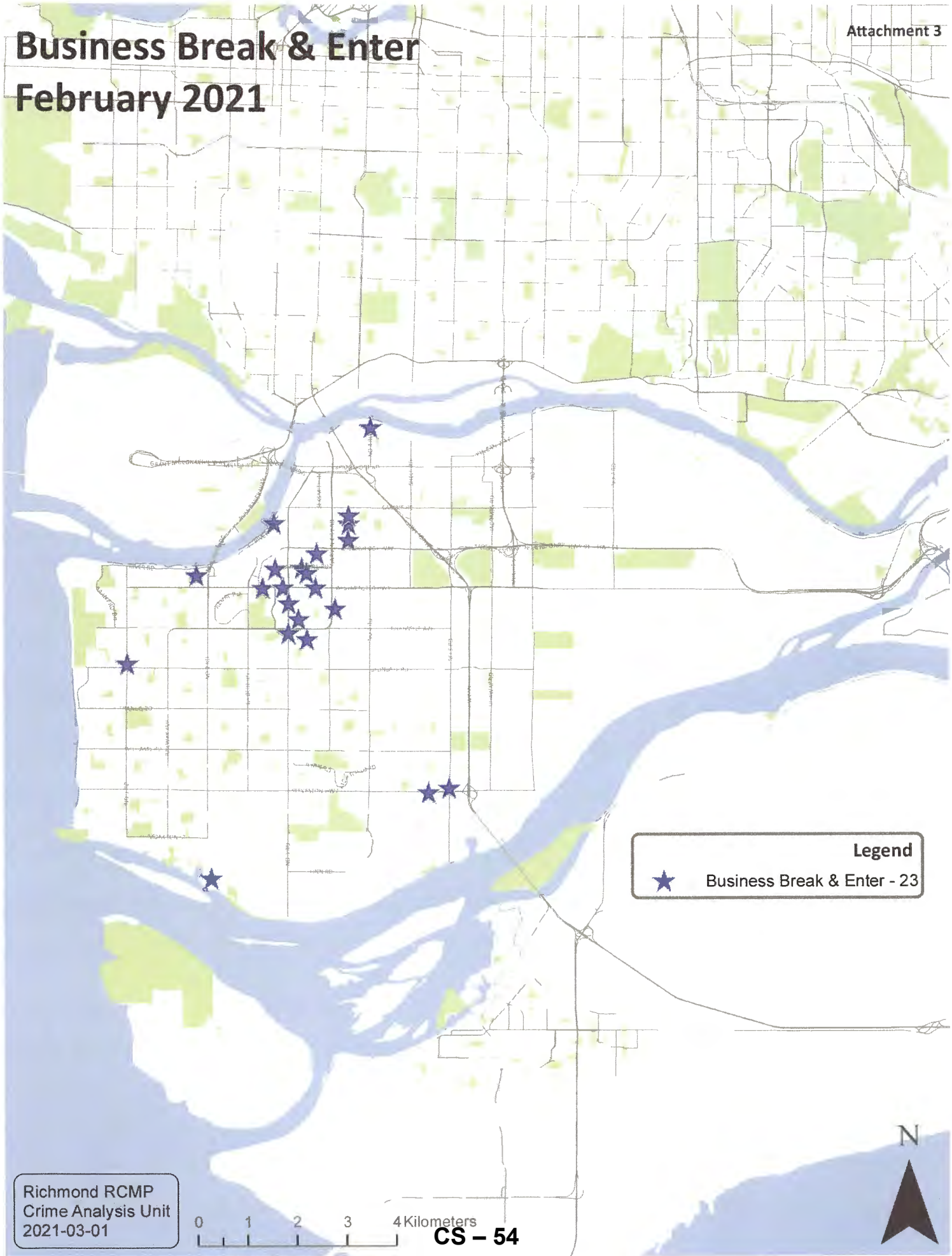
In 2019, changes were implemented regarding the collection of UCR data. The new standards provide much more stringent criteria to classify a file as unfounded. As a result, there will be an increase in many crime statistics, and clearance rates will conversely decline. This creates numerous challenges 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			
	Feb-21	February		2020	2021	% Change	# Change
VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	126	110.0	91-129	260	274	5%	14
Robbery <small>UCR 1610 (1-3)</small>	6	6.0	1-11	10	11	10%	1
Assault Common <small>UCR 1430</small>	45	41.2	34-49	105	93	-11%	-12
Assault Serious <small>UCR 1410, 1420</small>	10	6.2	5-8	18	26	44%	8
Sexual Offences <small>UCR 1345, 1330, 1356, 1310, 3450/55/56</small>	20	8.6	7-10	25	35	40%	10
PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	492	636.6	588-686	1198	1025	-14%	-173
Business B&E <small>UCR 2120-1</small>	23	33.8	21-47	61	46	-25%	-15
Residential B&E <small>UCR 2120-2</small>	28	65.4	53-78	106	67	-37%	-39
Auto Theft <small>UCR 2135 (1-10), 2178</small>	18	21.8	16-27	54	36	-33%	-18
Theft from Auto <small>UCR 2132, 2142</small>	122	183.0	161-205	345	256	-26%	-89
Theft <small>UCR 2130, 2140</small>	69	97.6	79-116	145	127	-12%	-18
Shoplifting <small>UCR 2133, 2143</small>	58	62.2	55-70	131	129	-2%	-2
Fraud <small>UCR 2160 (all), 2165, 2166</small>	66	73.8	66-81	155	141	-9%	-14
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	201	167.2	150-185	356	414	16%	58
Arson <small>UCR 1629, 2110</small>	2	2.0	0-4	7	9	29%	2
SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	819	913.8	865-963	1814	1715	-5%	-99
DRUGS (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	33	54.8	40-70	255	74	-71%	-181
MHA RELATED CALLS (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	114	132.0	103-161	339	238	-30%	-101

Prepared by Richmond RCMP Crime Analysts. Data collected from PRIME on 2021-03-01. Published 2021-03-02. 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 & Enter February 2021



Legend
★ Business Break & Enter - 23

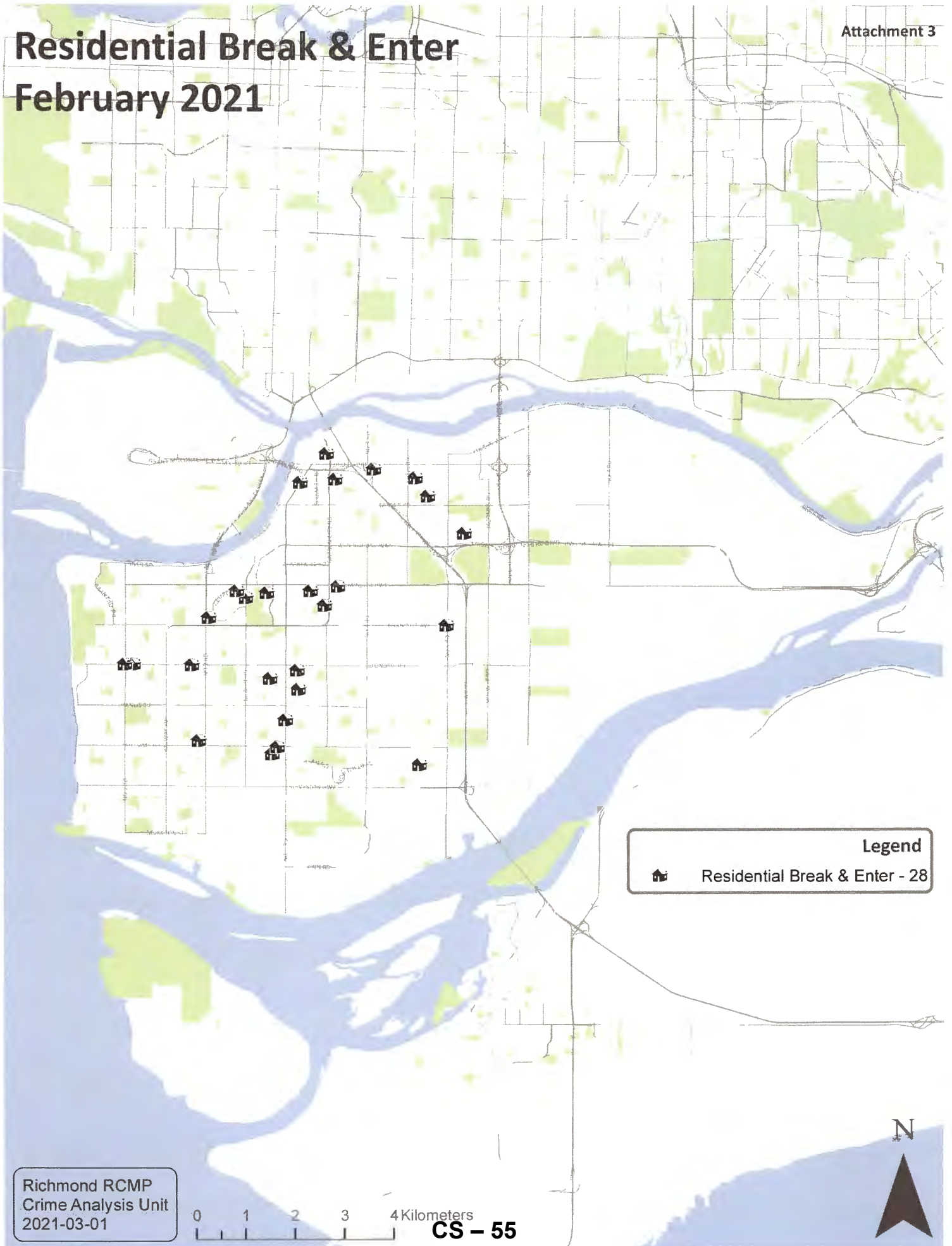
Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2021-03-01

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

CS - 54



Residential Break & Enter February 2021



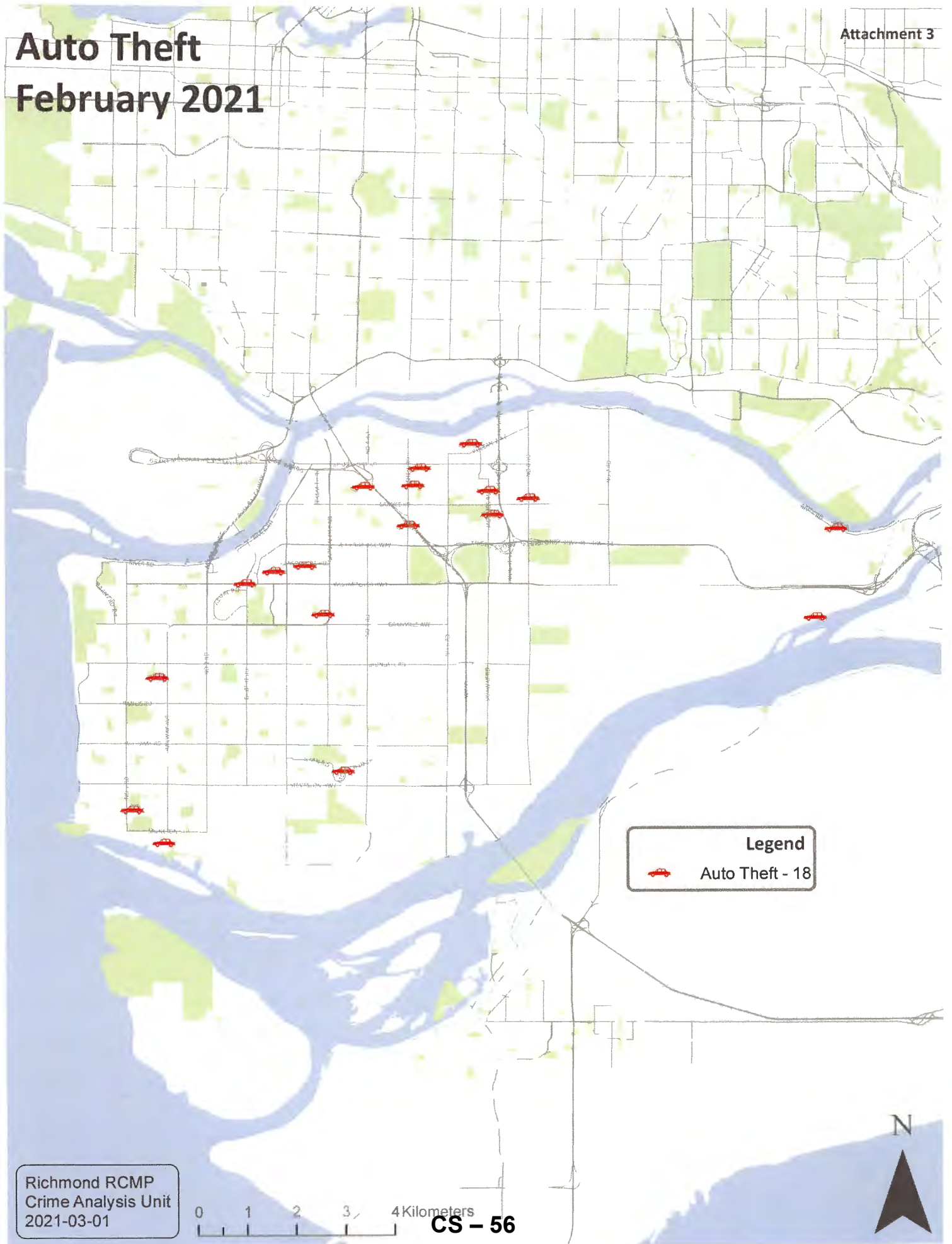
Legend
🏠 Residential Break & Enter - 28

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2021-03-01

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers
CS - 55



Auto Theft February 2021



Legend
Auto Theft - 18

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2021-03-01

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

CS - 56



Theft from Auto February 2021

