



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** April 16, 2024

From: Dave Chauhan **File:** 09-5000-01/2024-Vol
Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge 01

Re: RCMP Monthly Activity Report – March 2024

Staff Recommendation

That the report titled “RCMP Monthly Activity Report – March 2024”, dated April 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	

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 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

Distracted Driving Campaign

On March 1, 2024, the Richmond RCMP partnered with Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement officers, Transit Police, and the BC Highway Patrol Integrated Road Safety Unit to conduct a Joint Forces Operation (JFO) against distracted driving. The JFO launched a month-long province-wide campaign in collaboration with ICBC to combat distracted driving, a leading cause of traffic incidents and fatalities.

Fraud Arrest

On March 6, 2024, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release advising that police had arrested a suspect in connection with a series of fraudulent vehicle purchases with a combined value of \$443,688. The incidents occurred in early 2024 and involved fraudulent bank drafts. The investigation is ongoing.

Recovery of Stolen Goods

On March 14, 2024, a Richmond RCMP issued a media release advising that the Property Crime Unit had executed a search warrant on February 29, 2024, at a residence in Steveston. Over

1,000 stolen items valued at over \$150,000 were recovered, most of which were new toys and fashion apparel. A 46-year-old Richmond man was arrested. The investigation is ongoing.

Purse Snatchings

Between February 22 and March 23, 2024, the Richmond RCMP received six reports of purse snatchings. Four incidents occurred in central Richmond and two in Steveston. Police released a suspect description and were working to determine if the same person committed these crimes. The incidents remain under investigation.

Romance and Investment Frauds

On March 26, 2024, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release warning of increased online scams combining romance and investment schemes. In 2023, the Richmond RCMP's Economic Crime Unit received 87 reports of such scams, with victims reporting total losses of over \$16.17 million. The trend has continued, and in the first three months of 2024, 12 incidents have been reported, amounting to losses of \$477,820.

Analysis of Police Statistics

Arson

In March 2024, there were two reported arsons, a decrease of nine incidents from the previous month. No patterns or trends have been identified.¹

Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)

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

Of the incidents reported in March 2024, 28 per cent were domestic assaults and 17 per cent involved confrontational customers at commercial locations.

Auto Theft

In March 2024, there were 24 auto thefts, representing a 41 per cent increase from the previous month and a four per cent decrease from March 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of auto thefts this month is within the average range.

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

Drugs

In March 2024, there were 15 drug offences, which is a six per cent decrease from the previous month and a 71 per cent decrease from March 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of drug incidents this month is below the average range.

Mental Health

There were 272 mental health-related incidents in March 2024, representing a 27 per cent increase from the previous month and a 15 per cent increase from March 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified and the number of mental health-related incidents this month is within the average range.

There were 77 police apprehensions this month, representing a 17 per cent increase from the previous month, and the average hospital wait time increased by 19 per cent to 154 minutes. The extended wait time has been attributed to eight files with exceptionally long wait times.

Residential Break and Enter

There were 23 break and enters to residences in March 2024, representing no change from the previous month and a four per cent decrease from March 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of residential break and enters this month is below the average range.

Commercial Break and Enter

In March 2024, there were 27 break and enters to businesses, which is a 42 per cent increase from the previous month and a 10 per cent decrease from March 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of commercial break and enters this month is below the average range.

Robbery

There were 12 robberies in March 2024, which is an increase of four incidents from the previous month and an increase of eight incidents from March 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of robberies this month is above the average range.

Six of the robberies reported this month involved the use of a noxious spray, and four incidents occurred during the commission of a shoplifting offence.

Sexual Offences

In March 2024, there were 14 sexual offence files, representing a 39 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 17 per cent increase from March 2023.² No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of sexual offences this month is within the average range.

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.

Approximately 43 per cent of the offences reported in March 2024 were indecent acts/exposing and 36 per cent were sexual assaults.

Shoplifting

There were 181 reported shoplifting thefts in March 2024, which is a 21 per cent increase from the previous month and a 62 per cent increase from March 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of shoplifting thefts this month is above the average range.

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

Theft from Automobile

There were 74 thefts from automobiles in March 2024, which is a six per cent increase from the previous month and a 49 per cent decrease from March 2023. The number of thefts from automobiles this month is below the average range.

Hate Crimes and Incidents

Table 1 presents the number of hate crimes and hate incidents reported between January 1, 2020 and March 31, 2024.³ 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 March 2024.

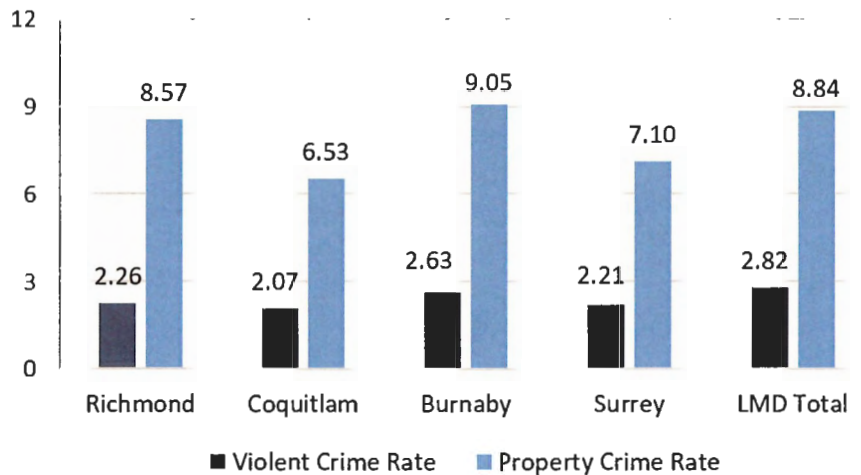
Table 1 – Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents			
Year	Hate Crime Files	Hate Incident Files	Total
2020	21	13	34
2021	21	24	45
2022	8	26	34
2023	6	19	25
2024 (TYD)	0	1	1

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

Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions

Figure 1 presents data on crime rates for the four largest municipalities policed by the RCMP in the Lower Mainland District (LMD) for March 2024.⁴ The property and violent crime rates in Richmond were below the LMD average. Richmond has been experiencing an increase in some property crime types, including shoplifting, which has contributed to a higher property crime rate. Crime reduction efforts are being conducted and additional targeted enforcement projects are being deployed.

Figure 1: March 2024 YTD Crime Rates



Block Watch

At the end of March 2024, the Block Watch program had 306 groups, totalling 7,088 participants. Currently, the program includes 435 captains and co-captains. This month, Block Watch staff trained new community policing volunteers and provided an overview of programs.

Community Police Station Programs

Community police stations continue to enhance the Richmond Detachment’s policing services by providing various crime prevention resources and community safety initiatives. City staff and volunteers pursue safety initiatives to improve crime prevention program awareness, community engagement, and police accessibility. These initiatives help reduce anxiety and fear related to crime. The program activities vary from month to month, reflecting weather conditions, seasonal initiatives, and the availability of volunteers.

During March, volunteer highlights included:

- The deployment of three volunteer foot/van patrols, totalling six hours and one bike patrol, totalling six hours.

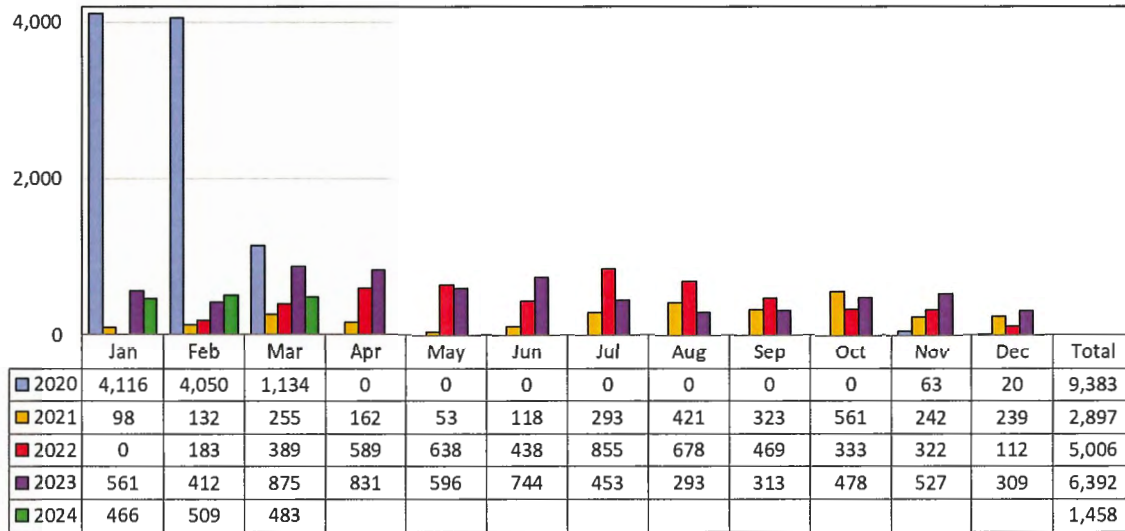
⁴ Based on PRIME query by Richmond Crime Analysis Unit on April 2, 2024

- A total of 22 Fail to Stop deployments took place, resulting in 604 information letters issued.
- There were 43 Lock Out Auto Crime deployments, resulting in 483 information letters issued.
- Speed Watch was conducted on 3,049 vehicles, resulting in 162 information letters issued.
- March 1 – Volunteers participated in a large-scale Distracted Driving event to launch the Distracted Driving Month campaign. A total of 42 information letters were mailed to registered vehicle owners. Police also conducted enforcement and issued 107 traffic tickets.
- March 7 – In partnership with ICBC and Metro Vancouver Transit Police, Richmond RCMP officers and volunteers participated in Think of Me deployments at William Bridge and James McKinney Elementary Schools.
- March 7—Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a Coffee with a Cop event at the Starbucks on Ackroyd Road. Crime prevention resources, including Community Safety App cards, were also distributed.
- March 13 – Volunteers participated in a Distracted Driving Blitz in central Richmond and checked over 2,000 vehicles. A total of 29 information letters were sent to registered vehicle owners, and police issued seven violation tickets.
- March 11 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a car seat safety clinic at Brighthouse Fire Hall 1. A total of 14 car seat checks were completed.
- March 26 – Volunteers participated in a Distracted Driving Blitz in central Richmond and checked over 1,500 vehicles. A total of 49 information letters were sent to registered vehicle owners.

Lock Out Auto Crime

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

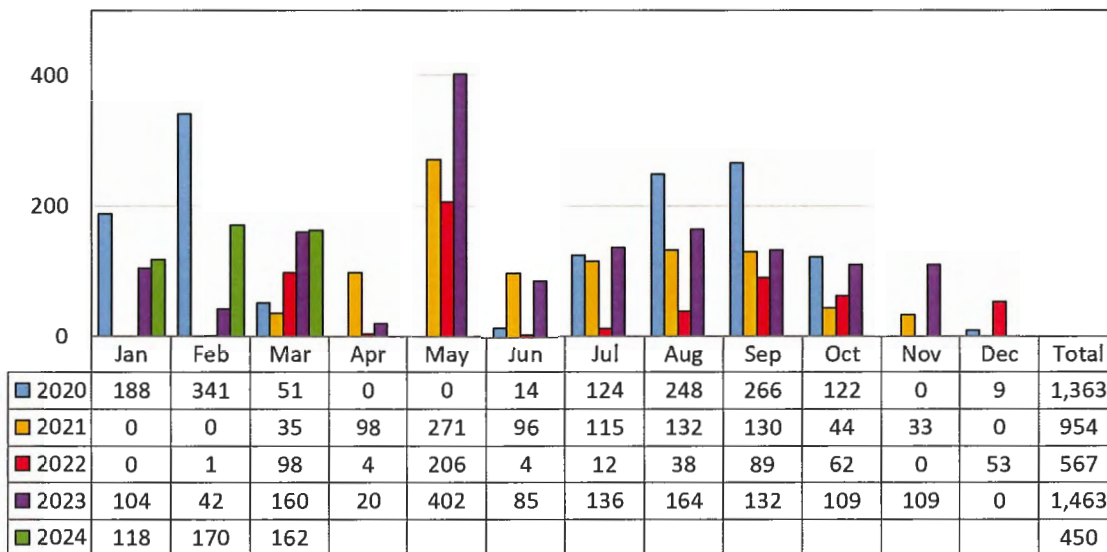
Figure 2: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice



Speed Watch

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

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 March, the Crime Prevention Unit participated in the following events/activities:

- Business Outreach
- Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives
- Car Seat Safety Clinic
- Coffee with a Cop
- Distracted Driving
- “You Etch It. We Catch It” Program

Road Safety Unit

The Road Safety Unit makes Richmond’s roads safer through evidence-based traffic enforcement, investigation of serious vehicle collisions and public education programs. Table 2 compares statistics for March 2024 to both February 2024 and January 2024. Violation tickets were issued for the following infractions:

Table 2: Violation Tickets Issued

Infraction	January 2024	February 2024	March 2024
Distracted Driving	86	64	168
Driver License	168	181	161
Impaired	15	20	23
Intersection Offences	39	39	41
Moving Infractions ⁶	89	67	73
Speeding	135	167	207
Seatbelts	12	2	13
Vehicle-Related ⁷	119	136	124
Other ⁸	12	15	15
Total	675	691	825

Victim Services

In March 2024, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 67 new clients and attended six crime/trauma scenes after hours. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 93 files. In March, Victim Services responded to several cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, drug overdoses and frauds.

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 March, Youth Section highlights included:

- RCMP officers in the Youth Section conducted 45 proactive school visits at secondary schools and 59 visits at elementary schools. Police officers engaged with students during recess, lunch and morning and afternoon supervision.
- DARE classes were delivered to 326 elementary school students in 11 classes.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

In March 2024, the Richmond RCMP conducted several noteworthy investigations, including a series of purse snatchings and frauds. Police statistics for this month indicate that some crime types were outside of the average ranges. Sexual assaults, robberies and shoplifting incidents were elevated, while commercial break and enters, residential break and enters, thefts from vehicles and drug offences were below average.

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

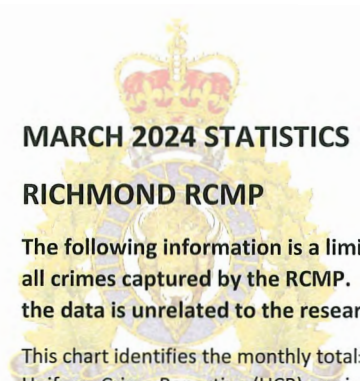
- This initiative consists of frequently stolen items being placed in the volunteer van for participants to identify in order to enhance awareness of thefts from automobiles.

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.



MARCH 2024 STATISTICS

RICHMOND RCMP

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

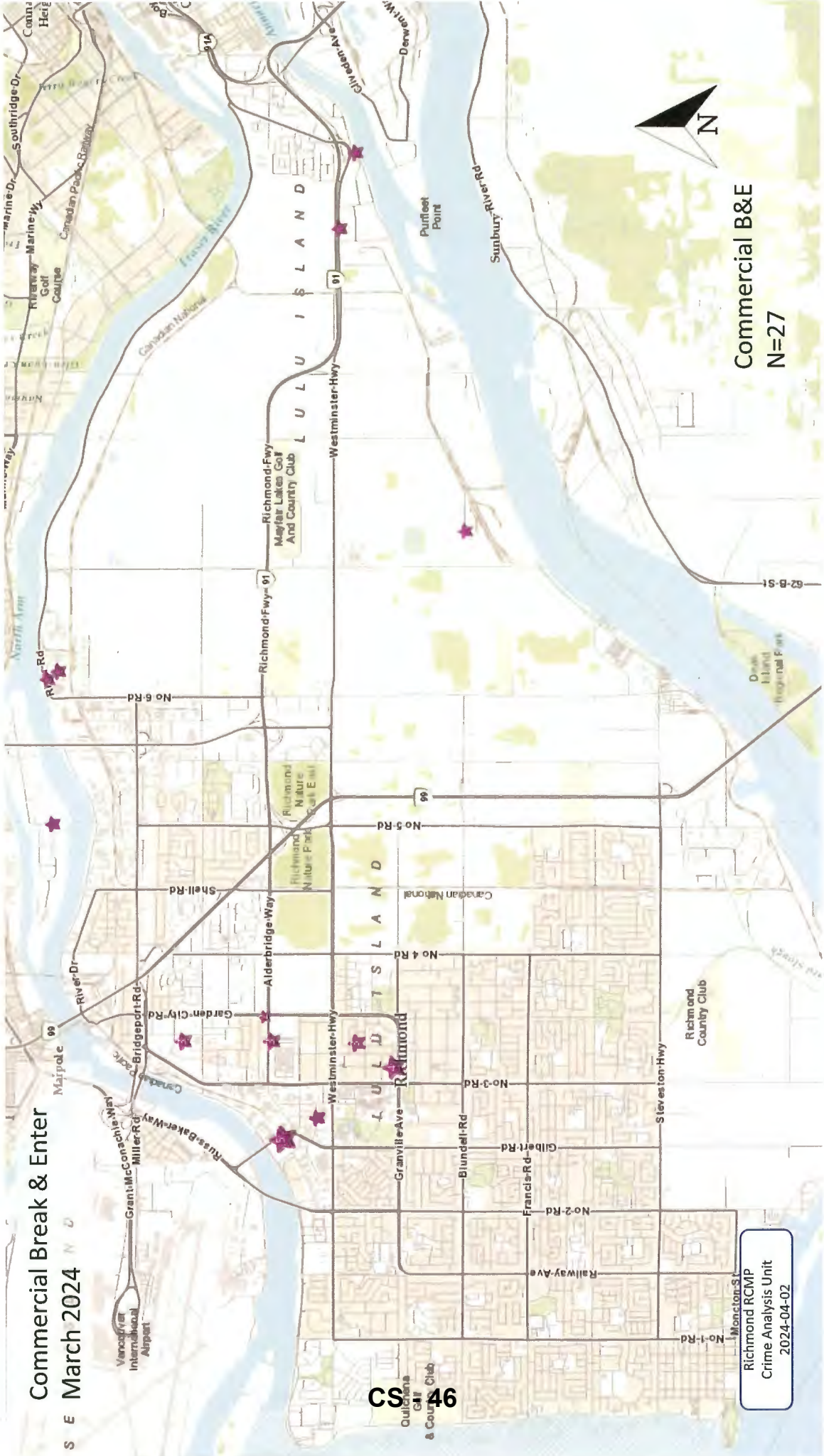
This chart identifies the monthly totals for founded Criminal Code incidents, excluding traffic-related Criminal Code incidents. Based on Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) scoring, there are three categories: (1) Violent Crime, (2) Property Crime, and (3) Other Criminal Code. Within each category, particular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

The 5 year average is based on activity within a single month over the past 5 years. If the current monthly total for an offence falls outside the the 5 year range (using one standard deviation) due to crime trends, patterns, or spikes, it will be noted in **red** if higher and **blue** if below. If the current monthly total for an offence is above the 5 year range due to primarily non-operational reasons such as the new UCR

	Month	5-Yr Avg	5-Yr Range	Year to Date Totals			
	Mar - 24	March		2023	2024	% Change	# Change
VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	179	147.4	136-159	440	485	10%	45
Robbery	12	5.4	4-7	8	22	175%	14
Assault Common	57	47.6	43-52	136	158	16%	22
Assault Serious	18	15.6	12-19	61	49	-20%	-12
Sexual Offences	14	17.4	13-22	52	61	17%	9
PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	659	621.0	588-654	1954	1820	-7%	-134
Business B&E	27	35.4	29-42	92	51	-45%	-41
Residential B&E	23	32.4	28-37	66	79	20%	13
Auto Theft	24	26.4	19-34	71	64	-10%	-7
Theft from Auto	74	159.6	141-179	452	216	-52%	-236
Theft	101	79.6	59-100	308	304	-1%	-4
Shoplifting	181	77.2	57-98	291	446	53%	155
Fraud	97	73.2	65-81	240	282	18%	42
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	298	217.8	177-259	796	873	10%	77
Arson <small>(UCR 4000-Series)</small>	2	n/c	n/c	n/c	15	n/c	n/c
SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	1145	982.4	921-1043	3190	3197	0%	7
DRUGS (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	15	53.0	35-71	108	48	-56%	-60
MHA RELATED CALLS (MHA files, or Mental Health flag)	272	252.0	223-281	752	722	-4%	-30

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Commercial Break & Enter S E March 2024



CS 46

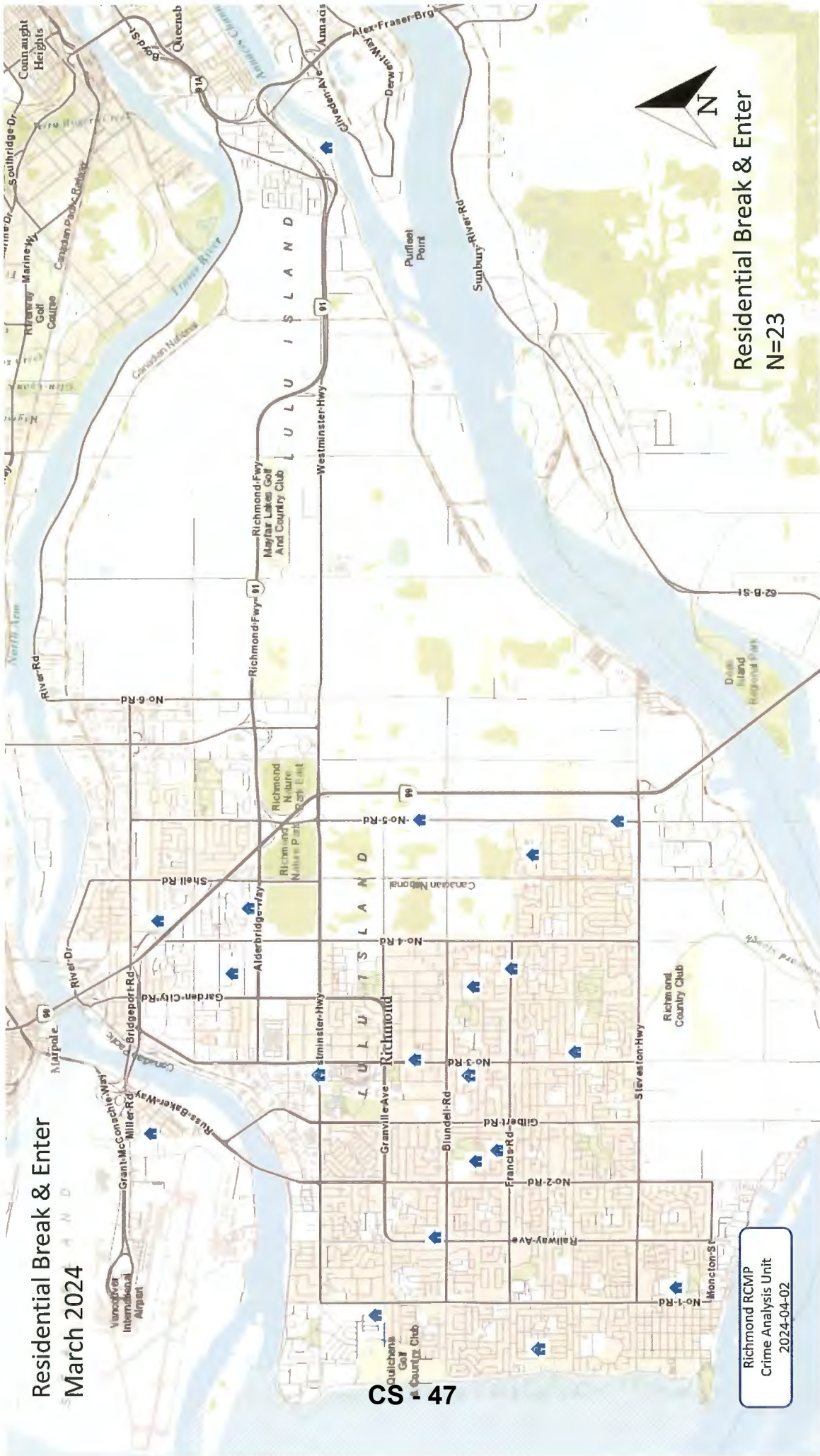
Richmond RCMP
 Crime Analysis Unit
 2024-04-02



Commercial B&E
 N=27

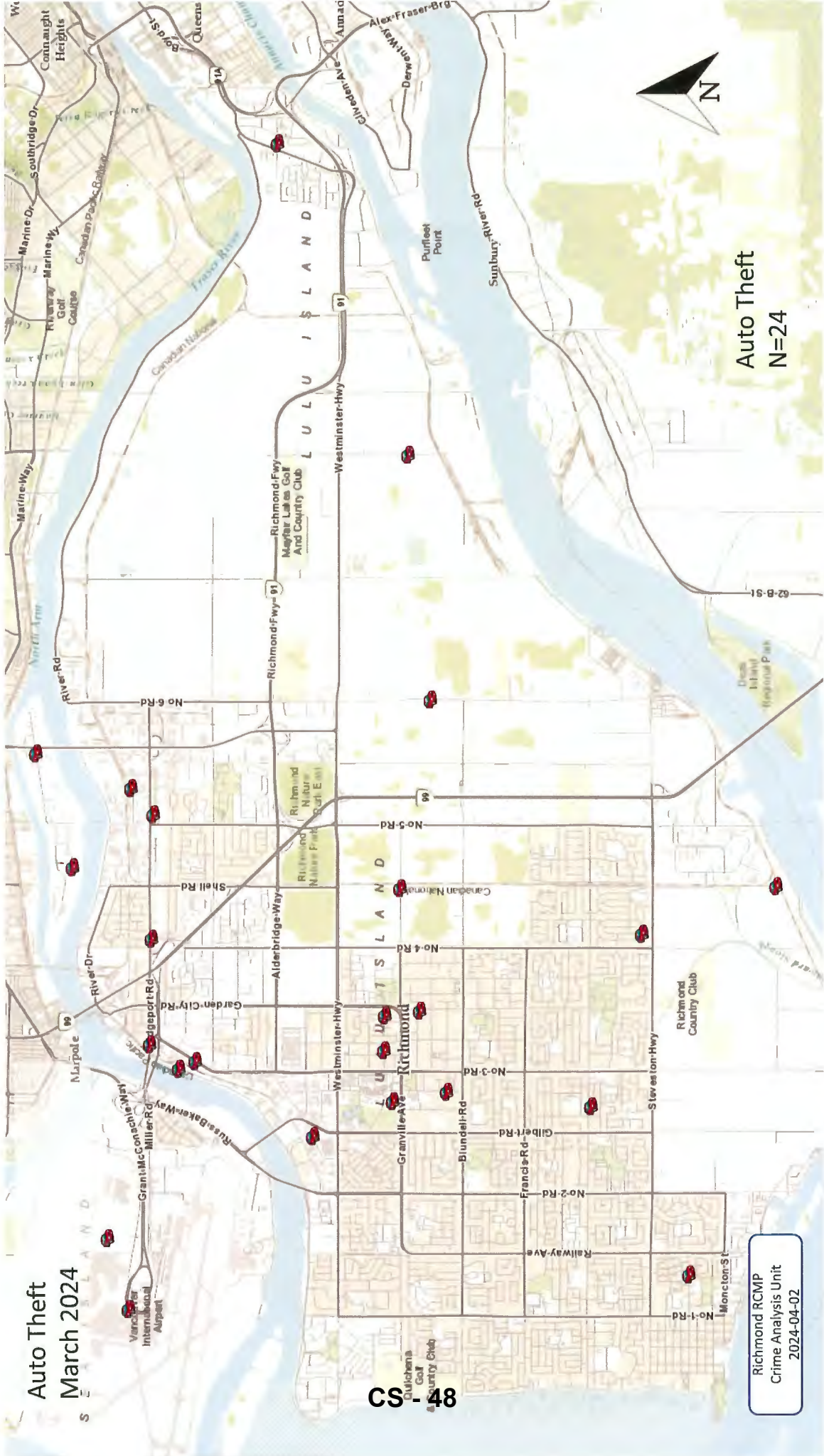
Residential Break & Enter March 2024

CS 47



Residential Break & Enter
N=23

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2024-04-02



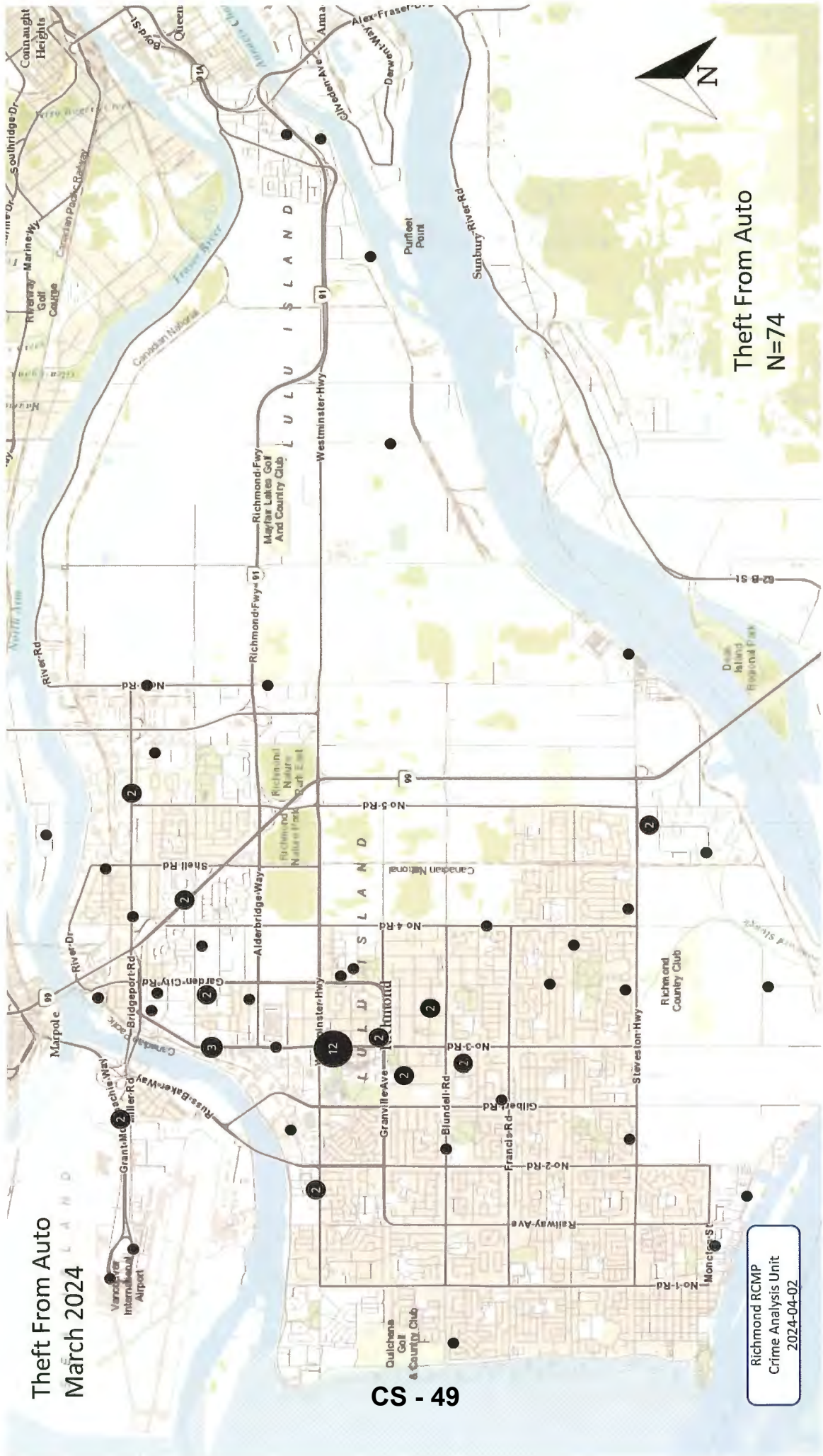
**Auto Theft
March 2024**

**Auto Theft
N=24**

CS 48

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2024-04-02

Theft From Auto March 2024



Theft From Auto N=74

CS - 49

Richmond RCMP
 Crime Analysis Unit
 2024-04-02