



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee
From: Dave Chauhan
Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge
Date: January 16, 2024
File: 09-5000-01/2023-Vol
01
Re: RCMP Monthly Activity Report – December 2023 and Year in Review

Recommendation from the OIC

That the report titled “RCMP Monthly Activity Report – December 2023 and Year in Review”, dated January 16, 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

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS:
APPROVED BY CAO 	

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 #1 Proactive in Stakeholder and Civic Engagement:

Proactive stakeholder and civic engagement to foster understanding and involvement and advance Richmond's interests.

Analysis

Activities and Noteworthy Files

Impaired Driving Campaign

On December 12, 2023, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release advising of increased counterattack operations throughout December as part of the "Light up the Province" campaign. Four roadside suspensions and two 90-day prohibitions were issued during the Richmond campaign, which started on December 2, 2023. In total, 752 vehicles passed through the roadblock during this operation.

Boost and Bust Operation

On December 15, 2023, the Richmond RCMP Property Crime Unit conducted a "Boost and Bust" operation in partnership with local businesses.¹ Police arrested 15 people during the project. In 2023, these operations resulted in the arrests of 40 suspects and have served as a valuable crime reduction tool to target shoplifting thefts.

¹ Boost and Bust projects involve police partnering with local businesses and loss prevention officers to target retail thefts.

Special Post Incident Community Engagement

On December 16, 2023, the Richmond RCMP held a Special Post Incident Community Engagement (SPICE) event in the 6500 block of Goldsmith Drive following a double homicide in the area the previous month. Richmond RCMP officers, Victim Services and an Integrated Homicide Investigation Team representative engaged with over 30 neighbourhood residents.

Fraud

On December 18, 2023, the Richmond RCMP issued a public warning after receiving three reports of fraudulent bank drafts in the same week. The victims had received the bank drafts as payment for items they had sold online. A combined \$50,000 in goods were lost in the frauds. Police believe the incidents are connected, and the investigations are ongoing.

Property Crimes

On December 14, 2023, police officers from the Richmond RCMP and Vancouver Police Department executed a search warrant at a residence in the 4000 block of No. 5 Road. The joint forces operation led to the recovery of a large amount of evidence connected to a group committing multi-jurisdictional mail thefts and frauds. Charges are pending.

Analysis of Police Statistics*Arson*

In December 2023, there were eight reported arsons, which is a decrease of two incidents from the previous month and an increase of four incidents from December 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of arsons this month is within the average range.

In 2023, reported arsons decreased by 11 per cent compared to the previous year. This decrease is within the expected year-over-year statistical variance.

Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)

There were 15 serious assault events in December 2023, which represents a six per cent decrease from the previous month and a six per cent decrease from December 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of serious assaults this month is within the average range.

In 2023, assault serious events increased by 12 per cent compared to the previous year. This increase is within the expected year-over-year statistical variance.

Approximately 27 per cent of the incidents reported in December 2023 were domestic assaults.

Auto Theft

In December 2023, there were 21 auto thefts, which represents no change from the previous month and a 24 per cent increase from December 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of auto thefts this month is within the average range.

The total number of auto thefts reported in 2023 remained unchanged from 2022.

Drugs

In December 2023, there were 24 drug offences, which is a 45 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 14 per cent decrease from December 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of drug incidents this month is within the average range.

In 2023, drug incidents increased by seven per cent compared to the previous year. This increase is within the expected year-over-year statistical variance.

Mental Health

There were 248 mental health-related incidents in December 2023, representing a 16 per cent increase from the previous month and a 12 per cent increase from December 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of mental health-related incidents this month is within the average range.

In 2023, mental health-related incidents increased by three per cent compared to the previous year. This increase is within the expected year-over-year statistical variance.

There were 93 police apprehensions this month, the second-highest number recorded in 2023. The average hospital wait time was in the average range of 125 minutes. The extended wait time has been attributed to four files with exceptionally long wait times.

Residential Break and Enter

There were 33 break and enters to residences in December 2023, which is more than double the number reported the previous month and a 27 per cent increase from December 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of residential break and enters this month is within the average range.

In 2023, residential break and enters decreased by two per cent compared to the previous year. This decrease is within the expected year-over-year statistical variance.

Commercial Break and Enter

In December 2023, there were 16 break and enters to businesses, which represents a 45 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 54 per cent decrease from December 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of commercial break and enters this month is below the average range.

In 2023, commercial break and enters decreased by 16 per cent compared to the previous year. This decrease is within the expected year-over-year statistical variance.

Robbery

There were six robberies in December 2023, representing no change from the previous month and no change from December 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of robberies this month is within the average range.

In 2023, robberies increased by five per cent compared to the previous year. This increase is within the expected year-over-year statistical variance.

Seven persons of interest have been identified in the robberies reported this month.

Sexual Offences

In December 2023, there were 24 sexual offence files, representing a 60 per cent increase from the previous month and a 41 per cent increase from December 2022.² No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of sexual offences this month is above the average range.

In 2023, sexual offences increased by nine per cent compared to the previous year. This increase is within the expected year-over-year statistical variance.

Approximately 42 per cent of the incidents reported in December 2023 were sexual assaults and 19 suspects have been identified.

Shoplifting

There were 103 reported shoplifting thefts in December 2023, which is an eight per cent decrease from the previous month and a 47 per cent increase from December 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of shoplifting thefts this month is above the average range.

In 2023, shoplifting thefts increased by 54 per cent compared to the previous year. This increase is above the expected year-over-year statistical variance.

The top targeted location remained consistent with previous months. Suspects have been identified in 29 per cent of reported incidents this month.

Theft from Automobile

There were 59 thefts from automobile incidents in December 2023, which is a 26 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 51 per cent decrease from December 2022. The number of thefts from automobiles this month is below the average range.

In 2023, the number of thefts from automobiles remained unchanged from the previous year.

² 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.

Hate Crimes and Incidents

Table 1 presents the number of hate crimes and hate incidents reported between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2023.³ 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. No hate crimes or incidents were reported in December 2023.

In 2023, there were a total of 25 hate crimes and incidents, representing a 26 per cent decrease from 2022 and a 44 per cent decrease from 2021.

Table 1 – Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents			
Year	Hate Crime Files	Hate Incident Files	Total
2019	11	9	20
2020	21	13	34
2021	21	24	45
2022	8	26	34
2023	6	19	25

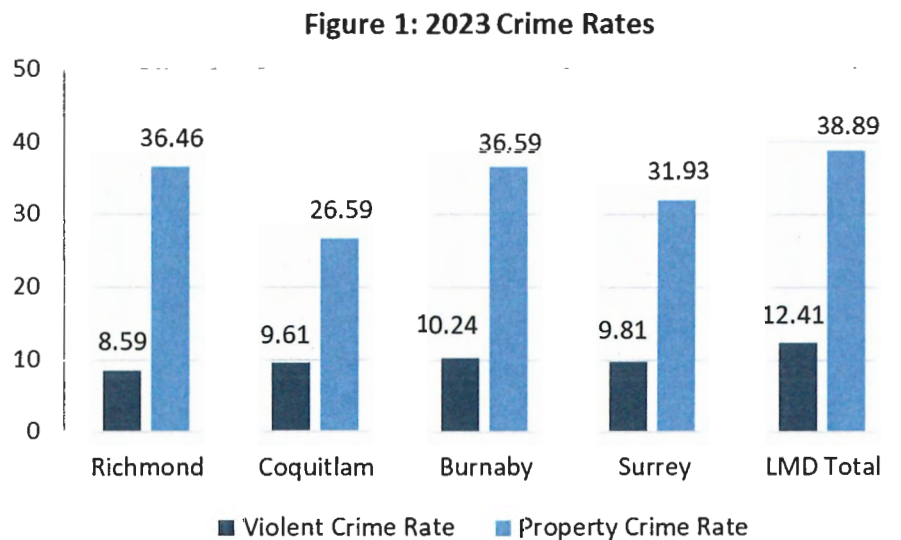
Of the events reported in 2023, 14 incidents were anti-LGBTQS+, three were anti-Chinese, two displayed a swastika, and two were anti-South Asian. The majority of the anti-LGBTQS+ incidents were connected to graffiti on rainbow crosswalks. Additional incidents were single events targeting a variety of groups, including Asians, Blacks, Christians and Jews.

Table 2 – Groups Targeted in Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents 2023	
Group Targeted	Number of Events
LGBTQS+	14
Chinese	3
Swastika/Nazi flag	2
South Asian	2
Asian	1
Black	1
Christian	1
Jewish	1
Total	25

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

Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions

Data on crime rates is presented in Figure 1.⁴ In 2023, out of the four largest municipalities policed by the RCMP in the Lower Mainland District (LMD), Richmond had the lowest violent crime rate. The property crime rate for Richmond was below the LMD average.



Block Watch

At the end of December 2023, the Block Watch program had 307 groups, totalling 7,092 participants. Currently, the program includes 442 captains and co-captains. The number of participants in 2023 remained relatively unchanged compared to the previous year. In 2023, additional recruitment and training efforts were conducted as the Block Watch Program remained responsive to ongoing participant and group number changes.

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 to 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.

One hundred and one active volunteers in 2023 contributed 4,614 hours to community policing programs, including 403 hours of volunteer foot/van patrols and 110 hours of volunteer bike

⁴ Crime rate is year to date (YTD) and calculated per 1,000 people.

patrols. In 2023, volunteers also issued 6,078 Fail to Stop letters, 1,903 Speed Watch letters and 6,354 Lock Out Auto Crime letters.

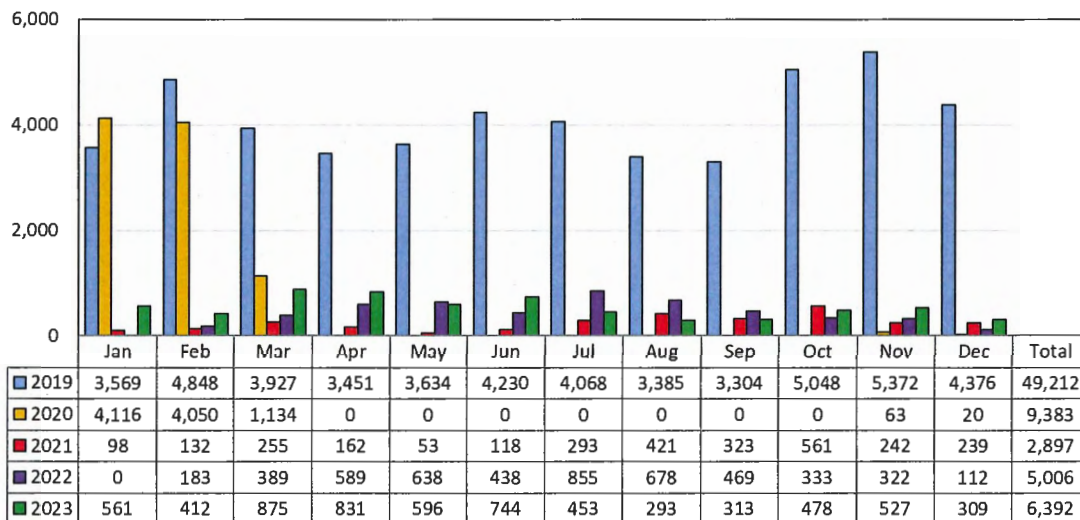
During December, volunteer highlights included:

- The deployment of two volunteer foot/van patrols, totalling seven hours and one bike patrol, totalling 12 hours.
- A total of 17 Fail to Stop deployments took place, resulting in 496 information letters issued.
- There were 22 Lock Out Auto Crime deployments, resulting in 309 information letters issued.
- December 2 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a Counter Attack Roadblock initiative by collecting statistics and taking photographs.
- December 3 – Volunteers attended Santa's arrival in Steveston, assisted with crowd control, and escorted Santa from the wharf to the Gulf of Georgia Cannery for a photograph event.
- December 10 – Volunteers attended the Menorah Lighting outside the Richmond Public Library and provided foot patrols of the area.

Lock Out Auto Crime

Figure 2 provides a yearly comparison of the number of vehicle notices issued.⁵

Figure 2: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice

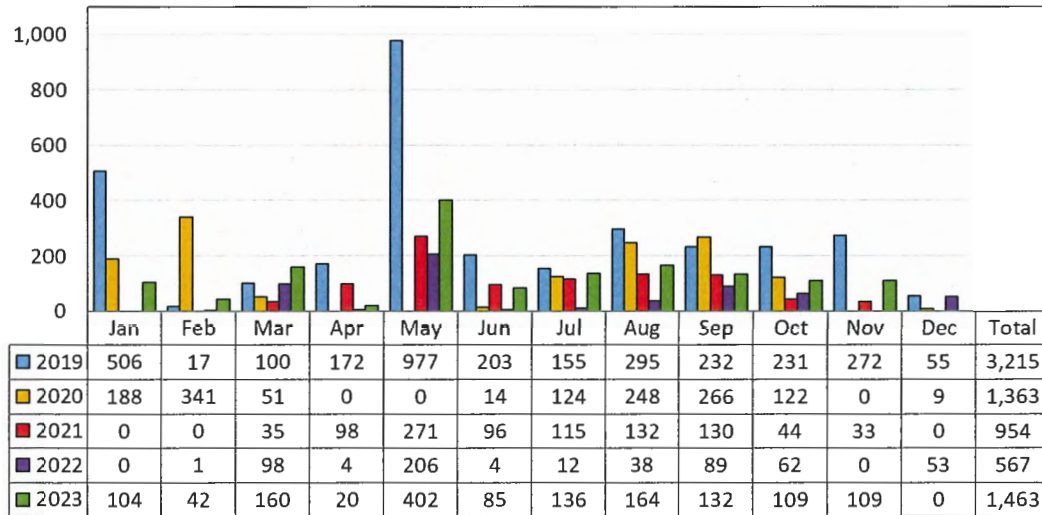


⁵ Beginning in November 2020, Lock Out Auto Crime letters were issued in place of notices. Letters are only issued to vehicles displaying security vulnerabilities; whereas previously, notices were issued to all vehicles. This has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of letters issued.

Speed Watch

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

Figure 3: Speed Watch Letters Sent

Crime Prevention Unit

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

- Business Outreach
- Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives
- Place of Worship Patrols
- Santa's Arrival in Steveston
- SPICE Event
- Theft from Automobiles

Road Safety Unit

The Road Safety Unit makes Richmond's roads safer through evidence-based traffic enforcement, investigation of serious vehicle collisions and public education programs. Table 3 compares statistics for December 2023 to both November 2023 and October 2023. Violation tickets were issued for the following infractions:

Table 3: Violation Tickets Issued

Infraction	October 2023	November 2023	December 2023
Distracted Driving	73	72	84
Driver License	179	146	126
Impaired	22	34	19
Intersection Offences	38	41	22
Moving Infractions ⁶	73	85	71
Speeding	282	160	117
Seatbelts	10	7	5
Vehicle-Related ⁷	139	108	101
Other ⁸	8	15	8
Total	824	668	553

Victim Services

In December 2023, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 67 new clients and attended three crime/trauma scenes after hours. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 95 files. In December, Victim Services responded to several cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, family conflicts and frauds.

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 December, Youth Section highlights included:

- An RCMP officer in the Youth Section attended the Alumni Career Fair at Steveston London Secondary and provided Youth Academy applications and information on policing.
- The first term of DARE concluded for the 2023-2024 school year, and DARE graduations were held for over 200 students.

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

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

⁸ Other refers to miscellaneous charges including failing to remain at the scene of an accident and failing to stop for police.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

In December 2023, the Richmond RCMP conducted several noteworthy investigations, including a trend of fraudulent bank drafts and a boost-and-bust operation. Police statistics for this month indicate that most crime types were within the average ranges, except for sexual offences and shoplifting thefts, which were elevated and commercial break and enters and thefts from automobiles, which were below average.

In December, 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
- 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.

DECEMBER 2023 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.

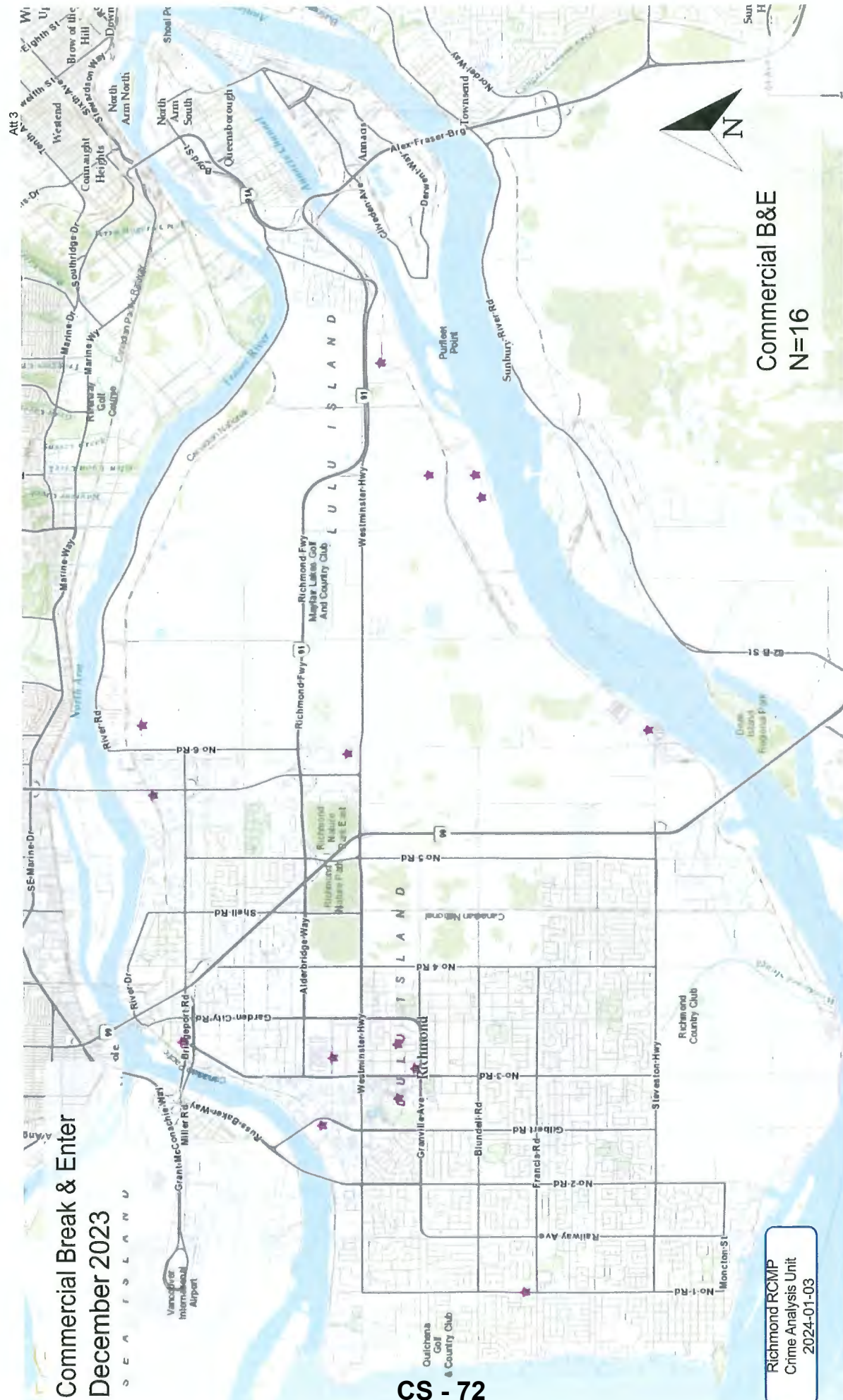
This chart identifies the monthly totals for founded Criminal Code incidents, excluding traffic-related Criminal Code incidents. Based on Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) scoring, there are three categories: (1) Violent Crime, (2) Property Crime, and (3) Other Criminal Code. Within each category, particular 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 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			
	Dec - 23	December		2022	2023	% Change	# Change
VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	149	135.4	127-143	1653	1838	11%	185
Robbery	6	6.0	5-7	61	64	5%	3
Assault Common	43	48.6	40-57	581	589	1%	8
Assault Serious	15	14.0	7-21	208	232	12%	24
Sexual Offences	24	13.8	10-17	208	226	9%	18
PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	595	610.6	521-700	6802	7809	15%	1007
Business B&E	16	34.8	28-41	361	302	-16%	-59
Residential B&E	33	50.2	24-77	293	288	-2%	-5
Auto Theft	21	25.2	18-33	252	253	0%	1
Theft from Auto	59	148.8	107-191	1400	1398	0%	-2
Theft	113	90.4	69-112	1090	1366	25%	276
Shoplifting	103	66.2	51-82	826	1273	54%	447
Fraud	102	69.0	61-77	785	1029	31%	244
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	345	220.6	186-255	3040	3291	8%	251
Arson	8	6.2	1-11	89	78	-12%	-11
SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	1089	967.6	908-1028	11502	12942	13%	1440
DRUGS (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	24	44.2	7-82	501	538	7%	37
MHA RELATED CALLS (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	248	248.8	232-266	2768	2859	3%	91

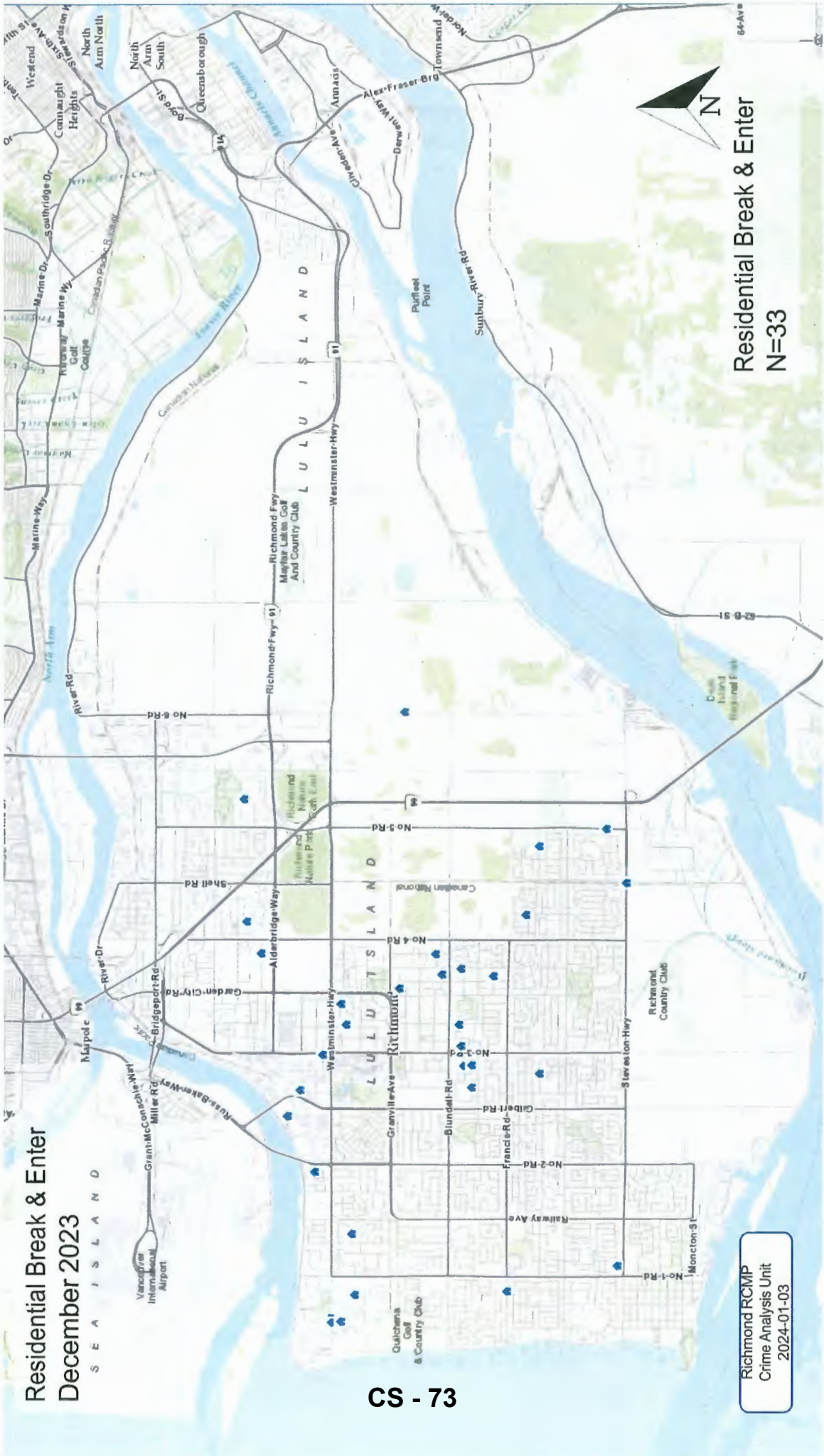
Prepared by Richmond RCMP CAU. Data collected from PRIME on 2024-01-03. Published 2024-01-03. Data subject to change. This document is not to be copied, reproduced, used in whole or part or disseminated to any other person or agency without the consent of the originator(s).

Commercial Break & Enter
December 2023

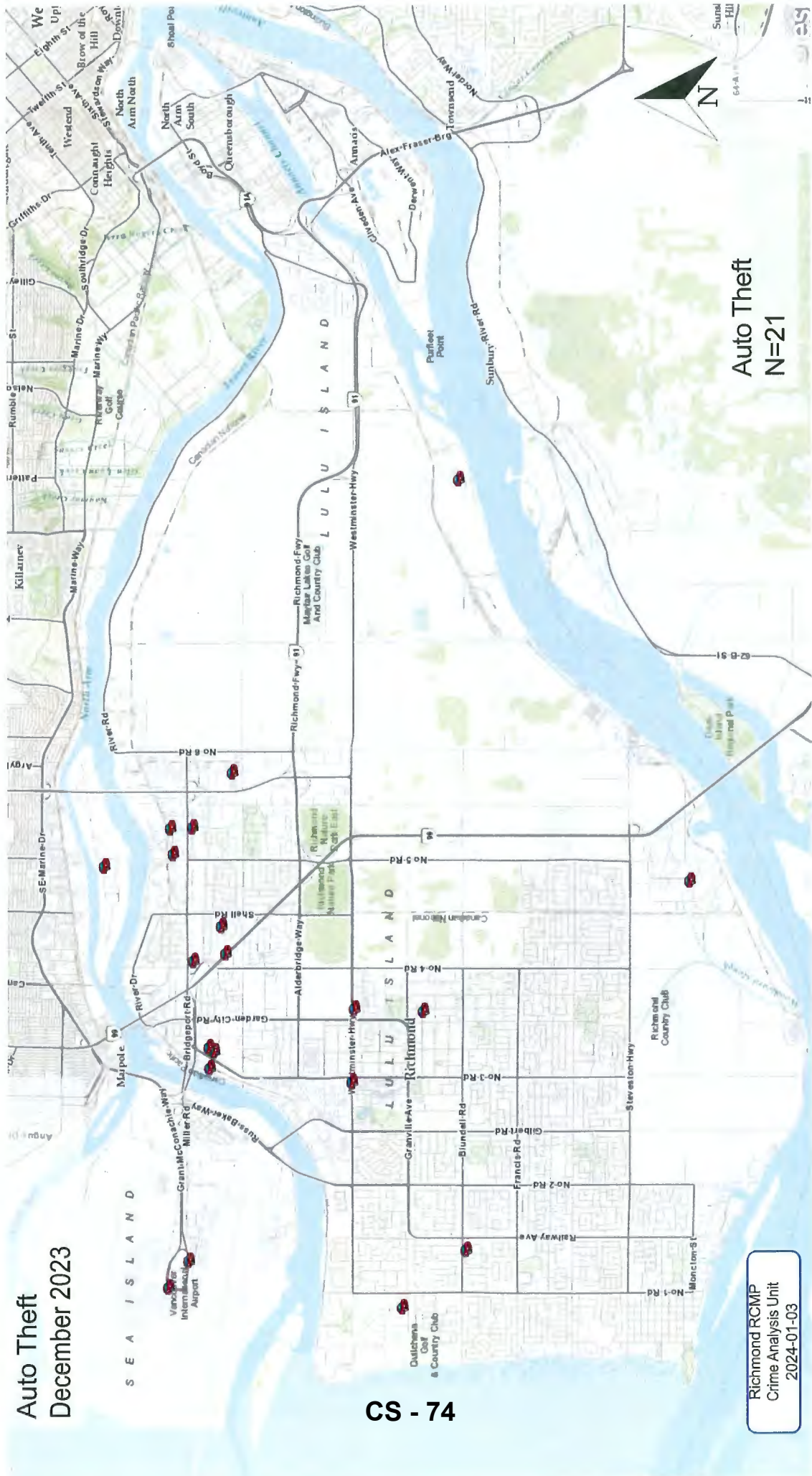


Commercial B&E
N=16

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2024-01-03

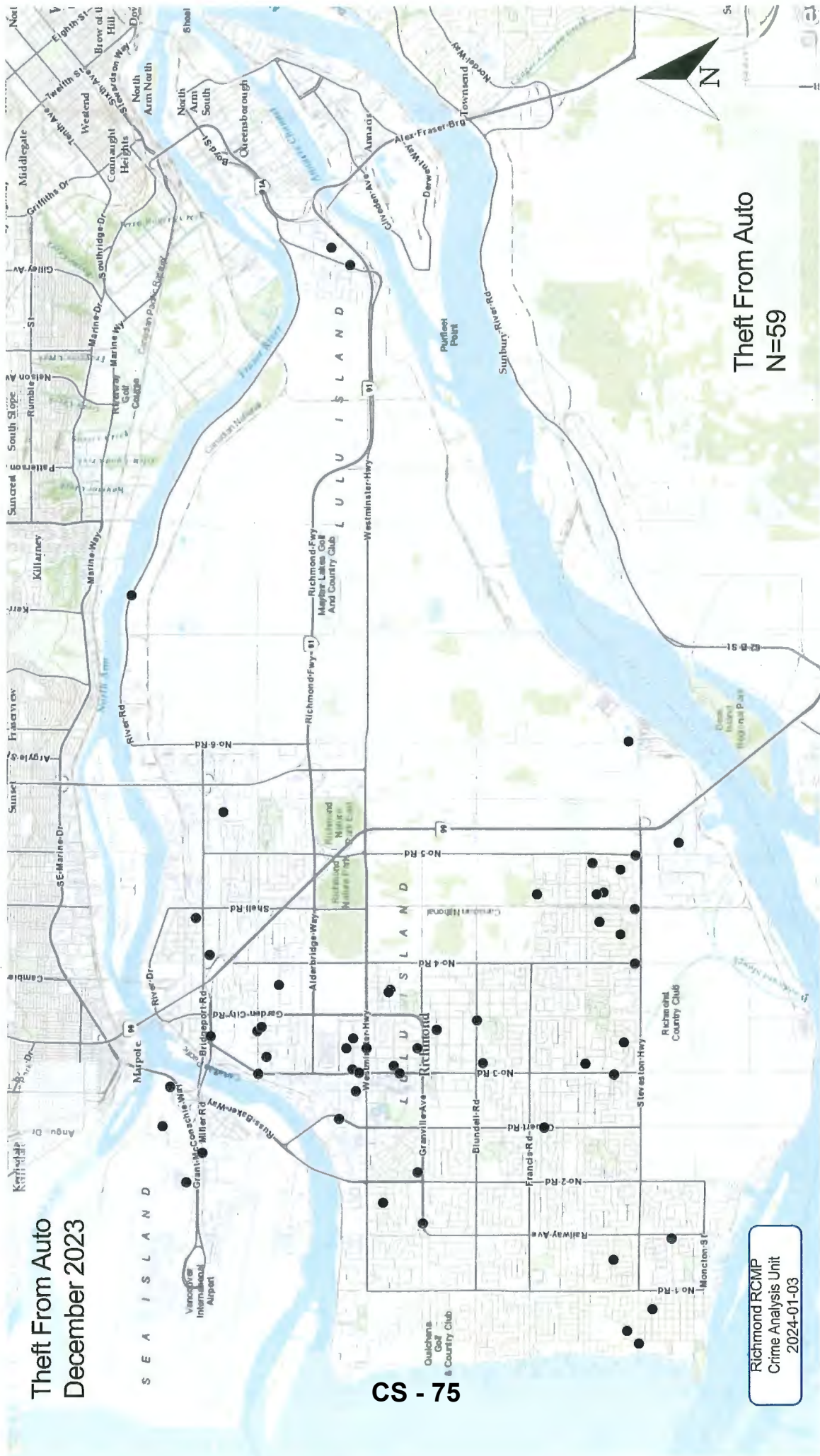


Auto Theft December 2023



CS - 74

Theft From Auto December 2023



CS - 75

Theft From Auto
N=59

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2024-01-03