



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** October 14, 2022

From: Dave Chauhan **File:** 09-5000-01/2022-Vol
Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge 01

Re: RCMP Monthly Activity Report – September 2022

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “RCMP Monthly Activity Report – September 2022”, dated October 14, 2022, from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment, be received for information.

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

Att. 3

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

Staff Report

Origin

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

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

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 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 Suspect

On September 14, 2022, the Richmond RCMP requested the public's assistance in identifying a suspect in an attempted robbery. The incident occurred on June 1, 2022 at a business in the 5900 block of No. 3 Road where a woman had been injured during the course of a robbery. The incident remains under investigation.

Shoplifting Arrests

On September 15, 2022, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release advising that police had arrested two women and recovered thousands of dollars worth of clothing stolen from multiple retailers. The investigation stemmed from an August 31, 2022 incident in which police had responded to the 7800 block of Templeton Station Road regarding an in progress shoplifting complaint. The investigation is ongoing.

Car Seat Safety

On September 26, 2022, the Richmond RCMP, in partnership with ICBC and BCAA, hosted its first ever car seat safety clinic at Lansdowne Mall. The event featured trained child passenger safety educators providing parents and guardians with information on selecting and installing car seats properly. A total of 17 vehicles and 24 car seats were checked during the event.

Commercial Vehicle Enforcement

On September 12, 2022, the Richmond RCMP Road Safety Unit participated in a multi-agency Lower Mainland Commercial Vehicle Enforcement initiative and issued 62 violations under the *Motor Vehicle Act*, *Motor Vehicle Act Regulations* and *Commercial Transport Act*. Commercial vehicles often pass through through multiple jurisdictions in a single day, often carrying large and heavy loads, which can pose a risk to road users if not secured properly. During this particular operation, police inspected 33 commercial vehicles, of which 29 were placed out of service.¹

Analysis of Police Statistics

Arson

In September 2022, there were nine reported arsons, which is down seven incidents from the previous month and up six incidents from September 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of arsons this month is above the expected range.

Suspects have been identified in 44 per cent of the events reported this month.

Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)

There were 13 assault serious events in September 2022, which is down 41 per cent from the previous month and up 63 per cent from September 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of serious assaults this month is within the expected range.

Of the events reported this month, 38 per cent occurred in private residences. To date, suspects have been charged in three incidents.

Auto Theft

In September 2022, there were 24 incidents of auto theft, which is a 71 per cent increase from the previous month and is a four per cent decrease from September 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of auto thefts this month is within the expected range.

Drugs

In September 2022, there were 18 drug files, which is down 58 cent from the previous month and down 25 per cent from September 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of drug incidents this month is within the expected range.

Mental Health

There were 227 mental health-related incidents in September 2022, which is a four per cent decrease from the previous month and is a one per cent decrease from September 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of mental health-related incidents this month is within the expected range.

¹ A commercial vehicle is placed out of service when the vehicle or load it is carrying has to be rectified immediately.

There were 80 police apprehensions this month and the average hospital wait time was 104 minutes; both of these statistics are within the expected ranges.

Residential Break and Enter

There were 17 break and enters to residences in September 2022, which is a 19 per cent decrease from the previous month and is a 23 per cent decrease from September 2021. No patterns or trends were identified. The number of residential break and enters this month is within the expected range.

Commercial Break and Enter

In September 2022, there were 29 break and enters to businesses, which represents a 71 per cent increase from the previous month and is a 19 per cent decrease from September 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of commercial break and enters this month is within the expected range.

Robbery

There were six robberies in September 2022, which is down three incidents from the previous month and up two incidents from September 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of robberies this month is within the expected range.

A weapon was used in half of the robberies reported this month. To date, suspects have been identified in two of the robberies. The incidents remain under investigation.

Sexual Offences

In September 2022, there were 12 sexual offence files, which is a 40 per cent decrease from the previous month and is a 33 per cent decrease from September 2021.² No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of sexual offences this month is within the expected range.

Suspects have been identified in 83 per cent of the incidents reported this month.

Shoplifting

There were 83 reported shoplifting thefts in September 2022, which is an eight per cent increase from the previous month and is a 60 per cent increase from September 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of shoplifting thefts this month is within the expected range.

² The Sexual Offences category comprises a range of offences including: sexual assault, sexual interference, making and distributing child pornography, possessing and accessing child pornography and indecent acts/exposing.

Theft from Automobile

There were 131 theft from automobile incidents in September 2022, which is up 17 per cent from the previous month and down four per cent from September 2021. 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, 2022.³ A “hate crime” refers to any criminal offence targeting an identifiable group. The criteria for an offence to be considered a hate crime as per the *Criminal Code* carries a higher threshold and usually involves one or more criminal offences. A “hate incident” may be motivated by the same factors as a hate crime, but does not reach the threshold of being a criminal offence. The one incident reported this month was related to racist graffiti.

Table 1 – Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents			
Year	Hate Crime Files	Hate Incident Files	Total
2018	19	4	23
2019	11	9	20
2020	21	13	34
2021	19	29	48
2022 (YTD)	7	17	24

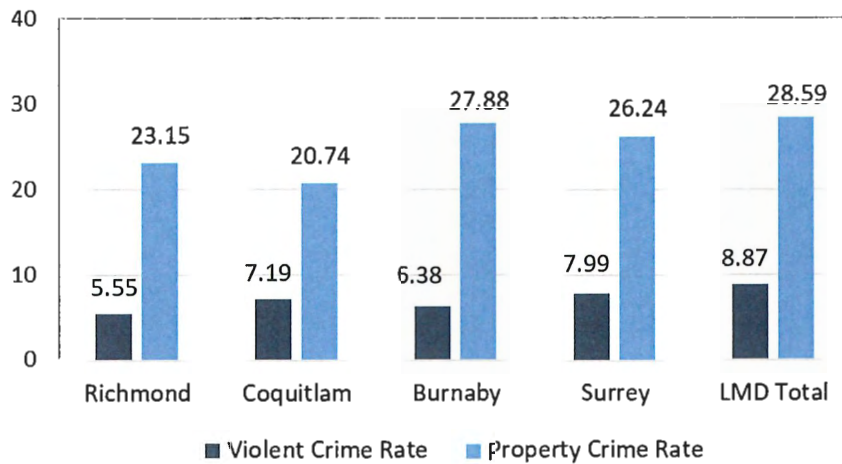
Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions

Data on crime rates is presented in Figure 1.⁴ In September 2022, 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.

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

⁴ Crime rate is year to date (YTD) and calculated per 1,000 people.

Figure 1: September 2022 (YTD) Crime Rates



Block Watch

At the end of September 2022, the Block Watch program had 303 groups totaling 7,042 participants. Currently, the program includes 444 captains and co-captains.

Community Police Station Programs

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

During the month of September, volunteer highlights included:

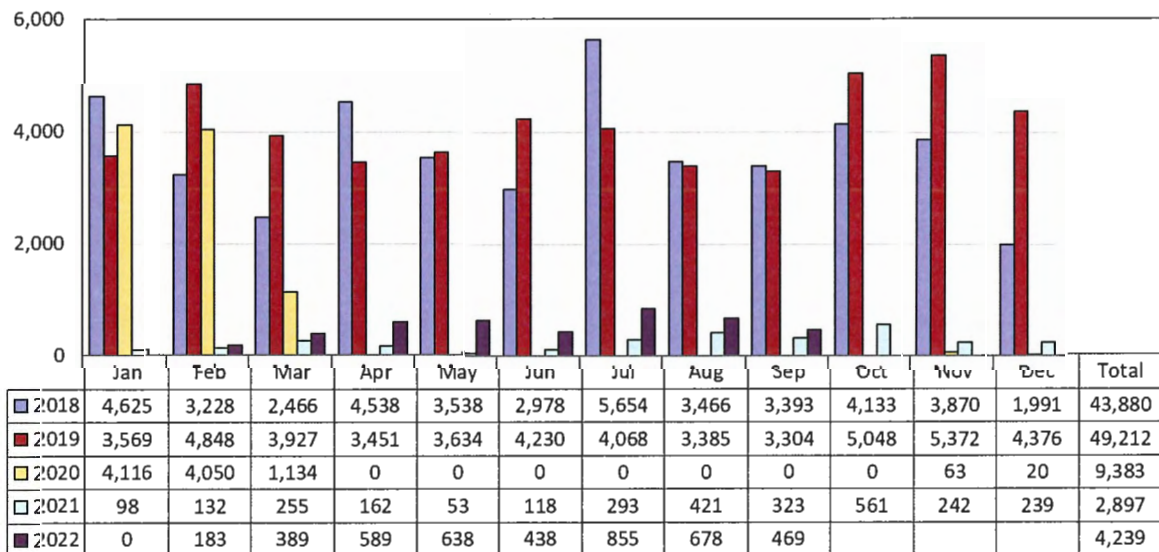
- The deployment of one volunteer bike patrol, totalling eight hours and seven volunteer foot/van patrols totalling 30 hours.
- A total of six Fail to Stop deployments took place, which resulted in 229 information letters.
- There were 24 Lock Out Auto Crime deployments, during which 469 information letters were distributed.
- Speed Watch was conducted on 1,482 vehicles and 89 information letters were issued.
- September 4 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with the Richmond Community Block Party at Lansdowne Mall and promoted the Hate has no Place campaign, in addition to crime prevention programs. Approximately 400 people were in attendance.
- September 9 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with the Hamilton Night Out event during which 15 bicycles were registered through the Project 529 bike registry.

- September 10 – Volunteers participated in the Minoru Centre for Active Living Open House, which included the Project 529 bike registry and e-bike/e-scooter safety awareness. A total of 25 bicycles were registered at the event.
- September 10 – Volunteers and RCMP officers attended the Autumn Festival at Lansdowne Mall and promoted the Hate has no Place campaign.
- September 20 – In partnership with ICBC, volunteers and RCMP officers promoted the Think of Me campaign at Thomas Kidd Elementary School. Police conducted five traffic stops and 30 cards were provided to drivers.⁵
- September 22 – RCMP officers and volunteers conducted a Think of Me event at Lord Byng Elementary School. A total of 30 cards were provided to drivers.
- September 26 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a car seat safety clinic at Lansdowne Mall. In addition to checking car seats in vehicles, the event provided families with car seat safety education.
- September 27 – RCMP officers conducted a Distracted Driving Blitz in central Richmond with the assistance of volunteers, who issued 10 information letters to drivers. Police issued 12 violation tickets and five warnings.

Lock Out Auto Crime

Figure 2 provides a comparison by year of the number of vehicle notices issued.⁶

Figure 2: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice



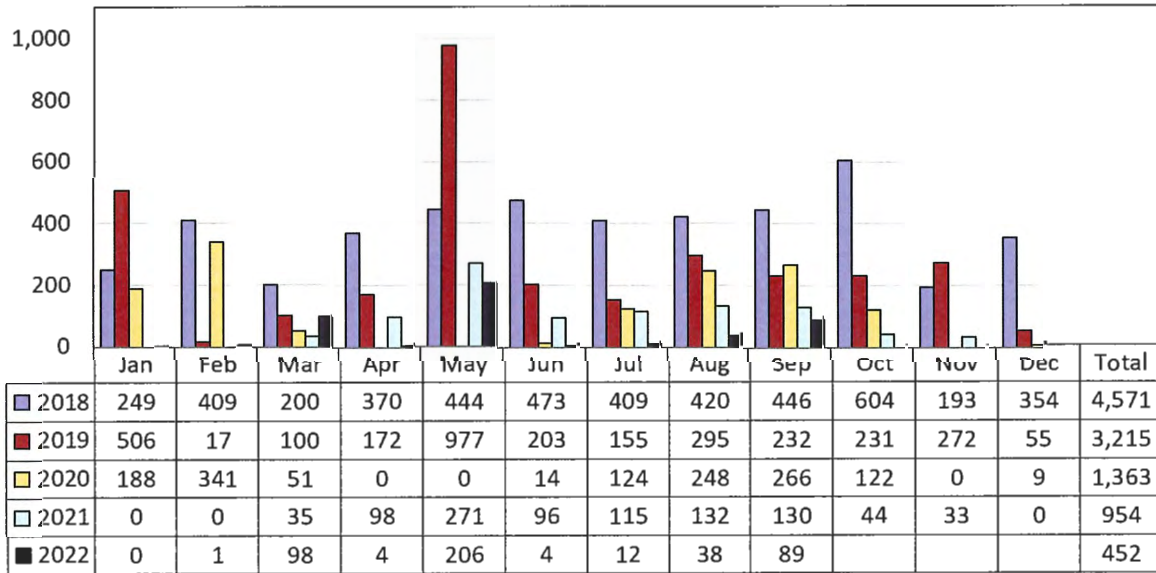
⁵ The Think of Me Campaign uses cards illustrated by children, which contain depictions of what children would like drivers to think about when they are driving in school zones and in the community. Distracted Driving educational information is provided on the backs of these cards.

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.

Speed Watch

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

Figure 3: Speed Watch Letters Sent



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:

- Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives
- Car Seat Safety Clinic
- Distracted Driving
- Hate Has No Place Campaign
- Place of Worship Patrols
- 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 2022 to both July 2022 and August 2022. Violation tickets were issued for the following infractions:

Table 2: Violation Tickets Issued

Infraction	July 2022	August 2022	September 2022
Distracted Driving	71	51	45
Driver License	172	162	200
Impaired	47	44	39
Intersection Offences	56	46	36
Moving Infractions ⁷	71	76	90
Speeding	103	83	123
Seatbelts	31	20	23
Vehicle Related ⁸	100	51	139
Other ⁹	5	2	8
Total	656	535	703

Victim Services

In September 2022, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 69 new clients and attended three crime/trauma scenes after hours. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 110 files. In September, Victim Services responded to a number of cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, family conflict and mental health issues.

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:

- RCMP officers in the Youth Section conducted 32 proactive school visits at secondary schools and 59 visits at elementary schools. Police officers engaged with the students at recess and lunch, as well as during morning and afternoon supervision.
- Planning began for the delivery of DARE classes for the new school term. Classes are scheduled to resume in October 2022.

Financial Impact

None.

⁷ Moving infractions refers to unsafe lane change and unsafe passing.

⁸ Vehicle related refers to vehicle defects, for example no lights and no insurance.

⁹ Other refers to miscellaneous charges including failing to remain at the scene of an accident and failing to stop for police.

Conclusion

In September 2022, the Richmond RCMP conducted a number of noteworthy investigations and enforcement activities, including a project targeting commercial vehicles. Police statistics for this month indicate that most crime types were within the expected ranges, with the exception of arsons, which were elevated.

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



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

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

Block Watch

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

Distracted Driving Program

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

Fail to Stop

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

Lock Out Auto Crime

- Co-sponsored by the Insurance Corporation of BC (ICBC), volunteers patrol city streets and parking lots looking for automobile security vulnerabilities.
- Notices supplied by ICBC are issued to every vehicle inspected indicating to the owner what issues need to be addressed in order to keep the vehicle and contents secure.
- For more information, visit www.richmond.ca/safety/police/personal/vehicle.htm

Project 529

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

Speed Watch

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

Spot the Target

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

Stolen Auto Recovery

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

Volunteer Bike and Foot Patrol Program

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

SEPTEMBER 2022 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.

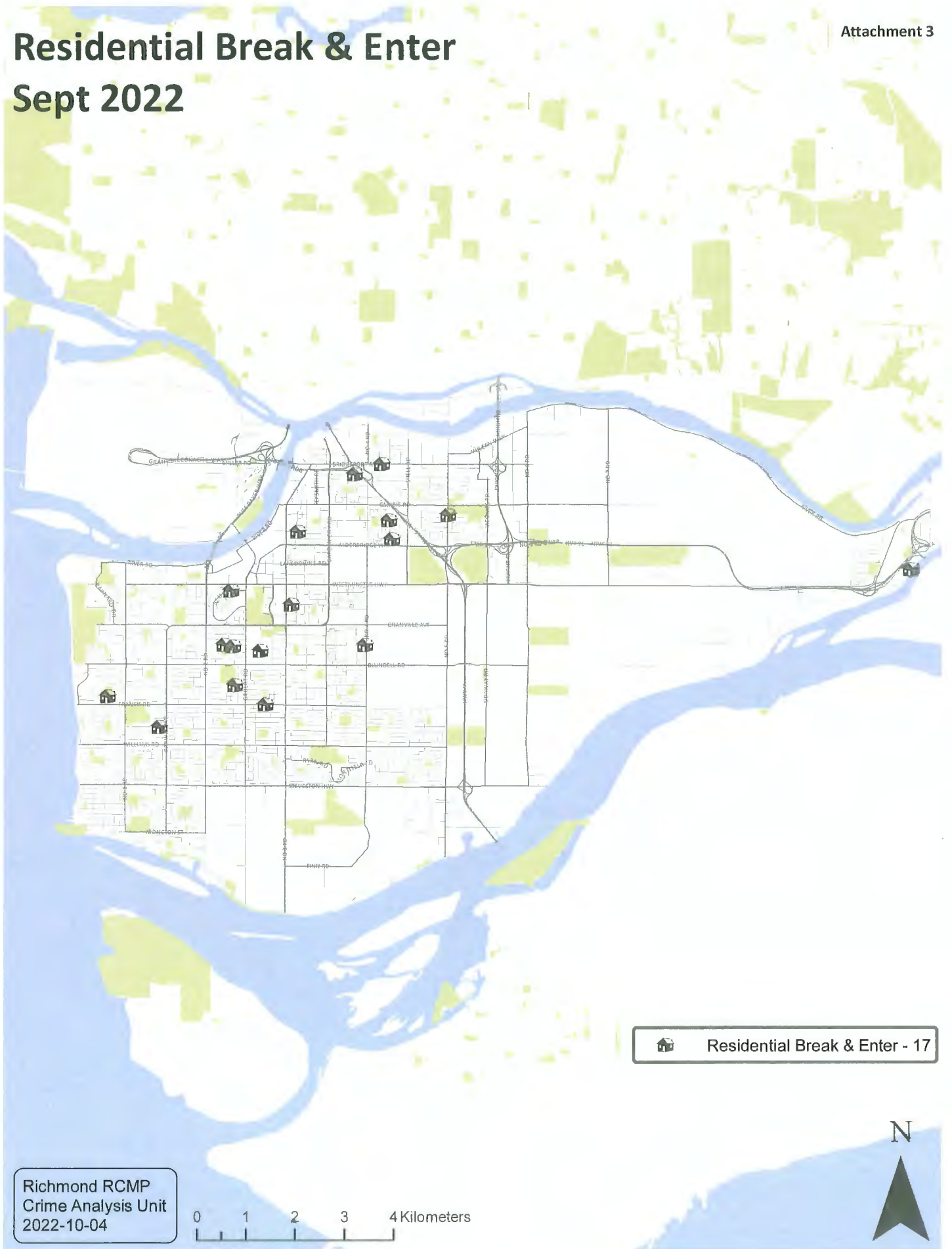
The 5 year average range data is based on activity within a single month over the past 5 years. If the current monthly total for an offence is above the expected average range (using one standard deviation) due to crime trends, patterns, or spikes, it will be noted in **red**. If the current monthly 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**.

Mental Health file query has been updated to capture all types of mental health study flags versus one type. Mental health study flag file numbers have been updated for the last five years. This change does not impact mental health apprehension numbers or hospital wait times.

	Month	5-Yr Avg	5-Yr Range	Year to Date Totals			
	Sept - 22	September		2021	2022	% Change	# Change
VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	134	133.6	116-151	1294	1257	-3%	-37
Robbery <small>UCR 1610 (1-3)</small>	6	5.2	4-7	42	52	24%	10
Assault Common <small>UCR 1430</small>	46	46.6	43-51	413	446	8%	33
Assault Serious <small>UCR 1430, 1435</small>	13	11.4	6-17	137	156	14%	19
Sexual Offences <small>UCR 170, 170, 170, 170, 170, 170, 170, 170, 170, 170</small>	12	15.0	9-21	181	152	-16%	-29
PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	607	607.0	551-663	4787	5081	6%	294
Business B&E <small>UCR 2120-1</small>	29	32.2	25-39	256	274	7%	18
Residential B&E <small>UCR 2120-2</small>	17	44.8	24-66	246	235	-4%	-11
Auto Theft <small>UCR 2135 (1-10) 2170</small>	24	31.6	27-36	192	183	-5%	-9
Theft from Auto <small>UCR 2132, 2142</small>	131	156.2	137-175	1234	1052	-15%	-182
Theft <small>UCR 2130, 2140</small>	91	75.6	59-92	513	785	53%	272
Shoplifting <small>UCR 2130, 2140</small>	83	58.0	44-72	535	611	14%	76
Fraud <small>UCR 2160 (6-11), 2165, 2166</small>	74	70.6	64-77	644	606	-6%	-38
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	295	208.6	179-238	2216	2222	0%	6
Arson <small>UCR 3100, 2110</small>	9	3.2	2-4	54	68	26%	14
SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	1036	949.2	893-1006	8300	8566	3%	266
DRUGS (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	18	46.0	29-63	318	400	26%	82
MHA RELATED CALLS (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	227	241.8	200-284	2235	2109	-6%	-126

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Residential Break & Enter Sept 2022



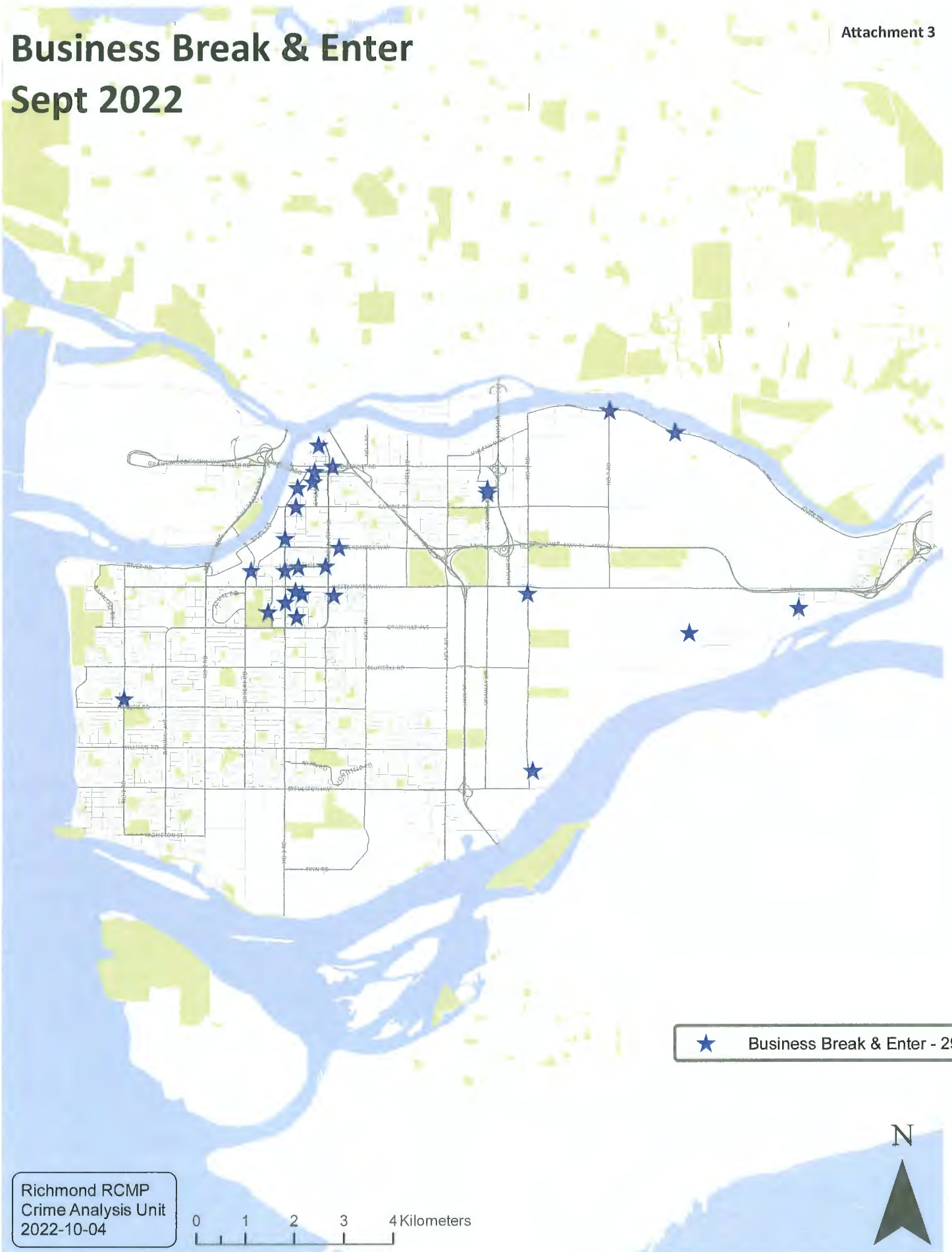
 Residential Break & Enter - 17

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2022-10-04

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers



Business Break & Enter Sept 2022

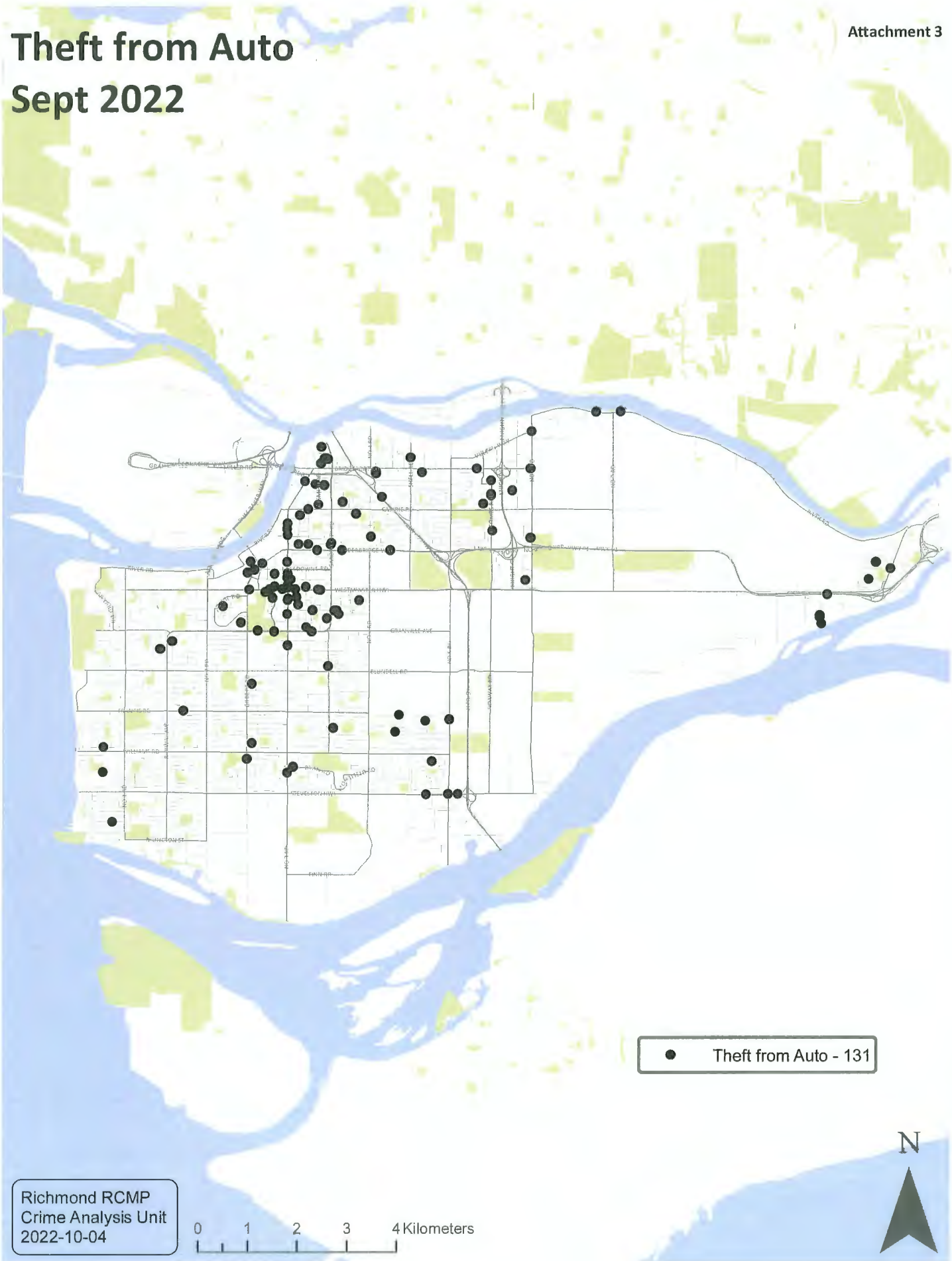


Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2022-10-04

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers



Theft from Auto Sept 2022



Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2022-10-04

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

Auto Theft Sept 2022

Attachment 3

