



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** October 17, 2024
From: Dave Chauhan **File:** 09-5000-01/2024-Vol
 Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge 01
Re: RCMP Monthly Activity Report - September 2024

Staff Recommendation

That the report titled “RCMP Monthly Activity Report – September 2024”, dated October 17, 2024, from the Officer in Charge, 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 #3 A Safe and Prepared Community:

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

Analysis

Activities and Noteworthy Files

School Zones

On September 2, 2024, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release advising that the Road Safety Unit would be increase its presence in school zones to enforce speed limits, distracted driving laws, and pedestrian right-of-way regulations. Speed Watch volunteers were also deployed to remind drivers to reduce speeds and stay alert.

Women in Policing

Throughout September, the Richmond RCMP issued multiple media releases in recognition of the 50th anniversary of women joining the RCMP. As part of this commemoration, the Richmond RCMP featured a series of profiles on female police officers of diverse ranks, roles, and backgrounds serving within the Richmond detachment.

Road Safety Messaging

In a joint effort to enhance road safety, the Richmond RCMP, ICBC, the City of Richmond and the BC Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement branch conducted a comprehensive demonstration to highlight the impact of vehicle size and speed on stopping distances. A media

release on September 17, 2024, featured a video and statistics highlighting the extended stopping time required by larger vehicles and how these dangers are made worse by wet road conditions.

Distracted Driving

On September 18, 2024, The Richmond RCMP issued a media release promoting a province-wide, month-long campaign against distracted driving. In collaboration with ICBC, this initiative aimed to raise awareness of the dangers of distracted driving, which is a leading factor in many motor vehicle collisions across the province.



Figure 1: Distracted Driving Campaign

Analysis of Police Statistics

Arson

There were six reported arsons in September 2024, which is an increase of one incident from the previous month. No patterns or trends have been identified.¹

Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)

There were 21 serious assaults in September 2024, representing a five per cent increase from the previous month. Year to date, serious assaults are down 13 per cent compared to the same period in 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of serious assaults this month is above the average range.

The majority of incidents reported in September 2024 involved physical force. Forty-seven percent of incidents involved domestic/family violence and 19 per cent involved acquaintances.

Auto Theft

There were 21 auto thefts in September 2024, which is a 13 per cent decrease from the previous month. Year to date, auto thefts are up seven per cent compared to the same period in 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of auto thefts this month is within the average range.

Drugs

In September 2024, there were 19 drug offences, which is a 17 per cent decrease from the previous month. Year to date, drug offences are down 56 per cent compared to the same period

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 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.

in 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of drug incidents this month is below the average range.

Mental Health

There were 268 mental health-related incidents in September 2024, representing a three per cent increase from the previous month. Year to date, mental health-related incidents are up two per cent compared to the same period in 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of mental health-related incidents this month is within the average range.

This month, there were 61 police apprehensions, and the average hospital wait time was 115 minutes; these statistics are within the average range. Twenty-nine individuals were responsible for two or more calls, with one caller generating 27 incidents.

Residential Break and Enter

There were 24 break and enters to residences in September 2024, representing an 85 per cent increase from the previous month. Year to date, residential break and enters are down 17 per cent compared to the same period in 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of residential break and enters this month is within the average range.

Commercial Break and Enter

In September 2024, there were 12 break and enters to businesses, which is a 52 per cent decrease from the previous month. Year to date, commercial break and enters are down 23 per cent compared to the same period in 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 two robberies in September 2024, which is a decrease of five incidents from the previous month. Year to date, robberies are up eight per cent compared to the same period in 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of robberies this month is below the average range.

One robbery involved an attempted purse snatching, and the other involved a theft from an online marketplace. Both incidents remain under investigation.

Sexual Offences

In September 2024, there were 17 sexual offence files, representing a 35 per cent decrease from the previous month. Year to date, sexual offences are up six per cent compared to the same period in 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of sexual offences this month is within the average range.

Approximately 65 per cent of the offences reported in September 2024 were sexual assaults, and 29 per cent were indecent acts/exposing.

Shoplifting

There were 121 reported shoplifting thefts in September 2024, which is a six per cent decrease from the previous month. Year to date, shoplifting thefts are up 33 per cent compared to the same period in 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of shoplifting thefts this month is above the average range.

Theft from Automobile

There were 53 thefts from automobiles in September 2024, which is a 23 per cent decrease from the previous month. Year to date, thefts from automobiles are down 42 per cent compared to the same period in 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of thefts from automobiles this month is below the average range.

Hate Crimes and Incidents

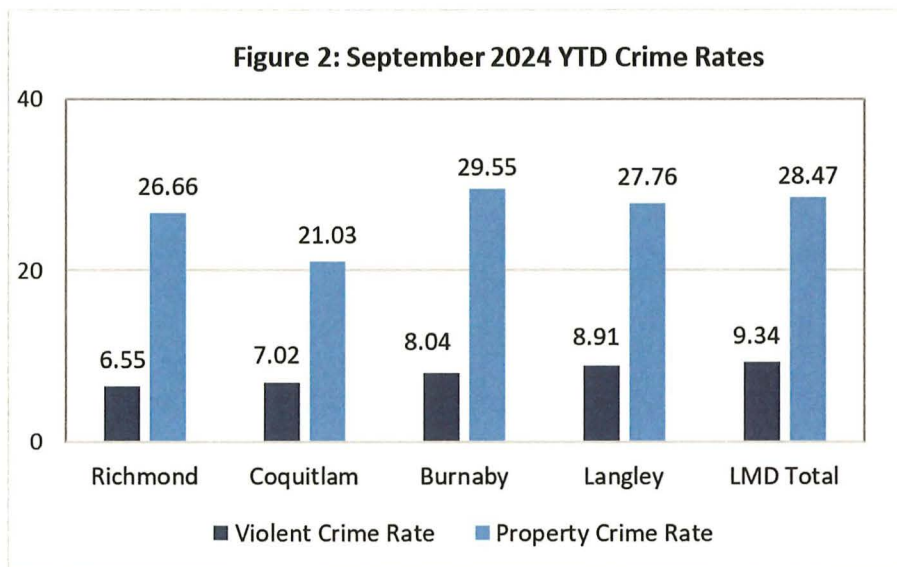
Table 1 presents the number of hate crimes and hate incidents reported between January 1, 2020 and September 30, 2024.² A “hate crime” refers to any criminal offence targeting an identifiable group. The criteria for an offence to be considered a hate crime, as per the *Criminal Code*, carries a higher threshold and usually involves one or more criminal offences. A “hate incident” may be motivated by the same factors as a hate crime but does not reach the threshold of being a criminal offence. There were no hate crimes or incidents reported in September 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	8	8

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

Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions

Figure 3 presents crime rates for September 2024 for the four largest municipalities policed by the RCMP in the Lower Mainland District (LMD).³ The property and violent crime rates in Richmond were below the LMD average.



Block Watch

At the end of September 2024, the Block Watch program had 309 groups, totalling 7,099 participants. Currently, the program includes 431 captains and co-captains. Two Block Watch events were held in September, which included over 120 attendees.

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 September, volunteer highlights included:

- The deployment of four bike patrols, totalling 32 hours.
- A total of nine Fail to Stop deployments took place, resulting in 1,137 information letters issued.
- There were 21 Lock Out Auto Crime deployments, resulting in 267 information letters issued.

³ Based on PRIME query by Richmond Crime Analysis Unit on September 4, 2024

- Speed Watch was conducted on 3,632 vehicles, resulting in 219 information letters issued.
- September 2 and 8 – Volunteers participated in Block Watch Block events which featured a crime prevention booth and Spot the Target van.
- September 5 – In collaboration with ICBC, volunteers assisted RCMP officers with A Student Service Fair at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. Crime prevention and road safety information was provided.
- September 7 – Volunteers participated in the Public Works Open House, assisting RCMP officers and engaging with over 1,000 attendees. Volunteers promoted crime prevention programs, staffed information booths, and offered tours of police vehicles.
- September 12 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with “Think of Me” deployments at Mitchell Elementary and James McKinney Elementary. In this distracted driving and speeding awareness initiative, 402 “Think of Me” cards were handed out.⁴
- September 17 – In collaboration with ICBC, volunteers assisted RCMP officers with distracted driving enforcement and outreach at multiple locations throughout the city. A total of 75 information letters were issued to registered vehicle owners.
- September 19 – Volunteers assisted with a Block Watch event at Walter Lee Elementary, hosting a crime prevention booth and promoting Project 529.
- September 24 – Volunteers received Speed Watch training, which included an overview of the program, safety considerations and the equipment used in deployments.
- September 24 – Richmond RCMP officers and volunteers participated in a Joint Forces Operation with the Canadian National Railway Police. This awareness initiative focussed on educating motorists on laws pertaining to railway crossings.



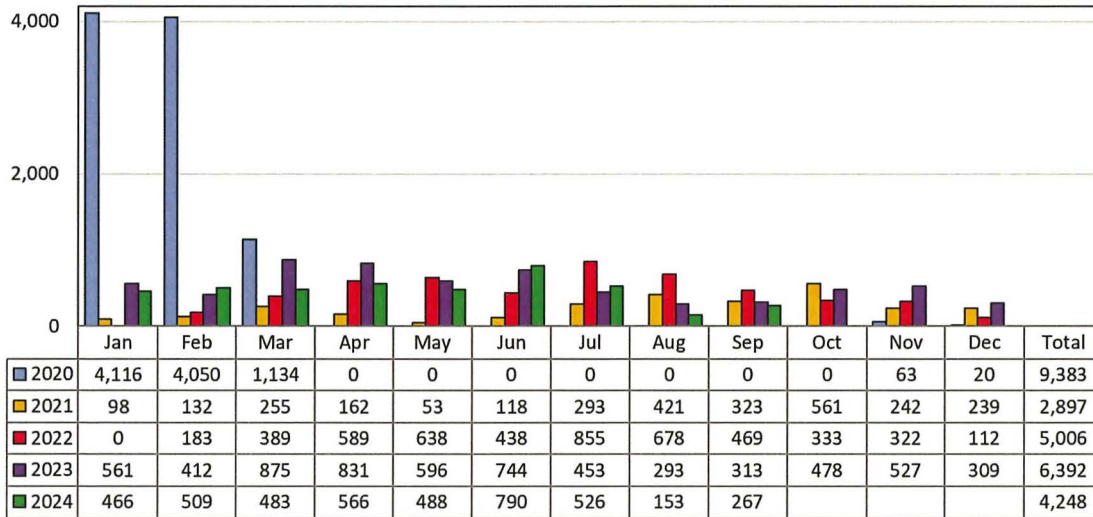
Figure 3: Block Watch Event

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

Lock Out Auto Crime

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

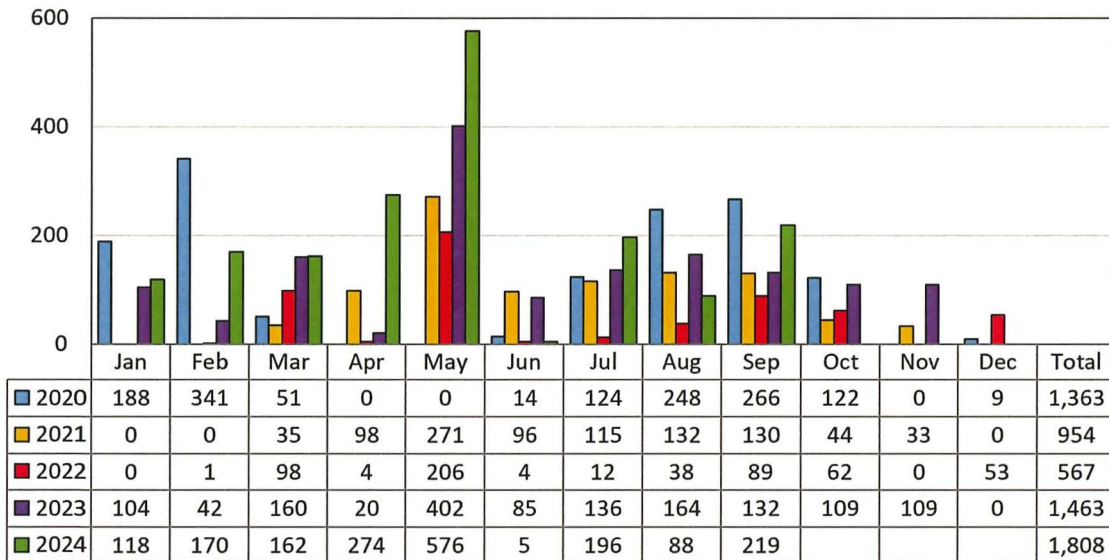
Figure 4: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice



Speed Watch

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

Figure 5: 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.

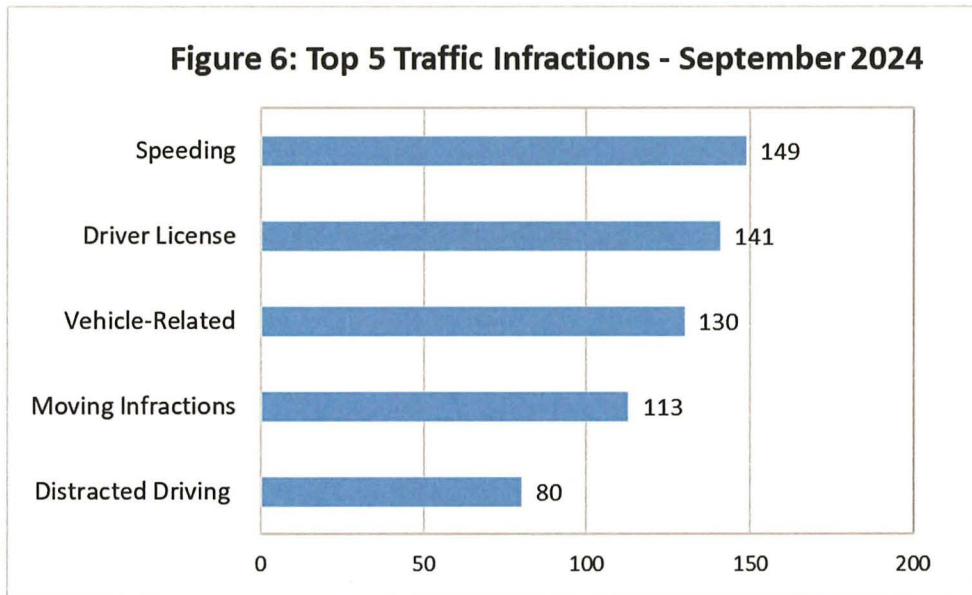
Crime Prevention Unit

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

- Aspire Community Picnic⁶
- “Coffee with a Cop”
- Distracted Driving
- Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives
- Place of Worship Patrols
- 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 688 violation tickets were issued in September 2024. Figure 7 provides statistics for the top five infractions for which violation tickets were issued in September:



Victim Services

In September 2024, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 67 new clients and attended four crime/trauma scenes after hours. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 99 files. In September, Victim Services responded to several cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, property crimes and mental health-related issues.

⁶ Aspire provides services to community members with physical/cognitive disabilities.

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 September, Youth Section highlights included:

- RCMP officers in the Youth Section conducted 51 proactive school visits at secondary schools and 98 visits at elementary schools. Police officers engaged with students during recess, lunch and morning and afternoon supervision.
- DARE classes began for the first term of the 2024-2025 school year. Eighty-five students in three schools participated in the program.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

In September 2024, the Richmond RCMP conducted several road safety public awareness campaigns. Police statistics for this month indicate that most crime types were within the average ranges, except for serious assaults and shoplifting incidents, which were elevated. Commercial break and enters, robberies, drug offences, and thefts from vehicles were below average.

In September, the Community Engagement Team and volunteers continued to promote crime prevention and road safety initiatives, including a large-scale distracted driving campaign. The Officer in Charge of the Richmond RCMP Detachment will continue to ensure that Richmond remains a safe and desirable community.



Edward Warzel
Director, 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.



September 2024 STATISTICS

RICHMOND RCMP

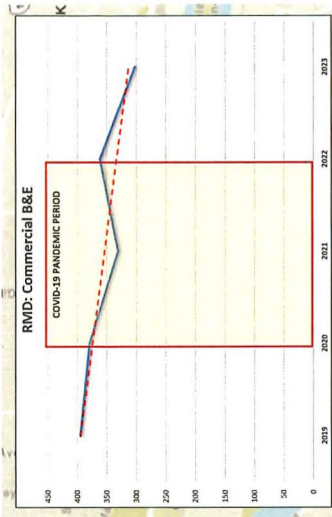
The following information is a limited list of select crime-type samples, which does not comprise the entirety or assortment of all crimes captured by the RCMP. The statistics in this chart should be considered independently of the analysis provided as the data is unrelated to the research provided earlier 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			
	Sep - 24	September		2023	2024	% Change	# Change
VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	162	140.4	128-153	1380	1421	3%	41
Robbery <small>UCR 1610 (1-3)</small>	2	5.6	4-7	40	43	8%	3
Assault Common <small>UCR 1430</small>	60	48.2	45-51	447	474	6%	27
Assault Serious <small>UCR 1410, 1420</small>	21	13.0	9-17	187	163	-13%	-24
Sexual Offences <small>UCR 1415, 1430, 1435, 1440, 2400/26/26</small>	17	16.8	13-21	174	184	6%	10
PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	574	607.0	554-660	5828	5600	-4%	-228
Business B&E <small>UCR 2120-1</small>	12	32.0	25-39	226	175	-23%	-51
Residential B&E <small>UCR 2120-2</small>	24	29.0	18-40	216	179	-17%	-37
Auto Theft <small>UCR 2135 (1, 10), 2170</small>	21	25.8	21-31	192	205	7%	13
Theft from Auto <small>UCR 2132, 2142</small>	53	140.0	117-163	1096	641	-42%	-455
Theft <small>UCR 2170, 2140</small>	114	82.8	64-102	1042	996	-4%	-46
Shoplifting <small>UCR 2137, 2143</small>	121	78.8	51-107	923	1228	33%	305
Fraud <small>UCR 2160 (10), 2165, 2166</small>	87	74.4	63-86	735	872	19%	137
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	292	251.6	219-284	2443	2640	8%	197
Arson <small>UCR 1620, 2110</small>	6	n/c	n/c	n/c	55	n/c	n/c
SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	1028	999.0	941-1057	9655	9729	1%	74
DRUGS (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	19	36.2	19-54	425	189	-56%	-236
MHA RELATED CALLS (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	268	254.6	215-294	2147	2194	2%	47

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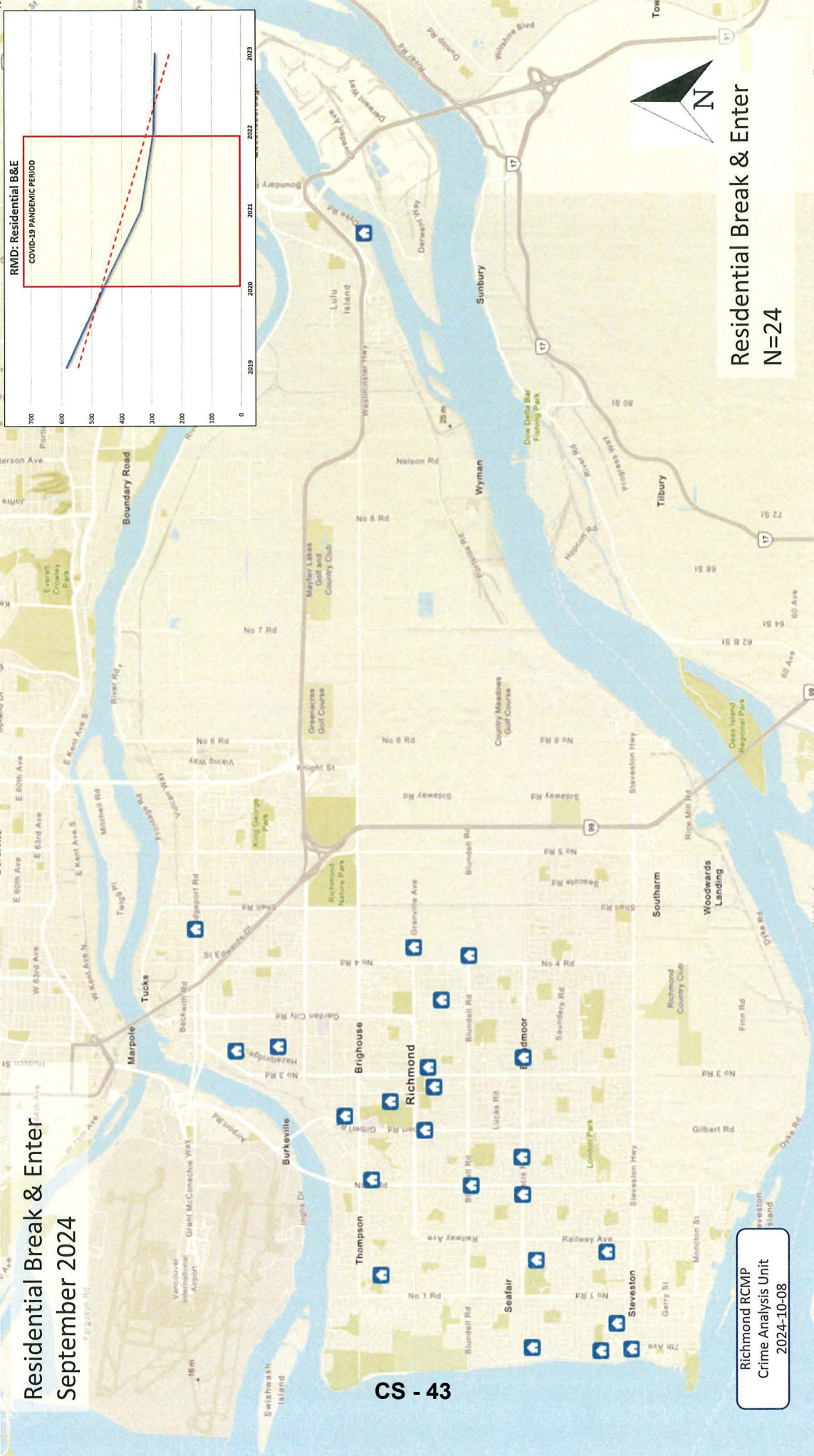
**Commercial Break & Enter
September 2024**

**Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2024-10-08**

**Commercial B&E
N=12**

Residential Break & Enter September 2024

CS - 43



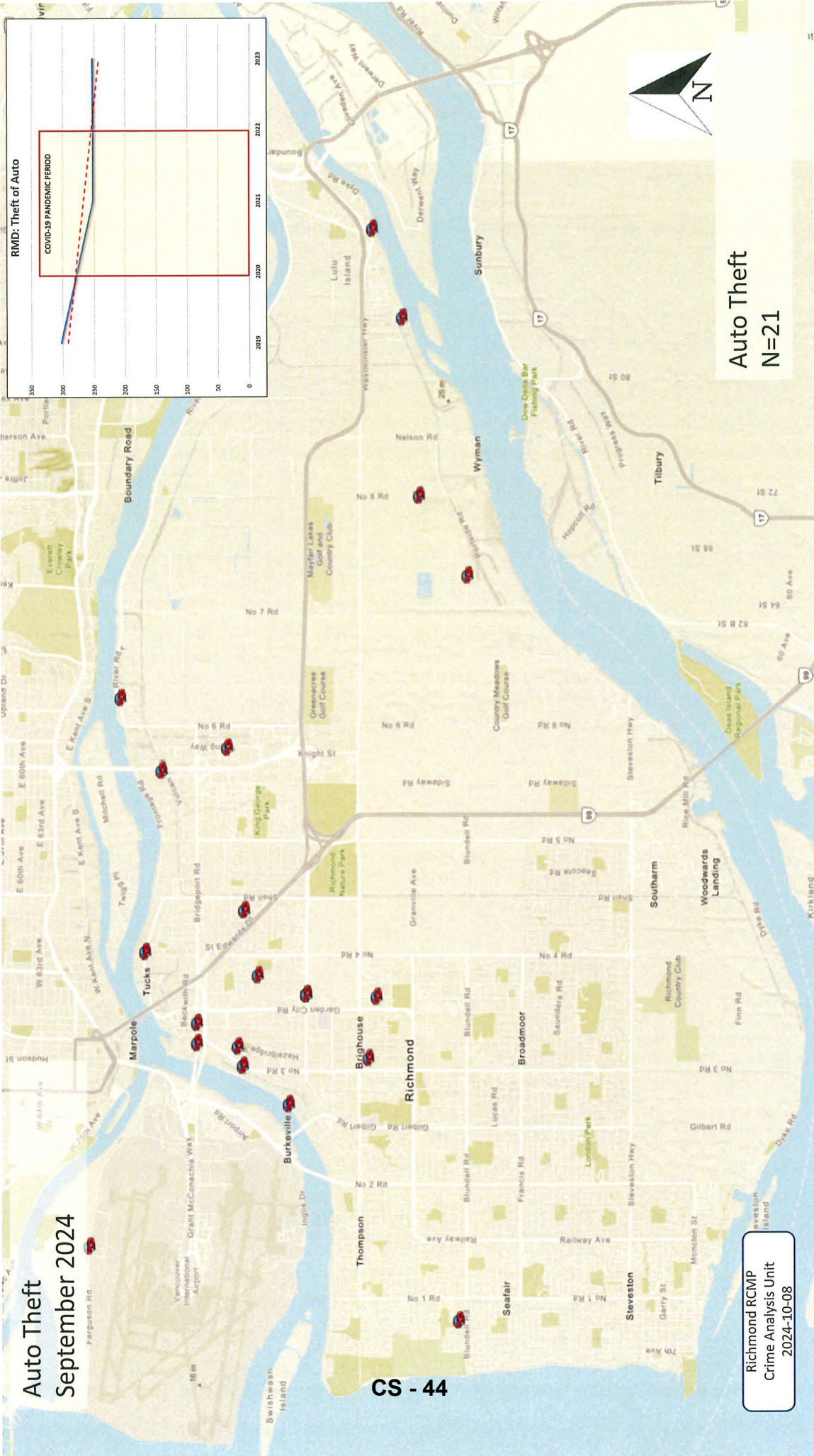
Residential Break & Enter
N=24

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2024-10-08

Auto Theft September 2024

CS - 44

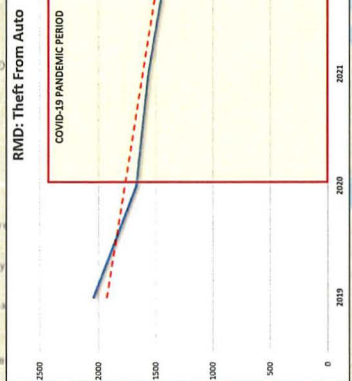
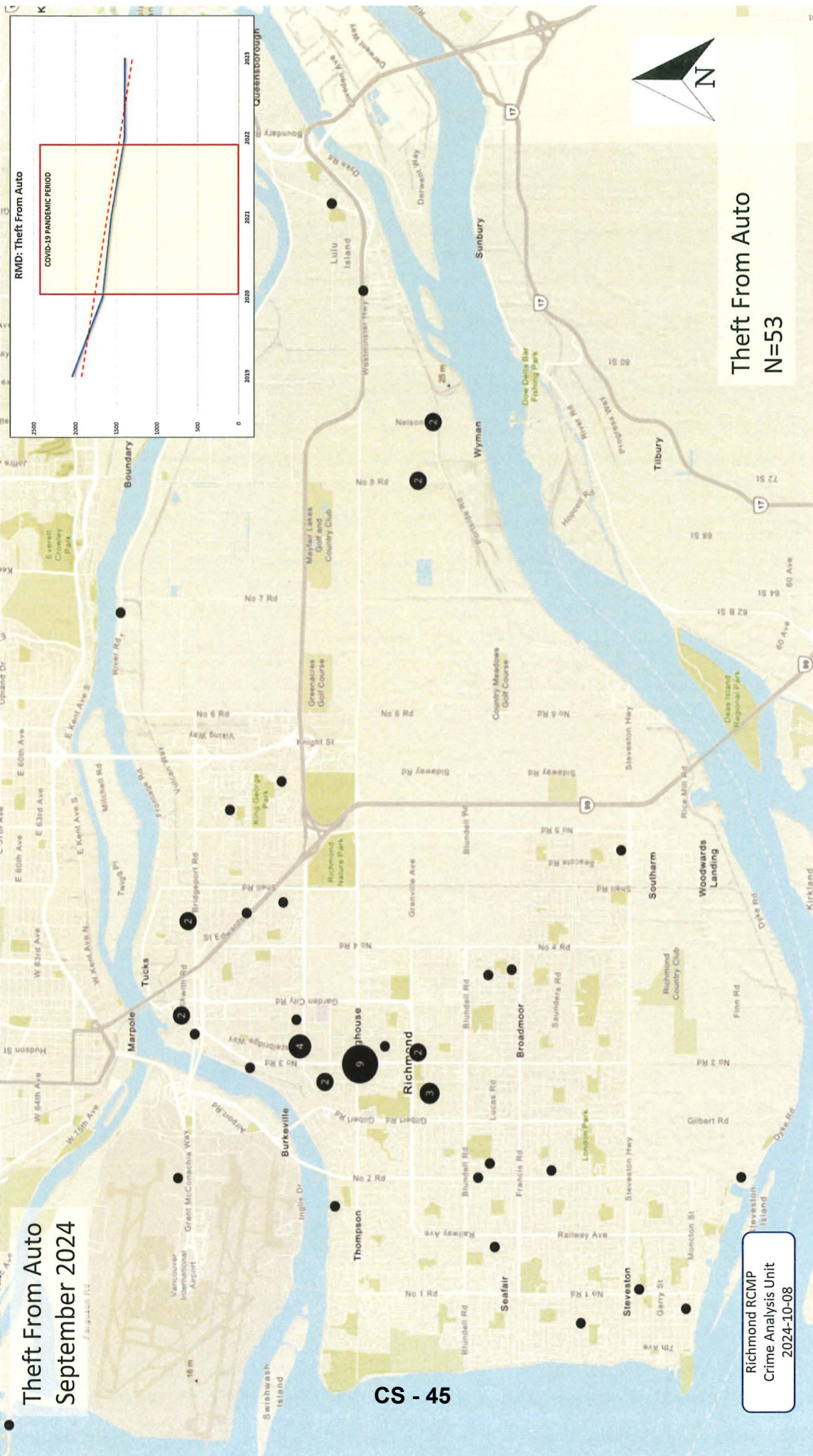
Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2024-10-08



Theft From Auto September 2024

CS - 45

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2024-10-08



Theft From Auto
N=53