



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee
From: Julie Drotar
Superintendent, Acting Officer in Charge
Date: March 8, 2022
File: 09-5000-01/2022-Vol
01
Re: RCMP Monthly Activity Report – February 2022

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “RCMP Monthly Activity Report – February 2022”, dated March 8, 2022, from the Acting Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment, be received for information.

Julie Drotar
Superintendent, Acting Officer in Charge
(604-278-1212)

Att. 3

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. 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 2018-2022 Strategy #1 A Safe and Resilient City:

Enhance and protect the safety and well-being of Richmond.

Analysis

Activities and Noteworthy Files

Property Crime Arrests

On February 12, 2022, the Richmond RCMP partnered with Metro Vancouver Transit Police for a joint property crime operation. Police specifically targeted criminals using public transit to enter Richmond in order to commit crimes. Officers arrested 18 people for offences including theft, possession of stolen property and breach of conditions. In addition, during the deployment a bait bike was stolen, a warrant was executed and a missing 13-year-old girl was located.

Youth Academy

The Richmond RCMP held its inaugural Youth Academy between February 17 and 21, 2022. The program, which was jointly coordinated with the Richmond School District, is aimed at students in grades 10 to 12 who have an interest in policing. The 32 participants engaged in practical police-related scenarios and had the opportunity to speak with police officers from a variety of specialized sections, including the RCMP Dive Team and Emergency Response Team.

Attempted Robbery

On February 18, 2022, Richmond RCMP officers responded to a parking lot in the 8000 block of Ackroyd Road after receiving a report of an attempted robbery. An 88-year-old woman was approached by the occupant of a vehicle who attempted to steal her purse. The suspects fled the

scene after the failed attempt. The victim was unharmed in the incident, which remains under investigation.

Policing Priorities in Action – SPICE Events

On February 5 and 6, 2022, the Richmond RCMP Community Engagement Team conducted two Special Post-Incident Community Engagement (SPICE) events at the Lansdowne Mall. The events were in response to a multi-victim homicide, which had occurred the previous month. Police engaged with more than 40 people on each day, including related queries about the Block Watch program. Victim Services was also offered to residents affected by the incident.

Analysis of Police Statistics

Arson

In February 2022, there was one reported arson, which is down four incidents from the previous month and down one incident from February 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of arsons this month is within the expected range.

Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)

There were 11 assault serious events in February 2022, which is down 39 per cent from the previous month and up 10 per cent from February 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of serious assaults this month is within the expected range.

Auto Theft

In February 2022, there were 22 incidents of auto theft, which is up nine per cent from the previous month and up 22 per cent from February 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of auto thefts this month is within the expected range.

Drugs

In February 2022, there were 36 drug files, which is more than double the number reported the previous month and is up nine per cent from February 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of drug incidents this month is within the expected range.

Mental Health

There were 133 mental health-related incidents in February 2022, which is a 28 per cent increase from the previous month and is a 17 per cent increase from February 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of mental health-related incidents this month is within the expected range.

There were 81 police apprehensions this month and the average hospital wait time was 94 minutes; both of these statistics are within the expected ranges.

Residential Break and Enter

There were 31 break and enters to residences in February 2022, which represents no change from the previous month and is an 11 per cent increase from February 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of residential break and enters this month is within the expected range.

Commercial Break and Enter

In February 2022, there were 38 break and enters to businesses, which is a 27 per cent increase from the previous month and is a 65 per cent increase from February 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of commercial break and enters this month is within the expected range.

Robbery

There were five robbery incidents in February 2022, which is half the number of incidents reported in the previous month and is down one incident from February 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of robberies this month is within the expected range.

Sexual Offences

In February 2022, there were 17 sexual offence files, which is up 31 per cent from previous month and is down 15 per cent from February 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of sexual offences this month is within the expected range.

Shoplifting

There were 71 reported shoplifting thefts in February 2022, which is a 65 per cent increase from the previous month and is a 22 per cent increase from February 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of shoplifting thefts this month is within the expected range.

The increased number of reported shoplifting thefts this month has been attributed to the Richmond RCMP and Metro Vancouver Transit Police joint project targeting property crime offenders, which was discussed in the Activities and Noteworthy Files section of this report.

Theft from Automobile

There were 96 theft from automobile incidents in February 2022, which is down 28 per cent from the previous month and down 21 per cent from February 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of thefts from automobiles this month is below the expected range.

Hate Crimes and Incidents

Table 1 presents the number of hate crimes and hate incidents reported between January 1, 2018 and February 28, 2022.¹ 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. The events reported this month were related to anti-Semitic graffiti and comments, which were racist and homophobic.

Table 1 – Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents			
Year	Hate Crime Files	Hate Incident Files	Total
2018	19	4	23
2019	11	9	20
2020	21	13	34
2021	19	29	48
2022	0	3	3

Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions

Data on crime rates is presented in Figure 1.² In February 2022, out of the four largest municipalities policed by the RCMP in the Lower Mainland District (LMD), Richmond had the lowest violent crime rate and the second-lowest property crime rate.



¹ The BC Hate Crimes Unit uses the terms hate-motivated crime and hate-motivated incident.

² Crime rate is calculated per 1,000 people.

Block Watch

At the end of February 2022, the Block Watch program had 300 groups totaling 6,962 participants. Currently, the program includes 427 captains and co-captains. This month, there were five virtual training sessions for captains and participants.

Community Police Station Programs

Community police stations enhance the Richmond RCMP Detachment's policing services by providing an array of crime prevention resources and community safety initiatives. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all three community police stations have been closed to the public since March 2020. Volunteer deployments resumed in June 2020, in accordance with the guidelines established by RCMP 'E' Division's Crime Prevention Services; however, the scope of volunteer activities has been limited. City staff and volunteers have continued to pursue safety initiatives to enhance crime prevention program awareness, community engagement and police accessibility.

During the month of February, volunteer highlights included:

- The deployment of one volunteer bike patrol, totalling 12 hours.
- Four Lock Out Auto Crime deployments took place, which resulted in 183 information letters being distributed.
- Speed Watch was conducted on 108 vehicles and one information letter was issued.
- February 18-21 – A total of 18 volunteers assisted with the Youth Academy, including setting up for courses and being actors in different policing scenarios.
- February 23 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with Lock Out Auto Crime deployments in central Richmond. A total of 420 vehicles were checked and 63 information letters were issued to registered vehicle owners.
- February 23 and 24 – City staff provided refresher training to 16 volunteers, who will be resuming volunteer activities following a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Topics covered included crime prevention and road safety program overviews, in addition to deployment procedures.

Lock Out Auto Crime

Figure 2 provides a comparison by year of the number of vehicle notices issued.³

Figure 2: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice

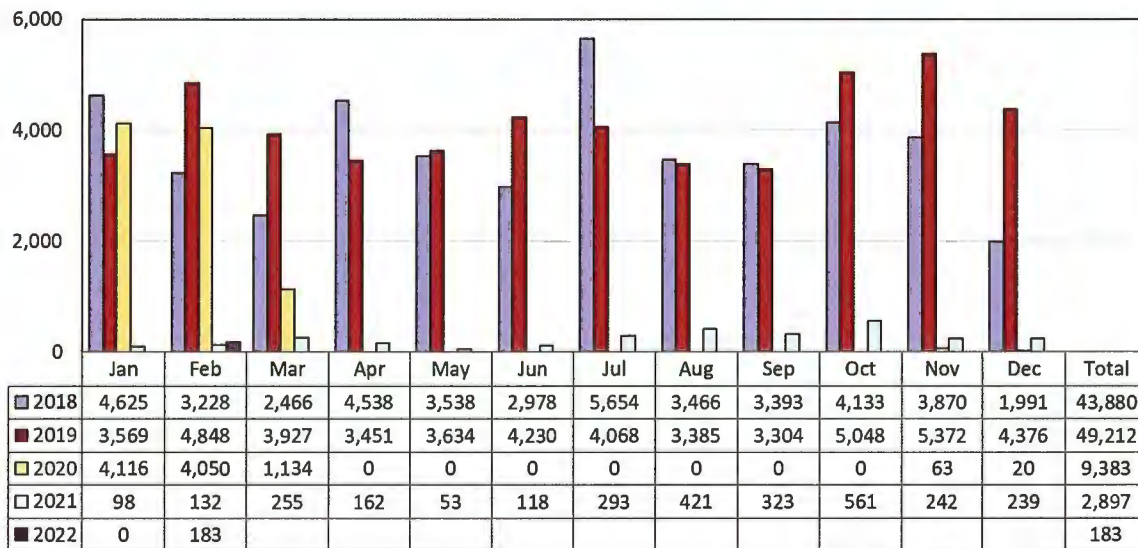
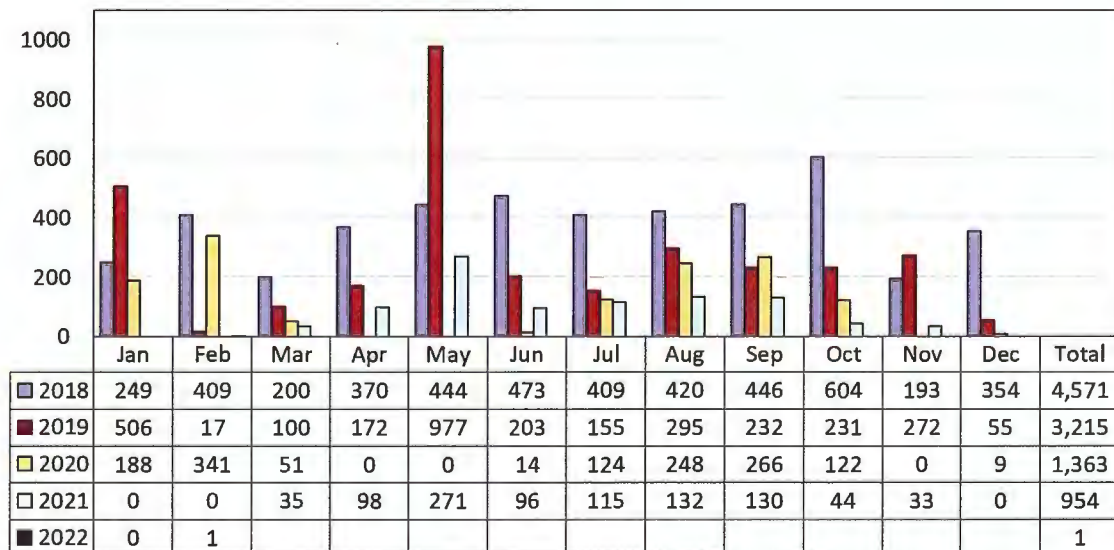
*Speed Watch*

Figure 3 provides a yearly comparison of the number of letters sent to registered vehicle owners.

Figure 3: Speed Watch Letters Sent



³ Beginning in November 2020, Lock Out Auto Crime letters were issued in place of notices due to COVID-19-related concerns. 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 the month of February, the Crime Prevention Unit participated in the following events/activities:

- Business Outreach
- Community Foot Patrols
- Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives
- Pink Shirt Day
- Place of Worship Patrols
- SPICE Events

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 2 compares statistics for February 2022 to both December 2021 and January 2022. Violation tickets were issued for the following infractions:

Table 2: Violation Tickets Issued

Infraction	December 2021	January 2022	February 2022
Distracted Driving	92	47	28
Driver License	145	115	85
Impaired	33	30	28
Intersection Offences	40	41	35
Moving Infractions ⁴	61	64	46
Speeding	113	134	126
Seatbelts	4	0	2
Vehicle Related ⁵	77	49	33
Other ⁶	4	9	5
Total	569	489	388

Victim Services

In February 2022, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 66 new clients and attended four crime/trauma scenes after hours. Victim Services reduced in-person client services in March 2020 and began offering services by phone but continue to attend some of the more serious calls in person. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 130 files. In February, Victim Services responded to a number of cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, property crimes and mental health issues.

⁴ Moving infractions refers to unsafe lane change and unsafe passing.

⁵ Vehicle related refers to vehicle defects, for example no lights and no insurance.

⁶ Other refers to miscellaneous charges including failing to remain at the scene of an accident and failing to stop for police.

Youth Section

The Richmond RCMP Detachment's Youth Section focuses on strategies that contribute to safe and healthy behaviours essential to the development of productive and civic-minded adults. During the month of February, Youth Section highlights included:

- An RCMP officer in the Youth Section presented to three elementary schools on the role of police. These presentations provide students with an overview of how police officers keep communities safe.
- RCMP officers in the Youth Section conducted 29 proactive school visits at secondary schools and 41 visits at elementary schools. Police officers engaged with the students at recess and lunch, as well as during morning and afternoon supervision.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

In February 2022, the Richmond RCMP conducted a number of noteworthy investigations, including a joint operation with Metro Vancouver Transit Police targeting property crime offenders. Police statistics for this month indicate that most crime types were within the expected ranges, with the exception of theft from automobiles, which were below the expected range.

In February, the Richmond RCMP hosted its inaugural Youth Academy for high school students in grades 10 to 12 who have an interest in policing. In addition, 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, RCMP Administration
(604-207-4767)

EW:

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

Auxiliary Constables

- The primary mandate of Richmond's Auxiliary Constables is to support community policing activities related to public safety and crime prevention.
- For more information, visit www.richmond.ca/safety/police/prevention/auxiliary.htm

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.

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.

FEBRUARY 2022 STATISTICS

RICHMOND RCMP

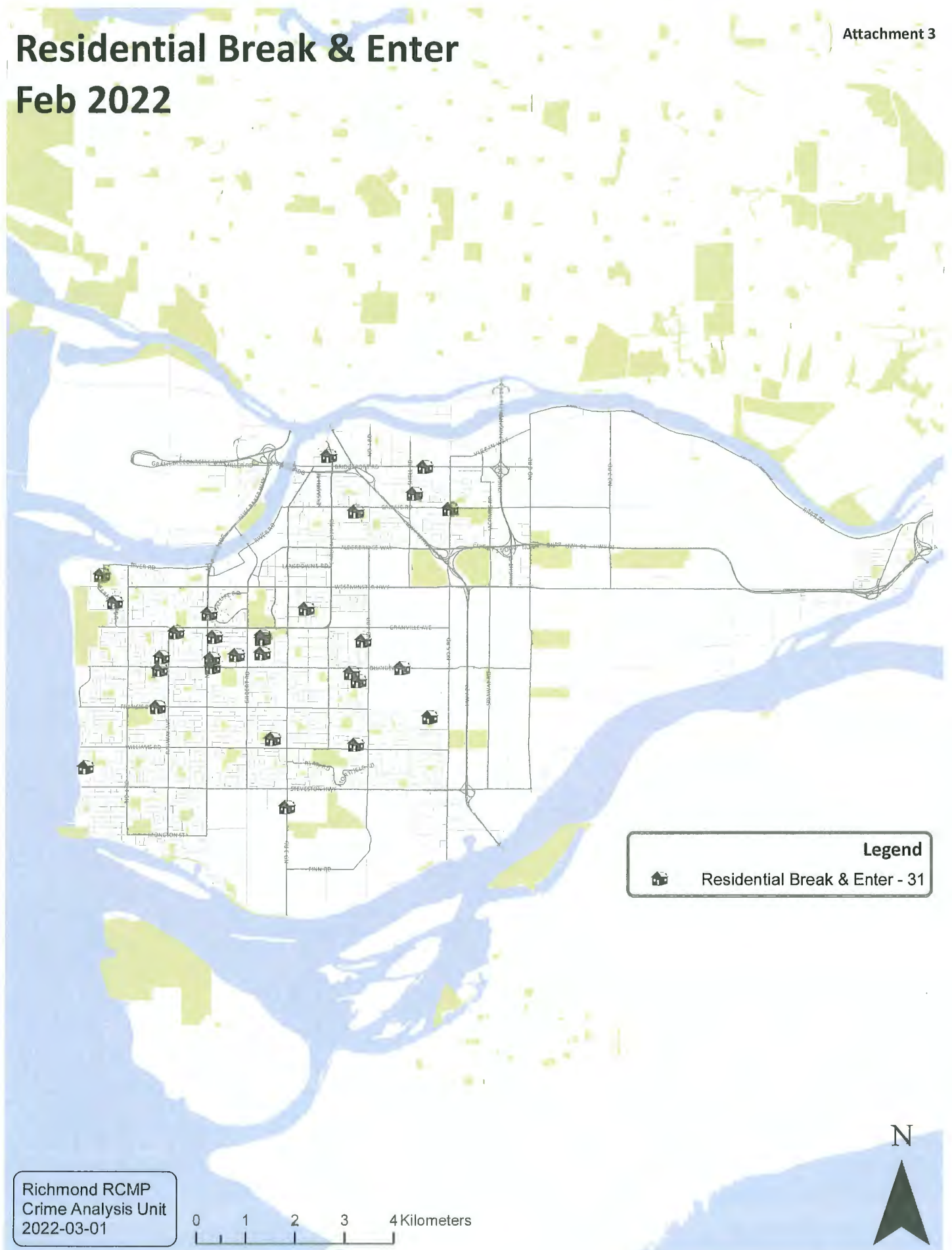
This chart identifies the monthly totals for founded Criminal Code incidents, excluding traffic-related Criminal Code incidents. Based on Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) scoring, there are three categories: (1) Violent Crime, (2) Property Crime, and (3) Other Criminal Code. Within each category, particular offence types are highlighted in this chart. In addition, monthly totals for Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) incidents and MHA-related calls for service are included. Individual UCR codes are indicated below the specific crime type.

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

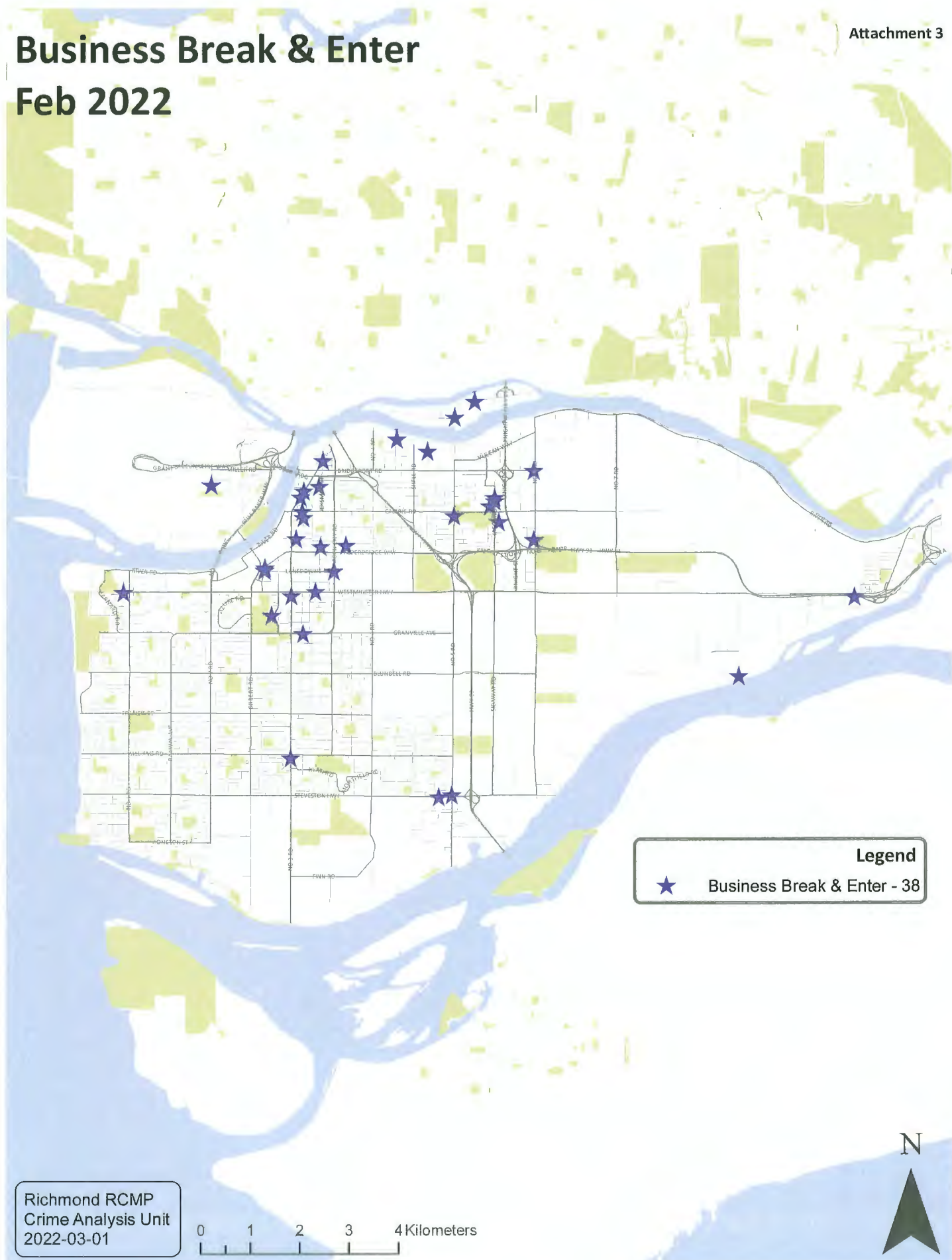
	Month	5-Yr Avg	5-Yr Range	Year to Date Totals			
	Feb-22	February		2021	2022	% Change	# Change
VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	127	112.4	92-133	274	265	-3%	-9
Robbery <small>UCR 1610 (1-3)</small>	5	4.2	2-7	11	15	36%	4
Assault Common <small>UCR 1430</small>	41	42.2	35-50	93	82	-12%	-11
Assault Serious <small>UCR 1410, 1420</small>	11	6.8	5-9	26	29	12%	3
Sexual Offences <small>UCR 1547, 1510, 1556, 1510, 1450/55/56</small>	17	11.0	6-16	35	30	-14%	-5
PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	498	590.8	536-646	1025	967	-6%	-58
Business B&E <small>UCR 2120-1</small>	38	33.2	20-47	43	68	58%	25
Residential B&E <small>UCR 2120-2</small>	31	58.6	39-78	67	62	-7%	-5
Auto Theft <small>UCR 2135 (1-10), 2178</small>	22	19.4	15-23	36	42	17%	6
Theft from Auto <small>UCR 2112, 2142</small>	96	163.6	139-188	256	230	-10%	-26
Theft <small>UCR 2130, 2140</small>	60	88.0	69-107	127	129	2%	2
Shoplifting <small>UCR 2113, 2143</small>	71	59.8	53-66	129	114	-12%	-15
Fraud <small>UCR 2104/011, 2104, 2106</small>	70	70.6	64-77	141	123	-13%	-18
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	211	172.6	150-195	414	393	-5%	-21
Arson <small>UCR 1025, 1110</small>	1	1.8	0-4	9	6	-33%	-3
SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	837	875.8	845-907	1715	1627	-5%	-88
DRUGS (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	36	50.0	33-67	74	51	-31%	-23
MHA RELATED CALLS (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	133	133.0	105-161	238	237	0%	-1

Prepared by Richmond RCMP Crime Analysts. Data collected from PRIME on 2022-03-01. Published 2022-03-02. These data are 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).

Residential Break & Enter Feb 2022

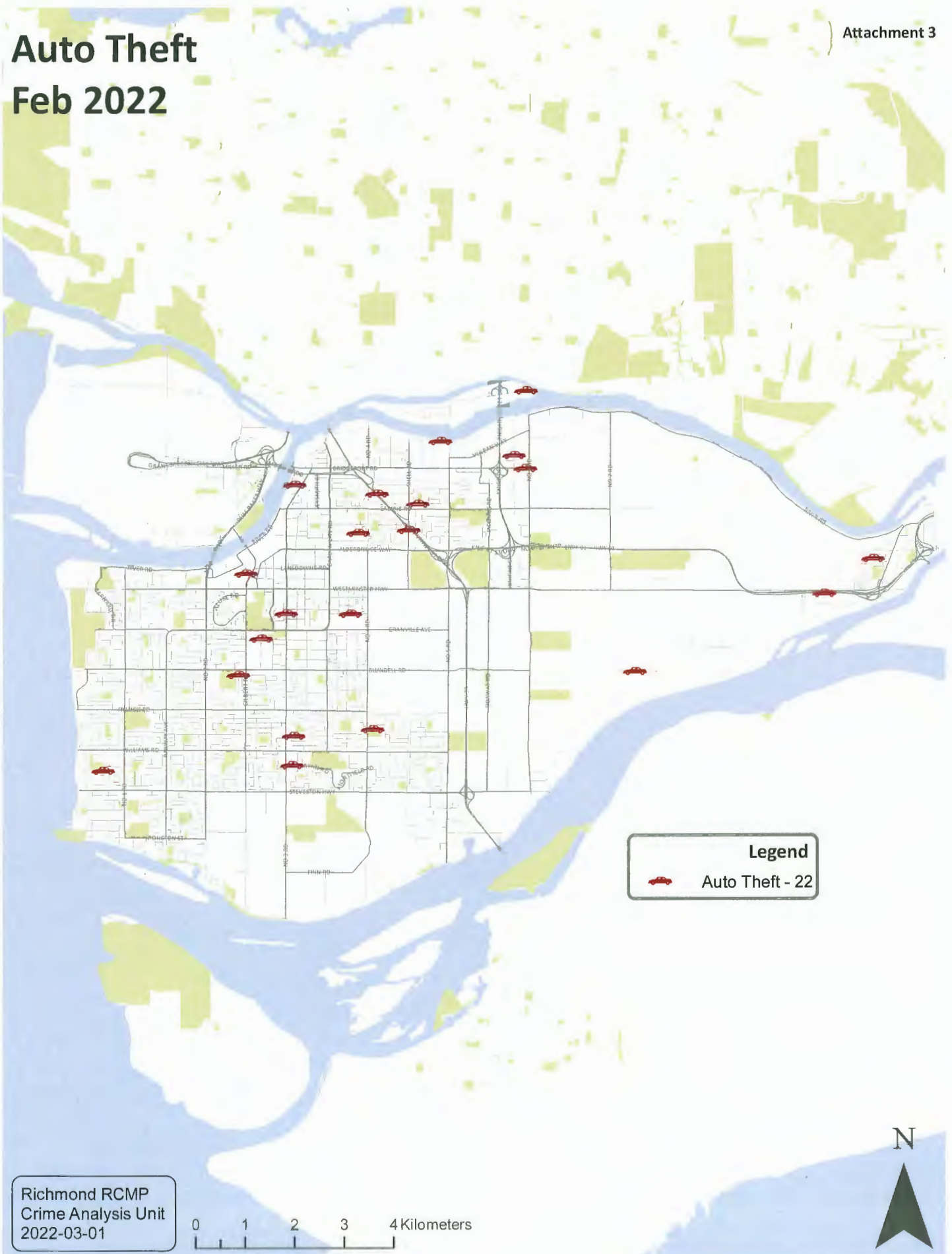


Business Break & Enter Feb 2022



Auto Theft Feb 2022

Attachment 3



Theft from Auto Feb 2022

