



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Community Safety Committee **Date:** June 13, 2023

**From:** Dave Chauhan **File:** 09-5000-01/2023-Vol  
Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge 01




**Re:** Richmond RCMP Monthly Activity Report – May 2023

### Recommendation from the OIC

That the report titled “RCMP Monthly Activity Report – May 2023”, dated June 13, 2023, from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment, be received for information.

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

Att. 3

<b>REPORT CONCURRENCE</b>	
<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>  	
<b>SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b> 
<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b>  	

## 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.*

*3.2 Leverage strategic partnerships and community-based approaches for comprehensive safety services*

### Analysis

#### Activities and Noteworthy Files

##### *Distraction Thefts*

On May 2, 2023, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release advising the public of a recent trend in distraction thefts. The scheme involves thieves who target victims leaving financial institutions after withdrawing cash. The victim's money is stolen from their vehicle while they are distracted by an accomplice. Police are investigating.

##### *Firearms Charges*

On May 2, 2023, Richmond RCMP officers executed a search warrant at a local residence. Multiple items were seized from the home, including a loaded firearm and various illicit drugs. The accused is facing seven charges for firearm-related offences, including Possession of a Loaded Firearm.

### *Historical Recognition*

On May 10, 2023, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release recognizing Chief Constable Alexander Main, who was murdered while investigating a theft of farm tools in 1910. At the time of his death, C/Cst. Main was Richmond's only police officer and the first police officer to be killed in the line of duty. A plaque was added to the Richmond RCMP's Wall of Honour.

### *Home Invasion*

On May 12, 2023, Richmond RCMP officers responded to a residence in the 10000 block of Blundell Road after reports of multiple suspects forcing their way into the home. The suspects assaulted the occupants and fled the scene before police arrived. A coordinated search by the Richmond RCMP, the RCMP Urban Patrol Helicopter and the Vancouver Police Department resulted in the recovery of several firearms and weapons and the arrest of six suspects.

### Analysis of Police Statistics

#### *Arson*

In May 2023, there were two reported arsons, which is a decrease of four incidents from the previous month and a decrease of five incidents from May 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of arsons this month is within the average range.

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

There were 22 serious assault events in May 2023, which is a 16 per cent increase from the previous month and an eight per cent decrease from May 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of serious assaults this month is within the average range.

To date, suspects have been identified in 59 per cent of the incidents. More than one-quarter of assaults in May 2023 were domestic in nature.

#### *Auto Theft*

In May 2023, there were 21 auto theft incidents, which is a five per cent decrease from the previous month and a 16 per cent decrease from May 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of auto thefts this month is within the average range.

#### *Drugs*

In May 2023, there were 32 drug files, representing a 37 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 48 per cent decrease from May 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of drug incidents this month is within the average range.

#### *Mental Health*

There were 198 mental health-related incidents in May 2023, which is a 22 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 17 per cent decrease from May 2022. No patterns or trends have

been identified. The number of mental health-related incidents this month is below the average range.

There were 62 police apprehensions, and the average hospital wait time was 104 minutes; these statistics are within the average ranges.

#### *Residential Break and Enter*

There were 21 break and enters to residences in May 2023, which is an 11 per cent increase from the previous month and a 19 per cent decrease from May 2022. 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 May 2023, there were 19 break and enters to businesses, representing no change from the previous month and a 27 per cent decrease from May 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of commercial break and enters this month is below the average range.

#### *Robbery*

There were nine robberies in May 2023, which is an increase of seven incidents from the previous month and an increase of five incidents from May 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of robberies this month is above the average range.

Pepper spray was used in 44 per cent of the robberies reported this month. Suspects have been identified in one-third of the incidents.

#### *Sexual Offences*

In May 2023, there were 24 sexual offence files, which is a 20 per cent increase from the previous month and more than double the number of incidents reported in May 2022.<sup>1</sup> No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of sexual offences this month is within the average range.

Four referrals from the BC Integrated Child Exploitation Team accounted for 17 per cent of the files this month. Suspects have been identified in 75 per cent of the remaining 20 incidents.

#### *Shoplifting*

There were 73 reported shoplifting thefts in May 2023, which is a 16 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 20 per cent increase from May 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of shoplifting thefts this month is within the average range.

On May 16, 2023, members of the Property Crime Unit partnered with local retailers in a “Boost and Bust” enforcement operation. Eight individuals were arrested as a result of the initiative.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 140 theft from automobile incidents in May 2023, which is a 22 per cent increase from the previous month and a 35 per cent increase from May 2022. The number of thefts from automobiles this month is within the average range.

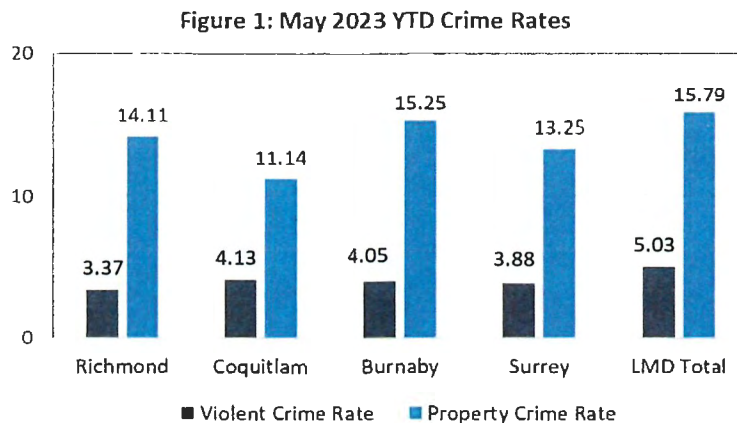
*Hate Crimes and Incidents*

Table 1 presents the number of hate crimes and hate incidents reported between January 1, 2019, and May 31, 2023.<sup>2</sup> 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 was one incident reported this month, which was related to the use of derogatory racial comments.

Table 1 – Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents			
Year	Hate Crime Files	Hate Incident Files	Total
2019	11	9	20
2020	21	13	34
2021	21	24	45
2022	8	26	34
2023 (YTD)	0	9	9

Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions

Data on crime rates is presented in Figure 1.<sup>3</sup> In May 2023, out of the four largest municipalities policed by the RCMP in the Lower Mainland District (LMD), Richmond had the lowest violent crime rate. The property crime rate for Richmond was below the LMD average.



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

<sup>3</sup> Crime rate is year to date (YTD) and calculated per 1,000 people.

### Block Watch

At the end of May 2023, the Block Watch program had 303 groups totalling 7,010 participants. Currently, the program includes 440 captains and co-captains. Block Watch coordinators led the program's first "Shred-a-thon" at Lansdowne Centre this month. In addition to serving as a crime prevention awareness event, the initiative raised over \$600 in donations for the Richmond Centre for Disability.

### Community Police Station Programs

Community police stations 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 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 May, volunteer highlights included:

- The deployment of two volunteer bike patrols, totalling 20 hours and three volunteer foot/van patrols, totalling 12 hours.
- A total of 19 Fail to Stop deployments took place, resulting in 862 information letters issued.
- There were 31 Lock Out Auto Crime deployments, resulting in 596 information letters issued.
- Speed Watch was conducted on 7,231 vehicles, resulting in 402 information letters issued.
- May 6 – Volunteers participated in the Safety & Secure Living Fair at Aberdeen Centre, where they provided information on the Community Safety App and the Block Watch program. Volunteers also offered translation in Cantonese and Mandarin.
- May 6 and 27 – Volunteers provided crime prevention resources at an RCMP information booth at the Richmond Night Market.
- May 10 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a Think of Me deployment at Anderson Elementary School; 90 cards were given to drivers and parents.<sup>4</sup>
- May 13 – Volunteers assisted police officers with the RCMP booth at the Public Works Open House. A total of 16 volunteers participated in the event, which approximately 3,500 people attended.
- May 16 – Volunteers assisted an RCMP officer with a transit safety awareness initiative at the Brighthouse Canada Line Station. Volunteers distributed 250 security cards.
- May 25 – Volunteers and RCMP officers held the first Project Swoop event in over three years. This high-risk driving education and enforcement campaign partnered with ICBC and targeted multiple locations throughout the city, resulting in 402 information letters.

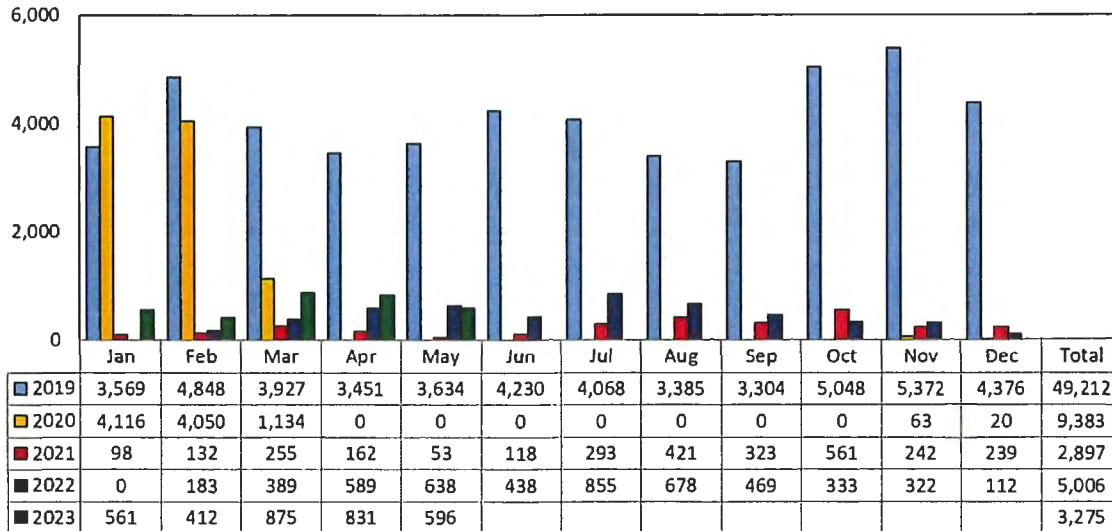
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<sup>4</sup> The Think of Me Campaign uses cards illustrated by children, which contain depictions of what children would like drivers to think about when they are driving in school zones and in the community.

*Lock Out Auto Crime*

Figure 2 provides a yearly comparison of the number of vehicle notices issued.<sup>5</sup>

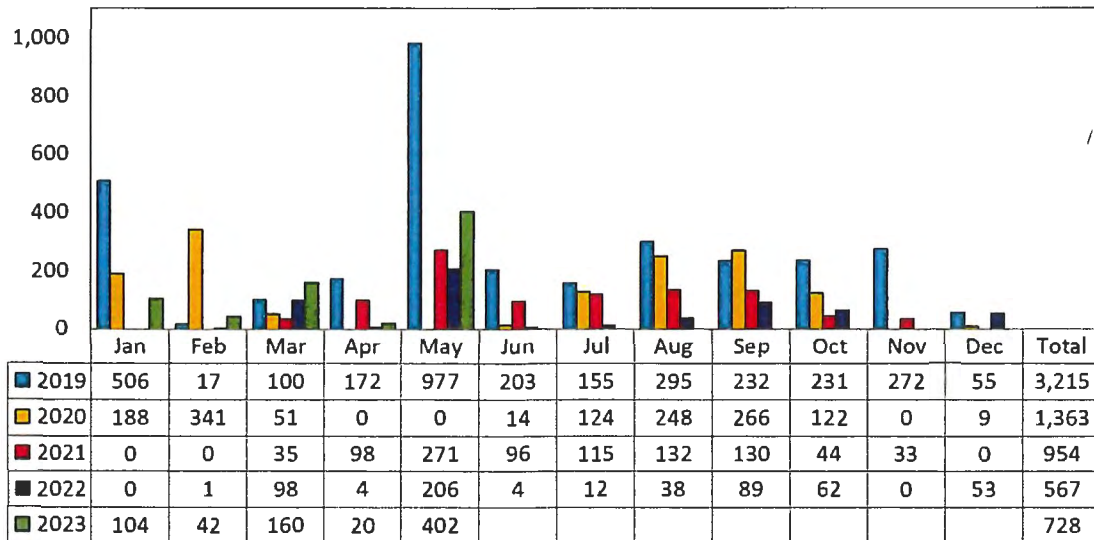
**Figure 2: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice**



*Speed Watch*

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

**Figure 3: Speed Watch Letters Sent**



<sup>5</sup> 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 the month of May, the Crime Prevention Unit participated in the following events/activities:

- Business Outreach
- Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives
- Place of Worship Patrols
- Project Swoop
- Public Works Open House
- 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. Table 2 compares statistics for May 2023 to both April 2023 and March 2023. Violation tickets were issued for the following infractions:

Table 2: Violation Tickets Issued

<b>Infraction</b>	<b>March 2023</b>	<b>April 2023</b>	<b>May 2023</b>
Distracted Driving	133	52	104
Driver License	181	164	186
Impaired	27	52	22
Intersection Offences	42	27	51
Moving Infractions <sup>6</sup>	64	54	93
Speeding	152	156	339
Seatbelts	15	10	21
Vehicle Related <sup>7</sup>	144	111	153
Other <sup>8</sup>	11	16	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>978</b>

### Victim Services

In May 2023, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 76 new clients and attended eight crime/trauma scenes after hours. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 89 files. In May, Victim Services responded to several cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, property crimes and family conflicts.

<sup>6</sup> Moving infractions refers to unsafe lane change and unsafe passing.

<sup>7</sup> Vehicle related refers to vehicle defects, for example no lights and no insurance.

<sup>8</sup> Other refers to miscellaneous charges including failing to remain at the scene of an accident and failing to stop for police.



### 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 the month of May, Youth Section highlights included:

- RCMP officers in the Youth Section conducted 35 proactive school visits at secondary schools and 83 visits at elementary schools. Police officers engaged with students during recess, lunch, and morning and afternoon supervision.
- DARE continued for the final term of the 2022-2023 school year, with classes delivered to elementary school students in 14 classes.

### **Financial Impact**

None.

### **Conclusion**

In May 2023, the Richmond RCMP conducted several noteworthy investigations, including a home invasion and distraction thefts. Police statistics for this month indicate that most crime types were within the average ranges, except for commercial break-and-enters and mental health-related incidents, which were lower than average and robberies, which were elevated.

In May, the Community Engagement Team and volunteers continued promoting crime prevention and road safety initiatives, including a large-scale Project Swoop event targeting high-risk driving. 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](mailto:blockwatch@richmond.ca)
- For more information, visit [www.richmond.ca/safety/police/prevention/blockwatch.htm](http://www.richmond.ca/safety/police/prevention/blockwatch.htm)

### Distracted Driving Program

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

### Fail to Stop

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

### Lock Out Auto Crime

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

#### Project 529

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

#### Speed Watch

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

#### Spot the Target

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

#### Stolen Auto Recovery

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

#### Volunteer Bike and Foot Patrol Program

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

## MAY 2023 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 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			
	May - 23	May		2022	2023	% Change	# Change
<b>VIOLENT CRIME</b> (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	<b>167</b>	<b>139.2</b>	<b>114-165</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>84</b>
Robbery <small>UCR 1610 (1-3)</small>	<b>9</b>	3.6	3-5	28	19	-32%	-9
Assault Common <small>UCR 118A</small>	<b>60</b>	49.2	43-55	235	250	6%	15
Assault Serious <small>UCR 1410, 1420</small>	<b>22</b>	13.4	7-20	87	102	17%	15
Sexual Offences <small>UCR 1740, 1730, 1750, 1310, 4900/5070</small>	<b>24</b>	18.0	11-25	76	96	26%	20
<b>PROPERTY CRIME</b> (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	<b>630</b>	<b>544.0</b>	<b>473-615</b>	<b>2795</b>	<b>3201</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>406</b>
Business B&E <small>UCR 2120-1</small>	<b>19</b>	24.6	23-26	171	130	-24%	-41
Residential B&E <small>UCR 2129-2</small>	<b>21</b>	32.4	19-46	157	106	-32%	-51
Auto Theft <small>UCR 2135 (1-10), 2178</small>	<b>21</b>	19.2	12-26	111	114	3%	3
Theft from Auto <small>UCR 2132, 2142</small>	<b>140</b>	131.4	99-164	625	707	13%	82
Theft <small>UCR 2130, 2140</small>	<b>127</b>	72.2	54-91	399	562	41%	163
Shoplifting <small>UCR 2133, 2143</small>	<b>73</b>	56.2	34-79	330	451	37%	121
Fraud <small>UCR 2160 (1-11), 2165, 2166</small>	<b>85</b>	73.6	65-82	338	407	20%	69
<b>OTHER CRIMINAL CODE</b> (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	<b>249</b>	<b>205.4</b>	<b>170-241</b>	<b>1048</b>	<b>1299</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>251</b>
Arson <small>UCR 1629, 2110</small>	<b>2</b>	5.0	2-8	28	29	4%	1
<b>SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES</b> (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	<b>1046</b>	<b>888.8</b>	<b>815-962</b>	<b>4523</b>	<b>5259</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>736</b>
<b>DRUGS</b> (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	<b>32</b>	<b>44.8</b>	<b>26-63</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>-25%</b>	<b>-64</b>
<b>MHA RELATED CALLS</b> (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	<b>198</b>	<b>249.4</b>	<b>228-271</b>	<b>1172</b>	<b>1203</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>31</b>

Prepared by Richmond RCMP Crime Analysts. Data collected from PRIME on 2023-06-02. Published 2023-06-08. 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 May 2023

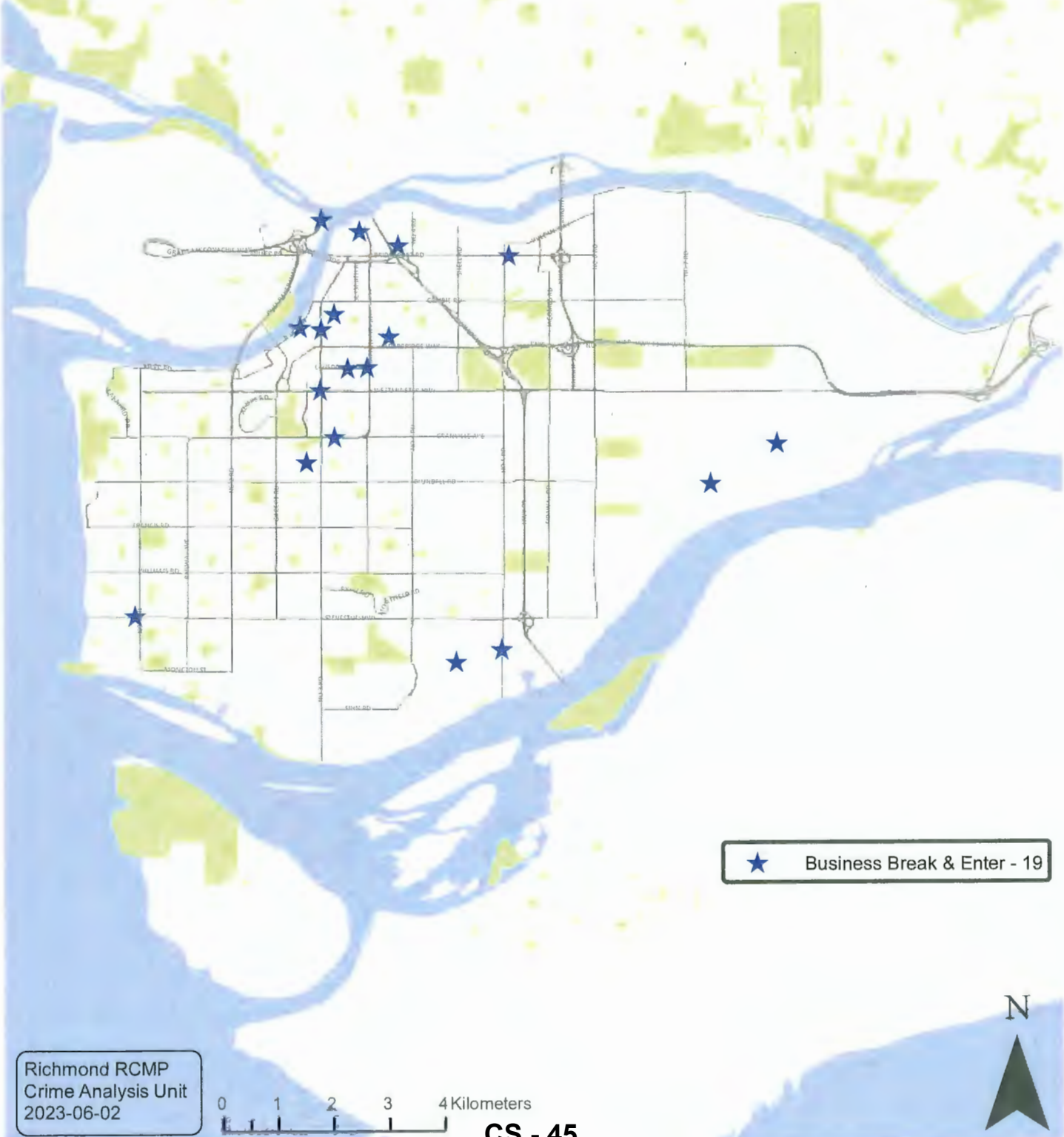


Richmond RCMP  
Crime Analysis Unit  
2023-06-02

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

CS - 44

# Business Break & Enter May 2023



Richmond RCMP  
Crime Analysis Unit  
2023-06-02

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

CS - 45



# Auto Theft May 2023



 Auto Theft - 21

Richmond RCMP  
Crime Analysis Unit  
2023-06-02

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

CS - 47

