



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** October 14, 2021
From: Will Ng **File:** 09-5000-01/2021-Vol
Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge 01
Re: RCMP Monthly Activity Report – September 2021

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “RCMP Monthly Activity Report – September 2021”, dated October 14, 2021, from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment, be received for information.

Will Ng
Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge
(604-278-1212)

Att. 3

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS:
APPROVED BY CAO 	

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Staff Report

Origin

At the request of the Community Safety Committee, the Officer in Charge will keep Council informed on matters pertaining to policing in the Richmond community. This monthly activity report for the RCMP provides information on each of the following areas:

1. Activities and Noteworthy Files
2. Analysis of Police Statistics
3. Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions
4. Block Watch
5. Community Police Station Programs
6. Crime Prevention Unit
7. Road Safety Unit
8. Victim Services
9. Youth Section

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #1 A Safe and Resilient City:

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

Analysis

Activities and Noteworthy Files

Robbery Arrest

On September 2, 2021, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release that an arrest had been made in connection with a robbery, which occurred on August 22, 2021. Police had responded to the 9000 block of Williams Road where a convenience store clerk was threatened with a knife. The suspect has been charged with one count of robbery.

Missing Person

On September 3, 2021, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release requesting the public's assistance in locating a missing 42-year-old man. On September 8, 2021, the Richmond RCMP issued a follow-up media release advising that the man had been located and was receiving treatment in hospital. There is no suspected foul play related to this incident.

Shots Fired

On September 13, 2021, Richmond RCMP officers responded to two occurrences of shots fired at separate locations. A 64-year-old Richmond man was later arrested in connection with both incidents. No one was injured and police do not believe the shootings to be connected to criminal activity. The investigation is ongoing.

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Hit and Run

On September 24, 2021, Richmond RCMP officers responded to the 8200 block of Granville Avenue for a vehicle collision with a cyclist. The driver exited the vehicle and then left the scene of the accident prior to police arrival. The cyclist was transported to hospital where he was treated and later released. The collision remains under investigation.

New City Centre Community Police Office

On September 29, 2021, the opening was held for the new City Centre Community Police Office. Mayor and Council were in attendance, as were police officers from RCMP 'E' Division Headquarters. The new 10,000 square foot facility on the corner of Gilbert Road and Granville Avenue will provide the public centralized policing services and improved police response times for Richmond residents.

Analysis of Police Statistics

Arson

In September 2021, there were three reported arsons, which represents no change from the previous month and is down two incidents from September 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of arsons this month is within the expected range.

Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)

There were eight assault serious events in September 2021, which is down 20 per cent from the previous month and down 53 per cent from September 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of serious assaults this month is within the expected range.

Auto Theft

In September 2021, there were 25 incidents of auto theft, which is up 19 per cent from the previous month and down 22 per cent from September 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of auto thefts this month is within the expected range.

Drugs

In September 2021, there were 24 drug files, which is down 37 per cent from the previous month and down 20 per cent from September 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of drug incidents this month is below the expected range.

Mental Health

There were 135 mental health-related incidents in September 2021, which represents no change from the previous month and is a 12 per cent decrease from September 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of mental health-related incidents this month is within the expected range.

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There were 85 police apprehensions this month, which is a 14 per cent reduction from the previous month and the average hospital wait time decreased by four percent to 102 minutes. The longer than average hospital wait time has been attributed to a small proportion of incidents which required police to remain in hospital for an extended period of time.

Residential Break and Enter

There were 22 break and enters to residences in September 2021, which represents no change from the previous month and is a 35 per cent decrease from September 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of residential break and enters this month is within the expected range.

Commercial Break and Enter

In September 2021, there were 36 break and enters to businesses, which represents a three per cent decrease from the previous month and is a 24 per cent increase from September 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of commercial break and enters this month is within the expected range.

Robbery

There were four robbery incidents in September 2021, which is down one incident from the previous month and is half the number of incidents reported in September 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of robberies this month is within the expected range.

Sexual Offences

In September 2021, there were 18 sexual offence files, which is up 13 per cent from previous month and represents no change from September 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of sexual offences this month is within the expected range.

Shoplifting

There were 52 reported shoplifting thefts in September 2021, which is a 15 per cent decrease from the previous month and is an eight per cent increase from September 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of shoplifting thefts this month is within the expected range.

Theft from Automobile

There were 137 theft from automobile incidents in September 2021, which is down nine per cent from the previous month and down 10 per cent from September 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of thefts from automobiles this month is within the expected range.

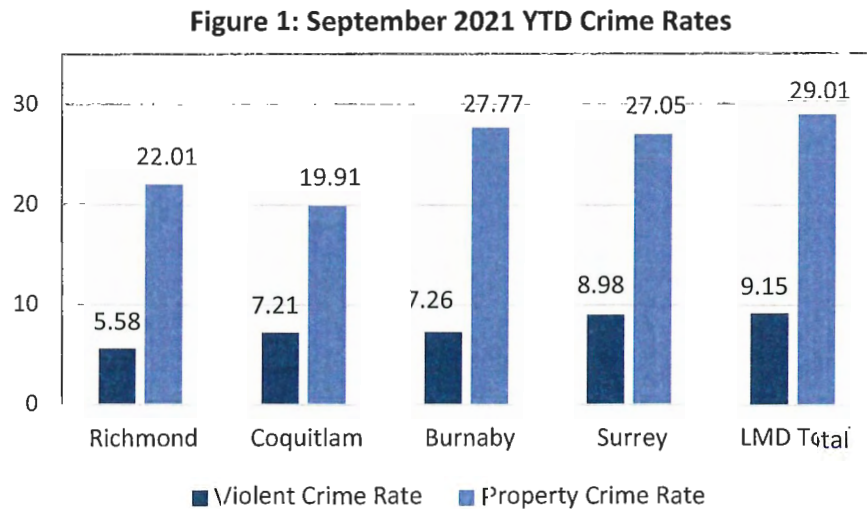
Hate Crimes and Incidents

Table 1 presents the number of hate crimes and hate incidents reported between January 1, 2018 and September 30, 2021.¹ A “hate crime” refers to any criminal offence targeting an identifiable group. The criteria for an offence to be considered a hate crime as per the *Criminal Code* carries a higher threshold and usually involves one or more criminal offences. A “hate incident” may be motivated by the same factors as a hate crime, but does not reach the threshold of being a criminal offence. The single incident reported this month was related to racist graffiti.

Year	Hate Crime Files	Hate Incident Files	Total
2018	19	4	23
2019	11	9	20
2020	21	13	34
2021 YTD	18	24	42

Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions

Data on crime rates is presented in Figure 1.² In September 2021, out of the four largest municipalities policed by the RCMP in the Lower Mainland District (LMD), Richmond had the lowest violent crime rate and the second lowest property crime rate.



Block Watch

At the end of September 2021, the Block Watch program had 303 groups totaling 7,019 participants. Currently, the program includes 435 captains and co-captains.

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

² Crime rate is calculated per 1,000 people.

Community Police Station Programs

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

During the month of September volunteer highlights included:

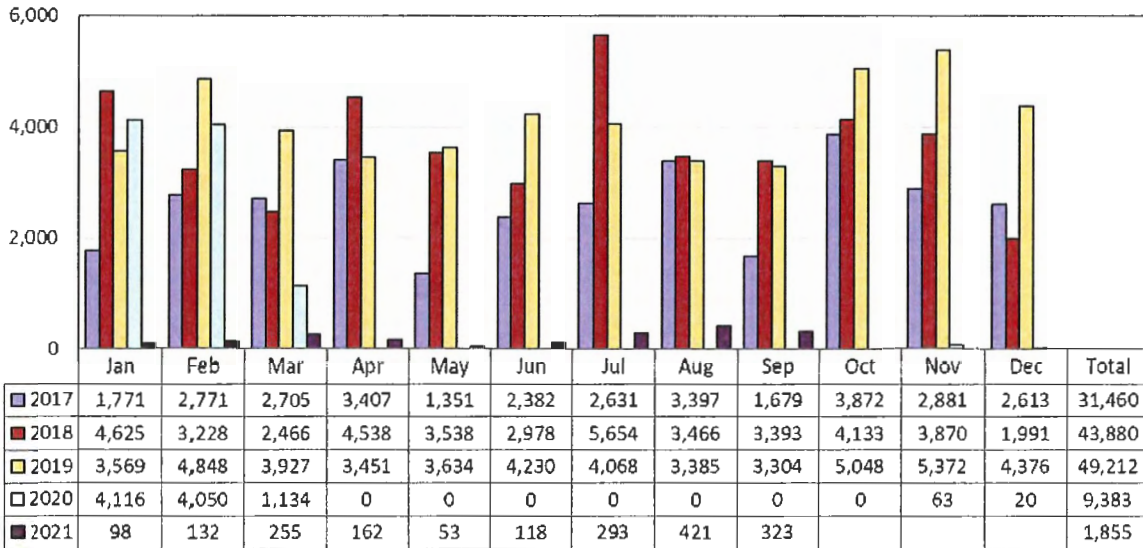
- The deployment of one volunteer bike patrol, totalling 12 hours.
- 14 Lock Out Auto Crime deployments took place, which resulted in 323 information letters being distributed.
- Speed Watch was conducted on 1,275 vehicles at multiple locations and 130 information letters were issued.
- There were six Fail to Stop deployments during which 191 information letters were issued.
- September 2 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a Pop Up Detachment at McLean Park. A total of 104 people visited the event where police and volunteers shared crime prevention information and resources.
- September 13 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a Pop Up Detachment at the Richmond Public Market. A total of 50 people visited the event where police and volunteers shared crime prevention information and resources.
- September 15 – In collaboration with ICBC, volunteers and RCMP officers participated in a Speed Watch deployment and Think of Me Campaign at McNeely Elementary School.³ A total of 207 vehicles went through the deployment and 20 Think of Me Cards were given to drivers. In addition, 22 information letters were mailed to vehicle owners.
- September 16 and 23 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with Distracted Driving deployments and Think of Me Campaigns in central Richmond. A total of 1,416 vehicles went through the deployments and 20 Think of Me Cards were given to drivers. Police also issued 11 road safety-related warnings to drivers.
- September 22 – Volunteers and RCMP officers participated in a Speed Watch deployment and Think of Me Campaign at Cook Elementary School. A total of 471 vehicles went through the deployment and 53 Think of Me Cards were given to drivers. In addition, 21 information letters were mailed to vehicle owners.

³ 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. On the back of these cards is education around Distracted Driving. The cards were prepared over the summer by children in City of Richmond Summer Day Camp Programs.

Lock Out Auto Crime

Figure 2 provides a comparison by year of the number of vehicle notices issued.⁴

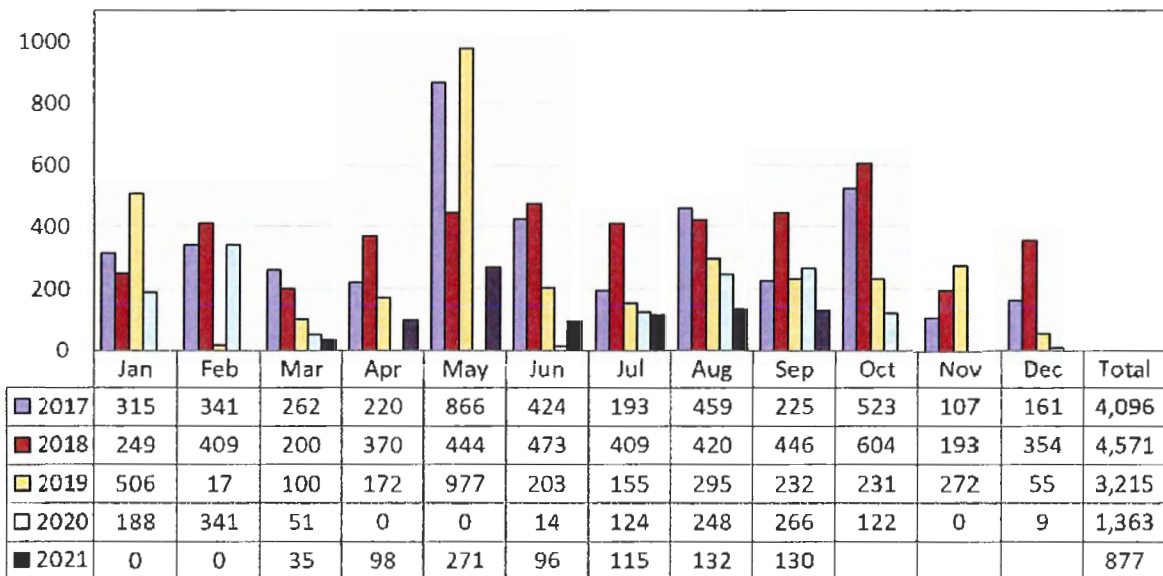
Figure 2: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice



Speed Watch

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

Figure 3: Speed Watch Letters Sent



⁴ Beginning in November 2020, Lock Out Auto Crime letters were issued in place of notices.

Crime Prevention Unit

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

- Anti-Racism Outreach
- Community Outreach Patrols
- Distracted Driving
- Pop Up Detachment
- Speed Watch
- 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 September 2021 to both July 2021 and August 2021. Violation Tickets were issued for the following infractions:

Table 2: Violation Tickets Issued

Infraction	July 2021	August 2021	September 2021
Distracted Driving	133	155	226
Driver License	134	147	190
Impaired	42	42	35
Intersection Offences	39	38	39
Moving Infractions ⁵	97	155	144
Speeding	286	150	175
Seatbelts	14	15	15
Vehicle Related ⁶	59	62	106
Other ⁷	2	2	8
Total	806	766	938

Victim Services

In September 2021, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 84 new clients and attended eight crime/trauma scenes after hours. Victim Services reduced in-person client services in March 2020 and began offering services by phone but continue to attend some of the more serious calls in person. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 142 files. In September, Victim Services responded to a number of cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, mental health issues and traffic accidents.

⁵ Moving infractions refers to unsafe lane change and unsafe passing.

⁶ Vehicle related refers to vehicle defects, for example no lights and no insurance.

⁷ Other refers to miscellaneous charges including fail to remain at the scene of an accident and failing to stop for police.

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Youth Section

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

- The Youth Section launched the first term of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program for the 2021-2022 school year and delivered four DARE classes to Grade 5 students.
- RCMP officers in the Youth Section conducted 47 proactive school visits at Secondary Schools and 76 visits at Elementary Schools. Police officers engaged with the students at recess and lunch, as well as during morning and afternoon supervision.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

In September 2021, the Richmond RCMP conducted a number of noteworthy investigations, including a hit and run collision involving a cyclist and two related incidents of shots fired. Police statistics for this month indicate that most crime types were within the expected ranges, with the exception of drug offences, which were below average.

In September, the Richmond RCMP Community Engagement Team and volunteers conducted crime prevention and road safety deployments, including the Think of Me Campaign. In addition, the DARE program resumed for the first term of the 2021-2022 school year. The Officer in Charge of the Richmond RCMP Detachment will continue to ensure that Richmond remains a safe and desirable community.



Edward Warzel
Manager, RCMP Administration
(604-207-4767)

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

Auxiliary Constables

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

Block Watch

- Community-based crime prevention program aimed at helping neighbors organize themselves to prevent crime.
- Residents can receive email alerts of neighbourhood residential break and enters by registering their email addresses at: blockwatch@richmond.ca
- For more information, visit www.richmond.ca/safety/police/prevention/blockwatch.htm

Distracted Driving Program

- Trained volunteers monitor intersections and observe distracted drivers.
- A letter is sent to the registered owner of the offending vehicle with information on the safety risks associated to the observed behaviour and applicable fine amounts.
- For more information, visit www.richmond.ca/safety/police/prevention/programs.htm

Fail to Stop

- Trained volunteers monitor areas that have been referred to the program by local businesses or residents where drivers are not making a full stop at the stop sign, or running a red light.
- An information letter is sent to the registered owner of the vehicle advising them the date, time and location and applicable fine amounts if the driver received a violation ticket.

Lock Out Auto Crime

- Co-sponsored by the Insurance Corporation of BC (ICBC), volunteers patrol city streets and parking lots looking for automobile security vulnerabilities.
- Notices supplied by ICBC are issued to every vehicle inspected indicating to the owner what issues need to be addressed in order to keep the vehicle and contents secure.

- For more information, visit
- www.richmond.ca/safety/police/personal/vehicle.htm

Project 529

- This program allows riders to easily and securely register their bikes. This up-to-date database of bikes alerts its registrants if a fellow 529 bike is stolen.
- Project 529 is a unique, multi-national registry that holds a database of all registered and stolen bikes.

Speed Watch

- Co-sponsored by ICBC, promotes safe driving habits by alerting drivers of their speed.
- Trained volunteers are equipped with radar and a speed watch reader board that gives drivers instant feedback regarding their speed.
- Volunteers record the license plate number and the speed, and a letter is sent to the registered owner of the offending vehicle. The letter includes the date, time and location and applicable fine amounts if the driver received a violation ticket.

Stolen Auto Recovery

- Co-sponsored by ICBC, trained volunteers equipped with portable computers identify stolen vehicles.
- These volunteers recover hundreds of stolen vehicles each year throughout the Lower Mainland.

Volunteer Bike and Foot Patrol Program

- Trained volunteers patrol Richmond neighbourhoods reporting suspicious activities and providing a visible deterrent to crime and public order issues.

SEPTEMBER 2021 STATISTICS

RICHMOND RCMP

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

In 2019, changes were implemented regarding the collection of UCR data. The new standards provide much more stringent criteria to classify a file as unfounded. As a result, there will be an increase in many crime statistics, and clearance rates will conversely decline. This creates numerous challenges when comparing previous years' data. Full details on the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey are available at Statistics Canada: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2018001/article/54973-eng.htm>. For more information, contact Richmond Crime Analysts.

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			
	Sept-21	September		2020	2021	% Change	# Change
VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	128	130.6	111-150	1289	1294	0%	5
Robbery	4	5.6	4-7	58	42	-28%	-16
Assault Common	49	44.8	40-49	459	413	-10%	-46
Assault Serious	8	12.6	8-18	117	137	17%	20
Sexual Offences	18	13.8	8-20	152	181	19%	29
PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	517	616.6	574-659	4878	4787	-2%	-91
Business B&E	36	30.2	23-37	290	256	-12%	-34
Residential B&E	22	49.0	31-67	301	246	-18%	-55
Auto Theft	25	31.4	27-36	193	192	-1%	-1
Theft from Auto	137	160.0	144-176	1242	1234	-1%	-8
Theft	65	80.4	64-97	548	513	-6%	-35
Shoplifting	52	59.0	45-73	451	535	19%	84
Fraud	58	74.8	71-78	643	644	0%	1
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	244	190.8	161-221	1712	2216	29%	504
Arson	3	3.0	2-4	51	54	6%	3
SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	889	938.0	867-1009	8023	8300	3%	277
DRUGS (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	24	52.8	40-65	504	318	-37%	-186
MHA RELATED CALLS (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	135	140.2	101-180	1473	1186	-19%	-287

Prepared by Richmond RCMP Crime Analysts. Data collected from PRIME on 2021-10-01. Published 2021-10-04. 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).

Business Break & Enter Sept 2021



Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2021-10-01

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

CS- 52

Residential Break & Enter Sept 2021



Legend
🏠 Residential Break & Enter - 22

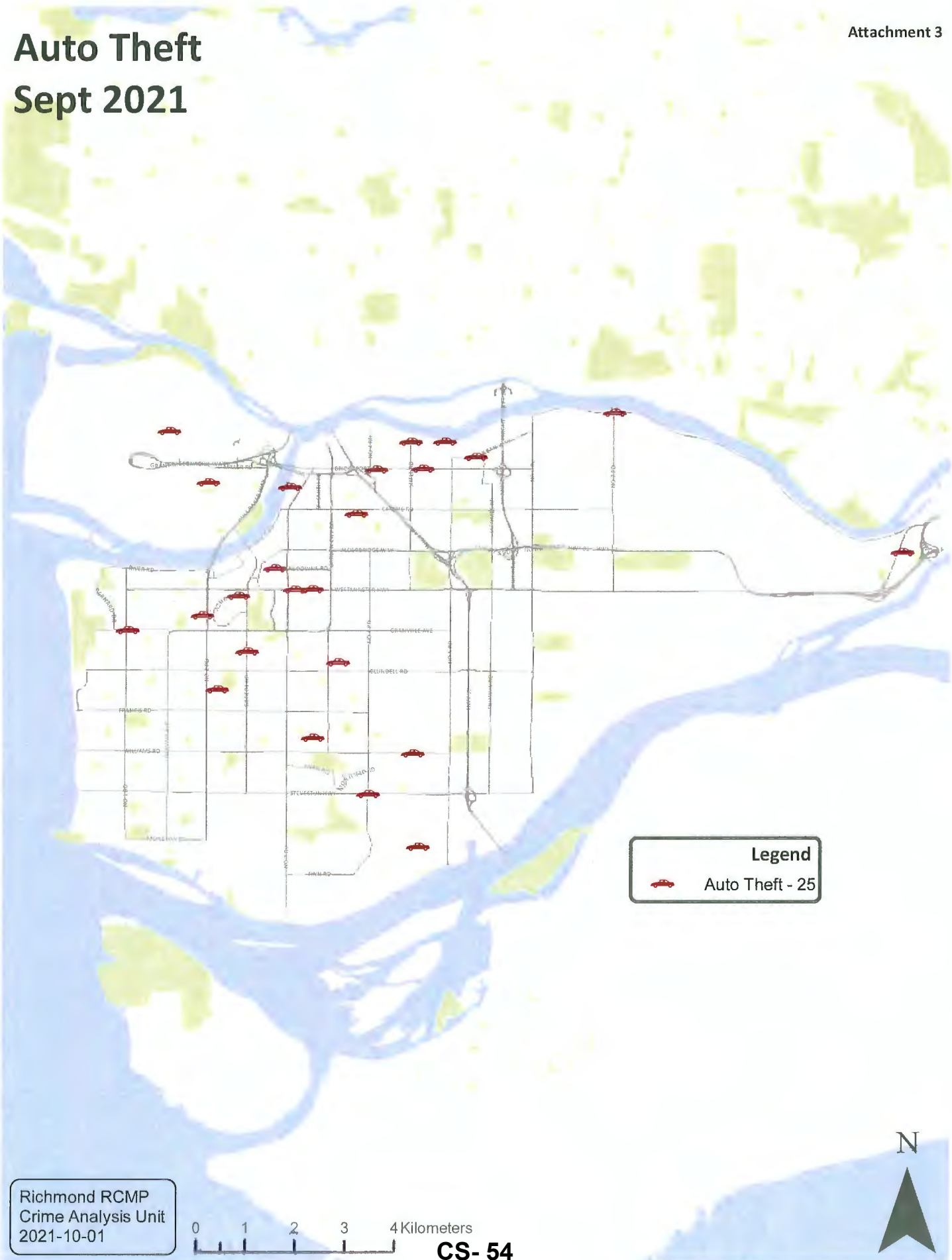
Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2021-10-01

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

CS- 53



Auto Theft Sept 2021



Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2021-10-01

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers
CS- 54

Theft from Auto Sept 2021



Legend
● Theft from Auto - 137

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2021-10-01

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers
CS-55

