



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

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<b>To:</b>	Community Safety Committee	<b>Date:</b>	November 9, 2025
<b>From:</b>	Dave Chauhan Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge	<b>File:</b>	09-5030-01/2025-Vol 01
<b>Re:</b>	<b>RCMP Monthly Activity Report – October 2025</b>		

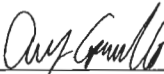


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### Staff Recommendation

That the report titled “RCMP Monthly Activity Report – October 2025”, dated November 9, 2025, from the Officer in Charge, be received for information.

Dave Chauhan  
Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge  
(604-278-1212)

Att. 4

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. Communications Unit
6. Community Police Station Programs
7. Crime Prevention Unit
8. Road Safety Unit
9. Victim Services
10. 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.*

### Analysis

#### Activities and Noteworthy Files

##### *High-risk Arrest*

On October 8, 2025, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release reminding the public of the importance of following police direction. On October 2, 2025, police officers had blocked a roadway. Officers were in the process of conducting a high-risk arrest when several individuals drove into oncoming traffic to get around the police vehicles. This activity placed both the public and the police at risk.

##### *Phone Scam*

On October 14, 2025, Richmond RCMP received two reports regarding a potential identity theft scam. In both cases, the victims spoke to an individual purporting to be with a foreign police agency. The victims were informed that their accounts had been compromised and linked to a criminal investigation. On October 17, 2025, a public warning was issued to the community concerning this type of fraud.

### *Pedestrian Safety Campaign*

On October 15, 2025, the Richmond RCMP, in partnership with the City and ICBC, launched the “It Can Happen Just Like That” fall pedestrian safety campaign. The initiative includes a new animated public safety video and a matching poster. The video was posted on social media, “X” and “YouTube”, as well as CCTV located at City facilities and community centres. The campaign runs throughout October and November, aligning with province-wide pedestrian safety and enforcement efforts.

### *Boost and Bust Results*

On October 18, 2025, Richmond RCMP officers conducted a full-day Boost and Bust operation targeting retail theft at local businesses.<sup>1</sup> A total of 15 suspects were arrested, most of whom reside in other jurisdictions, and over \$5,000 in merchandise was recovered.

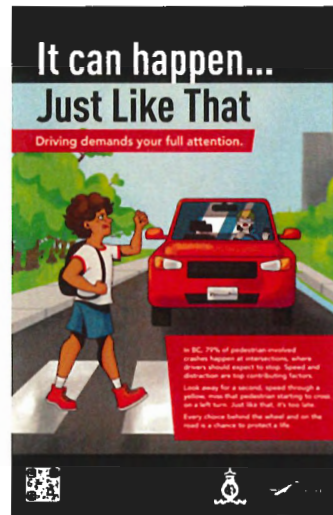


Figure 1: Pedestrian Safety

### *Halloween*

On October 27, 2025, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release providing residents with safety tips for enjoying Halloween festivities. The release also explained the offences and fines pertaining to fireworks and advised the public that Richmond RCMP officers would be conducting high-visibility patrols throughout the city to ensure a safe and enjoyable evening.

### Analysis of Police Statistics<sup>2</sup>

#### *Arson*

There were four reported arsons in October 2025, representing a three-incident increase from the previous month. Year to date, arsons are down 32 per cent compared to the same period in 2024.<sup>3</sup>

#### *Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)*

There were 14 serious assaults in October 2025, representing a 53 per cent decrease from the previous month. Year to date, the number of serious assaults is up three per cent compared to the same period in 2024. The number of serious assaults this month is below the average range.

Twenty-one per cent of serious assaults reported in October 2025 involved family members. There were two unprovoked incidents involving strangers; neither resulted in injuries. One

<sup>1</sup> Boost and Bust projects involve police partnering with local businesses and loss prevention officers to target retail theft.

<sup>2</sup> Unless otherwise noted, no patterns or trends have been identified in this month's statistics.

<sup>3</sup> In January 2024, a new Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR) code was introduced for intentionally set fires that do not meet the *Criminal Code* definition of Arson. This new UCR code prevents comparison to multi-year arson counts and averages.

incident involved a man displaying a weapon at a bus stop, and another involved a suspect who threw a rock at the complainant.

#### *Auto Theft*

There were 13 auto thefts in October 2025, representing a 54 per cent decrease from the previous month. Year to date, auto thefts are down 19 per cent compared to the same period in 2024. The number of auto thefts this month is below the average range.

#### *Mental Health*

There were 267 mental health-related incidents in October 2025, representing a 10 per cent decrease from the previous month. Year to date, mental health-related incidents are up eight per cent compared to the same period in 2024. The number of mental health-related incidents this month is above the average range.

There were 57 police apprehensions, and the average hospital wait time was 128 minutes; both statistics are within the average ranges. Thirty-one individuals were responsible for two or more calls in October, with one caller generating seven incidents.

#### *Residential Break and Enter*

There were 21 break and enters to residences in October 2025, which is a 17 per cent increase from the previous month. Year to date, residential break and enters are down 10 per cent compared to the same period in 2024. The number of residential break and enters this month is below the average range.

#### *Commercial Break and Enter*

In October 2025, there were 18 break and enters to businesses, which is a 40 per cent decrease from the previous month. Year to date, commercial break and enters are up 19 per cent compared to the same period in 2024. The number of commercial break and enters this month is below the average range.

#### *Robbery*

There were four robberies reported in October 2025, representing a 33 per cent decrease from the previous month. Year to date, robberies are down four per cent compared to the same period in 2024. The number of robberies this month is within the average range.

Suspects have been identified in three of the incidents reported in October 2025.

#### *Sexual Offences*

There were 44 sexual offence files in October 2025, representing a 68 per cent increase from the previous month. Year to date, sexual offences are up eight per cent compared to the same period in 2024. The number of sexual offences this month is above the average range.

Fifty-five per cent of the offences reported in October 2025 were due to the creation of multiple BC Integrated Child Exploitation Unit reports relating to the making and distribution of child pornography. Of the remaining offences, eighteen per cent were sexual assaults and 14 per cent were child luring.

### *Shoplifting*

There were 145 reported shoplifting thefts in October 2025, representing an 18 per cent increase from the previous month. Year to date, shoplifting thefts are down 11 per cent compared to the same period in 2024. The number of shoplifting thefts this month is above the average range.

### *Theft from Automobile*

There were 64 thefts from automobiles in October 2025, representing a nine per cent decrease from the previous month. Year-to-date, the number of thefts from automobiles remains unchanged compared to the same period in 2024. The number of thefts from automobiles this month is below the average range.

### *Drugs*

In October 2025, there were 22 drug offences, representing an eight per cent decrease from the previous month. Year to date, drug offences are up 24 per cent compared to the same period in 2024. The number of drug incidents this month is below the average range.

### *Drug-Related "Social Disorder" Calls*

Public complaints related to drug use fall under various call categories, including nuisance, cause disturbance, mischief, unwanted person, suspicious person, and check well-being. Table 1 presents the number of police calls for service related to a public complaint of suspected drug use.

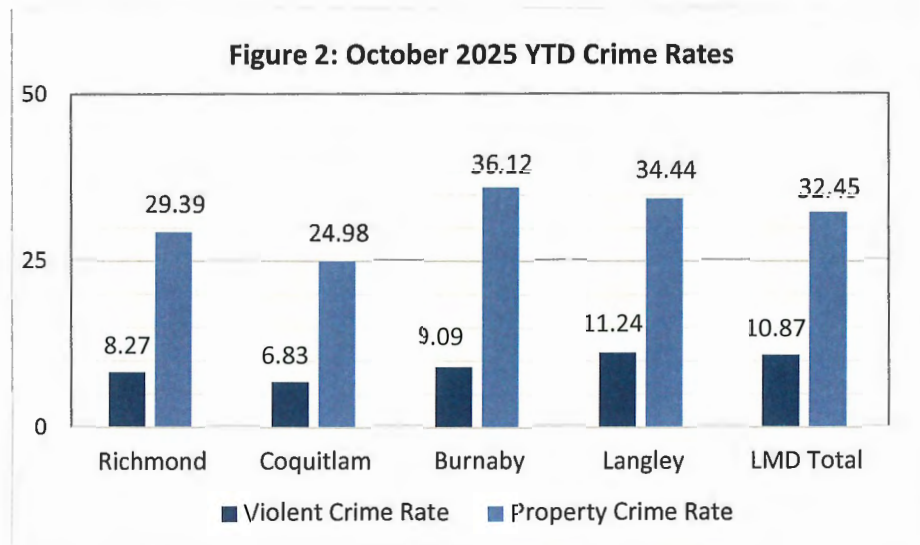
Table 1: Drug-Related Calls for Service

Month	Total Number of Drug-Related Calls	Suspected	Confirmed
January	71	42	29
February	38	23	15
March	49	31	18
April	58	41	17
May	57	36	21
June	70	44	26
July	40	20	20
August	59	44	15
September	57	35	22
October	39	26	13

Confirmed incidents refer to files where direct observation of drug use or apparent signs of intoxication is noted. Most calls involved incidents where drug use was suspected, including reports of unwanted persons who were possibly under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

### Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions

Figure 2 presents crime rates in October 2025 for the four largest municipalities in the Lower Mainland District (LMD), which the RCMP polices.<sup>4</sup> The property and violent crime rates in Richmond were below the LMD average.



### Block Watch

At the end of October 2025, the Block Watch program had 302 groups, totalling 6,727 participants. Currently, the program includes 422 captains and co-captains. On October 30, 2025, Block Watch staff delivered a safety talk to a S.U.C.C.E.S.S. newcomer group, covering how to identify suspicious activity and when to report incidents to the police.

### Communications Unit

The Communications Unit provides public safety and crime prevention messaging to enhance community awareness of various policing-related issues. During October, the Communications Unit conducted the following:

- An education campaign promoting pedestrian safety.
- 18 media releases were issued, including six related to missing persons.
- 46 social media posts were made on X, including road safety and enforcement messaging.



Figure 3: Enforcement of excessive speeding

<sup>4</sup> Based on PRIME query by Richmond Crime Analysis Unit on November 3, 2025



### 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 implement safety initiatives to increase awareness of the crime prevention program, promote community engagement, and enhance 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 October, volunteer highlights included:

- The deployment of one bike patrol, totalling 12 hours, and six van patrols, totalling 33 hours.
- A total of 46 Fail to Stop deployments took place, resulting in 2,549 information letters issued.
- There were two Lock Out Auto Crime deployments, resulting in 33 information letters issued.
- October 2 – Volunteers assisted with the Vancouver International Airport's full-scale training exercise, featuring the participation of 20 partner agencies.
- October 7 – Volunteers conducted a Fail to Stop deployment at Barnard Drive and Westminster Highway and issued 109 information letters.
- October 15 – Volunteers participated in pedestrian safety outreach near the River Rock Casino transit stop. Approximately 400 safety reflectors were distributed.
- October 21 – Volunteers set up a community engagement booth at the South Arm Community Centre during an ICBC Fall and Winter Driving presentation for seniors. Over 70 attendees participated, and 429 safety reflectors were distributed to pedestrians.
- October 23 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a Seniors' Fraud Prevention presentation at the Thompson Community Centre.
- October 31 – Volunteers participated in various Halloween activities. This included distributing 500 safety reflectors and pins to trick-or-treaters in Steveston village and conducting foot patrols at Minoru Park and Burkeville Park, where community firework events were held.
- October 31 – Crime Watch volunteers patrolled commercial and residential areas in the Zone 2 policing area, looking for stolen vehicles, impaired drivers and suspicious activities.



Figure 4: Presentation at Thomson Community Centre

### Crime Prevention Unit

The Crime Prevention Unit reduces crime and enhances community engagement through public awareness and education initiatives. During October, the Crime Prevention Unit participated in various activities, including diversity and inclusion initiatives, road safety deployments and the following events:

- A total of 236 Place of Worship patrols were conducted.
- On October 14, 2025, RCMP officers presented at S.U.C.C.E.S.S. to newcomers on the role of police and law enforcement in the community.
- On October 21, 2025, RCMP officers participated in a fraud awareness workshop for seniors at Wisteria Place.



Figure 5: S.U.C.E.S.S. Presentation

### 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 708 violation tickets were issued in October. Figure 6 provides statistics for the top five infractions for which violation tickets were issued in October:

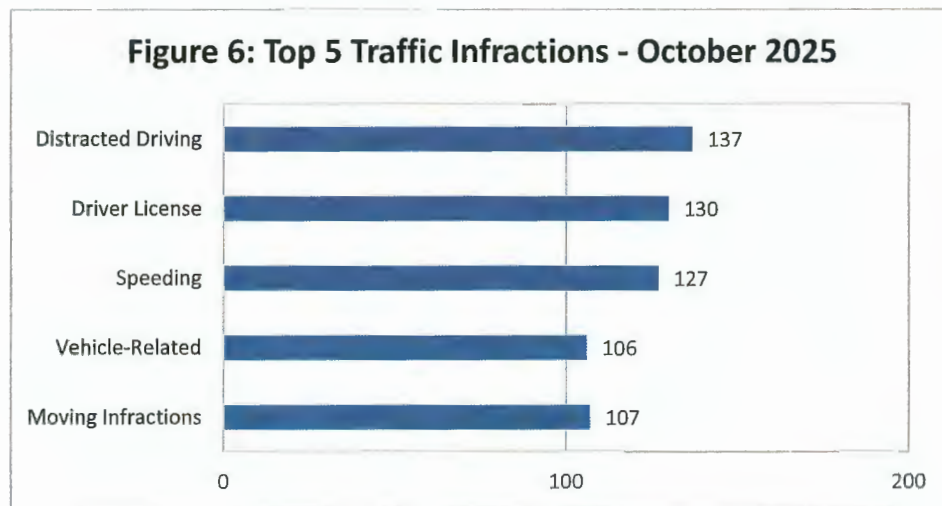




Table 2 presents the number of motor vehicle collisions involving injuries and fatalities reported between January 1, 2021, and October 31, 2025.

Table 2 – Motor Vehicle Collisions		
Year	Collisions with Non-Fatal Injuries	Fatalities
2021 <sup>5</sup>	355	4
2022	406	1
2023	436	3
2024	455	2
2025 (YTD) <sup>6</sup>	325	1

### Victim Services

In October 2025, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 60 new clients and attended five crime/trauma scenes after hours. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 87 files. In October, Victim Services responded to several cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, family conflicts, and mental illness.

### Youth Section

The Richmond RCMP Detachment's Youth Section focuses on strategies which contribute to safe and healthy behaviours essential to developing productive and civic-minded adults. During October, Youth Section highlights included:

- RCMP officers in the Youth Section conducted 101 proactive school visits at secondary schools and 227 visits at elementary schools. Police officers engaged with students during recess, lunch and morning and afternoon supervision.
- DARE classes continued for the first term of the 2025-2026 school year. A total of 473 students in 16 classes are participating in the program.

### **Financial Impact**

None.

### **Conclusion**

In October 2025, the Richmond RCMP conducted several notable investigations, including a high-risk arrest and an investigation into a trend of phone scams. Police statistics for this month indicate that most crime types were below average, except sexual offences, mental health-related incidents and shoplifting thefts, which were elevated.

In October, the Richmond RCMP and volunteers continued to promote crime prevention and road safety initiatives, including deployments promoting pedestrian safety. The Officer in

<sup>5</sup> Motor Vehicle collisions decreased during the pandemic due to changes in behaviour patterns and fewer vehicles on the roads.

<sup>6</sup> A fatal collision occurred on July 7, 2025.

November 9, 2025

- 10 -

Charge of the Richmond RCMP Detachment will continue to ensure that Richmond remains a safe and desirable community.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Warzel".

Edward Warzel  
Director, Police Services  
(604-207-4767)

EW:

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

## Community Policing Programs Information

### 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](mailto:blockwatch@richmond.ca)
- For more information, visit [www.richmond.ca/safety/police/prevention/blockwatch.htm](http://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](http://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](http://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.

## OCTOBER 2025 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 standards or other scoring issues, the total will be noted in **purple**.

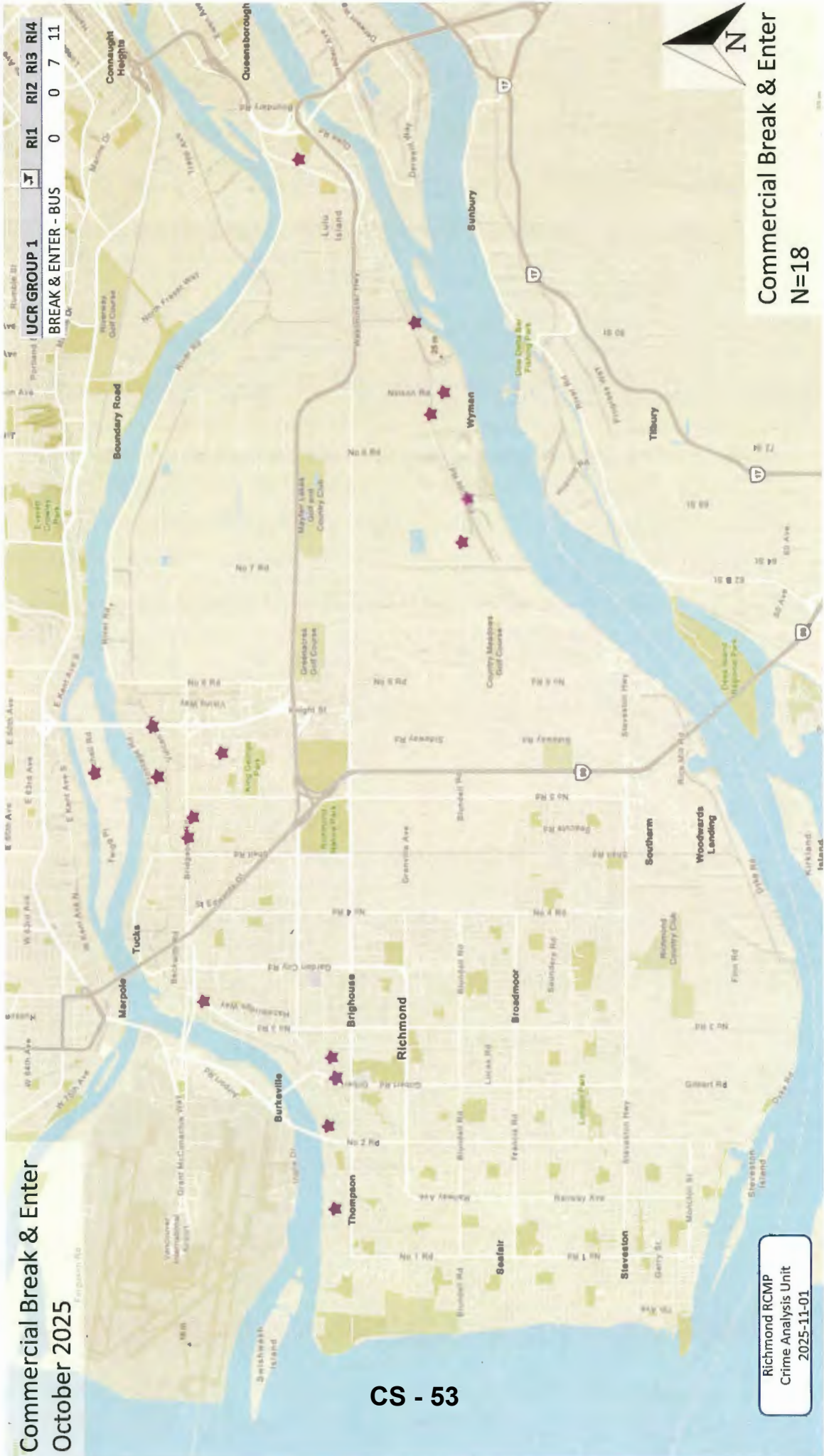
	Month	5-Yr Avg	5-Yr Range	Year to Date Totals			
	Oct - 25	October		2024	2025	% Change	# Change
<b>VIOLENT CRIME</b> (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	<b>162</b>	<b>145.4</b>	<b>134-157</b>	<b>1582</b>	<b>1801</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>219</b>
Robbery	4	4.6	1-9	45	43	-4%	-2
Assault Common	57	48.4	45-52	527	629	19%	102
Assault Serious	14	17.2	14-20	184	190	3%	6
Sexual Offences	44	18.2	14-23	208	224	8%	16
<b>PROPERTY CRIME</b> (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	<b>555</b>	<b>641.8</b>	<b>558-725</b>	<b>6306</b>	<b>6192</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>-114</b>
Business B&E	18	29.6	24-35	201	240	19%	39
Residential B&E	21	25.8	14-37	209	189	-10%	-20
Auto Theft	13	27.4	22-33	238	193	-19%	-45
Theft from Auto	64	125.2	95-156	718	721	0%	3
Theft	98	83.8	56-112	1122	1256	12%	134
Shoplifting	145	93.0	55-131	1368	1211	-11%	-157
Fraud	83	84.4	74-95	973	979	1%	6
<b>OTHER CRIMINAL CODE</b> (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	<b>256</b>	<b>252.8</b>	<b>214-291</b>	<b>2941</b>	<b>2820</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>-121</b>
Arson	4	8.0	4-12	63	43	-32%	-20
Cause Disturbance UCR 3430	184	200.0	174-226	2227	1922	-14%	-305
Collisions - all	201	158.6	136-182	1646	1696	3%	50
<b>SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES</b> (UCR 1000 to 3000-Series)	<b>973</b>	<b>1038.4</b>	<b>929-1148</b>	<b>10889</b>	<b>10803</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>-86</b>
<b>DRUGS</b> (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	<b>22</b>	<b>31.0</b>	<b>22-44</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>MHA RELATED CALLS</b> (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	<b>267</b>	<b>255.6</b>	<b>230-282</b>	<b>2469</b>	<b>2655</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>186</b>

Prepared by Richmond RCMP CAU. Data collected from PRIME on 2025-11-01. Published 2025-11-01. 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). 2024 YTD counts are based on the Month End reports on the date of original collection period (2024 data is not re-run).



Commercial Break & Enter  
October 2025

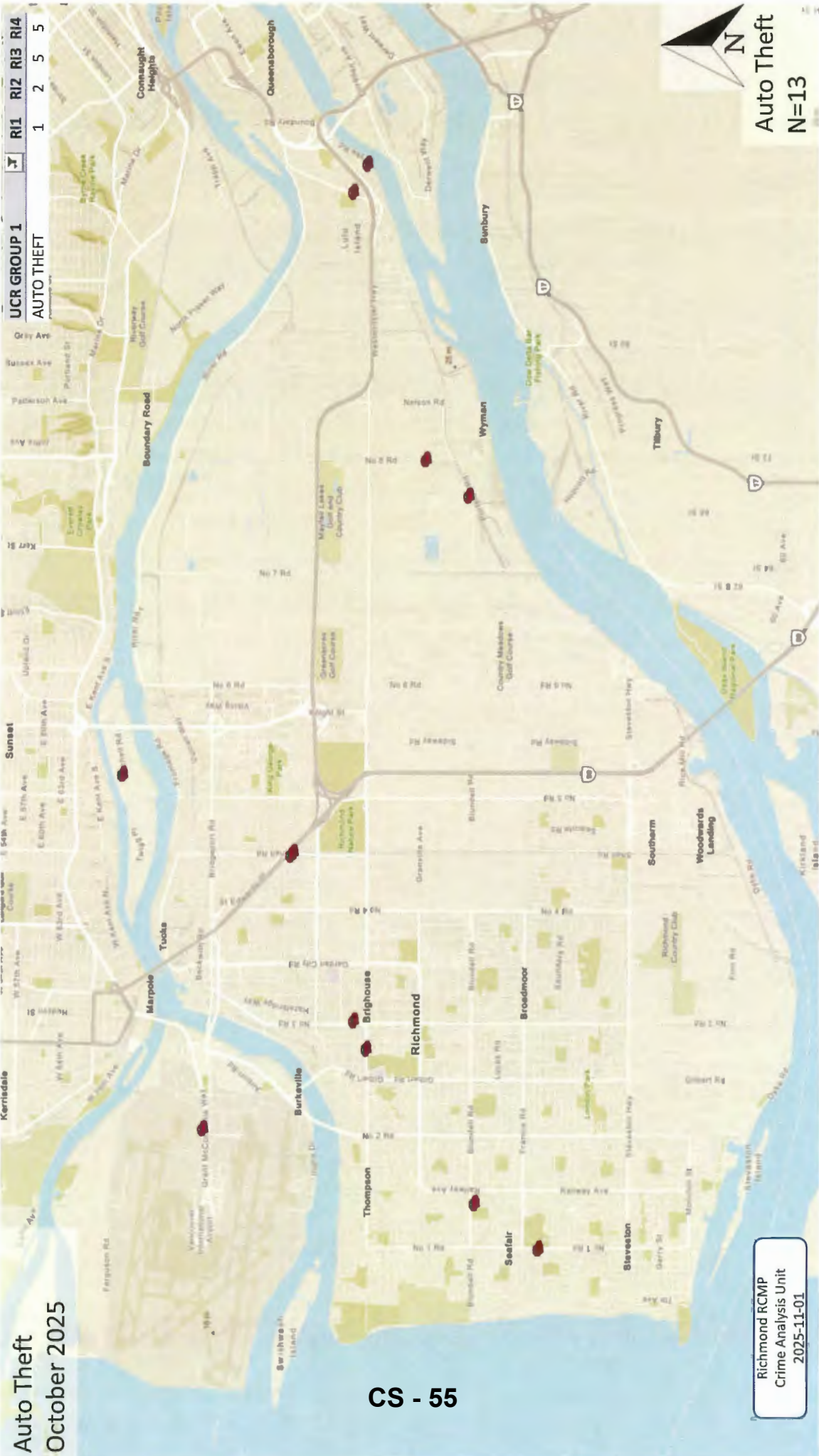
UCR GROUP 1									
BREAK & ENTER - BUS									
R11	R12	R13	R14						
0	0	7	11						







Auto Theft  
October 2025



Theft From Auto  
October 2025

UCR GROUP 1	RI1	RI2	RI3	RI4
THEFT FROM VEHICLE	3	14	39	7



Theft From Auto  
N=64

Richmond RCMP  
Crime Analysis Unit  
2025-11-01



# CRIME PREVENTION

## WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME

## NEWSLETTER

### Credit Card Pick-Up Scams

Richmond RCMP is warning the public of a reoccurring scam where fraudsters are picking up bank cards in person to defraud victims. The scam is resurfacing and continuing to evolve with more sophisticated tactics. The scam involves the victim being contacted by fraudsters over the phone impersonating a bank employee, advising their bank card is compromised. They offer someone to come to the victim's residence to collect their bank card with the promise they would deliver a replacement card in person the next day. After obtaining the bank card, the fraudsters use it to withdraw funds from an ATM or use it to purchase items. In some instances, victims who provide their personal information are also sent a link to a fraudulent website where victims are asked to provide more personal and financial information.

Awareness and education are the most effective ways to stay safe and prevent victimization. Never hand over your bank card to anyone, especially those pretending to be couriers. The bank will never send someone to collect or dispose of your cards. Safely dispose of expired or compromised cards yourself by shredding them or returning them at the bank. In addition, never share card or banking information with anyone especially from unsolicited phone calls. If you are unsure of what you are hearing, contact the bank yourself with a number you have researched.



### Online Marketplace Scams

When you are buying or selling from online marketplaces, use a few safety rules when conducting transactions. Fraudsters can scam you through the marketplace in a number of ways, such as falsely advertising items, providing false information, or falsifying payment. In some cases, when a meet-up is arranged, the seller becomes a victim of robbery, losing their item and putting themselves in danger.

To keep yourself safe from marketplace scams, educate yourself and be vigilant when browsing. First, do not believe in "too good to be true" prices. These items could be fake or non-existent. Compare the item with other listings to see if the details are consistent. Next, take a closer look at the seller and their information. Check their selling history to confirm they are credible. Generally, fraudsters use new accounts that have no history or information to keep their identity hidden. Finally when making the purchase, be careful when using e-transfer. Make sure the item is inspected and in your hand before you send money. Alternatively, you can pay or receive cash if you are uncomfortable with sending or receiving an e-transfer.

When meeting in person, keep yourself safe by meeting in a public, well-lit space. Avoid scheduling transactions in the evening as there is less foot traffic. Utilize the Richmond RCMP's safe exchange zone to make your transaction. If the seller or buyer is unwilling to come to a police station, that is a red flag! Next, ask a friend or family member to accompany you when making the transaction.



## CITY OF RICHMOND CRIME PREVENTION **NEWSLETTER**

### Road Safety is Everyone's Responsibility

#### Distracted Driving

When you are behind the wheel, focus on the road. Anything that takes your attention away from driving is a form of distracted driving. According to ICBC, you are 3.6 times more likely to crash if you use a hand-held device. On average, distracted driving is a factor in 79 deaths and 5,197 injuries each year. Distracted driving is dangerous and illegal; know the rules of the road so you can keep yourself and others safe.

Do not use your cellphone while driving. Even when stopped, checking an electronic device affects your focus and attention. Therefore, configure all your music, maps, and let people know you are on the way before you begin your trip. Know where you are going before driving and set realistic travel times. If you need to update the location or settings, pull over safely or have a passenger handle the update. If you are tempted to check notifications, turn them off or set your phone to "do not disturb" when you first get into the car. Modern smartphones have different profiles that allow you to temporarily silence your phone for various focuses, such as driving, work, or sleep. This is an effective tool to use to help you stay focused on the road.

The cost of distracted driving is not worth it. Not only are you risking lives, but you will also be fined. Every ticket for distracted driving includes a fine of \$368 and four driver penalty points. If you have four or more points on your driving record at the end of a twelve-month period, you must pay a premium. You may also have to pay additional premiums if you receive more than one distracted driving ticket in a three-year period.

#### Pedestrian Safety

According to ICBC, crashes involving pedestrians happen most often in the fall and winter months of October, November, December, and January, between the hours of 3p.m. to 6p.m. Intersections are the most common spot for crashes involving pedestrians. This information matches the timeframe when the weather changes and daylight hours decrease. The top contributing factors for pedestrian injuries involve distracted driving and weather. Put yourself in a safe position by reviewing the three R's for pedestrian safety.

**REMOVE** – Remove distractions that take your attention away from crossing the road. Do not look at your phone or have both ears plugged in when crossing, as your eyes and ears are distracted.

**REFLECT** - Wear something bright or have something reflective on your jacket or bag. It helps drivers see you, especially at night or in poor weather conditions.

**REACT** – Always use the crosswalk and make sure to look both ways before crossing. Never assume the driver has seen you. Make eye contact with the driver and ensure they come to a full stop.



## Home Security: Festivities and Crime

Plan accordingly to secure your home and prevent unwanted visitors. Take time to look around your home while you are putting up decorations. Check the exterior of your home, focusing on doors, sliding doors, windows, and garages. These are common points of entry that thieves often find weaknesses. Close and lock all entry points, as this is the most effective way to deter opportunistic crime. First, when putting up your decorations, do not run wires from the exterior to the interior of your home, as this creates an opening. After decorating, put away ladders and tools because thieves can use them to break in. In some instances, thieves use existing ledges, outdoor furniture, and ladders to climb to the second floor. Therefore, ensure that entry points on the second floor are also closed and locked. Position outdoor furniture in a way that will not allow thieves to climb. Finally, while you are working outside, check that your security cameras are working properly and that the footage is accessible. A common problem we see is that cameras are not turned on or are not in working condition. When a crime occurs, homeowners are often unable to produce footage because the camera failed. Position security cameras in strategic places that capture the faces of individuals and keep an eye on the different points of entry in your home.



## To Start a Block Watch Group

Interested in starting a Block Watch group? Let us tell you a little about Block Watch! Block Watch is a program that brings the police and the community together. This program helps you build connections and relationships with people in your neighbourhood and the police while striving for the common goal of crime prevention.

### Select a Group Lead

- ◇ Each group lead has to submit an application and will be contacted for a suitability interview. Candidates will then need to complete a free Police Information Check.

### Recruit and build your group

- ◇ Upon confirmation from the Block Watch office on completing and passing all required steps in becoming a Block Watch Lead, you may begin to recruit homes that are near to you with the provided recruiting materials from the Block Watch office. To build an effective Block Watch, try to involve 50-75% of households in your area.

### Complete activation of your team

1. **Complete** Block Watch Lead/Participant training – invite everyone in your group to participate in a virtual/in-person training session.
2. **Submit** your participating household list.
3. **Qualify** for Block Watch street signs once the above steps are completed.

If you are interested in creating a Block Watch group in your area, email us your name and address at [blockwatch@richmond.ca](mailto:blockwatch@richmond.ca) or call 604-207-4829.



# BUSINESS LINK

## WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME

## NEWSLETTER

### Addressing Shoplifting

As we approach the end of the year, many businesses will be preparing for the upcoming busy season. Foot traffic to malls will naturally increase. Unfortunately, shoplifters continue to disrupt businesses, affecting both businesses and consumers. One of the most important steps a business owner or manager can take is to train their staff on how to report and deal with shoplifters safely.

Proper training empowers your staff to identify and handle shoplifting. Provide them with safety resources so they know how to respond without feeling unsafe. Phone numbers for security, police, and management should be readily available. Equip staff with a theft action plan so they know the necessary steps to address shoplifters. If they witness a theft, employees will feel safer and be confident in handling the situation. Lastly, promote staff engagement with customers. Checking in with customers deters potential thieves, as they feel they are being watched, and it also boosts the overall customer experience. During busy holiday seasons, be alert and keep a watchful eye on customers. Shoplifters may use different types of distractions, such as drawing attention away from an accomplice or knocking over merchandise.



When reporting to the police, your staff can help by using proper descriptors and recalling as many details as possible. Train your staff to pay attention to facial features, clothing, shoes, accessories, and the direction of travel. Practice identifying descriptors in your business. This can be done naturally when directing another staff member to help a customer. When shoplifting happens, your staff will be able to quickly describe the individual and provide key descriptors to the police.

#### Please report all suspicious or criminal activity to the police.

Richmond RCMP Non-Emergency line **604-278-1212**. If you witness a crime in progress, dial **9-1-1**.

Online reporting available at [bc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/richmond/report](https://bc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/richmond/report) for the following:

- Damage/mischief to property under \$5,000
- Damage/mischief to a vehicle under \$5,000
- Hit and run to an unoccupied vehicle or property
- Theft of bicycle under \$5,000
- Theft under \$5,000
- Theft from vehicle under \$5,000
- Lost property

