



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** May 14, 2025

From: Dave Chauhan **File:** 09-5350-01/2025-Vol
Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge 01

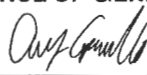

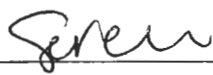
Re: RCMP Monthly Activity Report – April 2025

Staff Recommendation

That the report titled “RCMP Monthly Activity Report – April 2025”, dated May 14, 2025, from the Officer in Charge, be received for information.

For, Dave Chauhan
Chief 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. Block Watch
5. Communications Unit
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 2022-2026 Focus Area #3: A Safe and Prepared Community:

Community safety and preparedness through effective planning, strategic partnerships and proactive programs.

Analysis

Activities and Noteworthy Files

Auto Crime Awareness

The Richmond RCMP highlighted Auto Crime Enforcement Month in April by providing residents with prevention tips for securing their vehicles and protecting valuables from theft. As part of this province-wide initiative, the Richmond RCMP increased community engagement and patrols, with a focus on reducing auto thefts and theft from vehicles, including increased Lock Out Auto Crime deployments.

Constable Jimmy Ng Street Naming

On April 10, 2025, the Richmond RCMP hosted the official unveiling of two streets named in honour of Constable Jimmy Ng, who was killed in the line of duty while serving the City of Richmond on September 15, 2002. The event was attended by numerous RCMP colleagues and troopmates of Constable Ng, as well as government representatives.



Figure 1: Cst. Jimmy Ng Street Signs

Theft in Progress

On April 4, 2025, two Richmond RCMP officers on patrol responded to a report of a retail theft in progress. The two male suspects fled the business; however, police were able to apprehend one of the suspects. The second suspect was later identified, and both men have been charged with multiple offences. Over \$7,400 in stolen merchandise was recovered.

E-Scooter Safety

On April 12 and 13, 2025, Richmond RCMP officers conducted an e-scooter enforcement operation, stopping 27 individuals for riding e-scooters or bicycles on the sidewalk. Police issued written warnings for 13 offences and laid 17 charges for riding on the sidewalk, as well as five charges for failing to wear a helmet. On April 17, 2025, the Richmond RCMP issued a public reminder that e-scooters and bicycles are not permitted to operate on sidewalks.

Attempted Kidnapping

On April 28, 2025, the Richmond RCMP responded to a report of an attempted kidnapping. The victim was in the 4300 block of No. 3 Road when she was approached by three men, one of whom was wearing an item with police markings and carrying a portable radio. The victim was able to break free following a struggle. The suspects fled in a vehicle, which was located on fire in the 13000 block of Vulcan Way several hours later. The incident is under investigation.

Analysis of Police Statistics¹

Arson

There were seven reported arsons in April 2025, which is up four incidents from the previous month. Year to date, arsons are down 25 per cent compared to the same period in 2024.²

Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)

There were 19 serious assaults in April 2025, representing a 73 per cent increase from the previous month. Year to date, the number of serious assaults is down nine per cent from the same period in 2024. The number of serious assaults this month is within the average range.

There were two unprovoked stranger assaults this month. A suspect has been identified in one of the incidents; both assaults remain under investigation. Forty-two per cent of serious assaults reported in April 2025 were domestic incidents.

¹ Unless otherwise noted, no patterns or trends have been identified in this month's statistics.

² In January 2024, a new Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR) code was introduced for intentionally set fires that do not meet the *Criminal Code* definition of Arson. This new UCR code prevents comparison to multi-year arson counts and averages.

Auto Theft

There were 20 auto thefts in April 2025, representing a 67 per cent increase from the previous month. Year to date, auto thefts are down 23 per cent compared to the same period in 2024. The number of auto thefts this month is within the average range.

Mental Health

There were 272 mental health-related incidents in April 2025, representing a three per cent increase from the previous month. Year to date, mental health-related incidents are up 12 per cent compared to the same period in 2024. The number of mental health-related incidents this month is above the average range.

There were 48 police apprehensions in April 2025, and the average hospital wait time was 97 minutes; both statistics are below average. Twenty-four individuals were responsible for two or more calls in April, with one caller generating 34 incidents.

Residential Break and Enter

There were 10 break and enters to residences in April 2025, representing a 41 per cent decrease from the previous month. Year to date, residential break and enters are down 35 per cent compared to the same period in 2024. The number of residential break and enters this month is below the average range.

Commercial Break and Enter

In April 2025, there were 20 break and enters to businesses, which is a 33 per cent increase from the previous month. Year to date, commercial break and enters are up 18 per cent compared to the same period in 2024. The number of commercial break and enters this month is within the average range.

Robbery

There were 10 robberies reported in April 2025, which is an increase of three incidents from the previous month. Year to date, robberies are down 19 per cent compared to the same period in 2024. The number of robberies this month is above the average range.

None of the incidents reported this month involved the use of a weapon. One robbery involved the assault of a security guard at a retail location.

Sexual Offences

In April 2025, there were 17 sexual offence files, representing an 11 per cent decrease from the previous month. Year to date, sexual offences are down five per cent compared to the same period in 2024. The number of sexual offences this month is within the average range.

Seventy-one per cent of the offences reported in April 2025 were sexual assaults.

Shoplifting

There were 125 reported shoplifting thefts in April 2025, which is a seven per cent decrease from the previous month. Year to date, shoplifting thefts are down 25 per cent compared to the same period in 2024. The number of shoplifting thefts this month is within the average range.

Theft from Automobile

There were 76 thefts from automobiles in April 2025, which is a six per cent increase from the previous month. Year to date, thefts from automobiles are down five per cent compared to the same period in 2024. The number of thefts from automobiles is below the average range.

Drugs

In April 2025, there were 19 drug offences, which is a 32 per cent decrease from the previous month. Year to date, drug offences are up 52 per cent compared to the same period in 2024. The number of drug incidents this month is below the average range.

Drug-Related "Social Disorder" Calls

Public complaints related to drug use fall under call categories such as nuisance, cause disturbance, mischief, unwanted person, suspicious person, and check well-being. Table 1 presents the number of police calls for service related to a public complaint of suspected drug use.

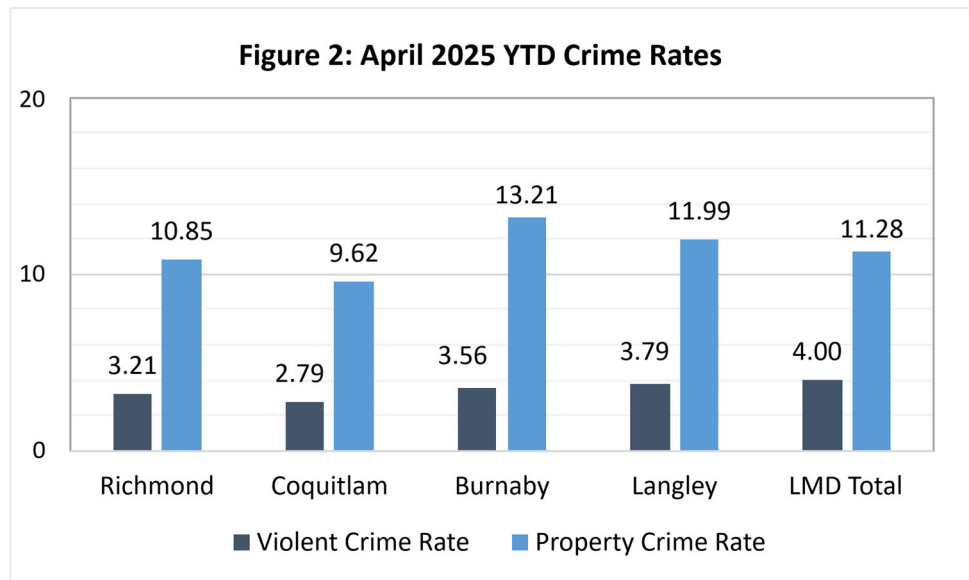
Table 1: Drug-Related Calls for Service

Month	Total Number of Drug-Related Calls	Suspected	Confirmed
January	71	42	29
February	38	23	15
March	49	31	18
April	58	41	17

Confirmed incidents refer to files where direct observation of drug use or apparent signs of intoxication is noted. Most calls involved incidents where drug use was suspected, including reports of unwanted persons who were possibly under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions

Figure 2 presents crime rates in April 2025 for the four largest municipalities in the Lower Mainland District (LMD), which are policed by the RCMP.³ The property and violent crime rates in Richmond were below the LMD average.



Block Watch

At the end of April 2025, the Block Watch program had 301 groups, totalling 6,724 participants. Currently, the program includes 423 captains and co-captains. On April 1, the Second Quarter Crime Prevention Newsletter was published. On April 2, 2025, Block Watch staff delivered training to 13 participants in a new group, covering topics such as how to spot suspicious activity and target hardening.

Communications Unit

The Communications Unit provides public safety and crime prevention messaging to enhance community awareness of various policing-related issues. During April, the Communications Unit conducted the following:

- An education campaign for Auto Crime Enforcement Month was launched, including media releases and social media posts featuring prevention information for auto thefts and thefts from vehicles.
- 15 media releases were issued, including three related to missing persons.
- 50 social media posts were made on X, including road safety messaging about traffic enforcement and distracted driving.
- The Richmond RCMP partnered with E-Comm 9-1-1 to produce a video aimed at raising awareness of the 9-1-1 call-taking process.

³ Based on PRIME query by Richmond Crime Analysis Unit on May 6, 2025

Community Police Office Programs

Community police offices continue to enhance the Richmond Detachment's policing services by providing various crime prevention resources and community safety initiatives. City staff and volunteers pursue safety initiatives to improve crime prevention program awareness, community engagement and police accessibility. These initiatives help reduce anxiety and fear related to crime. The program activities vary from month to month, reflecting weather conditions, seasonal initiatives and the availability of volunteers.

During April, volunteer highlights included:

- The deployment of two bike patrols, totalling 35 hours.
- A total of 11 Fail to Stop deployments took place, resulting in 367 information letters issued.
- There were 60 Lock Out Auto Crime deployments, resulting in 1,748 information letters issued.
- During daily deployments in April, volunteers distributed e-scooter safety cards highlighting rules, regulations, and precautions pertaining to the safe use of e-scooters and e-bikes.
- Speed Watch was conducted on 2,118 vehicles, resulting in 14 information letters issued.
- April 5 – 13, volunteers participated in the first Crime Watch “restart” shift since 2020. Crime Watch volunteers serve in an “observe and report” capacity while on patrol.
- April 6 – Volunteers attended the Cherry Blossom Festival in Steveston and conducted outreach for Auto Crime Enforcement month.
- April 10 – Volunteers assisted with the Constable Jimmy Ng sign ceremony, including setup and takedown of chairs and tents, logistics, and audio.
- April 11 – New volunteers received Speed Watch training, which included an overview of the program, equipment, and safe deployment procedures.
- April 26 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a catalytic converter etching event at the Canadian Tire in Ironwood Plaza.
- April 30 – 41 volunteers attended the “Volunteer Make Waves” appreciation event, held during National Volunteer Week. In 2024, 86 Richmond RCMP volunteers contributed 5,256 hours of service to the community, participating in over 16,500 community contacts across 782 shifts.



Figure 2: Speed Watch Training

Crime Prevention Unit

The Crime Prevention Unit reduces crime and enhances community engagement through public awareness and education initiatives. During April, the Crime Prevention Unit participated in various activities, including diversity and inclusion initiatives, road safety deployments and the following events:

- A total of 146 Place of Worship patrols were conducted.
- On April 16, 2025, Richmond RCMP officers provided a personal safety presentation to staff at the Minoru Centre for Active Living.
- On April 26, 2025, the Richmond RCMP hosted a free catalytic converter etching event at the Canadian Tire in Ironwood. This event allowed the public to attend on a first-come, first-served basis, without the need to book an appointment. A total of 56 vehicles were etched at the event.



Figure 4: Catalytic Converter Theft Awareness

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. A total of 791 violation tickets were issued in April 2025. Figure 5 provides statistics for the top five infractions for which violation tickets were issued in April:

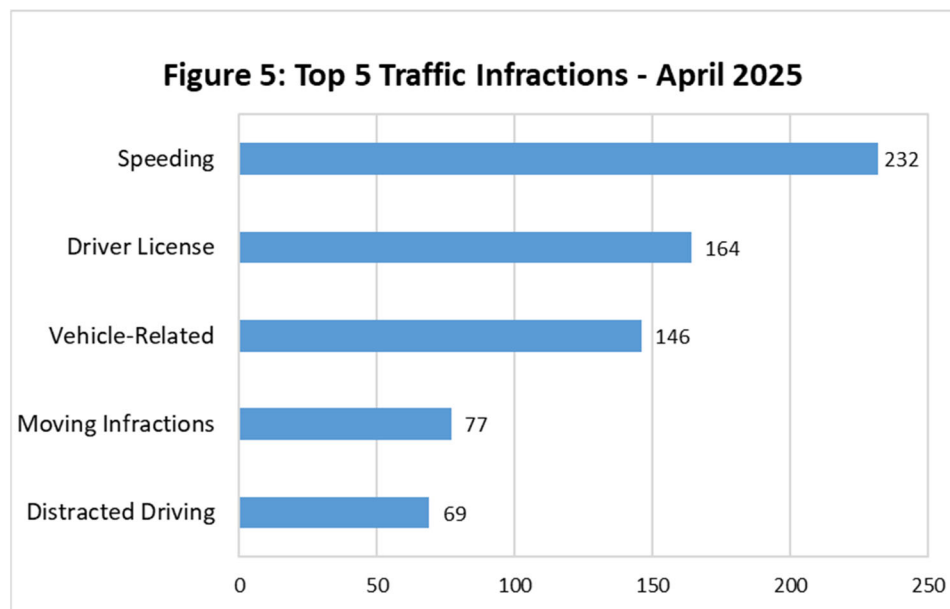


Table 2 presents the number of motor vehicle collisions involving injuries and fatalities reported between January 1, 2021, and April 30, 2025.

Table 2 – Motor Vehicle Collisions		
Year	Collisions with Non-Fatal Injuries	Fatalities
2021 ⁴	355	4
2022	406	1
2023	436	3
2024 ⁵	455	2
2025 (YTD)	133	0

Victim Services

In April 2025, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 79 new clients and attended five crime/trauma scenes after hours. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 91 files. In April, Victim Services responded to several cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, mental health-related issues, and witnesses to the Lapu Lapu mass casualty event in Vancouver.

Youth Section

The Richmond RCMP Detachment's Youth Section focuses on strategies which contribute to safe and healthy behaviours essential to developing productive and civic-minded adults. During April, Youth Section highlights included:

- RCMP officers in the Youth Section conducted 78 proactive school visits at secondary schools and 141 visits at elementary schools. Police officers engaged with students during recess, lunch and morning and afternoon supervision.
- DARE classes launched for the third term of the 2024-2025 school year. A total of 495 students in 17 classes participated in the program.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

In April 2025, the Richmond RCMP conducted several notable investigations, including an attempted kidnapping and a theft in progress. Police statistics for this month indicate that most crime types were within the average range, except for residential break and enters, drug offences, and thefts from vehicles, which were below average. Robberies and mental-health-related incidents were elevated.

⁴ Motor Vehicle collisions decreased during the pandemic due to changes in behaviour patterns and fewer vehicles on the roads.

⁵ The last fatal collision occurred on October 12, 2024.

In April, the Richmond RCMP and volunteers continued to promote crime prevention and road safety initiatives, including auto crime awareness. The Officer in Charge of the Richmond RCMP Detachment will continue to ensure that Richmond remains a safe and desirable community.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Warzel".

Edward Warzel
Director, Police Services
(604-207-4767)

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

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.

Spot the Target

- This initiative consists of frequently stolen items being placed in the volunteer van for participants to identify in order to enhance awareness of thefts from automobiles.

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 2025 STATISTICS - RICHMOND RCMP

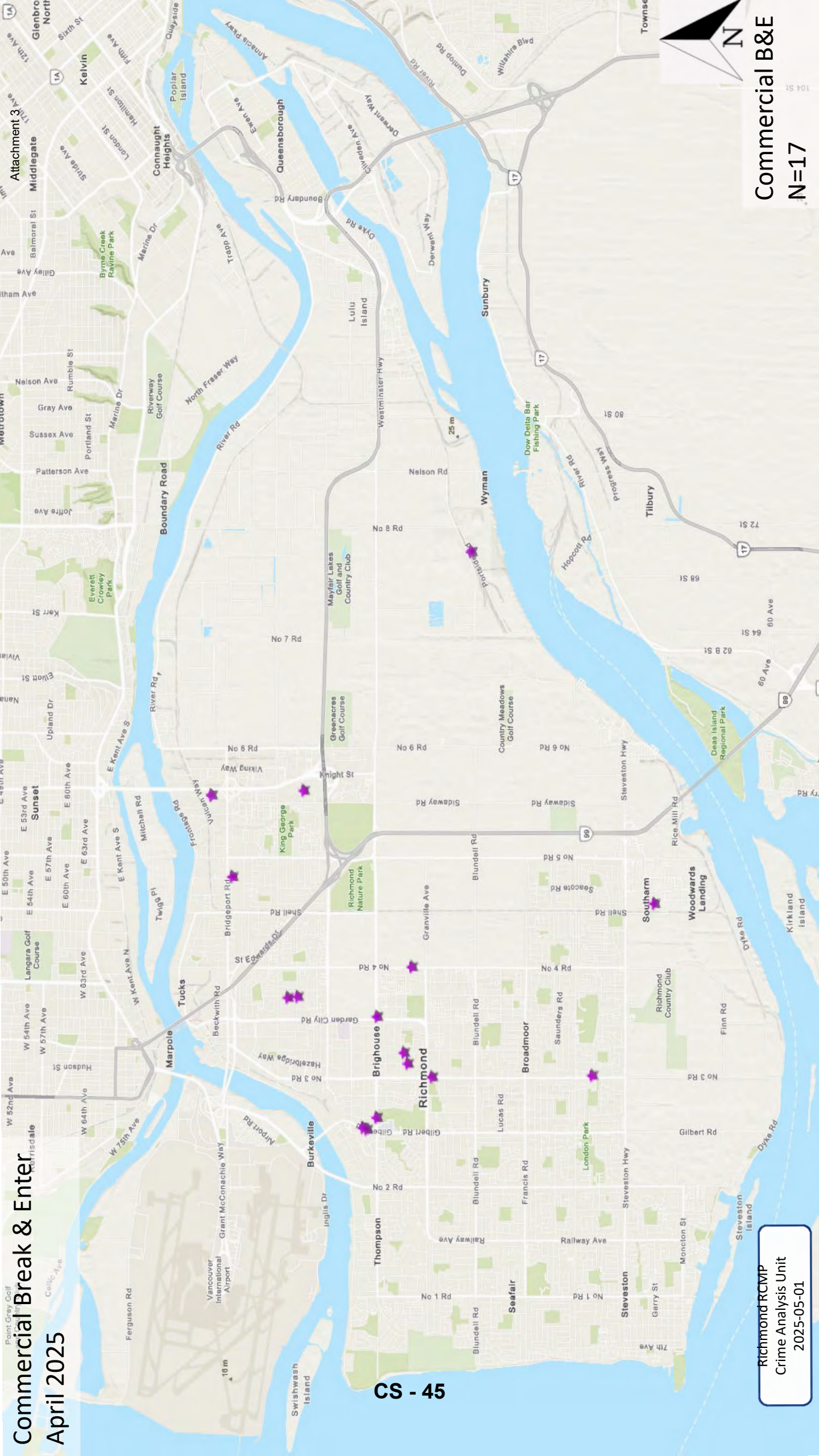
The following information is a limited list of select crime-type samples, which does not comprise the entirety or assortment of all crimes captured by the RCMP. The statistics in this chart should be considered independently of the analysis provided as the data is unrelated to the research provided earlier in this report.

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.

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

	Month	5-Yr Avg	5-Yr Range	Year to Date Totals			
	Apr - 25	April		2024	2025	% Change	# Change
VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	183	136.8	123-150	625	694	11%	69
Robbery UCR 1610 (1-3)	10	3.2	2-4	27	22	-19%	-5
Assault Common UCR 1430	58	44.0	35-53	197	241	22%	44
Assault Serious UCR 1410, 1420	19	16.4	14-19	67	61	-9%	-6
Sexual Offences UCR 1345, 1330, 1356, 1310, 3450/55/56	17	17.2	14-20	77	73	-5%	-4
PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	609	574.8	482-668	2488	2370	-5%	-118
Business B&E UCR 2120-1	20	23.2	17-30	65	77	18%	12
Residential B&E UCR 2120-2	10	28.4	22-35	103	67	-35%	-36
Auto Theft UCR 2135 (1-10), 2178	20	19.8	14-26	83	64	-23%	-19
Theft from Auto UCR 2132, 2142	76	112.6	84-141	279	264	-5%	-15
Theft UCR 2130, 2140	105	88.6	50-127	438	477	9%	39
Shoplifting UCR 2133, 2143	125	88.2	38-139	626	469	-25%	-157
Fraud UCR 2160 (all), 2165, 2166	89	80.8	58-104	400	400	0%	0
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	287	230.0	182-278	1144	1122	-2%	-22
Arson UCR 1629, 2110	7	8.8	6-12	20	15	-25%	-5
Cause Disturbance UCR 3430	211	166.8	139-195	856	818	-4%	-38
Collisions - all	143	116.8	81-152	673	648	-4%	-25
SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	1079	947.0	798-1096	4301	4186	-3%	-115
DRUGS (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	19	37.0	20-54	65	99	52%	34
MHA RELATED CALLS (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	272	226.0	207-245	938	1049	12%	111

Prepared by Richmond RCMP CAU. Data collected from PRIME on 2025-05-06. Published 2025-05-07. Data 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). 2024 YTD counts are based on the Month End reports on the date of original collection period (2024 data is not re-run)

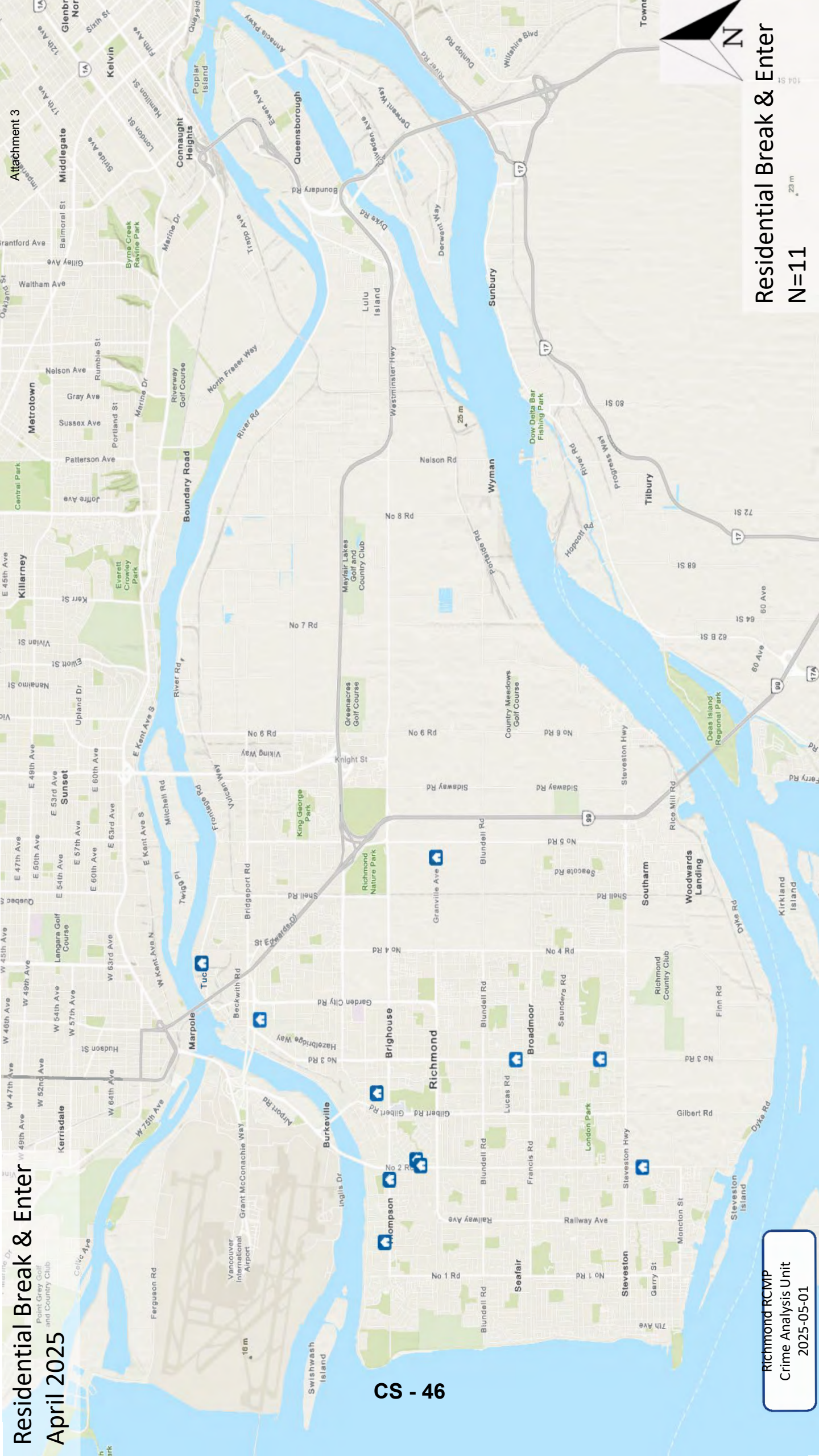


Commercial Break & Enter
April 2025

CS - 45

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2025-05-01

Commercial B&E
N=17



CS - 46

Residential Break & Enter
N=11

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2025-05-01

Auto Theft
March 2025

Attachment 3

CS - 47

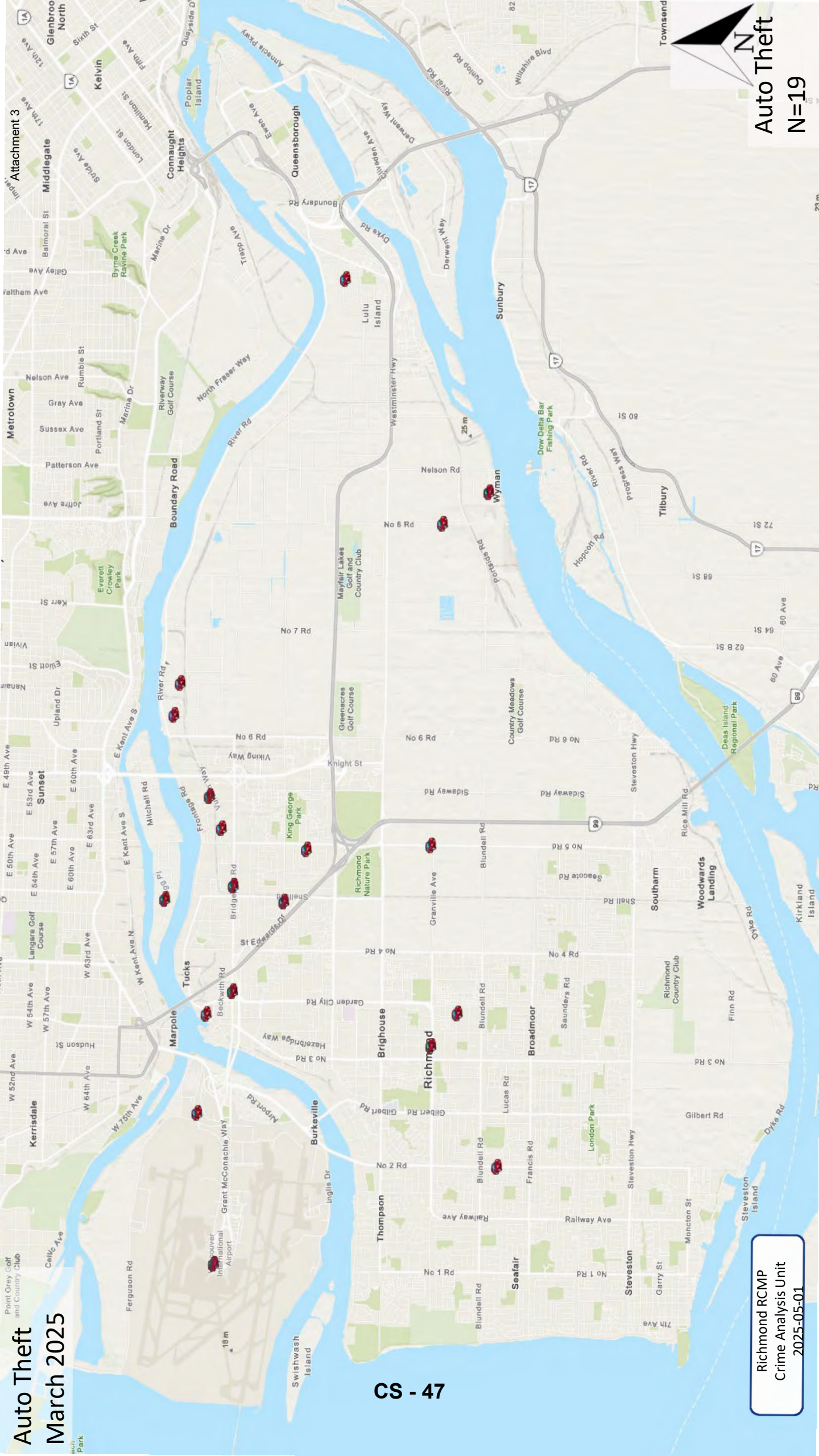
Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2025-05-01



N

Auto Theft

N=19

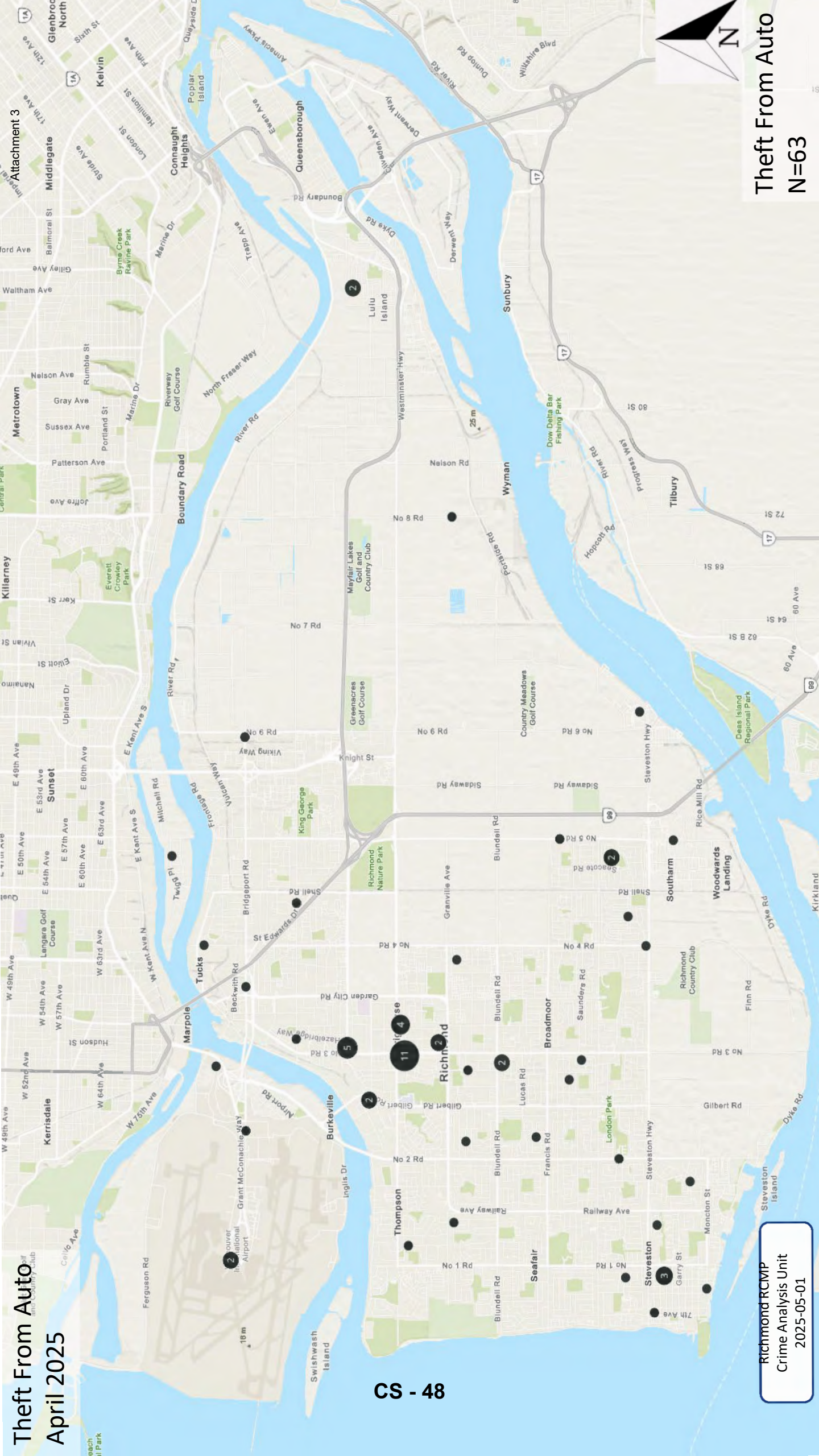


Theft From Auto

April 2025

CS - 48

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2025-05-01



Theft From Auto
N=63

CRIME PREVENTION

WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME

NEWSLETTER

Canada Revenue Agency or an Imposter?

In some cases, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) will contact you for legitimate concerns or questions. They may call you by phone, email, or send a letter to verify information and notify you of any changes to your tax information. CRA will only text you if you enrolled in multi-factor authentication. However, legitimate communications are sometimes mistaken for scams because people are unsure whether the information they received is a scam or a legitimate communication. This confusion adds stress during tax season as scammers pretend to be the CRA in order to trick people into giving away their financial and personal information.



An example of a scam could be the following: You receive a phone call with the caller ID showing it's CRA. The caller demands immediate payment or you will be arrested by the police. They transfer you to an "officer" who instructs you to purchase cryptocurrency. If you refuse, you will be arrested. The scammer aims to pressure and confuse you. Stay calm, watch for red flags, and hang up.

- **Receiving an email asking you to enter your personal info or make a payment through a link** – CRA will not send an email with a link asking you to enter personal or financial information. The email will not come from a generic email domain or ask you to reply. CRA will only send you emails if you registered for email notifications and have a new message to view in your CRA online account, or if you requested the CRA agent to send you something during a meeting or call.
- **Government messages through social media or text message** – The CRA will never use social media or third-party apps, to contact you. They will only send you a text message if you enrolled in multi-factor authentication for the purpose of logging in.
- **Demanding payment through e-transfers, prepaid gift cards, or cryptocurrencies** – Legitimate government agencies will not demand or use unconventional payment options. In most fraud cases, scammers ask for these types of payments because they are difficult to track and recover.
- **Threats to arrest, deport, or imprisonment** – Scammers use threatening language to scare you into not thinking clearly. They may threaten you if they are not paid immediately. Do not give in to their demands and hang up. Verify the caller is from the CRA by using their online tool or calling them yourself after verifying the phone number. Do not return the call from the number on your caller ID, as the phone number could be spoofed. You can contact the CRA by calling 1-800-959-8281 as an individual or 1-800-959-5525 as a business.

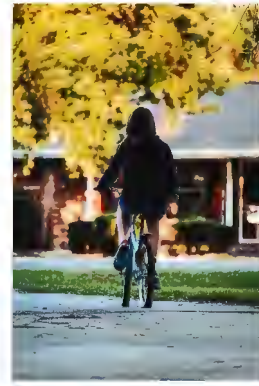
Reporting a Potential Scam

Report the scam if you have been a victim of fraud or if a scammer has tricked you into giving away personal or financial information. Report this to your local police, the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre, your financial institution, and credit reporting agencies such as Equifax and TransUnion.

CITY OF RICHMOND CRIME PREVENTION NEWSLETTER

Knowing your Baseline

Last year, in our newsletter, we wrote about starting a New Year's goal to learn about your neighbourhood baseline. Have you built an understanding of your neighbourhood? To review, a baseline is defined as a starting point used for comparisons. Everyone's baseline will be different, depending on the details of the area they live. Simply paying attention will help you notice the norms in your community. Strengthening your baseline can increase your situational awareness and help prevent future crimes.



What You Know vs What You See

If something happens in your neighbourhood, your baseline can come in handy because it helps you determine if what you see is suspicious or normal. Imagine this scenario: your neighbour and his wife are going on a trip for the long weekend. He informs you they are taking their white SUV with them and asks you to watch over their home. While they are away, you notice a black truck parked in their driveway. Someone is seen moving a TV from the house to the truck. You know that something is wrong in this situation because the facts don't match your baseline. In fact, calling 911 would be the appropriate response, as a break-in is probably happening in this example.

An effective way to build your baseline is to join a Block Watch group. Block Watch is a crime prevention program designed to bring neighbours together for the common goal of crime prevention. Neighbours make a commitment to help one another and be the eyes and ears of the neighbourhood. Your neighbourhood baseline can evolve every year as neighbours move in and out. Thus, it is important to keep yourself informed through observations and connections within a Block Watch group. With knowledge of your neighbourhood and a connection with your community, you can make a better judgement about what you see.

If You See Something Suspicious, Say Something!

When you see suspicious activity or a crime, report it! Never assume someone else will call the police. You may have seen details that others missed, or you may be the only one who witnessed the situation. Reporting also shows potential thieves that there are watchful eyes in the neighbourhood.

To report suspicious activity in Richmond, call 604-278-1212. Ensure that you are in a safe place and pay attention to the details that help you answer the **4 Ws** (who, what, when, and where). These details will help the call taker gather accurate information about the person, vehicle, or event to pass on to the police. In some cases, a suspicious activity can escalate into a crime. If you believe a crime is about to happen or someone's health, safety, or property is in jeopardy, please call 911. For example, suspicious activity might involve someone looking into vehicles on your street, warranting a call to the non-emergency line. However, if the person starts trying each door handle, it could suggest they are attempting a break-in, which would escalate the call to 911.



Spring Into Crime Prevention Action

As the weather gets warmer, people will be out more often to enjoy the sunshine. Take steps to ensure that your spring is crime-free.

Your Home – Trim back trees and bushes around your windows and doors. Large trees and bushes can block the view from the outside, providing concealment for thieves. After working in your yard, remember to put your tools away inside so they cannot be used to break into your home. Lastly, close and lock all windows and doors before leaving the house, even those on the second floor.



Long Weekends or Vacation Plans – Plan ahead. Ask a trusted person to pick up your mail or have it held by Canada Post. Make sure all electronic crime prevention tools are working properly, such as alarms, cameras, timers, and lights so you can monitor your home while you are away.

Personal Belongings – Carry only essential items and keep them with you at all times. If you need to put something aside, such as a bag or sporting equipment, ask a trusted individual to watch over them while you are busy. Plan ahead and put items in the trunk of your car before heading to your destination.

To Start a Block Watch Group

Interested in starting a Block Watch group? Let us tell you a little about Block Watch! Block Watch is a program that brings the police and the community together. This program helps you build connections and relationships with people in your neighbourhood and the police while striving for the common goal of crime prevention.

Select a Captain/Co-Captain

- ◇ Each Captain/Co-Captain has to submit an application and will be contacted for a suitability interview. Candidates will then need to complete a free Police Information Check.

Recruit and build your group

- ◇ Upon confirmation from the Block Watch office on completing and passing all required steps in becoming a Captain/Co-Captain, you may begin to recruit homes that are near to you with the provided recruiting materials from the Block Watch office. To build an effective Block Watch, try to involve 50-75% of households in your area.

Complete activation of your team

1. **Complete** Block Watch Captain/Participant training – invite everyone in your group to participate in a virtual/in-person training session.
2. **Submit** your participating household list.
3. **Qualify** for Block Watch street signs once the above steps are completed.

If you are interested in creating a Block Watch group in your area, email us your name and address at blockwatch@richmond.ca or call 604-207-4829.

BUSINESS LINK

WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME

NEWSLETTER

Theft From Auto for Commercial Vehicles

Business vehicles are prime targets for thieves, especially when left unattended with valuable tools, equipment or merchandise inside. Theft can result in financial loss and operational delays. Whether you have a fleet or a single vehicle, it is important to educate employees on how to prevent auto theft. Commercial vehicles are targeted for their valuable tools, electronics, and work gear. Moreover, employee habits can create opportunities for theft. For example, a common habit is leaving the keys in the vehicle or keeping the vehicle unlocked, which allow others with easy access. This practice presents a prime opportunity for thieves to gain entry because the vehicle is unlocked. Businesses can prevent theft from vehicles by educating staff on the following:



- **Lock it up** – Teach employees to lock their unsupervised vehicle during work and after hours. Locking the vehicle prevents opportunistic thieves who are looking for a quick theft.
- **Remove keys** – Remove keys from the ignition whenever you leave the vehicle, even for a short time. A common trend is leaving keys in unlocked vehicles at the end of the day, which gives thieves an opportunity to steal items or, in some cases, the vehicle itself. Keep all spare keys in a secure location inside the business.
- **Record identifiers** – Mark tools and equipment with unique identifiers. Write down serial numbers to keep a record of equipment. Serial numbers and identifiers can help police recover and return stolen items by tracing them back to your business.

To conclude, proper training and guidelines can remove conveniences that cause opportunistic crimes. Remind employees of the tips above to significantly decrease the likelihood of theft from auto.

Please report all suspicious or criminal activity to the police.

Richmond RCMP Non-Emergency line **604-278-1212**. If you witness a crime in progress, dial **9-1-1**.

Online reporting available at bc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/richmond/report for the following:

- Damage/mischief to property under \$5,000
- Damage/mischief to a vehicle under \$5,000
- Hit and run to an unoccupied vehicle or property
- Theft of bicycle under \$5,000
- Theft under \$5,000
- Theft from vehicle under \$5,000
- Lost property

