



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** April 14, 2023
From: Dave Chauhan **File:** 09-5000-01/2023-Vol
Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge 01
Re: RCMP Monthly Activity Report – March 2023

Recommendation from the OIC

That the report titled “RCMP Monthly Activity Report – March 2023”, dated April 14, 2023, 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 #3 A Safe and Prepared Community:

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

3.2 Leverage strategic partnerships and community-based approaches for comprehensive safety services.

Analysis

Activities and Noteworthy Files

Cryptocurrency Fraud

On March 1, 2023, a man attended the Richmond RCMP Detachment to report that he had been defrauded over one million dollars in a cryptocurrency scam. The victim had been contacted by what he believed was a Canadian telecommunications company and advised that he was a suspect in a financial crime overseas. The incident remains under investigation.

Stolen Vehicle

On March 15, 2023, a Richmond RCMP volunteer located a stolen vehicle while on a Lock Out Auto Crime deployment. Police subsequently attempted to conduct a vehicle stop but the driver fled at a high rate of speed. Investigators continued efforts to locate the suspect and on March 21, 2023, the suspect was arrested without incident.

Break and Enter Arrest

On March 17, 2023, Richmond RCMP officers responded to the 6000 block of Lynas Lane for a report of a break and enter to an occupied residence. The suspect departed the scene prior to police attendance; however, during patrols of the surrounding area, police located an individual matching the suspect description. The man was arrested and charges are pending.

Excessive Speed

On March 18, 2023, a Richmond RCMP officer was conducting speed enforcement in the area of Highway 91 and No. 6 Road when he observed a vehicle travelling at 185 kilometres per hour. The driver lost control of the vehicle and collided with a fire hydrant. The 19-year-old driver was arrested at the scene and charges are pending.

Analysis of Police Statistics

Arson

In March 2023, there were six reported arsons, which is half the number of incidents reported the previous month and is an increase of one incident from March 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of arsons this month is within the average range.

Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)

There were 22 serious assault events in March 2023, which represents no change from the previous month and is a 47 per cent increase from March 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of serious assaults this month is above the average range.

To date, suspects have been identified in 86 per cent of the incidents; and in March 2023, 73 per cent of the incidents involved parties that were known to one another.

Auto Theft

In March 2023, there were 25 incidents of auto theft, which represents no change from the previous month and is a 67 per cent increase from March 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of auto thefts this month is within the average range.

Drugs

In March 2023, there were 51 drug files, which is up 65 per cent from the previous month and down 37 per cent from March 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of drug incidents this month is within the average range.

Mental Health

There were 237 mental health-related incidents in March 2023, which is a six per cent decrease from the previous month and is a two per cent increase from March 2022. No patterns or trends

have been identified. The number of mental health-related incidents this month is within the average range.

There were 54 police apprehensions this month, which is the lowest number reported in the last three years. The average hospital wait time was 103 minutes, which is within the average range.

Residential Break and Enter

There were 24 break and enters to residences in March 2023, which is a 41 per cent increase from the previous month and is a 33 per cent decrease from March 2022. 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 March 2023, there were 30 break and enters to businesses, which represents a 30 per cent increase from the previous month and is a 35 per cent decrease from March 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of commercial break and enters this month is within the average range.

Robbery

There were four robberies in March 2023, which is up one incident from the previous month and down three incidents March 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of robberies this month is within the average range.

Suspects have been identified in three of the four robberies reported this month.

Sexual Offences

In March 2023, there were 12 sexual offence files, which is a 37 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 48 per cent decrease from March 2022.¹ No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of sexual offences this month is within the average range.

Suspects have been identified in 83 per cent of the incidents reported this month.

Shoplifting

There were 112 reported shoplifting thefts in March 2023, which is a 10 per cent increase from the previous month and is a 62 per cent increase from March 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of shoplifting thefts this month is above the average range.

The incidents remain under investigation. Of the 32 suspects identified, 29 per cent are Richmond residents.

¹ 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.

Theft from Automobile

There were 145 theft from automobile incidents in March 2023, which is up 12 per cent from the previous month and up one per cent from March 2022. The number of thefts from automobiles this month are within the average range.

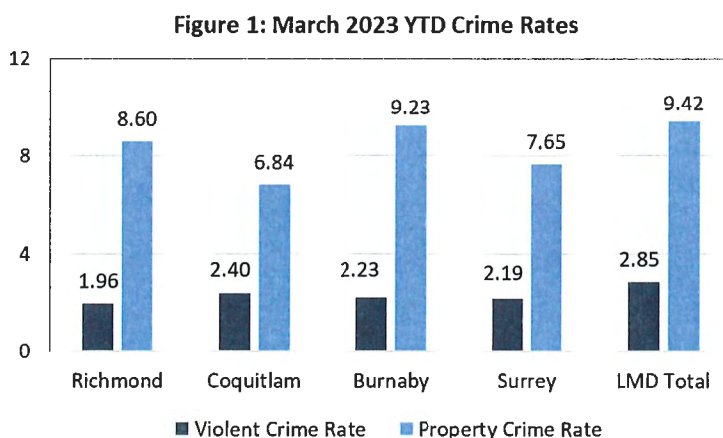
Hate Crimes and Incidents

Table 1 presents the number of hate crimes and hate incidents reported between January 1, 2019 and March 31, 2023.² 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 incident reported this month was related to racist comments made by a customer to a store employee.

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 (YTD)	0	6	6

Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions

Data on crime rates is presented in Figure 1.³ In March 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.



² The BC Hate Crimes Unit uses the terms hate-motivated crime and hate-motivated incident.

³ Crime rate is year to date (YTD) and calculated per 1,000 people.

Block Watch

At the end of March 2023, the Block Watch program had 303 groups totalling 7,040 participants. Currently, the program includes 438 captains and co-captains. This month, there were four Block Watch outreach events featuring an information booth and crime prevention resources.

Community Police Station Programs

Community police stations continue to enhance the Detachment's policing services by providing an array of crime prevention resources and community safety initiatives. City staff and volunteers pursue safety initiatives to enhance 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, reflective of weather conditions, seasonal initiatives and the availability of volunteers.

During the month of March, volunteer highlights included:

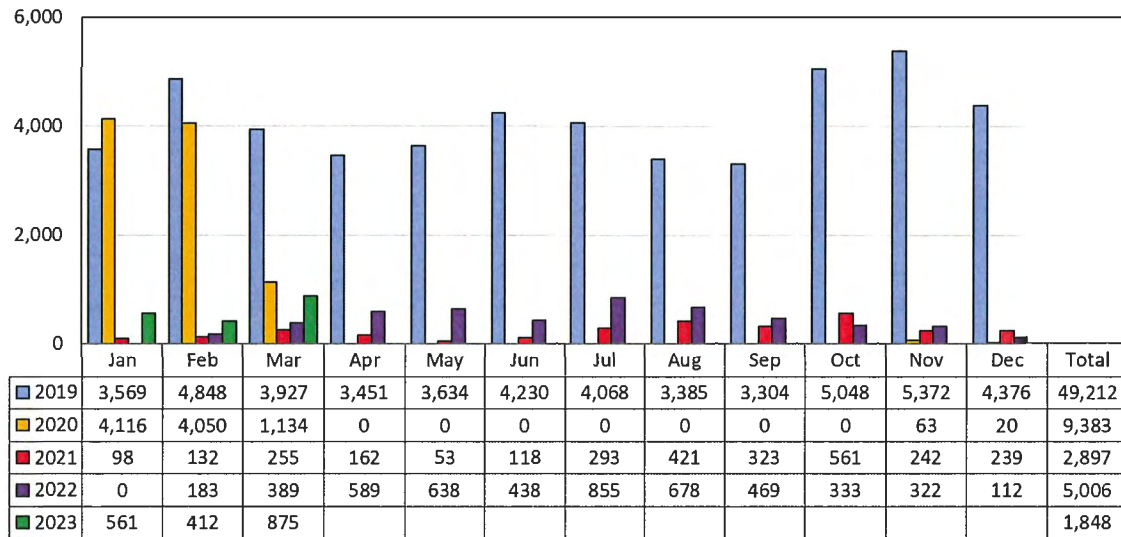
- The deployment of seven volunteer foot/van patrols, totalling 32 hours.
- A total of 16 Fail to Stop deployments took place, resulting in 556 information letters.
- There were 40 Lock Out Auto Crime deployments, during which 875 information letters were distributed.
- A total of six Distracted Driving deployments took place, resulting in 21 information letters.
- Speed Watch was conducted on 3,310 vehicles, and 160 information letters were issued.
- March 7 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a Distracted Driving Blitz, conducted in partnership with ICBC and Metro Vancouver Transit Police. Police issued a total of 15 violation tickets; 14 of which were for the use of an electronic device.
- March 7 and 8 – A total of 13 new volunteers received training on crime prevention and road safety programs.
- March 11 – Volunteers located a stolen vehicle while conducting a Lock Out Auto Crime deployment.
- March 16 – Volunteers assisted Block Watch and RCMP officers with a Pop Up Detachment event in the Blundell area. In addition to volunteers conducting Lock Out Auto Crime in the neighborhood, the event featured the Spot the Target initiative and an information booth.
- March 23 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers at the Cambie Community Centre for the Coffee with a Cop event.
- March 23 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers at the Richmond Oval for a Pop Up Detachment event.
- March 28 – Volunteers participated in a Think of Me campaign at Thomas Kidd Elementary School. A total of 46 cards were distributed.⁴

⁴ The Think of Me Campaign uses cards illustrated by children, which contain depictions of what children would like drivers to think about when they are driving in school zones and in the community.

Lock Out Auto Crime

Figure 2 compares by year the number of vehicle notices issued.⁵

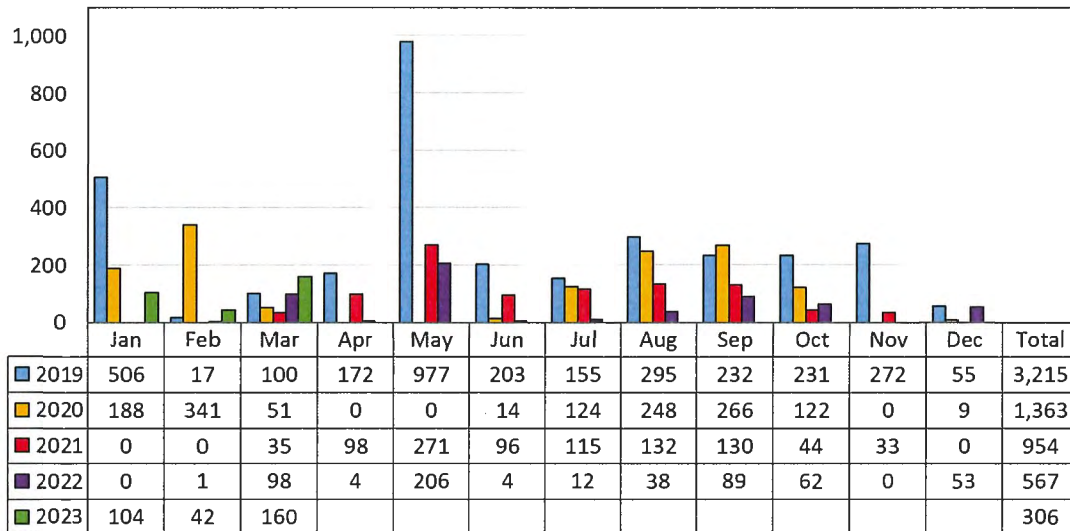
Figure 2: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice



Speed Watch

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

Figure 3: Speed Watch Letters Sent



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.

Crime Prevention Unit

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

- Business Outreach
- Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives
- Coffee with a Cop
- Distracted Driving
- Place of Worship Patrols
- Think of Me Campaign

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 March 2023 to both January 2023 and February 2023. Violation tickets were issued for the following infractions:

Table 2: Violation Tickets Issued

Infraction	January 2023	February 2023	March 2023
Distracted Driving	83	76	133
Driver License	174	183	181
Impaired	46	29	27
Intersection Offences	42	38	42
Moving Infractions ⁶	84	65	64
Speeding	90	155	152
Seatbelts	6	19	15
Vehicle Related ⁷	252	141	144
Other ⁸	6	10	11
Total	783	716	769

Victim Services

In March 2023, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 45 new clients and attended four crime/trauma scenes after hours. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 66 files. In March, Victim Services responded to a number of cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, suicides and family conflicts.

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.

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 the month of March, Youth Section highlights included:

- RCMP officers in the Youth Section conducted seven proactive school visits at secondary schools and nine visits at elementary schools. Police officers engaged with the students at recess and lunch, as well as during morning and afternoon supervision.
- DARE continued for the 2022-2023 school year with classes delivered to a total of 513 students in six schools.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

In March 2023, the Richmond RCMP conducted a number of noteworthy investigations, including a large cryptocurrency fraud and a break and enter in progress. Police statistics for this month indicate that most crime types were within the average ranges, except for serious assaults and shoplifting, which were elevated.

In March, the Community Engagement Team and volunteers continued to promote crime prevention and road safety initiatives, including multiple events targeting distracted driving. 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 of 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.

MARCH 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 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			
	Mar - 23	March		2022	2023	% Change	# Change
VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	142	141.2	123-160	402	440	9%	38
Robbery <small>UCR 1610 (1-3)</small>	4	6.4	5-8	22	8	-64%	-14
Assault Common <small>UCR 1430</small>	41	46.6	40-53	132	136	3%	4
Assault Serious <small>UCR 1410, 1420</small>	22	14.6	13-16	44	61	39%	17
Sexual Offences <small>UCR 1545, 1331, 1364, 1310, 2450/55/24</small>	12	16.8	12-22	53	52	-2%	-1
PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	653	628.2	586-670	1597	1954	22%	357
Business B&E <small>UCR 2120-1</small>	30	34.0	26-42	114	92	-19%	-22
Residential B&E <small>UCR 2120-2</small>	24	38.8	30-48	98	66	-33%	-32
Auto Theft <small>UCR 2135 (1, 14), 2178</small>	25	26.2	19-33	57	71	25%	14
Theft from Auto <small>UCR 2132, 2142</small>	145	175.6	145-206	373	452	21%	79
Theft <small>UCR 2130, 2140</small>	106	75.8	59-92	206	308	50%	102
Shoplifting <small>UCR 2133, 2143*</small>	112	72.0	59-85	183	291	59%	108
Fraud <small>UCR 2190 (1, 11), 2164, 2166</small>	73	74.8	66-83	196	240	22%	44
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	278	198.0	169-227	641	796	24%	155
Arson <small>UCR 3025, 2114</small>	6	4.6	2-7	11	21	91%	10
SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	1073	963.6	922-1005	2643	3190	21%	547
DRUGS (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	51	52.6	35-71	132	108	-18%	-24
MHA RELATED CALLS (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	237	243.2	214-272	714	752	5%	38

Prepared by Richmond RCMP Crime Analysts. Data collected from PRIME on 2023-04-03. Published 2023-04-04. 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 March 2023

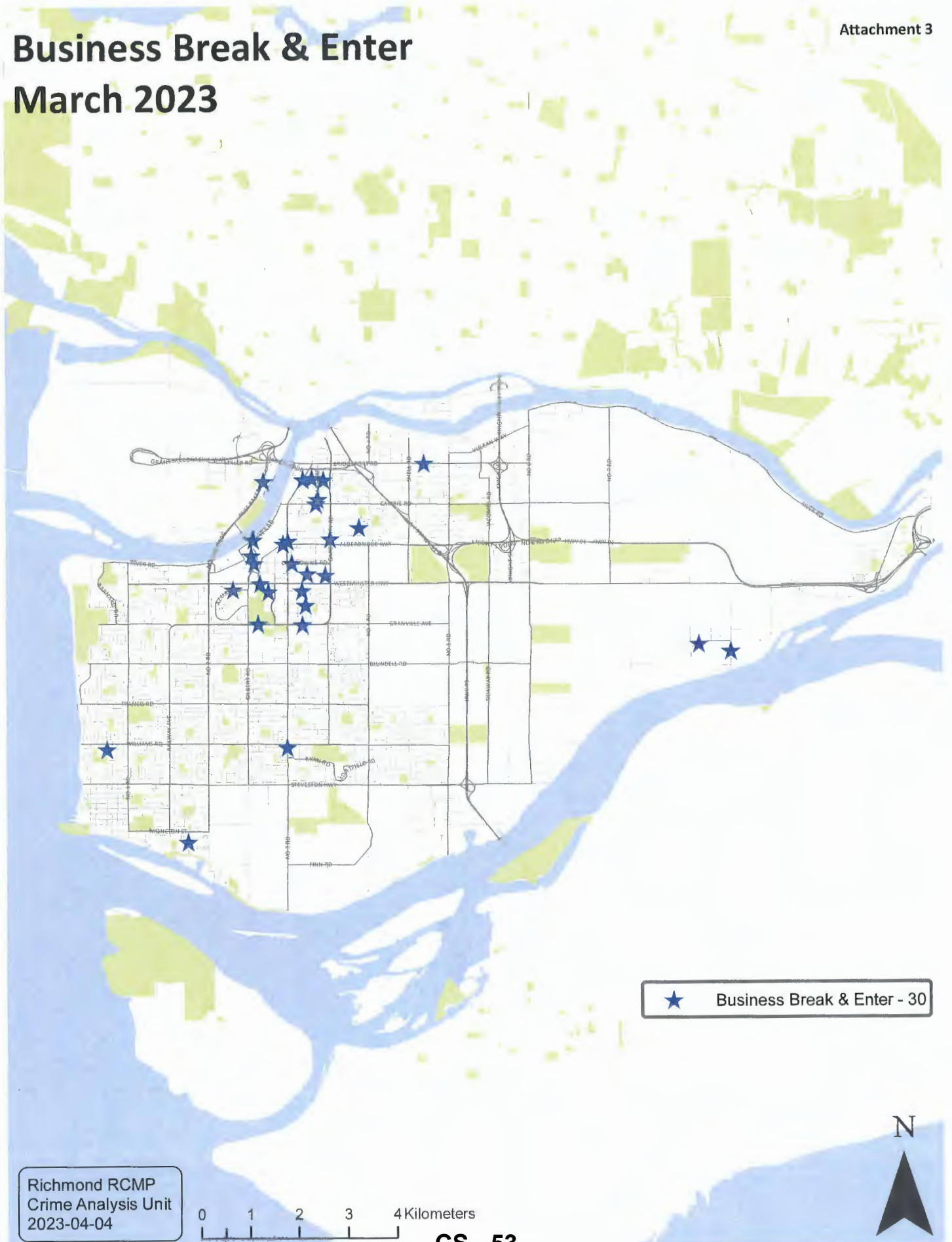


Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2023-04-04

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

CS - 52

Business Break & Enter March 2023



★ Business Break & Enter - 30

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2023-04-04

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

CS - 53

Theft from Auto March 2023



Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2023-04-04

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

CS - 54

Auto Theft March 2023



Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2023-04-04

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

CS - 55