

# **Report to Committee**

To:

Community Safety Committee

Date:

January 21, 2019

From:

Will, Ng, Superintendent Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment File:

09-5000-01/2019-Vol

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Re:

RCMP Monthly Activity Report - December 2018

# **Staff Recommendation**

That the report titled "RCMP Monthly Activity Report – December 2018", dated January 21, 2019, from the officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment, be received for information.

Will Ng

Superintendent, Officer in Charge

(604-278-1212)

Att. 3

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT !	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 Crime Statistics
- 3. Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions
- 4. Auxiliary Constable Program
- 5. Block Watch
- 6. Community Police Stations and Programs
- 7. Crime Prevention Unit
- 8. Road Safety Unit
- 9. Victim Services
- 10. Youth Section

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #1 A Safe Community:

Maintain emphasis on community safety to ensure Richmond continues to be a safe community.

#### **Analysis**

#### Activities and Noteworthy Files

#### Emergency Planning

On December 12, 2018, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release informing the public of the breadth and scope of planning being done by the Detachment's Emergency Planning Unit. These activities include tabletop exercises and practical scenarios and involve the participation and collaboration of various outside agencies. The Emergency Planning Unit is responsible for preparing Detachment personnel to respond to critical emergencies including natural disasters and human-induced emergencies. The Unit also collaborates with partners in the City's Emergency Programs and first responders.

# Explosives Investigation

On December 14, 2018, Richmond RCMP members stopped a vehicle due to a minor traffic violation. Upon approach, police noticed suspicious devices in the vehicle. The passenger fled from the vehicle, while the driver, who is known to police, remained on the scene. The Lower Mainland Explosive Disposal Unit was called to investigate and used robotic equipment to search the designated area. No explosives were located and the incident remains under investigation.

#### Impaired Driving

On December 18, 2018, Bill C-46 came into effect across Canada. The corresponding amendments introduced to the *Criminal Code* provide legislative authority for peace officers to conduct mandatory alcohol screening of any motor vehicle operator in Canada regardless if there is a suspicion of alcohol consumption. Richmond Detachment has been providing the appropriate training and oversight to RCMP members to accommodate these changes.

# Shooting

On December 21, 2018, Richmond RCMP responded to Lansdowne Centre after reports of a shooting. The shooting occurred in the morning prior to the mall opening. A male was found injured from gunshot wounds and was transported to hospital in serious condition. The incident remains under investigation.

# Analysis of Police Statistics

#### Arson

In December 2018, there were four incidents of arson, which is down two incidents from the previous month and represents a 33 per cent increase from December 2017. The number of arsons this month is within the five-year statistical average range.

# Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)

There were seven assault serious events in December 2018, which is down one incident from the previous month. The number of reported serious assaults this month is within the five-year average range and represents a 13 per cent decline from December 2017. In 2018, there was a 20 per cent decline in the number of serious assaults compared to totals for 2017.

#### Auto Theft

There were 37 auto theft incidents this month, which is a 42 per cent increase from November 2018 and represents a 37 per cent increase from December 2017. Although the number of auto thefts was elevated in the last few months of 2018, the yearly total for 2018 indicated a two per cent reduction compared to 2017. The recent arrest and disruption of a property crime group could assist in decreasing the number of auto thefts in the following months.

# Drugs

In December 2018, there were 29 drug incidents, which is a 45 per cent increase from the previous month. This number represents a 24 per cent reduction from December 2017 and is significantly below the five-year average range. In 2018, drug offences declined by 18 per cent compared to 2017.

The significant reduction in drug incidents observed this year is closely tied to the decline in cannabis related offences, which coincides with cannabis legalization on October 17, 2018.

#### Mental Health

There were 145 mental health incidents in December 2018, which represents a 22 per cent increase from November 2018 and a 17 per cent increase from December 2017. The number of mental health incidents this month is outside of the five-year average range. In 2018 there was a six per cent increase in mental health-related files compared to the previous year. Files have been reviewed and no patterns or trends have been identified.

Richmond Detachment maintains a strong commitment to addressing vulnerable persons in the community and significant initiatives are being developed for implementation in 2019.

#### Residential Break and Enter

There were 101 break and enters to residences in December 2018, which is a 15 per cent increase from the previous month and represents a 44 per cent increase from December 2017. The total this month is within the five-year expected range. The number of residential break and enters in 2018 was 25 per cent higher than the reported number in 2017.

The Detachment has realigned additional resources to combat property crime. Persons/groups of interest have been identified through criminal analysis, which has resulted in targeted enforcement and arrests.

#### Commercial Break and Enter

In December 2018, there were 46 break and enters to businesses, which is represents an increase of 59 per cent from November 2018. This number represents a two per cent increase from December 2017. The number of commercial break and enters this month is within the five-year expected range and the total for 2018 indicates there has been a four per cent decline from the previous year.

#### Robbery

There were seven robbery incidents in December 2018, which is up five incidents from the previous month and up two incidents from December 2017. This number is within the five-year average range. The number of robberies in 2018 represented no change from the total reported in 2017.

#### Sexual Offences

There were 12 sexual offence files in December 2018, which represents no change from the previous month. The number of sexual offences this month marks a 33 per cent increase from December 2017. This month's total is outside of the five-year average range.

The number of reported sexual offences in 2018 increased by 26 per cent compared to 2017. This increase is due to high numbers reported in January 2018 and April 2018. No patterns or trends have been identified.

# Shoplifting

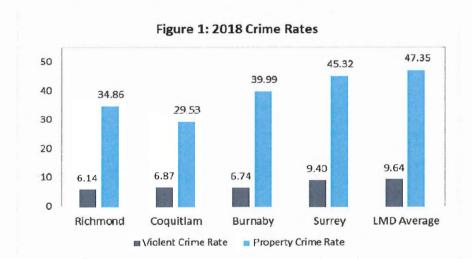
There were 46 shoplifting thefts in December 2018, which is a seven per cent increase from the previous month and an 18 per cent reduction from December 2017. This month, reported shoplifting thefts are below the five-year expected range.

#### Theft from Auto

There were 192 theft from auto incidents in December 2018, which represents a 34 per cent increase from the previous month, during which a statistically low number of theft from auto incidents were recorded. The number of theft from auto events this month marks a 20 per cent decrease from December 2017. The total this month is within the five year average range.

#### Crime Trends across Jurisdictions

Out of the four largest municipalities policed by the RCMP in the Lower Mainland District (LMD), Richmond maintained the lowest violent crime rate in 2018 (data on crime rates is presented below in Figure 1). The number of reported violent crimes in Richmond remained unchanged in 2018 from the previous year leading to a decrease in the violent crime rate. In fact, the violent crime rate in Richmond is over 35 per cent less than the violent crime rates in Surrey or the Lower Mainland District as a whole. The property crime rate in Richmond also remains low, ranking second lowest in its peer group. In 2018, Richmond's property crime rate was 26 per cent less than the LMD average.



#### Auxiliary Constable Program

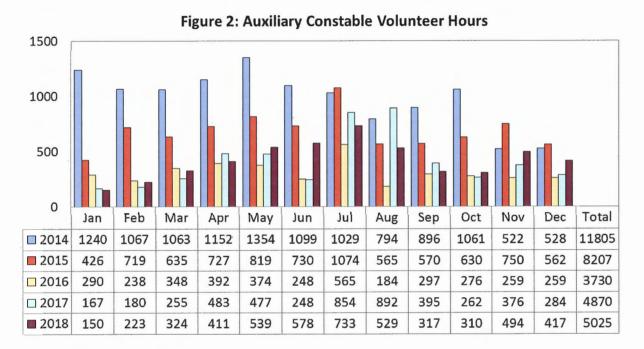
In December 2018, Richmond Detachment had a complement of 38 Auxiliary Constables. Auxiliary Constables provided a total of 417 volunteer hours during the month of December. In the coming months, the Province of BC and RCMP "E" Division are expected to announce the training standards for the new Tier 3 Auxiliary program.<sup>2</sup> Once these details are known, the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Crime rate is calculated per 1,000 people (using 2017 populations)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/auxiliary-program-tiers

Detachment will commence recruitment of a new troop of Auxiliary Constables. The RCMP recently announced that for the immediate future there will be no changes to the current Auxiliary Constable uniform.

Figure 2 compares the monthly hours of service provided by month from 2014 to 2018.



# Auxiliary Constable Activities

Auxiliary Constables attend events in the community to promote a positive police presence, support RCMP members and provide traffic and crowd control. During the month of December Auxiliary Constables participated in:

- Bait Car Deployments
- Crime Watch
- Home Security Checks

- Pathways Clubhouse Outreach
- School Sports Events
- Steveston Santa Parade

#### Block Watch

At the end of December 2018, the Block Watch program had 455 groups totaling 10,447 participants. Currently, the program includes 552 captains and co-captains.<sup>3</sup>

#### 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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The variance from previous months' data is due to an ongoing database upgrade. Revised numbers will continue to reflect more accurate participation data.

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. All three stations were closed from December 22, 2018 to January 2, 2019 for the winter break.

During the month of December volunteer highlights included:

- The deployment of 22 foot/van patrols totalling 192 hours.
- 26 Fail to Stop deployments took place, which resulted in 783 warning letters.
- Speed Watch was conducted on 3,363 vehicles at various locations.
- December 13 South Arm Community Police Station hosted a bike registry and registered 59 bicycles. At this event, the City of Richmond's U Bikes were also registered. U Bike is a bike share program operated through the City.
- December 19 Four volunteers participated in the School Sports event held at General Currie Elementary school.

#### Distracted Drivers

Figure 3 provides a yearly comparison of the number of letters sent to registered vehicle owners.<sup>4</sup>

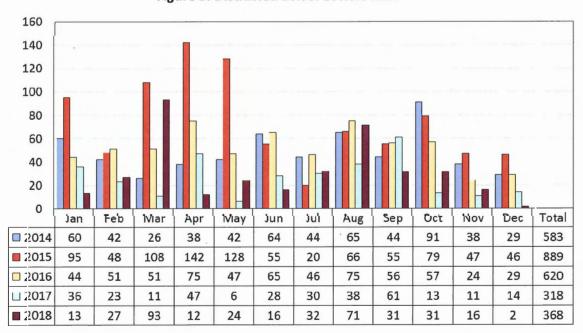


Figure 3: Distracted Driver Letters Sent

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The total for March 2018 includes 92 warning letters sent as a result of the multiple Distracted Driving Campaign Blitzes which occurred that month.

#### Lock-Out Auto Crime

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

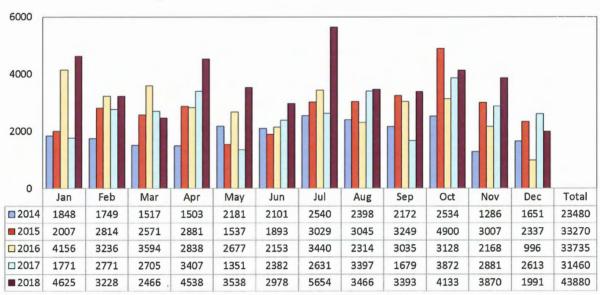


Figure 4: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice

# Speed Watch

Figure 5 provides a yearly comparison of the number of letters sent to registered vehicle owners.

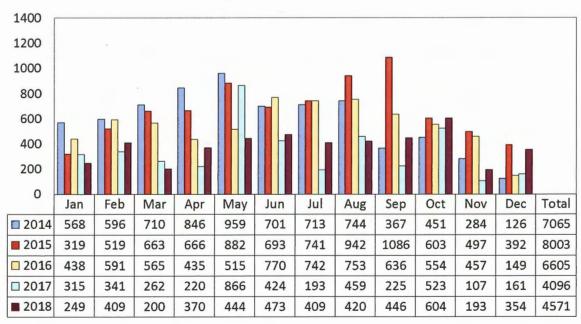


Figure 5: Speed Watch Letters Sent

# Crime Prevention Unit

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

- Broodmoor Patrols
- Break and Enter Outreach
- Crime Prevention through Environmental Design

- Hot Spot Patrols
- School Sports Events
- 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 2018 data to both October 2018 and November 2018.

Violation Tickets were issued for the following infractions:

Table 1: Violation Tickets Issued

Infraction	October 2018	November 2018	December 2018	
Distracted Driving	43	53	38	
Driver License	196	205	234	
Impaired	22	38	38	
Intersection offences	132	116	98	
Moving Violations <sup>5</sup>	201	151	222	
Speeding	275	264	235	
Seatbelts	10	8	17	
Vehicle Related <sup>6</sup>	65	57	89	
Other <sup>7</sup>	19	9	22	
Total	963	901	993	

# Parking Tickets:

Table 2: Parking Tickets Issued

Name	Act	Example	Oct 2018	Nov 2018	Dec 2018
Parking	Municipal Bylaw	Municipal parking offences	9	31	0

#### Victim Services

In December 2018, Richmond RCMP Victim Services attended to 63 new clients and attended 11 crime/trauma scenes after hours. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 171

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Moving violations refers to unsafe lane change and unsafe passing.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Vehicle related refers to vehicle defects, for example no lights and no insurance.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Other refers to miscellaneous charges including fail to remain at the scene of an accident and failing to stop for police.

ongoing files. Victim Services responded to a number of cases involving property crime, robberies, violent crime and family conflict.

# 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:

- Richmond Detachment hosted the Youth Squad graduation on December 6, 2018. This
  year's graduating group included 40 students from 10 schools. Youth Squad is a 10-week
  program aimed at grade 11 and 12 students who are interested in a career in law
  enforcement. Students, school trustees and RCMP members attended this event hosted by
  the Detachment's Youth Section.
- The Youth Section hosted internet safety talks at Manoah Steeves Elementary School
  discussing the benefits and dangers associated to various electronic devices and social
  media platforms, cyber bullying and criminal offences related to the internet. Presenters
  cautioned students regarding posting too much personal information online and
  encouraged the safe use of platforms and devices.

# **Financial Impact**

None.

#### Conclusion

The Officer in Charge, Richmond Detachment continues to ensure Richmond remains a safe and desirable community.

Edward Warzel

Manager, RCMP Administration

(604-207-4767)

EW: mf

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 <a href="www.richmond.ca/safety/police/prevention/auxiliary.htm">www.richmond.ca/safety/police/prevention/auxiliary.htm</a>

#### 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: <a href="mailto:blockwatch@richmond.ca">blockwatch@richmond.ca</a>
- For more information, visit www.richmond.ca/safety/police/prevention/blockwatch.htm

#### Difference Maker Project

• The Difference Maker Project is an off-shoot of the School Sports Programs. Elementary school students are mentored by teachers, police officers and community ambassadors. This activity aims to encourage social and civic responsibility amongst elementary and secondary school aged youth through community projects.

#### 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 2018 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. For 2017, some inclusion criteria have been modified to improve accuracy and accommodate RCMP scoring regulations. For more information, contact Richmond Crime Analysts.

The Average Range data is based on activity in a single month over the past 5 years. If the current monthly total for an offence is above the expected average range (using a standard deviation), it will be noted in red, while below expected numbers will be noted in blue.

Year-to-Date percentage increases of more than 10% are marked in red, while decreases of more than 10% are blue.

	Month	5-Yr Avg	5-Yr Range	Year to Date Totals			
	Dec-18	December		2017	2018	% Change	# Change
VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	136	96.8	89-104	1370	1369	0%	-1
Robbery UCR 1610 (1-3)	7	9.0	2-16	60	60	0%	0
Assault Common	52	36.4	31-41	477	506	6%	29
Assault Serious UCR 1410, 1420	7	10.2	7-13	157	126	-20%	-31
Sexual Offences UCR 1345, 1330, 1356, 1310	12	7.4	5-10	113	142	26%	29
PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	737	669.2	593-745	7751	7728	0%	-23
Business B&E	46	38.6	30-47	395	379	-4%	-16
Residential B&E	101	76.8	35-119	653	814	25%	161
<b>Auto Theft</b> UCR 2135 (1-10), 2178	37	29.2	23-35	328	321	-2%	-7
Theft from Auto	192	208.0	178-238	2193	2224	1%	31
Theft UCR 2130, 2140	100	98.6	83-115	1080	1045	-3%	-35
Shoplifting UCR 2133, 2143	46	58.8	54-64	654	711	9%	57
Fraud UCR 2160 (all), 2165, 2166	77	56.8	47-66	868	876	1%	8
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	176	175.0	147-203	2056	2151	5%	95
Arson UCR 1629, 2110	4	3.8	2-6	34	35	3%	1
SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	1049	941.0	840-1042	11177	11248	1%	71
<b>DRUGS</b> (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	29	48.0	38-58	690	568	-18%	-122
MHA RELATED CALLS (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	145	120.8	109-132	1448	1541	6%	93

Prepared by Richmond RCMP Crime Analysts.

Data collected from PRIME on 2019-01-04. Published 2019-01-04.

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