



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

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**To:** Community Safety Committee **Date:** May 10, 2024  
**From:** Dave Chauhan **File:** 09-5000-01/2024-Vol  
Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge 01  
**Re:** RCMP Monthly Activity Report – April 2024

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### Recommendation from the Officer in Charge

That the report titled “RCMP Monthly Activity Report – April 2024”, dated May 10, 2024, from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment, be received for information.

Dave Chauhan  
Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge  
(604-278-1212)

Att. 3

<b>REPORT CONCURRENCE</b>	
<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>	
<b>SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b> 
<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b>	

## 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. Community Police Station Programs
6. Crime Prevention Unit
7. Road Safety Unit
8. Victim Services
9. 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

##### *Retail Theft Program*

On April 3, 2024, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release highlighting recent crime reduction efforts by the Property Crime Unit to combat retail theft, which has been identified as an increasing trend. Of note, Boost and Bust operations were conducted on March 9 and 21, 2024, resulting in 19 arrests and the recovery of over \$7,000 in stolen goods.

##### *Volunteer Week*

Between April 14 and 20, 2024, the Richmond RCMP recognized the valuable contributions of its 131 volunteers, who contributed over 5,300 hours to community safety initiatives in 2023. Volunteers participated in 701 community events and outreach activities, including Bike, Van and Foot Patrols, Car Seat Safety Clinics, Lock Out Auto Crime, Speed Watch, Distracted Driving and Pedestrian Safety events.



Figure 1: Richmond Volunteers

### *Fraud*

Between March 1, 2024, and April 8, 2024, the Richmond RCMP received seven reports of fraudsters posing as Chinese police or government officials. In four instances, victims sent money and lost a combined amount of over \$1.1 million. On April 19, 2024, a media release was issued warning of the trend and fraud prevention information was provided.

### *Weapons Seizure*

On April 24, 2024, Richmond RCMP received a report of a man in possession of firearms in a hotel in the 3000 block of St. Edwards Drive. With the assistance of the Lower Mainland Integrated Emergency Response Team, Richmond RCMP officers arrested the man without incident. A subsequent search warrant yielded the seizure of four assault-style rifles, one loaded handgun, over \$ 2,000 in cash and approximately 800 grams of illicit drugs.

### *Mail Theft Arrests*

Between April 11, 2024, and April 15, 2024, the Richmond RCMP received 12 reports of stolen mail from single-family residences. Police determined the incidents were connected and conducted increased patrols of the targeted area. Property crime investigators identified two suspects and subsequently arrested them. The incidents are under investigation.

### Analysis of Police Statistics

#### *Arson*

In April 2024, there were five reported arsons, which is an increase of three incidents from the previous month. No patterns or trends have been identified.<sup>1</sup>

#### *Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)*

There were 18 serious assault events in April 2024, representing no change from the previous month and a five per cent decrease from April 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of serious assaults this month is within the average range.

Of the incidents reported in April 2024, 39 per cent were domestic assaults.

#### *Auto Theft*

In April 2024, there were 19 auto thefts, representing a 21 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 14 per cent decrease from April 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of auto thefts this month is within the average range.

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<sup>1</sup> In January 2024, a new Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR) code was introduced related to intentionally set fires that do not meet the *Criminal Code* definition of Arson. The new UCR code, 8900-25 Fire – Not Arson, will allow for the more accurate capturing of arson incidents. The introduction of this new UCR code currently prevents comparison to prior year arson counts. Staff will resume reporting trend comparison once sufficient statistically significant data is collected under the new UCR system.

### *Drugs*

In April 2024, there were 17 drug offences, which is a 13 per cent increase from the previous month and a 67 per cent decrease from April 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of drug incidents this month is below the average range.

### *Mental Health*

There were 216 mental health-related incidents in April 2024, representing a 21 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 15 per cent decrease from April 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of mental health-related incidents this month is within the average range.

There were 72 police apprehensions this month, representing a seven per cent decrease from the previous month, and the average hospital wait time decreased by five per cent to 146 minutes. The extended wait time has been attributed to four files with exceptionally long wait times.

### *Residential Break and Enter*

There were 24 break and enters to residences in April 2024, representing a four per cent increase from the previous month and a 26 per cent increase from April 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of residential break and enters this month is within the average range.

### *Commercial Break and Enter*

In April 2024, there were 14 break and enters to businesses, which is a 48 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 26 per cent decrease from April 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of commercial break and enters this month is below the average range.

### *Robbery*

There were five robberies in April 2024, which is a decrease of seven incidents from the previous month and an increase of three incidents from April 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of robberies this month is above the average range.

Two of the robberies reported this month involved a knife. In one of these incidents, the suspect was located and arrested shortly after leaving the scene.

### *Sexual Offences*

In April 2024, there were 16 sexual offence files, representing a 14 per cent increase from the previous month and a 20 per cent decrease from April 2023.<sup>2</sup> No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of sexual offences this month is within the average range.

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<sup>2</sup> The Sexual Offences category comprises a range of offences including: sexual assault, sexual interference, making and distributing child pornography, possessing and accessing child pornography and indecent acts/exposing.

Approximately 31 per cent of the offences reported in April 2024 were indecent acts/exposing and 31 per cent were sexual assaults.

*Shoplifting*

There were 180 reported shoplifting thefts in April 2024, which is a one per cent decrease from the previous month and more than double the number of incidents reported in April 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of shoplifting thefts this month is above the average range.

The top targeted location remained consistent with previous months, and the most frequently stolen items were clothing and accessories.

*Theft from Automobile*

There were 63 thefts from automobiles in April 2024, which is a 15 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 45 per cent decrease from April 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of thefts from automobiles this month is below the average range.

*Hate Crimes and Incidents*

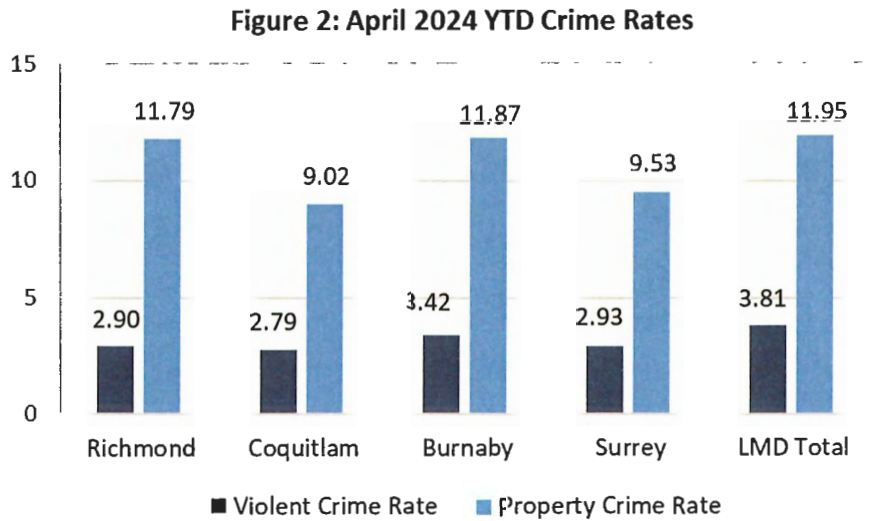
Table 1 presents the number of hate crimes and hate incidents reported between January 1, 2020 and April 30, 2024.<sup>3</sup> A “hate crime” refers to any criminal offence targeting an identifiable group. The criteria for an offence to be considered a hate crime, as per the *Criminal Code*, carries 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. There was one hate incident reported in April 2024, which involved anti-LGBTQS+ comments made by a high school student.

Table 1 – Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents			
Year	Hate Crime Files	Hate Incident Files	Total
2020	21	13	34
2021	21	24	45
2022	8	26	34
2023	6	19	25
2024 (TYD)	0	2	2

<sup>3</sup> The BC Hate Crimes Unit uses the terms hate-motivated crime and hate-motivated incident.

Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions

Figure 1 presents data on crime rates for the four largest municipalities policed by the RCMP in the Lower Mainland District (LMD) for April 2024.<sup>4</sup> The property and violent crime rates in Richmond were below the LMD average. Richmond has been experiencing an increase in some property crime types, including shoplifting, which has contributed to a higher property crime rate. Crime reduction efforts are being conducted and additional targeted enforcement projects are being deployed.



Block Watch

At the end of April 2024, the Block Watch program had 306 groups, totalling 7,082 participants. Currently, the program includes 434 captains and co-captains. This month, Block Watch staff conducted outreach to local businesses, resulting in 30 companies signing up for Business Link.

<sup>4</sup> Based on PRIME query by Richmond Crime Analysis Unit on May 3, 2024

### Community Police Station Programs

Community police stations 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 2024, volunteer highlights included:

- The deployment of one volunteer foot/van patrol, totalling two hours, and four bike patrols, totalling 12 hours.
- A total of 17 Fail to Stop deployments took place, resulting in 538 information letters issued.
- There were 38 Lock Out Auto Crime deployments, resulting in 566 information letters issued.
- Speed Watch was conducted on 4,576 vehicles, resulting in 274 information letters issued.
- April 2 and 11 – Speed Watch training was delivered to volunteers, which included an overview of the program, safety considerations and the equipment used in deployments.
- April 4 –Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with Lock Out Auto Crime deployments in central Richmond and issued 28 information letters.
- April 9 -Volunteers assisted Block Watch and RCMP officers in outreach to businesses in the area of Viking Way and Cambie Road to increase awareness of cheque fraud.
- April 10 –Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a Coffee with a Cop event at the McDonald's on No. 3 Road. Crime prevention resources, including Community Safety App cards, were also distributed.
- April 20 – Volunteers participated in an Earth Day event at the Cambie Community Centre and assisted with a community information booth. They promoted various crime prevention programs, including Block Watch and the Safe Sale Exchange, which helps prevent online marketplace thefts by providing a secure area inside the main detachment for buyers and sellers.
- April 23 – Volunteers participated in a Lock Out Auto Crime Blitz at the Minoru Centre for Active Living, which featured the “Spot the Target” initiative. Crime prevention resources were also provided.

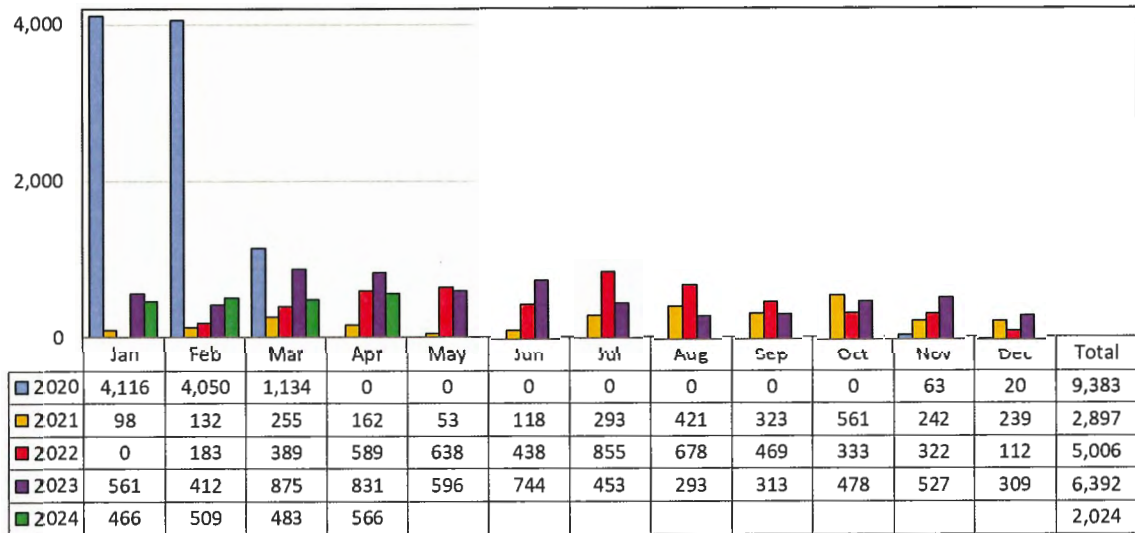


Figure 3: Coffee with a Cop

*Lock Out Auto Crime*

Figure 2 provides a yearly comparison of the number of vehicle notices issued.<sup>5</sup>

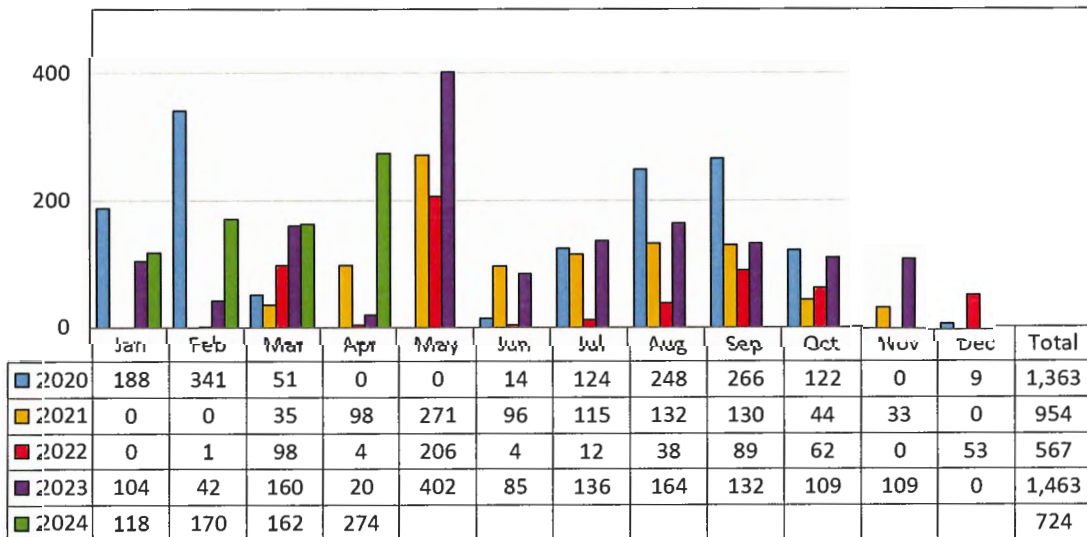
**Figure 4: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice**



*Speed Watch*

Figure 3 compares the number of letters sent to registered vehicle owners yearly.

**Figure 5: Speed Watch Letters Sent**



<sup>5</sup> Beginning in November 2020, Lock Out Auto Crime letters were issued in place of notices. Letters are only issued to vehicles displaying security vulnerabilities; whereas previously, notices were issued to all vehicles. This has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of letters issued.



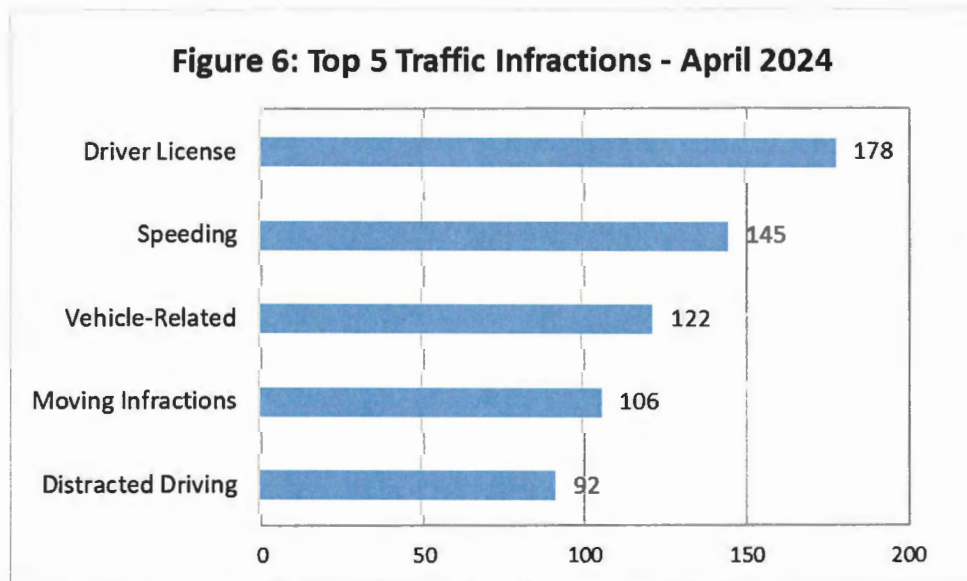
Crime Prevention Unit

The Crime Prevention Unit reduces crime and enhances community engagement through public awareness and education initiatives. During April 2024, the Crime Prevention Unit participated in the following events/activities:

- Business Outreach
- Cheque Fraud Awareness
- Coffee with a Cop
- Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives
- Place of Worship Patrols
- “You Etch It. We Catch It” Program

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 745 violation tickets were issued in April 2024. Figure 4 provides statistics for the top five infractions for which violation tickets were issued in April:



Victim Services

In April 2024, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 74 new clients and attended six crime/trauma scenes after hours. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 105 files. In April 2024, Victim Services responded to several cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, frauds and mental health-related issues.

### Youth Section

The Richmond RCMP Detachment's Youth Section focuses on strategies contributing to safe and healthy behaviours essential to developing productive and civic-minded adults. During April 2024, Youth Section highlights included:

- RCMP officers in the Youth Section conducted 27 proactive school visits at secondary schools and 52 visits at elementary schools. Police officers engaged with students during recess, lunch and morning and afternoon supervision.
- DARE classes were delivered to 486 elementary school students in eight schools.

### **Financial Impact**

None.

### **Conclusion**

In April 2024, the Richmond RCMP conducted several noteworthy investigations, including a series of frauds and a weapons seizure. Police statistics for this month indicate that most crime types were within the average ranges, except for robberies and shoplifting incidents which were elevated and commercial break and enters, thefts from vehicles and drug offences, which were below average.

In April 2024, the Community Engagement Team and volunteers continued to promote crime prevention and road safety initiatives. The Officer in Charge of the Richmond RCMP Detachment will continue to ensure that Richmond remains a safe and desirable community.



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

- Att. 1: Community Policing Programs  
2: Crime Statistics  
3: Crime Maps

#### 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](mailto:blockwatch@richmond.ca)
- For more information, visit [www.richmond.ca/safety/police/prevention/blockwatch.htm](http://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](http://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](http://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

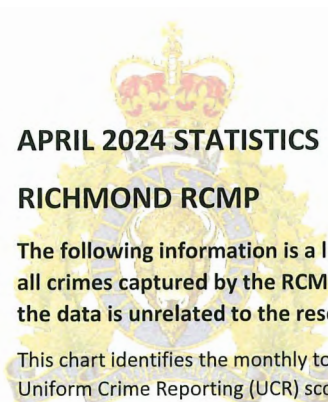
- This initiative consists of frequently stolen items being placed in the volunteer van for participants to identify in order to enhance awareness of thefts from automobiles.

### 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 2024 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.

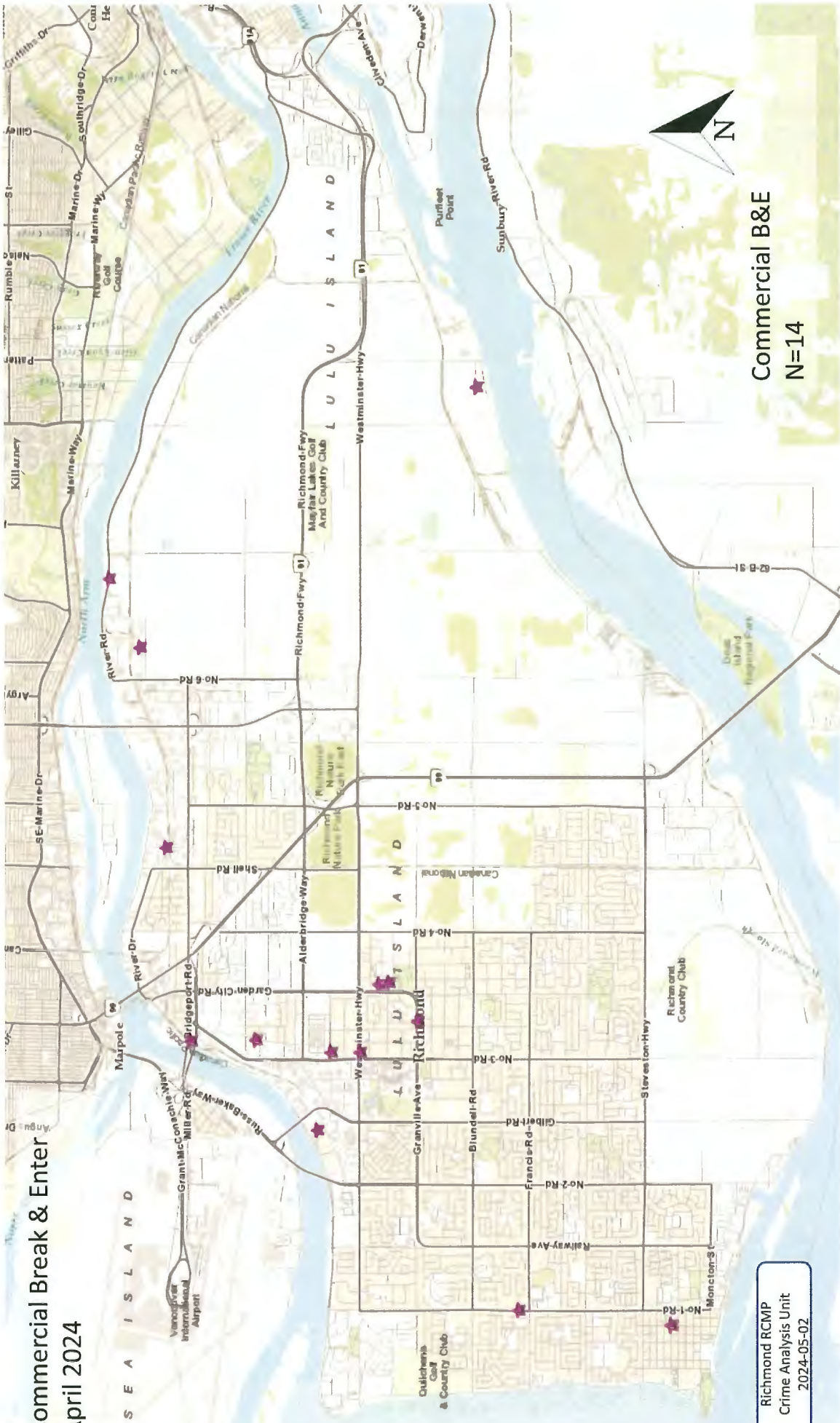
This chart identifies the monthly totals for founded Criminal Code incidents, excluding traffic-related Criminal Code incidents. Based on Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) scoring, there are three categories: (1) Violent Crime, (2) Property Crime, and (3) Other Criminal Code. Within each category, particular 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

	Month	5-Yr Avg	5-Yr Range	Year to Date Totals			
	Apr - 24	April		2023	2024	% Change	# Change
<b>VIOLENT CRIME</b> (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	<b>140</b>	<b>137.0</b>	<b>124-150</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>33</b>
Robbery	<b>5</b>	3.2	2-4	10	27	170%	17
Assault Common	39	46.6	38-55	190	197	4%	7
Assault Serious	18	15.4	12-18	80	67	-16%	-13
Sexual Offences	16	19.0	15-23	72	77	7%	5
<b>PROPERTY CRIME</b> (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	<b>668</b>	<b>553.6</b>	<b>473-634</b>	<b>2571</b>	<b>2488</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>-83</b>
Business B&E	14	24.0	19-29	111	65	-41%	-46
Residential B&E	24	32.8	24-42	85	103	21%	18
Auto Theft	19	19.4	13-25	93	83	-11%	-10
Theft from Auto	63	130.4	112-149	567	279	-51%	-288
Theft	134	80.0	48-112	435	438	1%	3
Shoplifting	180	67.8	46-89	378	626	66%	248
Fraud	118	70.0	56-84	322	400	24%	78
<b>OTHER CRIMINAL CODE</b> (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	<b>271</b>	<b>216.0</b>	<b>172-260</b>	<b>1050</b>	<b>1144</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>94</b>
Arson (UCR 3000-210)	5	n/c	n/c	n/c	20	n/c	n/c
<b>SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES</b> (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	<b>1104</b>	<b>907.0</b>	<b>780-1034</b>	<b>4213</b>	<b>4301</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>DRUGS</b> (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	<b>17</b>	<b>42.6</b>	<b>29-57</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>-59%</b>	<b>-94</b>
<b>MHA RELATED CALLS</b> (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	<b>216</b>	<b>229.6</b>	<b>214-245</b>	<b>1005</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>-7%</b>	<b>-67</b>

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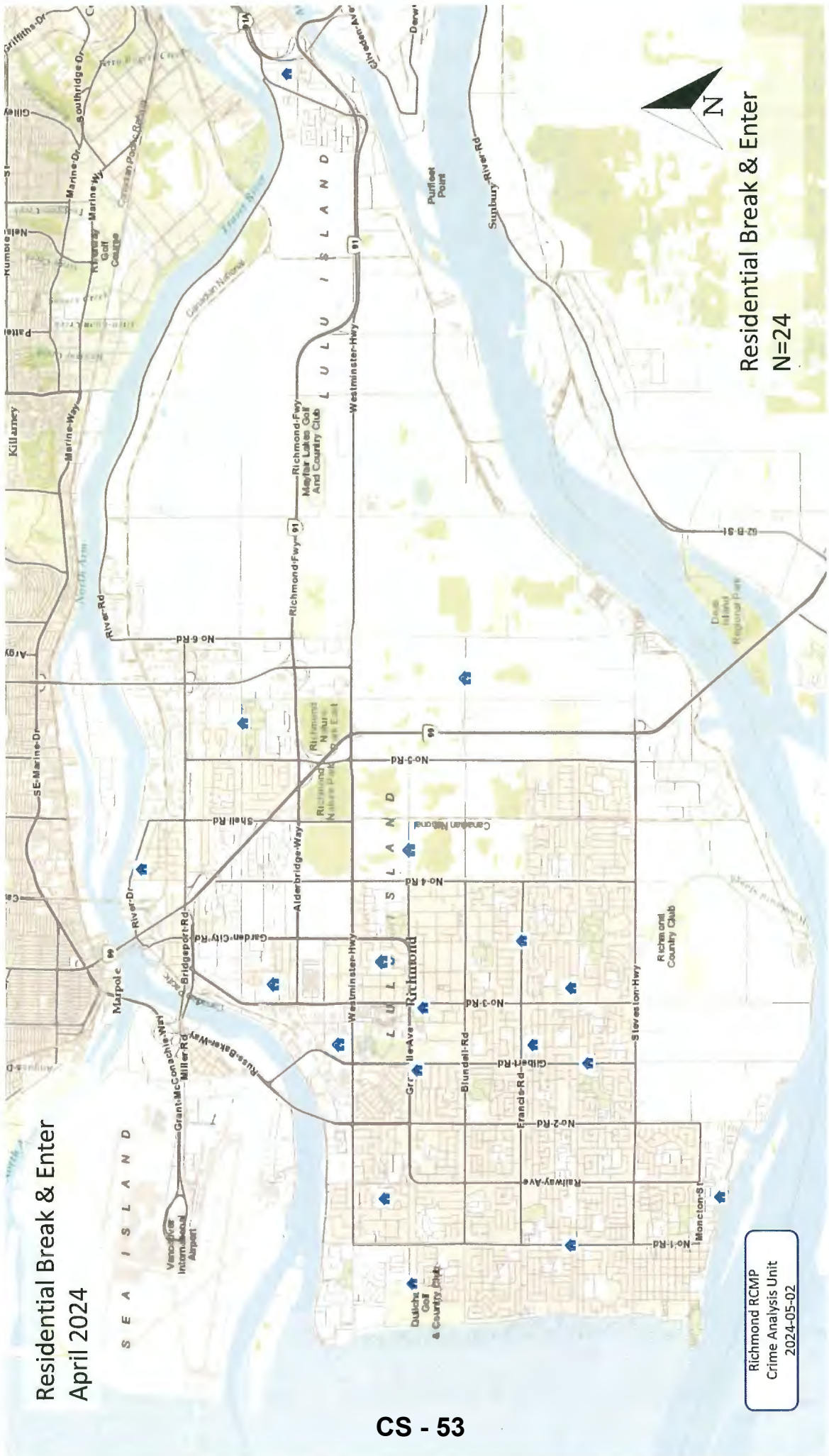
# Commercial Break & Enter April 2024



Commercial B&E  
N=14

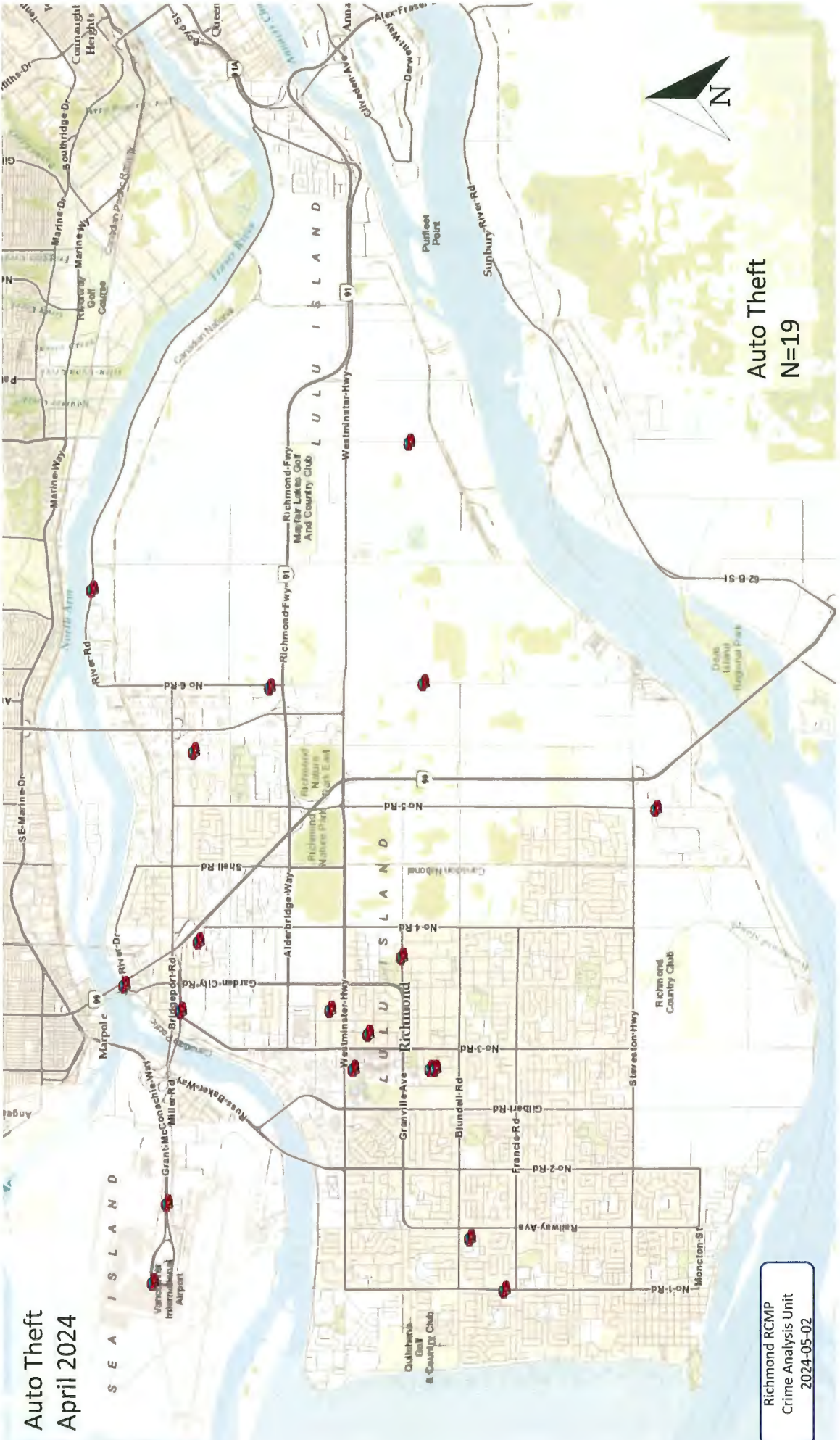
Richmond RCMP  
Crime Analysis Unit  
2024-05-02

# Residential Break & Enter April 2024



### Residential Break & Enter N=24

Richmond RCMP  
Crime Analysis Unit  
2024-05-02



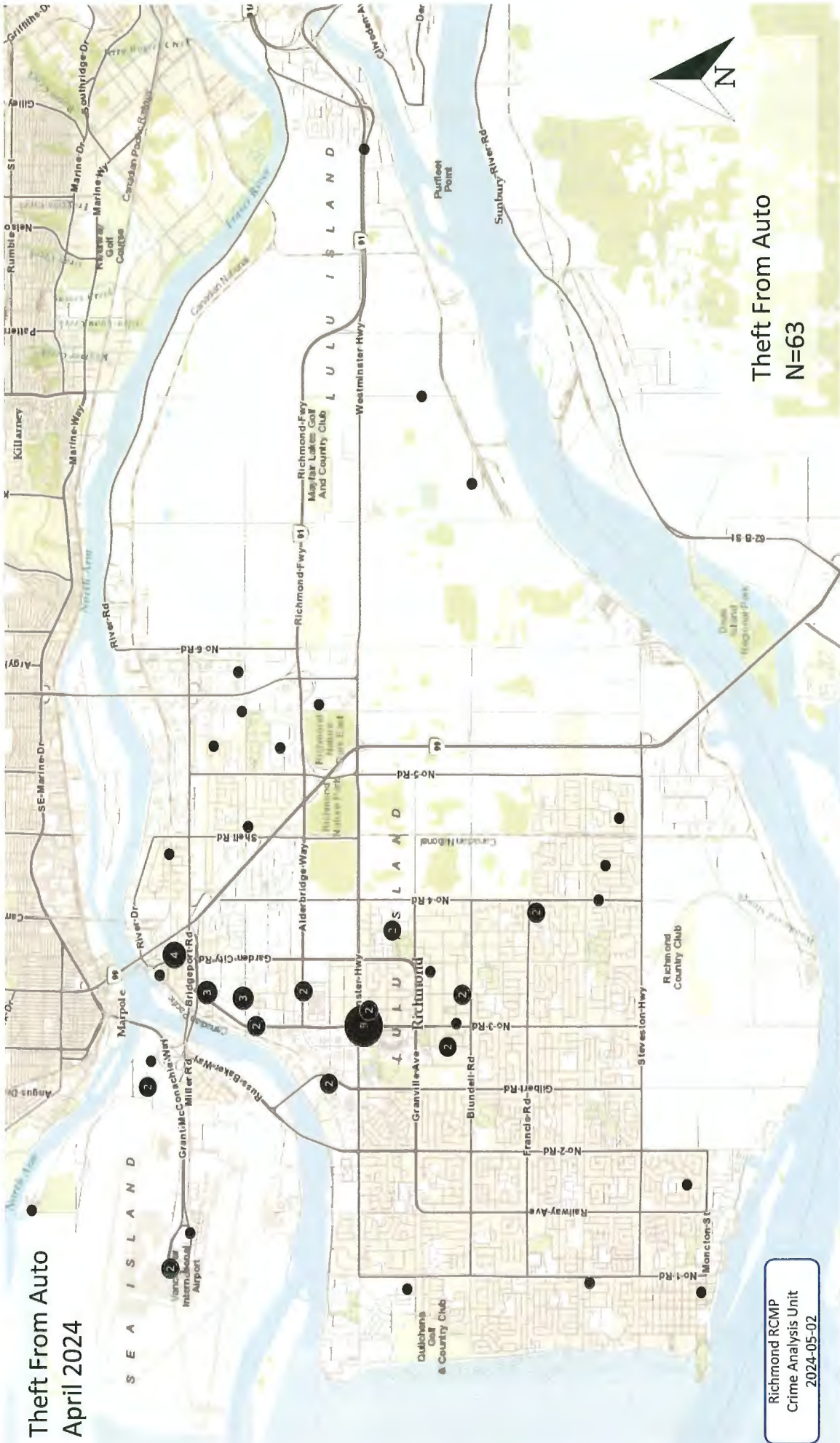
**Auto Theft  
April 2024**

**Auto Theft  
N=19**

Richmond RCMP  
Crime Analysis Unit  
2024-05-02



# Theft From Auto April 2024



## Theft From Auto N=63

Richmond RCMP  
Crime Analysis Unit  
2024-05-02