



To:	Community Safety Committee	Date:	May 13, 2026
From:	Dave Chauhan Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge	File:	09-5030-01/2025-Vol 01
Re:	RCMP Monthly Activity Report – April 2026		

Staff Recommendation

That the report titled “RCMP Monthly Activity Report – April 2026”, dated May 13, 2026, from the Officer in Charge, be received for information.

Executive Summary

In April 2026, the Richmond RCMP conducted several notable investigations, including the arrests of 10 unruly passengers at the Vancouver International Airport, a kidnapping in central Richmond, and the conclusion of a multi-year child sexual abuse and exploitation material investigation resulting in a custodial sentence. The Richmond RCMP also issued public advisories on a fraud trend affecting online marketplace sales and reminded drivers to slow down and move over for emergency vehicles and roadside workers. Notable crime prevention initiatives included an auto crime awareness campaign featuring a catalytic converter etching event.

The property and violent crime rates in Richmond remained below the Lower Mainland District average. While most police statistics remained within average ranges, serious assaults and auto thefts were below average, and sexual offences were elevated. Community safety efforts remained strong through Block Watch, volunteer-led traffic and crime-prevention deployments, fraud-awareness outreach, road-safety enforcement, victim services, and sustained school engagement by the Youth Section.

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

Arrests at Vancouver International Airport

On April 10, 2026, Richmond RCMP officers responded to a report of unruly passengers aboard an aircraft at the Vancouver International Airport. Police worked with airline staff to safely de-escalate the situation, directing passengers to deplane. Police arrested 10 individuals and recommended charges of failing to comply with flight crew instructions under the *Aeronautics Act* and mischief under the *Criminal Code*.

Fraud Trend

On April 16, 2026, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release warning about a recent sleight-of-hand trend targeting online marketplace sellers. During a recent incident, the intended buyer produced an envelope containing the cash payment. Shortly after the exchange was completed, the complainant discovered that the envelope had been switched and did not contain the agreed-upon sum of money.

Kidnapping

On April 24, 2026, the Richmond RCMP received a report of a kidnapping in the 6000 block of No. 3 Road. A witness reported seeing a man being forced into a pickup truck by two males shortly after leaving a restaurant. Police released a video and photos of the suspect vehicle to assist in identifying the suspects. The incident is under investigation.

Child Exploitation Investigation

On April 27, 2026, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release advising that its Special Victims Unit had concluded a multi-year investigation into a man convicted of possessing child sexual abuse and exploitation material. The offender was sentenced to approximately 17 ½ months in prison and will be required to adhere to multiple conditions upon his release.¹

Analysis of Police Statistics²

Arson

There were nine reported arsons in April 2026, representing an increase of four incidents from the previous month. Year to date, arsons are up by eight incidents compared to the same period in 2025. The number of arsons this month is within the average range.

Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)

There were 11 serious assaults in April 2026, representing a 22 per cent increase from the previous month. Year to date, serious assaults are down 28 per cent compared with the same period in 2025. The number of serious assaults this month is below the average range.

Eighty-two per cent of serious assaults reported in April 2026 involved individuals who were known to each other.

Auto Theft

There were 11 auto thefts in April 2026, representing a 10 per cent increase over the previous month. Year to date, auto thefts are down 39 per cent compared to the same period in 2025. The number of auto thefts this month is below the average range.

Mental Health

There were 222 mental health-related incidents in April 2026, representing a five per cent decrease from the previous month. Year to date, the number of mental health-related incidents is down 26 per cent compared to the same period in 2025. The number of mental health-related incidents this month is within the average range.

¹ The sentence time includes credit for time served and a consecutive sentence.

² Unless otherwise noted, no patterns or trends have been identified in this month's statistics. In January 2026, statistics were re-collected for all crime categories, dating back to 2019. This was done to account for any changes to scoring or delayed reports and to ensure data is up-to-date and accurate. For this reason, there will be variations from previously reported statistics.

There were 56 police apprehensions, and the average hospital wait time was 104 minutes; both statistics were within the expected ranges. Fourteen individuals were responsible for two or more calls in April, with one caller generating 10 incidents.

Residential Break and Enter

There were 24 break and enters to residences in April 2026, representing a 14 per cent increase from the previous month. Year to date, residential break and enters are up five per cent compared to the same period in 2025. The number of residential break and enters this month is within the average range.

Commercial Break and Enter

In April 2026, there were 26 break and enters to businesses, representing an 18 per cent increase from the previous month. Year to date, commercial break and enters are up 12 per cent compared to the same period in 2025. The number of commercial break and enters this month is within the average range.

Robbery

There were three robberies reported in April 2026, representing an increase of three incidents from the previous month. Year to date, robberies are down by eight incidents compared to the same period in 2025. The number of robberies this month is within the average range.

Sexual Offences

There were 22 sexual offence files in April 2026, representing a five per cent increase from the previous month. Year to date, sexual offences are up 36 per cent compared to the same period in 2025. The number of sexual offences this month is above the average range.

Fifty per cent of the offences reported in April 2026 were indecent acts/exposing, and 27 per cent were sexual assaults.

Shoplifting

There were 182 reported shoplifting thefts in April 2026, representing a five per cent decrease from the previous month. Year to date, shoplifting thefts are up 46 per cent compared to the same period in 2025. The number of shoplifting thefts this month is within the average range.

Theft from Automobile

There were 77 thefts from automobiles in April 2026, representing a three per cent increase over the previous month. Year to date, thefts from automobiles are down five per cent compared to the same period in 2025. The number of thefts from automobiles this month is within the average range.

Drugs

In April 2026, there were 25 drug offences, a 24 per cent decrease from the previous month. Year to date, drug offences are up 11 per cent compared to the same period in 2025. The number of drug incidents this month is within the average range.

Drug-Related “Social Disorder” Calls

Public complaints related to drug use fall under various call categories, including 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.

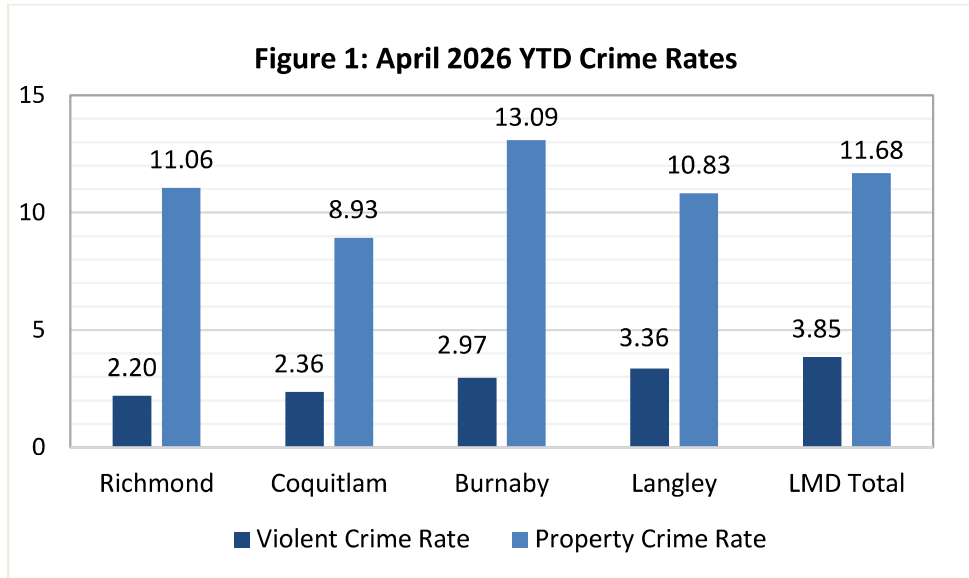
Table 1: Drug-Related Calls for Service

Month	Total Calls 2025	Total Calls 2026	2026 Suspected	2026 Confirmed
January	71	39	22	17
February	38	24	11	13
March	49	36	19	17
April	58	45	31	14
May	57			
June	70			
July	40			
August	59			
September	57			
October	39			
November	52			
December	42			
Total	632	144	83	61

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 1 presents the April 2026 crime rates for the four largest municipalities in the Lower Mainland District (LMD), which the RCMP polices.³ The property and violent crime rates in Richmond were below the LMD average.



Block Watch

At the end of April 2026, the Block Watch program had 298 groups, totalling 6,636 participants. Currently, the program includes 415 captains and co-captains.

Communications Unit

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

- 11 media releases were issued, including one for Auto Crime Enforcement Month. Throughout April, the Richmond RCMP showcased its prevention-focused strategy, including high-visibility patrols and collaborations with volunteers and partner agencies. This year’s campaign also featured a new video demonstrating the Bait Car program, one of B.C.’s most effective and well-established auto-crime enforcement tools. The campaign also featured a free catalytic converter etching event on April 18, 2026.
- 17 social media posts were made on X, including property crime awareness and road safety-related messaging.

³ Based on PRIME query by Richmond Crime Analysis Unit on May 1, 2026

Community Police Office Programs

Community police officers continue to enhance the Richmond Detachment’s policing services by providing a range of crime-prevention resources and community safety initiatives. City staff and volunteers implement safety initiatives to raise awareness of crime-prevention programs, promote community engagement, and enhance 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:

- A total of 13 Fail to Stop deployments took place, resulting in 740 information letters issued.
- There were two Speed Watch deployments, during which 152 information letters were issued.
- There were seven Lock Out Auto Crime deployments, during which 134 information letters were issued.
- April 9 – Volunteers participated in an auto crime awareness event at the MacArthur Glen Designer Outlet, featuring the “Spot the Target” van, which challenged members of the public to find items in the vehicle that might attract a thief.
- April 13 – Volunteers received hands-on training on child car seat safety, in collaboration with ICBC.
- April 16 – Volunteers assisted the Vancouver Police Department with their FIFA full-scale mass casualty exercise. The live-training scenario involved various police agencies, Fire Departments, BC Emergency Health Services and E-Comm.
- April 18 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a catalytic converter etching event. The “You Etch It. We Catch It” campaign also featured crime-prevention resources and promoted Richmond RCMP programs, including Block Watch.
- April 22 – Volunteers were recognized for their valuable contributions to community safety with a Volunteer Appreciation event held at Whiteside Elementary School.



Figure 2: Catalytic Converter Etching

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 73 Place of Worship patrols were conducted.
- On April 8, 2026, RCMP officers conducted fraud outreach at the Ageless Seniors Expo.
- On April 12, 2026, RCMP officers attended the Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival at Garry Point Park, conducting high-visibility patrols and engaging with community members.



Figure 3: Ageless Seniors Expo

Road Safety Unit

The Road Safety Unit makes Richmond’s roads safer through evidence-based traffic enforcement, investigations into serious vehicle collisions, and public education programs. A total of 704 violation tickets were issued in April. Figure 4 provides statistics for the top five infractions for which violation tickets were issued in April:

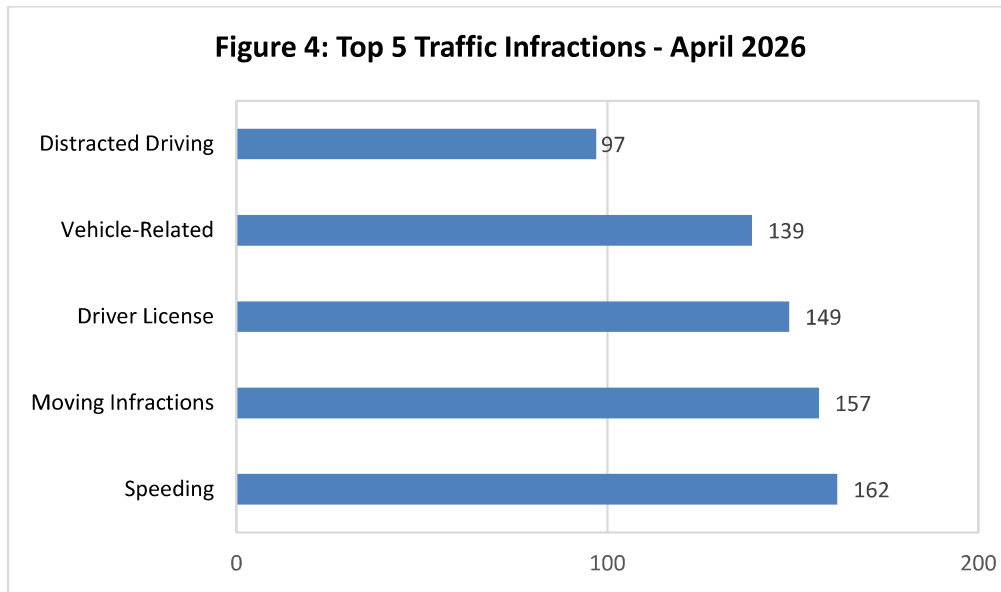


Table 2 presents the number of motor vehicle collisions involving injuries and fatalities reported between January 1, 2022, and April 30, 2026.

Table 2 – Motor Vehicle Collisions		
Year	Collisions with Non-Fatal Injuries	Fatalities
2022	406	1
2023	436	3
2024	455	2
2025	395	2
2026 (YTD) ⁴	170	2

Victim Services

In April 2026, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 57 new clients and attended six crime/trauma scenes after hours. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 54 files. In April, Victim Services responded to several cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, cases of fraud, and suicides.

Youth Section

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

- RCMP officers in the Youth Section conducted 81 proactive school visits at secondary schools and 67 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 2025-2026 school year. A total of 413 students in 15 classes participated in the program.

Budgetary Implications

There are no budgetary implications associated with the contents of this report.

Conclusion

In April 2026, the Richmond RCMP conducted several notable investigations, including a kidnapping and arrests of unruly passengers at the Vancouver International Airport. Police statistics for this month indicate that most crime types were within the average ranges, except for serious assaults and auto thefts, which were below average, and sexual offences, which were elevated.

⁴ The last fatal collision occurred on March 14, 2026.

May 13, 2026

- 10 -

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

Respectively submitted,

Edward Warzel, RCMP

Report Contributors

This report was prepared by Edward Warzel, Director, Police Services and reviewed by Tony Capuccinello Iraci, General Manager, Law and Community Safety, and Clerk's Office.

Endorsed by Serena Lusk, CAO

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

Community Policing Programs Information

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 2026 STATISTICS

RICHMOND RCMP

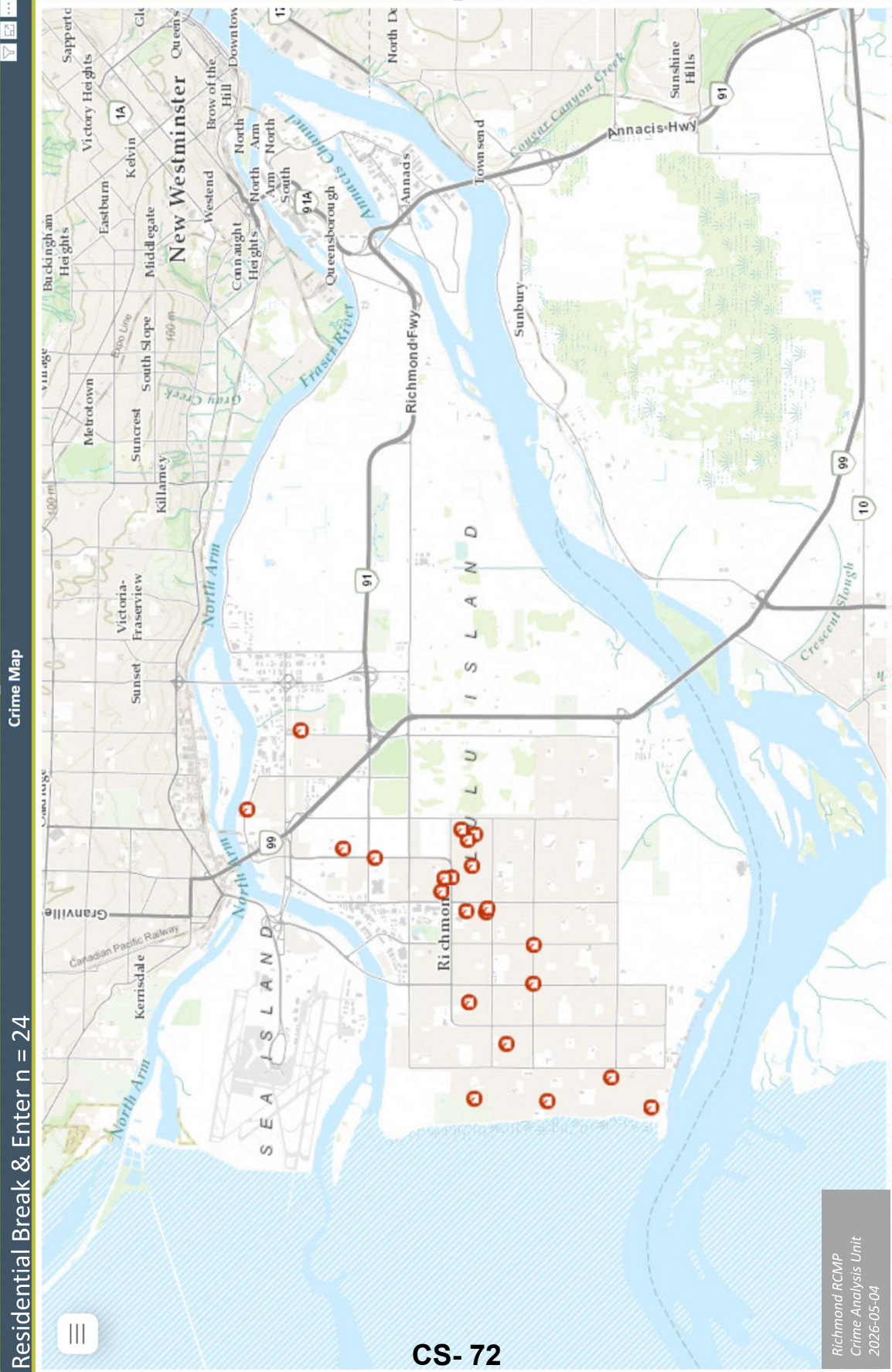
The following information is a limited list of select crime-type samples, which does not comprise the entirety or assortment of all crimes captured by the RCMP. The statistics in this chart should be considered independently of the analysis provided as the data is unrelated to the research provided earlier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

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 5 year range due to crime trends, patterns, or spikes, it will be noted in **red** if higher and **blue** if below.

April 2026 Statistics - Richmond RCMP								
Criminal Code Offences	Current Period	5 Year Avg	5 Year Min	5 Year Max	2025 YTD	2026 YTD	25/26 % Chg	25/26 Count Diff
PROPERTY CRIME	673	629.4	635	711	2463	2689	9%	226
PERSONS VIOLENT CRIME	127	154.0	140	182	702	517	-26%	-185
OTHER CC OFFENCES	354	302.5	255	322	1237	1279	3%	42
Total	1127	1,051.4	1018	1118	4254	4382	3%	128
Violent Crime Groups								
Violent Crime Groups	Current Period	5 Year Avg	5 Year Min	5 Year Max	2025 YTD	2026 YTD	25/26 % Chg	25/26 Count Diff
ASSAULT COMMON	46	53.6	42	63	266	167	-37%	-99
ASSAULT SERIOUS	11	20.0	18	24	65	47	-28%	-18
ROBBERY	3	4.9	2	8	20	12	-40%	-8
SEX OFFENCES	22	18.2	10	21	58	79	36%	21
Property Crime Groups								
Property Crime Groups	Current Period	5 Year Avg	5 Year Min	5 Year Max	2025 YTD	2026 YTD	25/26 % Chg	25/26 Count Diff
AUTO THEFT	11	20.6	18	24	69	42	-39%	-27
BREAK & ENTER RESIDENCE	24	21.9	10	29	74	78	5%	4
BREAK & ENTER BUSINESS	26	25.9	17	34	82	92	12%	10
THEFT FROM AUTO	77	101.1	65	159	280	266	-5%	-14
FRAUD	100	86.6	84	120	407	381	-6%	-26
THEFT-OTHER	125	109.3	95	129	489	542	11%	53
SHOPLIFTING	182	115.1	94	188	508	743	46%	235
Other Criminal Code								
Other Criminal Code	Current Period	5 Year Avg	5 Year Min	5 Year Max	2025 YTD	2026 YTD	25/26 % Chg	25/26 Count Diff
ARSON	9	6.5	5	10	15	23	53%	8
CAUSE DISTURBANCE	227	208.0	163	228	879	840	-4%	-39
COLLISION	132	164.3	129	158	654	625	-4%	-29
All Series 4000 Offences								
All Series 4000 Offences	Current Period	5 Year Avg	5 Year Min	5 Year Max	2025 YTD	2026 YTD	25/26 % Chg	25/26 Count Diff
CDSA OFFENCES	25	37.7	22	68	107	119	11%	12
MHA								
MHA	Current Period	5 Year Avg	5 Year Min	5 Year Max	2025 YTD	2026 YTD	25/26 % Chg	25/26 Count Diff
MHA	222	215.5	200	238	999	831	-26%	-168

Prepared by Richmond RCMP Crime Analysts. Data collected from PRIME on 2026-05-01. Published 2026-05-04. Data is 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).



Month: April

Year: 2026

Crime Type

- BREAK & ENTER BUSINESS
- BREAK & ENTER RESIDENCE
- THEFT FROM AUTO



- THEFT FROM AUTO
- BREAK & ENTER BUSINESS
- BREAK & ENTER RESIDENCE
- AUTO THEFT

Richmond RCMP
 Crime Analysis Unit
 2026-05-04

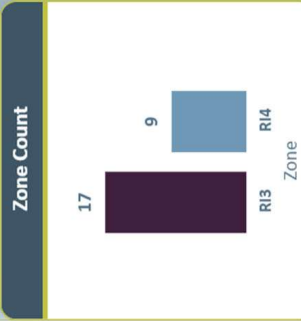
Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, GEBCO, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, swisstopo, Esri, Japan, METI, mapwithyou, NOSTRA, © O... Powered by Esri

Month ▼ April

Year 2026

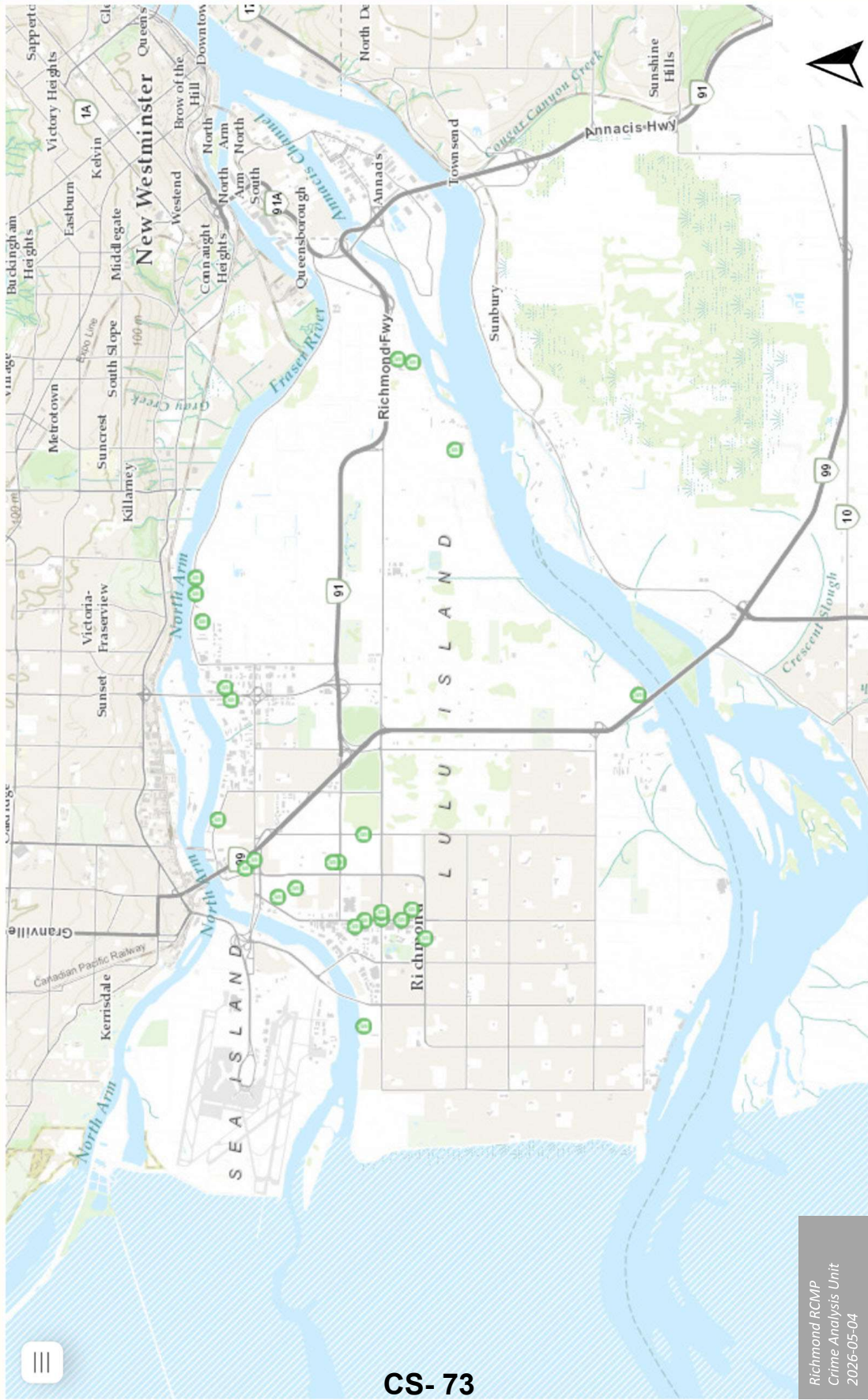
Crime Type

- BREAK & ENTER BUSINESS
- BREAK & ENTER RESIDENCE
- THEFT FROM AUTO



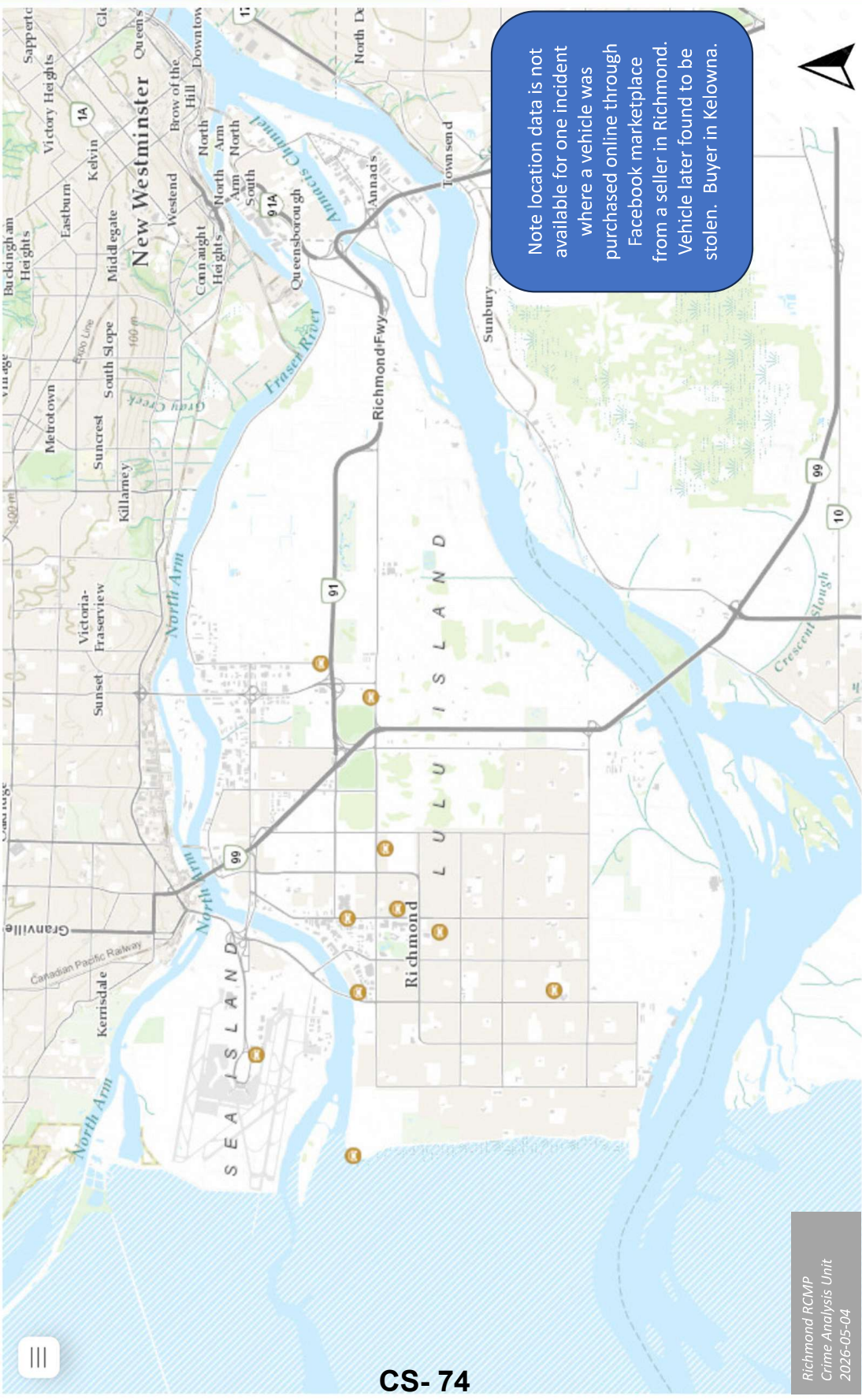
Legend

- THEFT FROM AUTO
- BREAK & ENTER BUSINESS
- BREAK & ENTER RESIDENCE
- AUTO THEFT



Richmond RCMP
 Crime Analysis Unit
 2026-05-04

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, GEBCO, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, Geobase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, swisstopo, Esri Japan, METI, mapwithyou, NOSTRA, © O...



Richmond RCMP
 Crime Analysis Unit
 2026-05-04

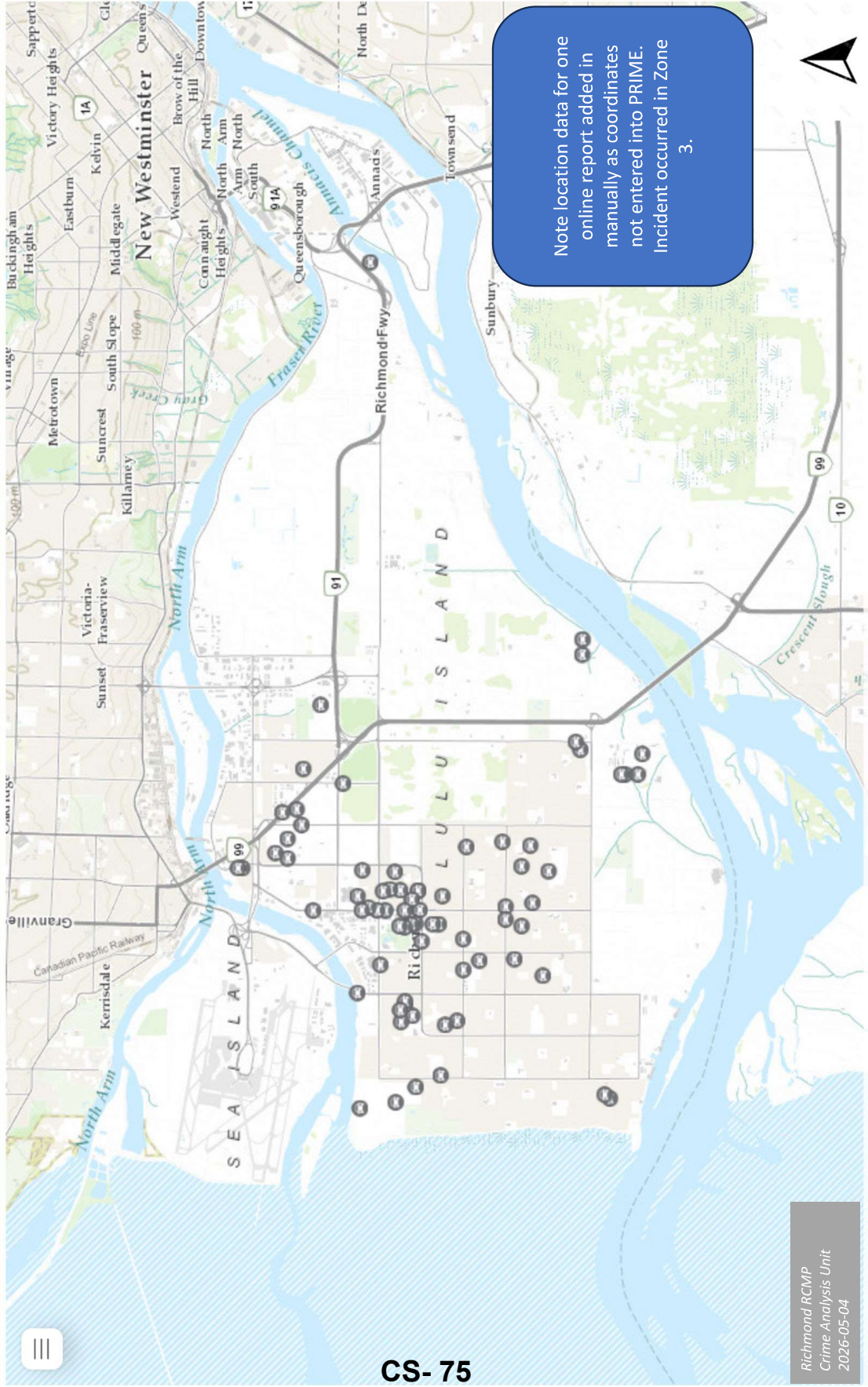
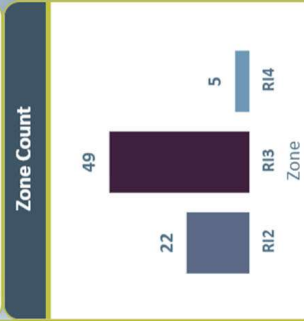
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Month ▼ April

Year 2026

Crime Type

- BREAK & ENTER BUSINESS
- BREAK & ENTER RESIDENCE
- THEFT FROM AUTO



Note location data for one online report added in manually as coordinates not entered into PRIME. Incident occurred in Zone 3.

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2026-05-04

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, GEBCO, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, swisstopo, Esri Japan, METI, mapwithyou, NOSTRA, © O...

Legend

- THEFT FROM AUTO
- BREAK & ENTER BUSINESS
- BREAK & ENTER RESIDENCE
- AUTO THEFT

CRIME PREVENTION

WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME

NEWSLETTER

Disrupting Fraudsters and Cybercriminals – What We Can Learn

RCMP and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC) partnered to bring together a diverse group of cyber and counter-fraud experts from many organizations to disrupt fraudsters. They called the operation Maple Disruption and were able to disrupt over 3,000 fraud related actions. These included shutting down malicious email accounts and websites, flagging suspicious transactions, and blocking cryptocurrency addresses linked to fraud. Unfortunately, the reality is that even with these shutdowns there are thousands of other scam networks because fraud is a global phenomenon. This past March for fraud prevention month, CAFC highlighted that in 2025 they received over 112,000 fraud reports involving over \$704 million in reported losses. Although fraud is ever changing, you can play a part to disrupt fraud by staying educated and reporting scams.



Be wary of unsolicited emails, text messages, and phone calls asking you for personal or financial information. Fraudsters can spoof their caller ID and email addresses. Spoofing is a tactic where attackers disguise themselves as a trusted source. They change their ID, number, and email addresses to look like a known contact. This past March, Richmond RCMP highlighted a high number of impersonation-based scams where fraudsters posed as official government agencies, financial institutions, or loved ones. Fraudsters used fear and urgency to pressure victims into transferring money or handing over cash. If you are unsure who you are talking to, verify the information with a trustworthy source such as contacting the originating source through a known, legitimate phone number or talking to a credible employee at a bank, government agency, or law enforcement agency.

Fraudster will ask you to pay with unconventional methods such as e-transfers, cryptocurrencies, and gift cards. These methods are hard to track and difficult to recover. According to CAFC, one of the top frauds in 2025, based on the frequency of reporting, was identity theft. It can occur through phishing attempts, data breaches, mail theft, dumpster diving, or posted information on social media. Thieves develop credible stories by going through stolen information or social media. In some instances, they offer a “courier” to pick up cash directly from your address. Legitimate financial and government institutions will never send someone to your home to pick up money. Make it harder for fraudsters by shredding physical documents that contain personal or financial information and picking up mail frequently. Check your online accounts, credit reports, bank and credit card statements regularly and report any irregularities. Limit the information you are posting online so fraudsters and compromised accounts cannot find sensitive information about you. If you are a victim of a scam report it to your local police and to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre. Reporting helps law enforcement track how fraudsters are operating and learn the patterns of the crime. Ultimately, these reports lead to the creation of fraud-prevention bulletins to prevent you, your friends, and your family from becoming victims of fraud.

CITY OF RICHMOND CRIME PREVENTION NEWSLETTER

Spring Checklist

A new season is about to arrive. The warm weather encourages people to go out and enjoy themselves. Whether you are spring cleaning, working on the exterior of your home, or enjoying a day at the park, it is also time to switch gears into spring/summer crime prevention. Below are some tips for working on your home and protecting your items outdoors.

Check your doors and windows – Make sure all points of entry are closed and locked before you leave home. An open door or window give thieves the easiest opportunity to enter your home. Thieves do not always just look for ground floor entry, they may also look to enter from an open window or door on higher floors. They use existing tools left in the backyard or open shed to gain entry to higher floors. Therefore, put away your tools and ladders. If you have these items in a shed, lock it up after use.

Increase visibility of your home – The visibility of your home can make it less of a target. Increase the visibility of your home by trimming the bushes and trees and installing bright lights. Clearing the sightlines unblocks the view of your home from the street and neighbouring houses. Lights make your home brighter at night and reveal hiding spots. If you have motion sensor lighting, it draws attention to movement around the home.

Check electronic crime prevention tools – Make sure your camera is in good working condition and you are able to download the footage. If you do not have security cameras, it is recommended to purchase one that can record in high definition. Put it near major points of entry that are able to capture the person's face and overall description. In addition, schedule timers to turn on lights. Timers work best for those who are thinking of going on vacation because it makes your home look lived in.

Check in with your neighbour – Whether you are staying in town or traveling for the summer, you can connect with a neighbour to help make your neighbourhood safer. If you are preparing for a vacation, ask a neighbour to help take care of your home. Your neighbour can help keep an eye on your home and help to make your home look lived in while you are away.

Personal Belongings and Outdoor Activities

The local parks and outdoor sporting areas will be busy as many are looking to enjoy the sunshine with their friends and family. 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. If no one is available, bring the items with you and keep it in your sightlines. For smaller personal belongings, consider using a fanny pack or a small cross body bag so you can still effectively move while keeping your items safe. In some cases, you may need to leave items in your car. Plan ahead and put them in the trunk of your vehicle.

For cyclists, always secure your bike to a bike rack. If you are expecting to make stops along your ride, take a bike lock with you. Never leave your bike unlocked and unattended even when you are gone for just a couple of minutes. Register your bike with Project 529, a bike registry that can aid in the recovery of a lost or stolen bike. The app stores your bike information and allows police to identify its owner quickly. This program also works for scooters and ebikes.

Trash or Treasure



Auto theft is usually a crime of opportunity, and it is often the small things we overlook or genuinely forgot. Taking just a few seconds to lock up, check your pockets and clear out your valuables can make all the difference in keeping your car safe. Make sure you always have your keys, wallet and cell phone with you. Before walking away, think like a thief for a moment. Take a look at your vehicle and see if there is anything left behind that makes it an easy target. Remember, if you can see it, so can a thief. It only takes a split second for an opportunistic thief to notice a bag on the seat, so make “hide, lock, and take” a non-negotiable part of your routine. Here are some commonly stolen items that people have reported: wallets, sunglasses, license plates, tools, laptops, backpacks/purses, shoes, and jackets.



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 Group Lead

- ◇ Each group lead 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 Block Watch Lead, 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 Lead/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

Crime Prevention—Fencing

Protecting a commercial property starts with strong perimeter security and fencing plays a crucial role in that effort. A well designed fence establishes a clear boundary between private and public property. It also acts as a physical barrier against unauthorized access. Choosing the right fencing system is essential to ensure both safety and long-term durability for your property.

First, not all fencing options provide the same level of protection. For example, chain link fencing provides very little security and no concealment.

Although they are inexpensive, it is very easy to climb and cut making them not ideal for perimeter security. The design of the fence creates handholds and footholds making it easier to climb. Also the weakness of the steel makes it easily cut by bolt cutters. Consider other designs such as welded wire mesh panel fencing or barb wired fencing which are more resistant to tampering and intrusion.

Regular maintenance is another key factor in effective perimeter security. A well-maintained fence signals that the property is actively cared for. Routine inspections also help identify weak points and compromised areas. Additionally, you can make adjustments or add additional security measures to strengthen your fencing system. Increase the height of the fence as it suggests to thieves an access delay and difficulty to climb over the fence. Pick fencing material that have built in climb resistance designs which make it very hard for opportunistic thieves. Lastly, add auxiliary crime prevention tools to monitor the perimeter. Lighting and cameras uncover hiding spots and acts as an extra pair of eyes. If your property has security guards, these secondary tools can help them in monitoring the area and keep your business safe.



Please report all suspicious or criminal activity to the police.

Richmond RCMP Non-Emergency line [604-278-1212](tel: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

