



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** April 11, 2022
From: Julie Drotar **File:** 09-5000-01/2022-Vol
 Superintendent, Acting Officer in Charge 01
Re: **RCMP Monthly Activity Report – March 2022**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “RCMP Monthly Activity Report – March 2022”, dated April 11, 2022, from the Acting Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment, be received for information.

Julie Drotar
 Superintendent, Acting 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. 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

Distracted Driving Awareness

In partnership with ICBC, the Richmond RCMP promoted Distracted Driving Awareness month through increased public education and enforcement initiatives. Police officers and volunteers conducted a city-wide campaign aimed at increasing awareness of the dangers of distracted driving, which account for more than a quarter of all motor vehicle-related fatalities in BC.

Attempted Child Luring

On March 3, 2022, the Richmond RCMP received a report of an attempted child luring incident. A 13-year-old girl was walking in the 3700 block of Broadway Street when she was approached by a man who attempted to lure her into his vehicle. The Richmond RCMP issued a media release with a suspect and vehicle description. The incident is under investigation.

Break and Enter Arrests

On March 8, 2022, Richmond RCMP officers responded to a break and enter in the 8000 block of Heather Street. Although the suspects fled the location prior to police arrival, officers were able to locate the two men nearby and arrested them without incident. Both men have been charged with break and enter.

Fraud Arrests

On March 22, 2022, Richmond RCMP officers arrested two individuals in connection with a fraudulent gold investigation. The incident occurred on March 19, 2022, when the suspects had approached a man in the 5500 block of Garden City Road and attempted to sell him jewellery. Charges are expected against both suspects.

Policing Priorities in Action – Priority 1 Call Response Times

Priority 1 calls for service are the most urgent calls dispatched to police. In 2021, the average Priority 1 call response time in the City of Richmond was nine and a half minutes, which is a 19 per cent decline from the previous year.¹ Previous elevated response times in 2020 were partially attributed to some pandemic-related factors, an operational shift to a centralized deployment model as well as an increase in calls for service in residential areas.

To improve response times, Richmond RCMP modernized policing zone boundaries in the city resulting in an enhancement of service delivery, which better served the community. This change has streamlined police officer deployment allowing officers to be located closer to areas of greater demand. It is anticipated that this shift will continue to lead to reductions in call response times and improvements to the overall deterrence of criminal activity throughout the City of Richmond.

Analysis of Police Statistics

Arson

In March 2022, there were five reported arsons, which is up four incidents from the previous month and down four incidents from March 2021. 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 15 assault serious events in March 2022, which is up 36 per cent from the previous month and up seven per cent from March 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of serious assaults this month is within the expected range.

Auto Theft

In March 2022, there were 15 incidents of auto theft, which is down 32 per cent from the previous month and down 59 per cent from March 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of auto thefts this month is below the expected range.

¹ Excluding Zone 1/Vancouver International Airport. Priority 1 response time includes both the dispatch delay and the time spent by police to arrive at the scene of a call.

Drugs

In March 2022, there were 81 drug files, which is more than double the number reported the previous month and is up 84 per cent from March 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of drug incidents this month is above the expected range.

Of the incidents reported this month, 95 per cent occurred at the Vancouver International Airport. The increase in drug files has been partially attributed to an increase in air traffic, which has more than doubled compared to the same time last year.

Mental Health

There were 112 mental health-related incidents in March 2022, which is a 16 per cent decrease from the previous month and is an 18 per cent decrease from March 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of mental health-related incidents this month is within the expected range.

There were 86 police apprehensions this month and the average hospital wait time was 87 minutes; both of these statistics are within the expected ranges.

Residential Break and Enter

There were 36 break and enters to residences in March 2022, which is an increase of 16 per cent from the previous month and is a 13 per cent increase from March 2021. 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 March 2022, there were 46 break and enters to businesses, which is a 21 per cent increase from the previous month and is a 35 per cent increase from March 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 seven robbery incidents in March 2022, which is up two incidents from the previous month and is up three incidents from March 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of robberies this month is within the expected range.

Two of the incidents reported this month involved the use of a weapon. Suspects have been identified in four of the robbery files this month and of those incidents, three involved individuals were known to each other.

Sexual Offences

In March 2022, there were 23 sexual offence files, which is up 35 per cent from previous month and is up 10 per cent from March 2021.² No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of sexual offences this month is within the expected range.

Shoplifting

There were 69 reported shoplifting thefts in March 2022, which is a three per cent decrease from the previous month and is a 10 per cent increase from March 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of shoplifting thefts this month is within the expected range.

Theft from Automobile

There were 143 theft from automobile incidents in March 2022, which is up 49 per cent from the previous month and down 20 per cent from March 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 March 31, 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 three events reported this month were related to anti-Asian comments and an incident involving a confrontation over a Russian flag.

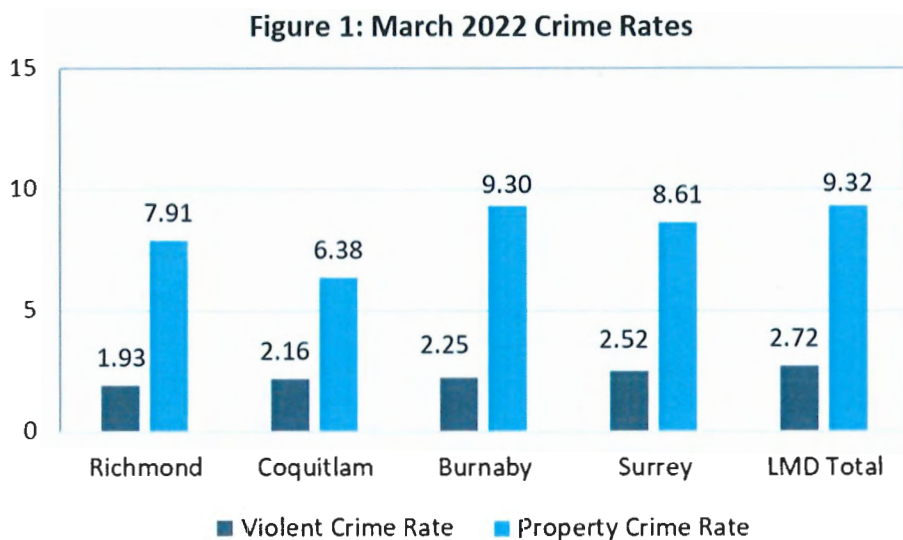
Table 1 – Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents			
Year	Hate Crime Files	Hate Incident Files	Total
2018	19	4	23
2019	11	9	20
2020	21	13	34
2021	19	29	48
2022	0	6	6

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.

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

Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions

Data on crime rates is presented in Figure 1.⁴ In March 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.



Block Watch

At the end of March 2022, the Block Watch program had 297 groups totaling 6,867 participants. Currently, the program includes 422 captains and co-captains. This month, there were two virtual training sessions for captains and participants.

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 have been limited. City staff and volunteers have continued to pursue safety initiatives to enhance crime prevention program awareness, community engagement and police accessibility. On March 21, 2022, the City Centre Community Police Station launched the soft opening to the public with the official opening date set for April 1, 2022.

⁴ Crime rate is calculated per 1,000 people.

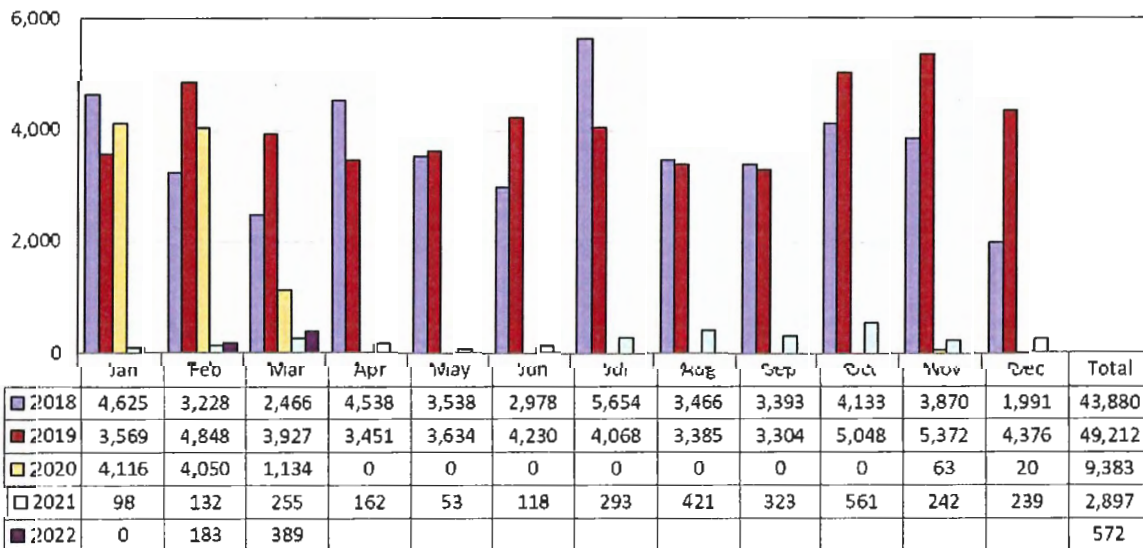
During the month of March, volunteer highlights included:

- Two Fail to Stop deployments took place, which resulted in 29 information letters.
- One Crime Watch deployment took place, during which volunteers checked 236 vehicles through the Stolen Auto Recovery program.⁵
- There were 16 Lock Out Auto Crime deployments, which resulted in 389 information letters being distributed.
- Speed Watch was conducted on 1,924 vehicles and 98 information letters were issued.
- March 1 – City staff provided refresher training to volunteers who will be resuming volunteer activities following a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Topics covered included crime prevention and road safety program overviews, in addition to deployment procedures.
- March 2 and 3 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a Distracted Driving Blitz on No. 3 Road and Westminster Highway. A total of 646 vehicles were checked and police identified one prohibited driver and issued four violation tickets and nine warnings.
- March 8 and 9 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a Distracted Driving Blitz on No. 3 Road and Westminster Highway. A total of 738 vehicles were checked and police issued eleven warnings. Seven information letters were also sent to registered vehicle owners.

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

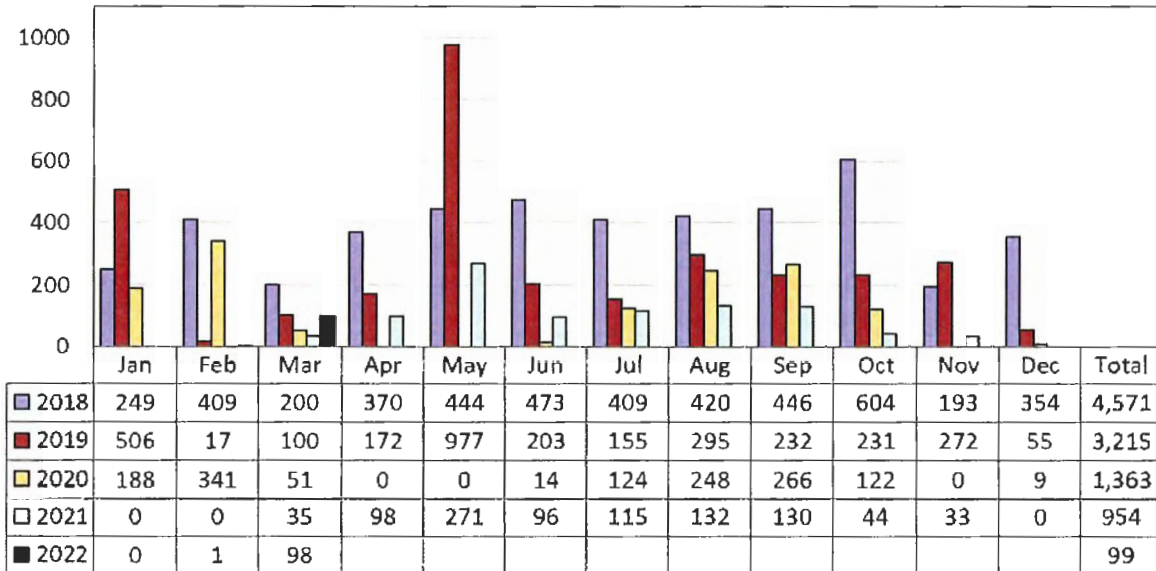


⁵ During Crime Watch deployments volunteers check for stolen vehicles and report suspicious activities to police.
⁶ Beginning in November 2020, Lock Out Auto Crime letters were issued in place of notices due to COVID-19-related concerns. Letters are only issued to vehicles displaying security vulnerabilities; 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 March, the Crime Prevention Unit participated in the following events/activities:

- Business Outreach
- Community Foot Patrols
- Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives
- Lock Out Auto Crime
- Place of Worship Patrols
- Distracted Driving Blitzes

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 March 2022 to both January 2022 and February 2022. Violation tickets were issued for the following infractions:

Table 2: Violation Tickets Issued

Infraction	January 2022	February 2022	March 2022
Distracted Driving	47	28	34
Driver License	115	85	91
Impaired	30	28	41
Intersection Offences	41	35	33
Moving Infractions ⁷	64	46	51
Speeding	134	126	106
Seatbelts	0	2	3
Vehicle Related ⁸	49	33	40
Other ⁹	9	5	5
Total	489	388	404

Victim Services

In March 2022, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 87 new clients and attended five crime/trauma scenes after hours. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 140 files. In March, Victim Services responded to a number of cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, property crimes 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 March, Youth Section highlights included:

- The Youth Section concluded the second term of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program. A total of seven DARE classes were delivered to Grade 5 students this month.
- RCMP officers in the Youth Section conducted 33 proactive school visits at secondary schools and 27 visits at elementary schools. Police officers engaged with the students at recess and lunch, as well as during morning and afternoon supervision.

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.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

In March 2022, the Richmond RCMP conducted a number of noteworthy investigations, including fraud arrests and an attempted child luring. Police statistics for this month indicate that most crime types were within the expected ranges, with the exception of drug incidents, which were elevated and auto thefts, which were below the expected range.

In March, the Richmond RCMP partnered with ICBC to raise public awareness of distracted driving. In addition, the Community Engagement Team and volunteers continued to promote crime prevention and road safety initiatives. 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)

EW:

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

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.

MARCH 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**.

	Month	5-Yr Avg	5-Yr Range	Year to Date Totals			
	March-22	March		2021	2022	% Change	# Change
VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	137	136.6	115-158	427	402	-6%	-25
Robbery <small>UCR 1510 (1-3)</small>	7	6.2	4-8	15	22	47%	7
Assault Common <small>UCR 1400</small>	50	43.6	36-51	137	132	-4%	-5
Assault Serious <small>UCR 1410, 1420</small>	15	13.4	11-16	40	44	10%	4
Sexual Offences <small>UCR 2720, 2730, 2740, 2750, 2760, 2770, 2780, 2790</small>	23	13.6	8-19	56	53	-5%	-3
PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	630	642.0	591-693	1642	1597	-3%	-45
Business B&E <small>UCR 2200 1</small>	46	33.6	26-41	80	114	43%	34
Residential B&E <small>UCR 2200 2</small>	36	41.6	32-51	99	98	-1%	-1
Auto Theft <small>UCR 2210</small>	15	28.6	24-33	73	57	-22%	-16
Theft from Auto <small>UCR 2220 1, 2400</small>	143	186.0	160-212	434	373	-14%	-61
Theft <small>UCR 2230 1, 2230 2, 2230 3, 2230 4</small>	77	81.0	61-101	176	206	17%	30
Shoplifting <small>UCR 2240 1, 2240 2</small>	69	69.4	55-84	192	183	-5%	-9
Fraud <small>UCR 2250 1, 2250 2, 2250 3, 2250 4, 2250 5, 2250 6, 2250 7, 2250 8, 2250 9, 2250 10, 2250 11, 2250 12, 2250 13, 2250 14, 2250 15, 2250 16, 2250 17, 2250 18, 2250 19, 2250 20, 2250 21, 2250 22, 2250 23, 2250 24, 2250 25, 2250 26, 2250 27, 2250 28, 2250 29, 2250 30, 2250 31, 2250 32, 2250 33, 2250 34, 2250 35, 2250 36, 2250 37, 2250 38, 2250 39, 2250 40, 2250 41, 2250 42, 2250 43, 2250 44, 2250 45, 2250 46, 2250 47, 2250 48, 2250 49, 2250 50, 2250 51, 2250 52, 2250 53, 2250 54, 2250 55, 2250 56, 2250 57, 2250 58, 2250 59, 2250 60, 2250 61, 2250 62, 2250 63, 2250 64, 2250 65, 2250 66, 2250 67, 2250 68, 2250 69, 2250 70, 2250 71, 2250 72, 2250 73, 2250 74, 2250 75, 2250 76, 2250 77, 2250 78, 2250 79, 2250 80, 2250 81, 2250 82, 2250 83, 2250 84, 2250 85, 2250 86, 2250 87, 2250 88, 2250 89, 2250 90, 2250 91, 2250 92, 2250 93, 2250 94, 2250 95, 2250 96, 2250 97, 2250 98, 2250 99, 2250 100</small>	73	79.0	68-90	228	196	-14%	-32
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	248	182.6	166-199	622	641	3%	19
Arson <small>UCR 3010 1, 3010 2, 3010 3, 3010 4, 3010 5, 3010 6, 3010 7, 3010 8, 3010 9, 3010 10, 3010 11, 3010 12, 3010 13, 3010 14, 3010 15, 3010 16, 3010 17, 3010 18, 3010 19, 3010 20, 3010 21, 3010 22, 3010 23, 3010 24, 3010 25, 3010 26, 3010 27, 3010 28, 3010 29, 3010 30, 3010 31, 3010 32, 3010 33, 3010 34, 3010 35, 3010 36, 3010 37, 3010 38, 3010 39, 3010 40, 3010 41, 3010 42, 3010 43, 3010 44, 3010 45, 3010 46, 3010 47, 3010 48, 3010 49, 3010 50, 3010 51, 3010 52, 3010 53, 3010 54, 3010 55, 3010 56, 3010 57, 3010 58, 3010 59, 3010 60, 3010 61, 3010 62, 3010 63, 3010 64, 3010 65, 3010 66, 3010 67, 3010 68, 3010 69, 3010 70, 3010 71, 3010 72, 3010 73, 3010 74, 3010 75, 3010 76, 3010 77, 3010 78, 3010 79, 3010 80, 3010 81, 3010 82, 3010 83, 3010 84, 3010 85, 3010 86, 3010 87, 3010 88, 3010 89, 3010 90, 3010 91, 3010 92, 3010 93, 3010 94, 3010 95, 3010 96, 3010 97, 3010 98, 3010 99, 3010 100</small>	5	3.8	1-7	18	11	-39%	-7
SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	1016	957.2	922-992	2693	2643	-2%	-50
DRUGS (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	81	48.2	36-61	118	132	12%	14
MHA RELATED CALLS (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	112	143.6	118-169	374	349	-7%	-25

Prepared by Richmond RCMP Crime Analysts. Data collected from PRIME on 2022-04-04. Published 2022-04-05. 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).

Residential Break & Enter March 2022



Legend

 Residential Break & Enter - 36

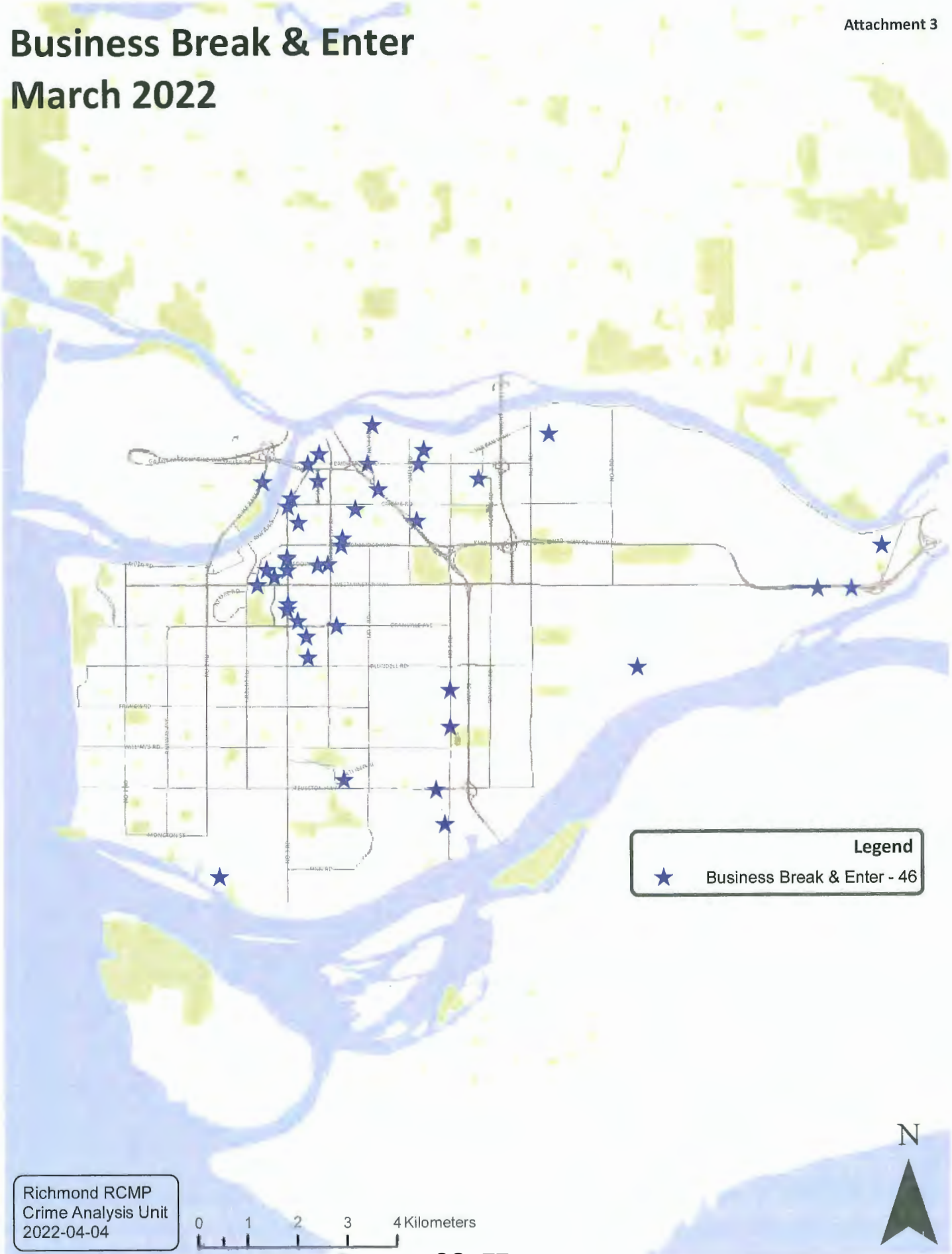
Richmond RCMP
 Crime Analysis Unit
 2022-04-04

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

CS- 76



Business Break & Enter March 2022



Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2022-04-04

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

CS- 77

Auto Theft March 2022



Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2022-04-04

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

CS- 78

Theft from Auto March 2022



Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2022-04-04

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

CS- 79

CRIME PREVENTION

Attachment 4

WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME

NEWSLETTER

Safety Tips for Outdoor Activities

As the weather becomes warmer, people are going outdoors to appreciate the beautiful weather. People may be going out for walks at the park, playing outdoor sports, or biking in their neighbourhood. These are fun activities to do with friends and family, but thieves will often prey on those who are unaware. Below are some outdoor safety tips that can help people enjoy their time while feeling protected.

- Be aware of your surroundings – pay some attention to your surroundings. Thieves often target those who are unaware or distracted.
- Plan ahead – If you are going to an unfamiliar area, do some research on your destination. It is good to have some knowledge of the area in case of emergencies or sudden weather changes.
- Lock your vehicle – Whether you are going to the park or biking along the dyke, remember to lock your vehicle when you step away.
- Close all your car windows – The weather may be getting warmer so it might be tempting to leave your window opened. However, this provides thieves easy access to your car. Remember to close all your windows and sunroof.
- Bring a buddy – If you do not feel safe walking alone, ask a friend or family member to walk with you.
- Keep your belongings close – It is convenient to leave our belongings on the side of the court when we are playing sports or having a picnic. However, it can be a prime opportunity for thieves as we are distracted. Thus, it is recommended to keep your belongings close and in your line of sight.
- Avoid dark areas – stay in well-lit and populated area as many people can see you if you are in trouble.
- Reflective clothing – If you are walking at night, it is recommended to wear something bright or reflective so other people and drivers can see you.
- Valuables in cars – some of our equipment or belongings are in the car when we go out. Keep them out of sight by putting it in the trunk.
- Pets in cars—never leave your pet in the car, especially in warmer temperature.



Neighbourhood Safety

Crime can happen to anyone, anywhere. Residential related property crime comes in many different forms and one of the most common is burglary. Break-ins can be costly, both financially and emotionally. Costs of home repairs, insurance deductible, replacement of stolen items, missed time from work, and most importantly, loss of your sense of privacy and safety in your own homes. Good news is that, people can take plenty of preventative measures to protect their homes and neighbourhoods. Working together with neighbours and family members, having extra set of eyes and ears when you can't be there makes a huge difference in minimizing crime and creating a safer community. It is always better to prevent a crime from happening than have to try to resolve it after it has happened.

Neighbourhood safety requires a team effort, but it starts with you. What can you do to make your neighbourhood a safer place? Here are some ways to make your neighbourhood safer:

- ◆ Know the people in your neighbourhood— familiarize yourself with neighbours and their vehicles so that you can recognize suspicious people and activities in your area.
- ◆ If you see something, say something— report all suspicious person and activity to the police. Don't forget to let your neighbours know as well.
- ◆ Keep your neighbours informed—let your trusted neighbours know that you will be away for a few days. Have them pick up your newspaper, mail and report any suspicious behaviour around your home if they see it.
- ◆ Improve security at entry points—install motion-detector lights in the back/side of your house, security system, and secondary locks on all doors and windows.
- ◆ Lock all doors and windows—check every time before you leave the house. This includes the door between the garage and the house.
- ◆ Make sure your garage door is fully closed— before driving away and before heading inside your house.
- ◆ Never leave anything out in plain sight inside your car—don't give anyone any reason to target your car. Bring your garage door opener inside with you, otherwise thieves can use it to gain access to your garage and possibly your home if they break into your vehicle.

Security has to be habitual. It should become second nature to you to secure doors and windows, to turn on your alarm system and cameras, and to turn on motion-sensor lights before heading out. Improving and installing preventative measures yet not use it, does nothing to prevent burglary.

Be a proactive member in your community to promote safety. Contact us today, to start a new Block Watch group or join an existing one in your neighbourhood.



What is ransomware?

Ransomware is a type of malicious software that is often downloaded onto your devices after you click on infected attachments, links or pop-up ads. It denies a user's access to their files and systems until ransom is paid. Criminals will often threaten to permanently destroy your data or release your data publicly if you do not pay in time. They usually ask for payment in digital currency due to its difficulty in tracing. Other form of payment could be gift cards or prepaid credit cards.

There is no guarantee that criminals will unlock your files and systems after ransom is paid. It can also be difficult and sometimes impossible to recover encrypted files, it is best to protect yourself against a ransomware attack by preventing the initial download of malware onto your devices.

- ◆ Do not answer suspicious emails and do not click on any links in them.
- ◆ Be cautious of any unsolicited email.
- ◆ Ensure a backup plan for your data that is consistent and frequent.
- ◆ Install reputable, up-to-date anti-malware and anti-virus protection software.
- ◆ Scan all software and files downloaded from the internet prior to executing.



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 communities together. This program helps you build connections and relationships with people in your neighborhood and the police while striving for the common goal of crime prevention.

Select a Captain/Co-Captain

- ◆ Each Captain/Co-Captain must submit an application and complete a Police Information Check

Recruit and build your group

- ◆ Recruit homes that are near to you. To build an effective Block Watch, try to involve 50-75% of households in your area. We will provide you with recruitment packages.

Complete activation of your team

1. **Complete** Block Watch Captain/Participant training - Register as many of your group as you can for a virtual training session.
2. **Submit** your participating household list.
3. **Qualify** for Block Watch street signs once 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 or call 604-207-4829.

BUSINESS LINK

WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME

NEWSLETTER

Cashing in on Crime Prevention: Tips to Securing Your Cash

Many businesses have cash registers in their store or restaurant. They often have procedures to clear out the cash before the night ends such as moving the cash to a secured safe or delivering the money to the bank. However, even with all these careful procedures, thieves will often find a way to steal cash from the business. Therefore, businesses can use certain methods to minimize the stolen goods.



Below are some tips for cash crime prevention:

- Have good cash control by keeping nothing in your cash drawer when closing your business.
 - ◊ By doing so you are removing the opportunity for crime. If there isn't anything to steal, why would they try to break in?
- Keep your cash register locked after use.
- Have signs that say you don't carry cash overnight.
- Keep your front doors and windows clear of signs and posters so that the business is visible by employees and outside observers. The front of your cash register area where the customers would stand should be clearly visible to outside observers as well as it provides a line of sight to spot out suspicious activities. If a break in were to happen, people might be able to see the crime happen and call the police.
- Have the cash register and safe bolted down securely to the counter or the ground.
 - ◊ Thieves will sometimes steal the entire cash register and safe if it is not bolted to the ground or to a secure surface.
- Make sure you have the correct type of safe in your store.
 - ◊ There are different types of safes that you can purchase at the store. However, choosing the right safe will make it harder for thieves to steal the money. Make sure to purchase commercial grade safes instead of residential safes.
- Install security cameras around your point of entries and the area near your cash register.
 - ◊ Security cameras can be your extra pair of eyes when you are away. Sometimes they can be a deterrent for thieves as they do not want to get caught. If they do commit a crime, then security cameras can be used to provide evidence.