



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** June 13, 2024

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

Re: RCMP Monthly Activity Report – May 2024

Recommendation from the Officer in Charge

That the report titled “RCMP Monthly Activity Report – May 2024”, dated June 13, 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

High-Risk Driving Month

The Richmond RCMP conducted enhanced speed and high-risk driving enforcement in May as part of a province-wide road safety campaign. A series of media releases were issued for public awareness, including a video message from the OIC reminding drivers of the importance of adhering to posted speed limits to ensure the safety of all road users.

Boost and Bust

On May 2, 2024, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release highlighting the growth of the boost-and-bust initiative.¹ This expanded strategy enables frontline officers to be more proactive in targeted patrols, particularly in high-risk areas. Boost-and-bust operations led to 59 arrests in the 2023-24 fiscal year. Additional projects are planned for the coming months.

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

Mental Health Awareness

Between May 6 and 12, 2024, the Richmond RCMP recognized Mental Health Awareness Week by highlighting innovative and compassionate policing initiatives currently being deployed in the community. These include the Fox 80 Mental Health Car, the Vulnerable Persons Unit and the RCMP's Road to Mental Readiness program, which is designed to support police officers' mental resilience.

Police Week

Police across Canada connected with local communities during National Police Week from May 13 to 19, 2024. The Richmond RCMP hosted local events at Hamilton Park and the Minoru Centre for Active Living. Officers and volunteers shared information on crime prevention programs and gave visitors a glimpse of police cars and ATVs.



Figure 1: Police Week

Boating Safety

On May 17, 2024, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release promoting National Safe Boating Awareness Week, which included multiple water safety videos featuring Richmond RCMP officers. The Richmond RCMP Marine Unit will be patrolling local waterways throughout the summer, conducting random safety checks and monitoring local boat launches to ensure boaters have the appropriate safety equipment before they head out on the water.

Motorcycle Safety

On May 21, 2024, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release sharing motorcycle safety information featuring first-hand knowledge of a certified RCMP motorcycle operator. Additional social media posts throughout the month highlighted the unpredictable nature of motorcycle riding and the importance of adjusting speed to match road conditions.



Figure 2: RCMP Motorcycle Operator

Analysis of Police Statistics

Arson

There were nine reported arsons in May 2024, which is an increase of four incidents from the previous month. No patterns or trends have been identified.²

Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)

There were 20 serious assault events in May 2024, which represents an 11 per cent increase from the previous month and a nine per cent decrease from May 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of serious assaults this month is within the average range.

The majority of incidents reported in May 2024 involved individuals who were known to each other. Of these, the majority of incidents were domestic assaults.

Auto Theft

There were 39 auto thefts in May 2024, which is approximately double the number of incidents reported the previous month and represents an 86 per cent increase from May 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of auto thefts this month is above the average range.

Drugs

In May 2024, there were 41 drug offences, which is more than double the number reported the previous month and represents a 28 per cent increase from May 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of drug incidents this month is within the average range.

Mental Health

There were 244 mental health-related incidents in May 2024, representing a 13 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 23 per cent increase from May 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of mental health-related incidents this month is within the average range.

There were 95 police apprehensions this month, representing a 32 per cent increase from the previous month and the average hospital wait time increased by seven per cent to 156 minutes. The extended wait time has been attributed to four files with exceptionally long wait times.

Residential Break and Enter

There were 19 break and enters to residences in May 2024, representing a 21 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 10 per cent decrease from May 2023. No patterns or trends have

² 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.

been identified. The number of residential break and enters this month is within the average range.

Commercial Break and Enter

In May 2024, there were 31 break and enters to businesses, which is more than double the number reported the previous month and represents a 63 per cent increase from May 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. While the number of commercial break and enters this month is above the average range, year to date, these incidents are down 26 per cent compared to the same period last year.

Robbery

There were three robberies in May 2024, which is a decrease of two incidents from the previous month and a decrease of six incidents from May 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of robberies this month is within the average range.

One robbery occurred in a commercial location where a prolific offender used a shopping cart as a weapon. Another incident involved an online marketplace theft where bear spray was deployed. Both incidents remain under investigation.

Sexual Offences

In May 2024, there were 22 sexual offence files, representing a 38 per cent increase from the previous month and an eight per cent decrease from May 2023.³ No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of sexual offences this month is within the average range.

Approximately 36 per cent of the offences reported in May 2024 were indecent acts/exposing and 27 per cent were sexual assaults.

Shoplifting

There were 145 reported shoplifting thefts in May 2024, which is a 19 per cent decrease from the previous month and almost double the number of incidents reported in May 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, accessories, cosmetics and food.

Theft from Automobile

There were 98 thefts from automobiles in May 2024, which is a 56 per cent increase from the previous month and a 30 per cent decrease from May 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of thefts from automobiles this month is below the average range.

³ 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.

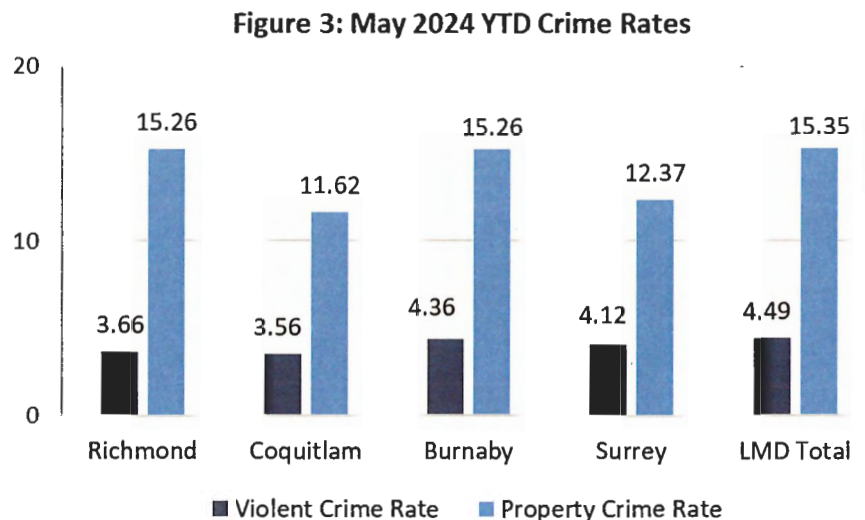
Hate Crimes and Incidents

Table 1 presents the number of hate crimes and hate incidents reported between January 1, 2020 and May 31, 2024.⁴ 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. There was one hate incident reported in May 2024, which involved anti-Semitic comments.

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	3	3

Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions

Figure 3 presents data on crime rates for the four largest municipalities policed by the RCMP in the Lower Mainland District (LMD) for May 2024.⁵ The property and violent crime rates in Richmond were below the LMD average. Richmond has been experiencing increased property crime types, including shoplifting, contributing to a higher crime rate. Crime reduction efforts are being conducted and additional targeted enforcement projects are being deployed.



⁴ The BC Hate Crimes Unit uses the terms hate-motivated crime and hate-motivated incident.

⁵ Based on PRIME query by Richmond Crime Analysis Unit on May 3, 2024

Block Watch

At the end of May 2024, the Block Watch program had 306 groups, totalling 7,071 participants. Currently, the program includes 434 captains and co-captains.

Community Police Office Programs

Community police offices 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 May, volunteer highlights included:

- The deployment of three bike patrols, totalling 44 hours.
- A total of 16 Fail to Stop deployments took place, resulting in 658 information letters issued.
- There were 15 Lock Out Auto Crime deployments, resulting in 488 information letters issued.
- Speed Watch was conducted on 25,105 vehicles, resulting in 576 information letters issued.
- May 2 – In collaboration with ICBC, BC Highway Patrol and Metro Vancouver Transit Police, volunteers assisted RCMP officers with Project SWOOP (Speed Watch Out On Patrol). Over 9,000 vehicles were observed at multiple locations throughout Richmond, and approximately 300 information letters were sent to registered vehicle owners.
- May 4 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with an information booth at the Safety and Security Fair at Aberdeen Mall. Close to 2,000 attendees were at the event, which featured crime prevention information.
- May 4 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with community outreach at the Richmond Night Market.
- May 14 – Volunteers participated in a Police Week event at the Hamilton Community Centre, which featured Safety Bear, Spot the Target and tours of police vehicles.
- May 23 and 28 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with Think of Me deployments at Hamilton Elementary School, Garden City Secondary School and Thomas Kidd Elementary School. A total of 22 cards were issued to drivers.

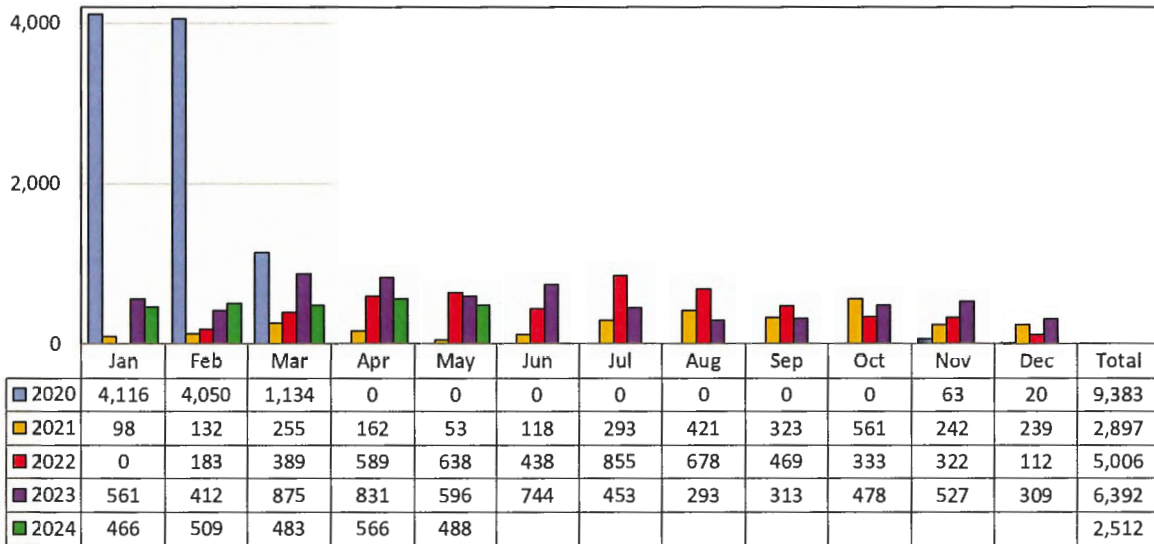


Figure 4: Speed Watch

Lock Out Auto Crime

Figure 5 provides a yearly comparison of the number of vehicle notices issued.⁶

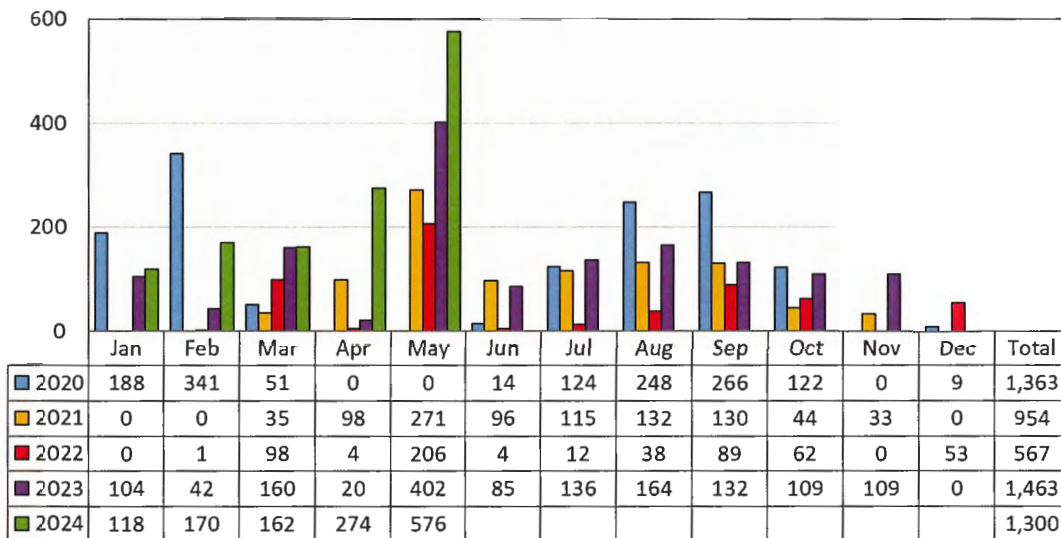
Figure 5: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice



Speed Watch

Figure 6 compares the number of letters sent to registered vehicle owners yearly.

Figure 6: Speed Watch Letters Sent



⁶ 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.

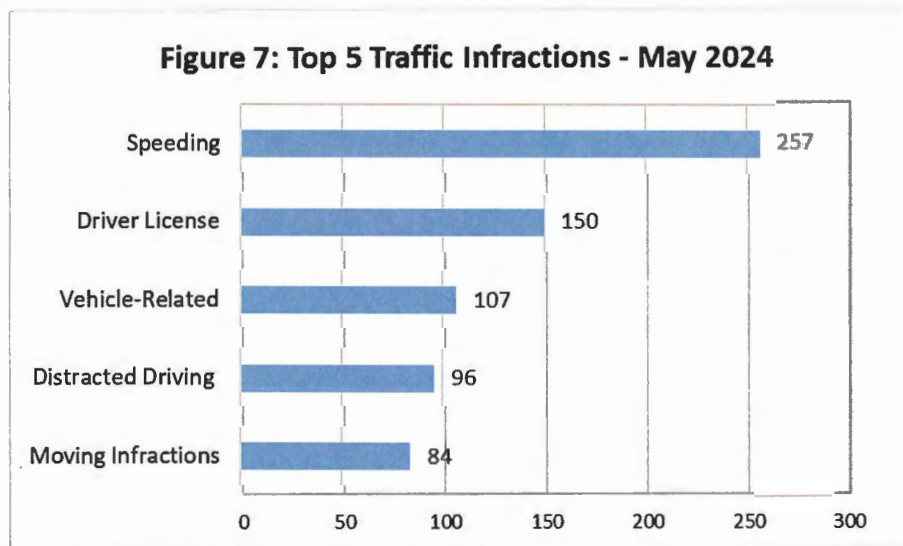
Crime Prevention Unit

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

- Business Outreach
- Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives
- McHappy Day
- Place of Worship Patrols
- Police Week
- Speed Watch

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. A total of 835 violation tickets were issued in May 2024. Figure 7 provides statistics for the top five infractions for which violation tickets were issued in May:



Victim Services

In May 2024, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 62 new clients and attended four crime/trauma scenes after hours. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 94 files. In May, Victim Services responded to several cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, assaults and mental health-related issues.

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 May, Youth Section highlights included:

- RCMP officers in the Youth Section participated in Road Safety Day held at Hugh Boyd Secondary School on May 31, 2024. This event was a collaborative effort involving first responders, ICBC and other community partners. The aim was to promote road safety awareness among high school students as they approach graduation and the milestone of obtaining their driver's licenses.
- DARE classes were delivered to 486 elementary school students in eight schools.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

In May 2024, the Richmond RCMP conducted several public awareness campaigns, including safe boating and motorcycling. Police statistics for this month indicate that most crime types were within the average ranges, with the exception of auto thefts, commercial break-and-enters and shoplifting incidents, which were elevated. Thefts from vehicles were below average.

In May, the Community Engagement Team and volunteers continued to promote crime prevention and road safety initiatives, including events for Police Week. 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)

EW:

- 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

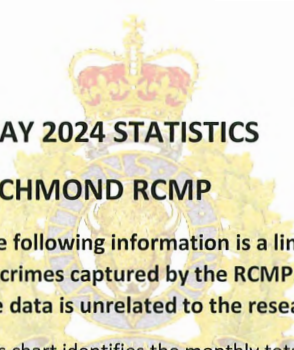
- This initiative consists of frequently stolen items being placed in the volunteer van for participants to identify in order to enhance awareness of thefts from automobiles.

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.



MAY 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.

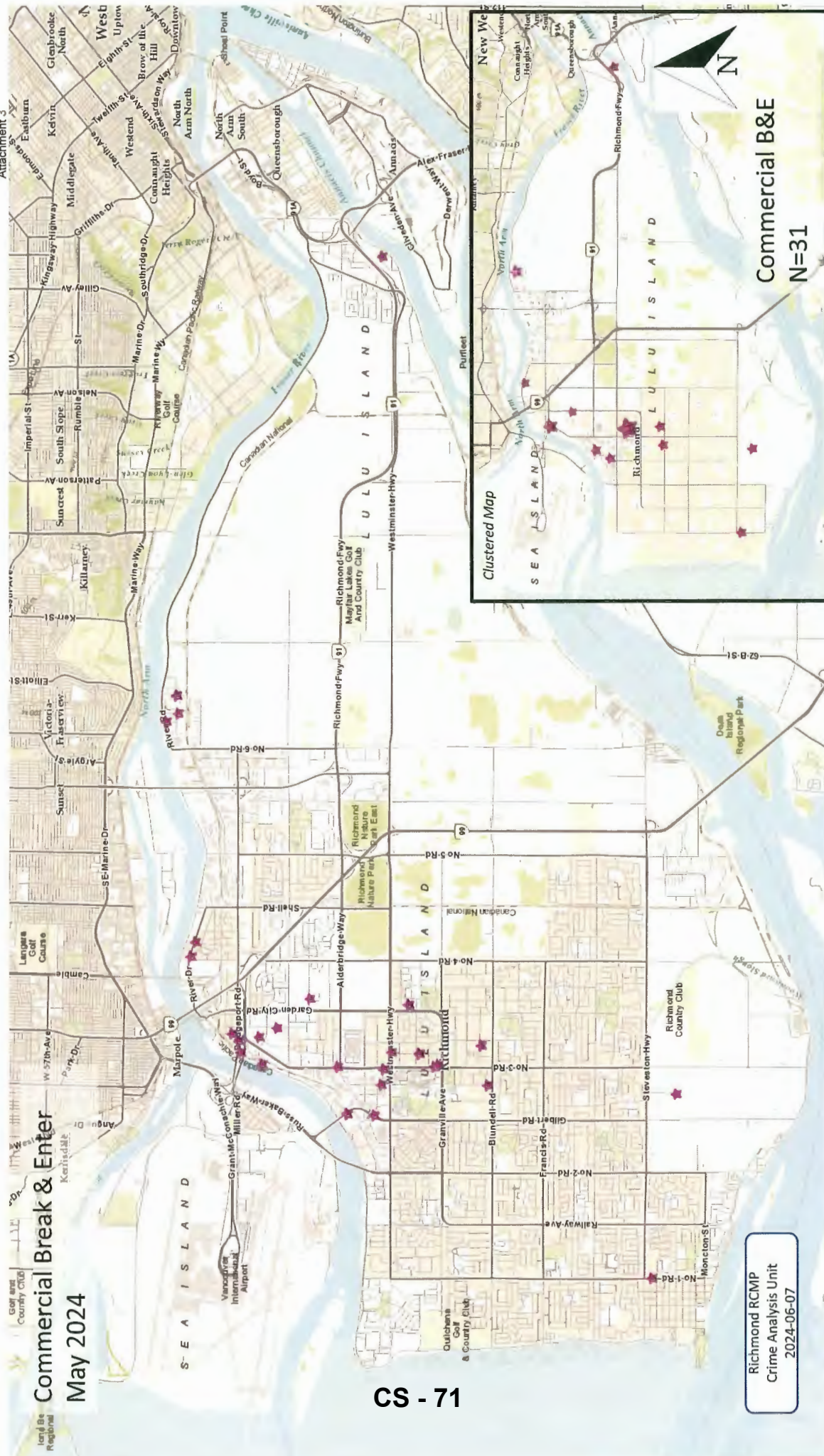
This chart identifies the monthly totals for founded Criminal Code incidents, excluding traffic-related Criminal Code incidents. Based on Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) scoring, there are three categories: (1) Violent Crime, (2) Property Crime, and (3) Other Criminal Code. Within each category, particular 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 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			
	May - 24	May		2023	2024	% Change	# Change
VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	155	152.2	133-171	759	780	3%	21
Robbery	3	5.0	3-7	19	30	58%	11
Assault Common	56	53.6	50-58	250	253	1%	3
Assault Serious	20	16.6	10-23	102	87	-15%	-15
Sexual Offences	22	20.4	14-27	96	99	3%	3
PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	730	545.4	473-618	3201	3218	1%	17
Business B&E	31	23.4	21-26	130	96	-26%	-34
Residential B&E	19	25.8	17-35	106	122	15%	16
Auto Theft	39	18.6	12-25	114	122	7%	8
Theft from Auto	98	121.4	105-135	707	377	-47%	-330
Theft	123	82.4	53-111	562	561	0%	-1
Shoplifting	145	61.4	39-84	451	771	71%	320
Fraud	101	73.4	65-82	407	501	23%	94
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	299	218.4	181-256	1299	1443	11%	144
Arson <small>(UCR 3079, 3110)</small>	9	n/c	n/c	n/c	29	n/c	n/c
SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	1192	916.2	819-1014	5259	5493	4%	234
DRUGS (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	41	36.8	24-50	191	106	-45%	-85
MHA RELATED CALLS (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	244	242.0	221-263	1203	1182	-2%	-21

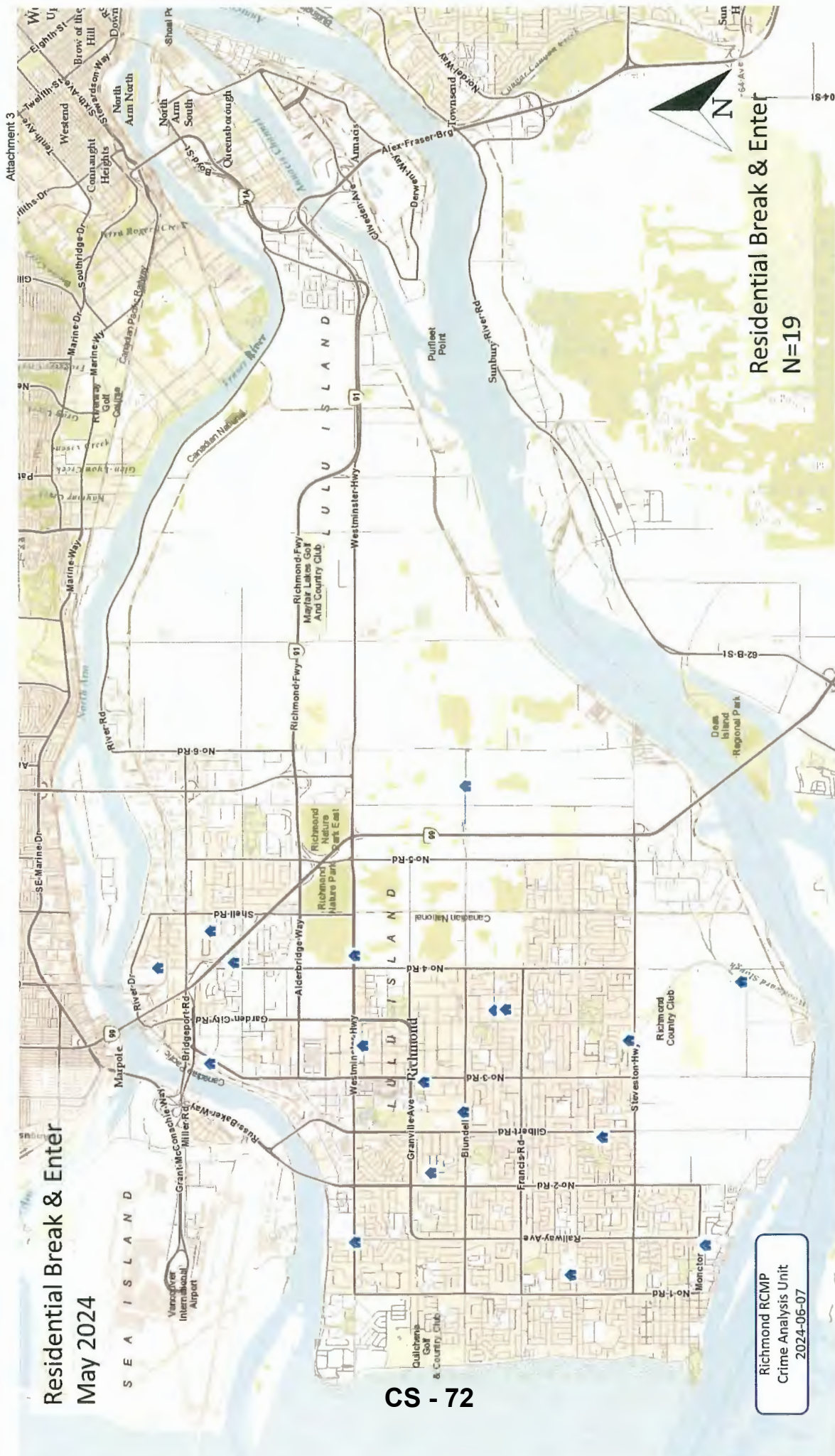
Prepared by Richmond RCMP CAU. Data collected from PRIME on 2024-06-07. Published 2024-06-07. Data subject to change. This document is not to be copied, reproduced, used in whole or part or disseminated to any other person or agency without the consent of the originator(s).

Commercial Break & Enter May 2024



CS - 71

Richmond RCMP
 Crime Analysis Unit
 2024-06-07



Residential Break & Enter
May 2024

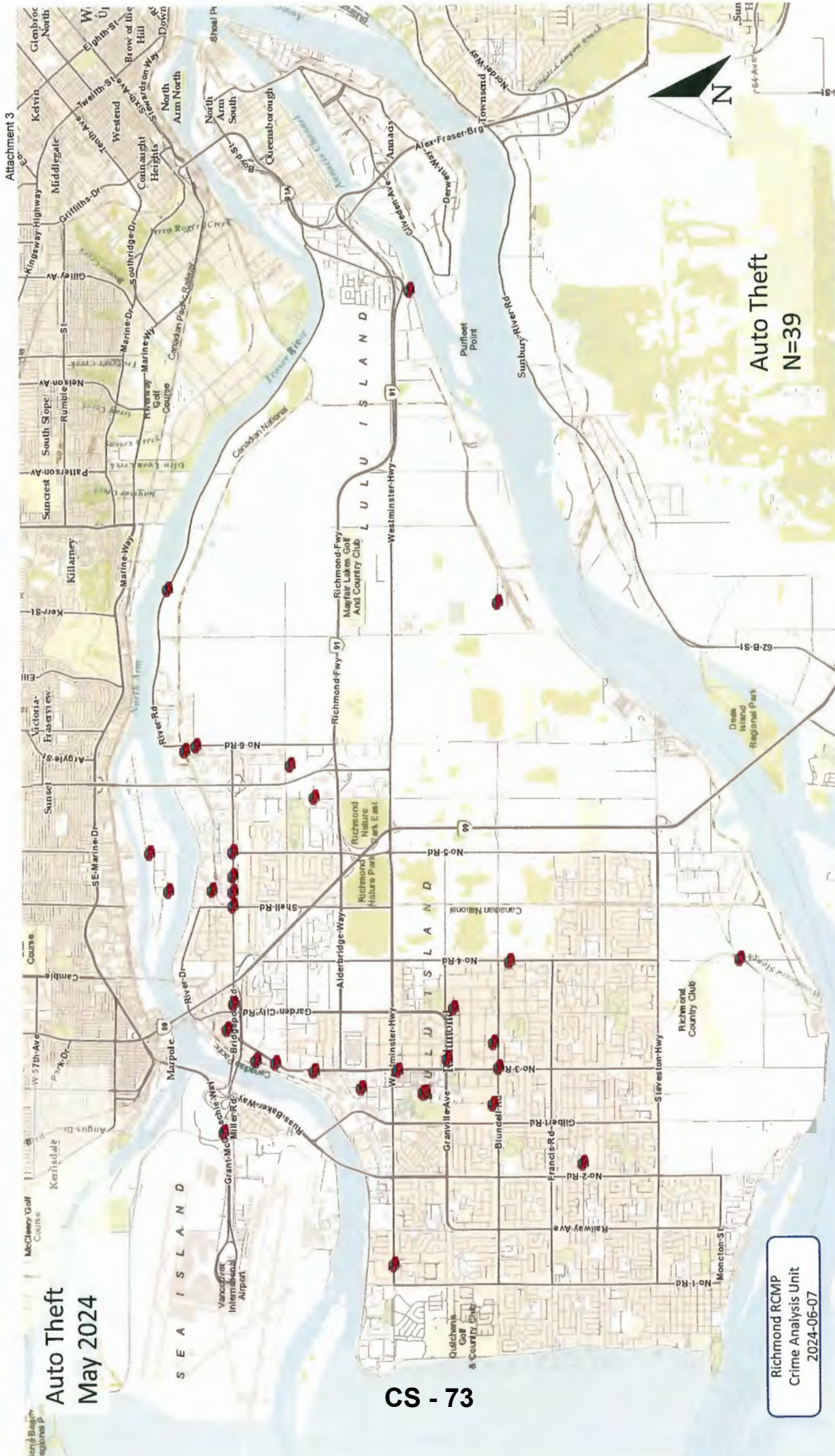
Richmond RCMP
 Crime Analysis Unit
 2024-06-07

CS - 72

Residential Break & Enter
N=19



Attachment 3



Attachment 3

**Auto Theft
May 2024**

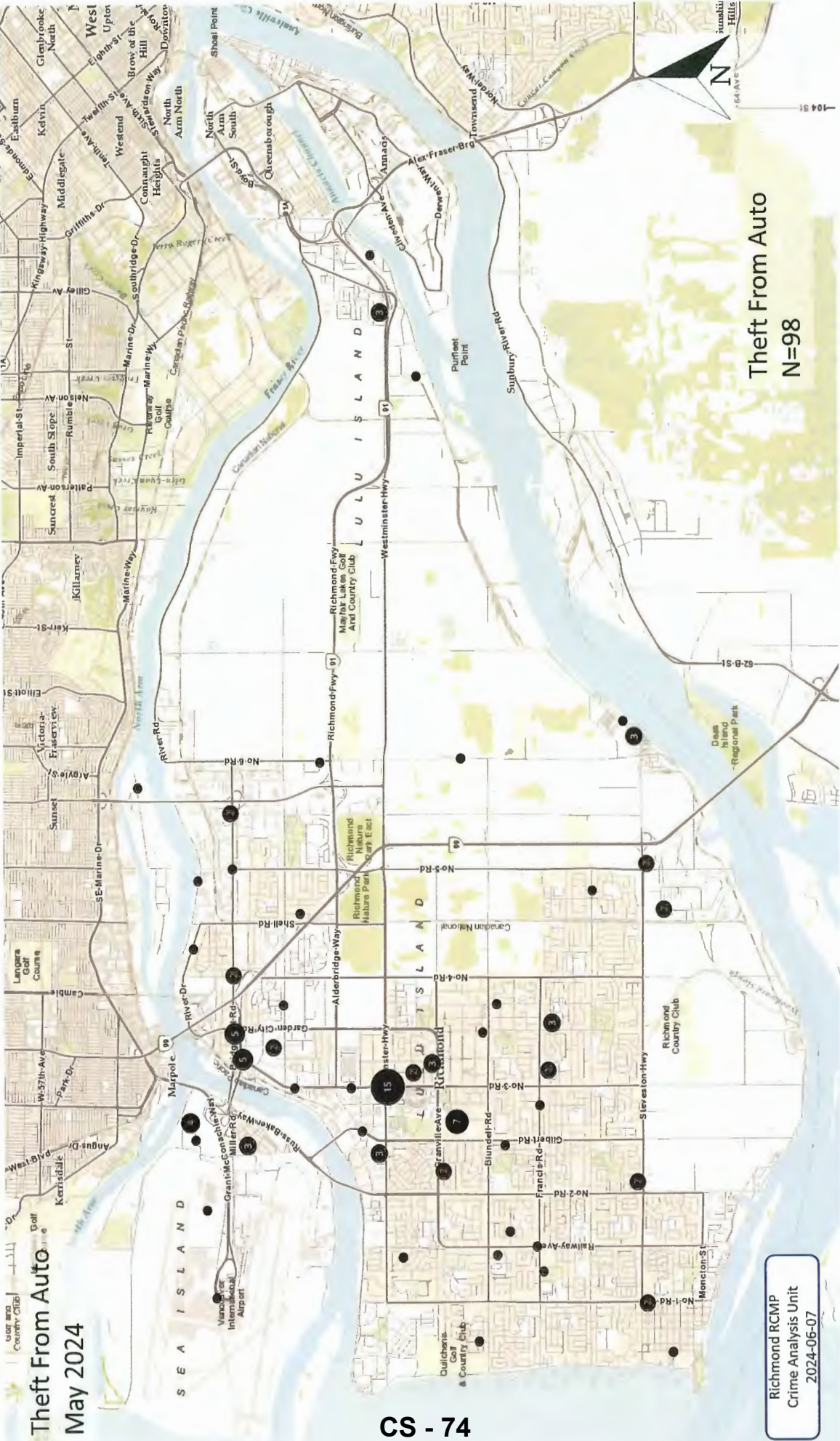
**Auto Theft
N=39**

CS - 73

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2024-06-07



Theft From Auto May 2024



CS - 74

Theft From Auto
N=98

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2024-06-07