



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** August 8, 2019
From: Will Ng, Superintendent **File:** 09-5000-01/2019-Vol
 Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment 01
Re: RCMP Monthly Activity Report - July 2019

Staff Recommendation

That the report titled “RCMP Monthly Activity Report – July 2019”, dated August 8, 2019, from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment, be received for information.

for/ *Sam Bunn (INSP)*
 Will Ng
 Superintendent, Officer in Charge
 (604-278-1212)

Att. 3

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
<i>[Signature]</i>	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS:
	<i>CS</i>
APPROVED BY CAO	
<i>[Signature]</i>	

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. Auxiliary Program
5. Block Watch
6. Community Police Station Programs
7. Crime Prevention Unit
8. Road Safety Unit
9. Victim Services
10. Youth Section

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

1.1 Enhance safety services and strategies to meet community needs.

Analysis

Activities and Noteworthy Files

Robberies

In the afternoon and evening hours between July 3 and July 9, 2019, three robberies occurred in the downtown corridor of Richmond. In all three instances, the victims had their phone or bag taken from them by a male suspect on a bike. A suspect has been arrested in connection with these incidents.

Another series of events occurred between June 30 and July 5, 2019 and included two robberies and one attempted robbery. In these instances victims who had recently withdrawn money from a bank machine were targeted. These incidents remain under investigation.

Attempted Robbery

On July 14, 2019, a 52-year-old Richmond woman was returning to her vehicle after leaving a currency exchange business in the 6000 block of No. 3 Road when she was approached a male who pepper-sprayed her several times. The suspect attempted to steal her purse but was unsuccessful. The victim was treated for exposure to pepper spray and non-life-threatening injuries sustained during the struggle. The incident is under investigation.

Stabbing Death

On July 23, 2019, Richmond RCMP officers responded to the area near No. 3 Road and Cambie Road after receiving multiple calls stemming from an incident on a Coast Mountain bus. One passenger, a 42-year-old Richmond man was transported to hospital with critical stab wounds. Another passenger, a 21-year-old Richmond man was arrested at the scene. The victim later died in hospital. The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team is investigating.

Luggage Theft

On July 26, 2019, Richmond RCMP issued a media release regarding recent thefts of luggage at Vancouver International Airport (YVR). After an ongoing investigation, RCMP officers identified a male suspect who was subsequently located and arrested at YVR.

Shooting

On July 29, 2019, Richmond RCMP responded to an area outside Richmond Centre Mall for reports of a shooting. Gunshots were fired from inside a two-door silver sedan while driving through the mall parking lot. The victim, a 35-year-old man who is known to police, was hospitalized with serious but non-life-threatening injuries. Vancouver Police located a burning vehicle matching the suspect vehicle description later that evening. The incident is believed to have been targeted. The Richmond RCMP Serious Crime Unit is investigating.

Analysis of Police Statistics

In January 2019, important changes were implemented regarding the collection of Uniform Crime Reporting Survey data.¹ As a result of significant media attention in February 2017 regarding sexual assault reporting, the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) and the Police Information and Statistics Committee of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police worked to develop recommendations for changes to police records methodology, with particular attention on classifying founded and unfounded cases. These changes will impact police statistics across Canada with effects on various crime types, not only sexual offences. The new standards will classify a case as founded unless there is evidence that the offence did not occur. As a result, there will likely be an increase in many police/crime statistics and clearance rates will conversely decline. This creates numerous challenges when conducting comparisons with previous years' data. The information presented in this section must be evaluated within the context of this limitation. Further analysis will be provided throughout the year.

Arson

In July 2019, there were six reported incidents of arson, which is double the number of incidents from the previous month. The number of arsons this month is up three incidents from July 2018 and remains within the five-year average range.

¹ Statistics Canada, <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2018001/article/54973-eng.htm>

Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)

There were 12 assault serious events in July 2019, which is up one incident from June 2019. The number of serious assaults this month represents a 37 per cent decrease from July 2018, during which a statistically high number of assaults were reported. The number of serious assaults this month is within the five-year average range.

Auto Theft

There were 26 auto theft incidents this month, which represents no change from the previous month and no change from July 2018. The number of auto thefts this month is below the five-year average range.

Drugs

In June 2019, there were 48 drug incidents, which is up one incident from the previous month and represents a 28 per cent decrease from July 2018. The number of drug offences this month is below the five-year average range, which coincides with the legalization of cannabis late last year.

Mental Health

There were 194 mental health incidents in July 2019, which is a seven per cent increase from June 2019 and a 15 per cent increase from July 2018. For the seventh consecutive month, the number of mental health incidents is significantly above the five-year average range. Year to date, mental health-related files are up 37 per cent compared to the same period in 2018.

No patterns or trends have been identified. There were 76 police apprehensions this month, which is up two incidents from the previous month. One high volume client had 64 calls, which accounts for almost one-third of the incidents this month. These calls did not require police attendance.

Residential Break and Enter

There were 33 break and enters to residences in July 2019, which is a 10 per cent increase from the previous month and represents a significant 51 per cent decrease from July 2018. The number of residential break and enters this month is within the five-year average. Year to date data indicates a 14 per cent reduction in residential break and enters compared to the same period last year.

Commercial Break and Enter

In July 2019, there were 30 break and enters to businesses, which is more than double the number reported in June 2019 and a 30 per cent increase from July 2018. Commercial break and enters are within the five-year average range and year to date totals are down 15 per cent from the same period in 2018.

Robbery

There were 12 robbery incidents in July 2019, which is up two incidents from the previous month and represents a 71 per cent increase from July 2018. This number of robberies is above the five-year average range. A suspect has been arrested in a series of robberies and a number of incidents remain under investigation.

Sexual Offences

There were 18 sexual offence files in July 2019, which represents a 20 per cent increase from the previous month and a 64 per cent increase from July 2018. This month's total remains above the five-year average range.

Five of the offences this month involve the distribution of child pornography and are being investigated by the Richmond RCMP Serious Crimes Unit. There were six reported sexual assaults this month, as well as three incidents of indecent acts. No patterns or trends have been identified.

Shoplifting

There were 92 shoplifting thefts in July 2019, which represents an 18 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 70 per cent increase from July 2018. This month, reported shoplifting thefts are above the five-year expected range. The increase this month is likely the result of improved detection rather than an actual increase in this crime type.

Theft from Auto

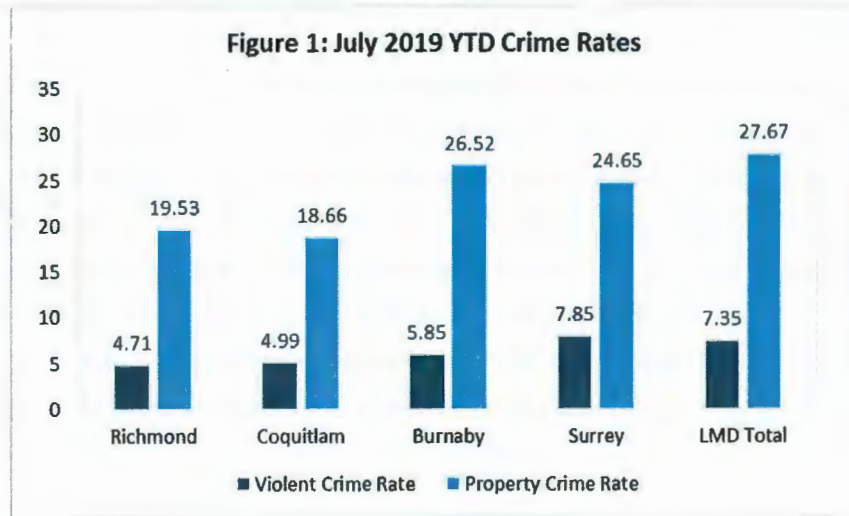
There were 133 theft from auto incidents in July 2019, which is down five per cent from the previous month and represents a 10 per cent decrease from July 2018. The number of theft from auto incidents this month is significantly below five-year average range. Year to date, there has been a 20 per cent decrease in thefts from automobiles compared to the same period in 2018.

Crime Trends across Jurisdictions

On July 3, 2019, the Richmond RCMP launched a pilot online crime reporting system. Along with Surrey, Ridge Meadows and Kelowna, Richmond is taking part in the testing of the Online Crime Reporting Tool. Residents and businesses in these pilot communities will be able to report certain crimes online, including theft under \$5,000, vandalism and theft from motor vehicle under \$5,000. This not only will improve the deployment of police resources, but may also allow analysts to capture more accurate crime data as these types of crimes are often underreported. According to the most recent General Social Survey on Victimization, the most common reason for not reporting a criminal incident to police is that victims considered it minor and not worth taking the time to report.² Analysts will be monitoring to see if online reporting impacts certain crime statistics.

² 78 per cent of respondents identified this as the primary reason for not reporting.
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2018001/article/54974-eng.htm#a9>

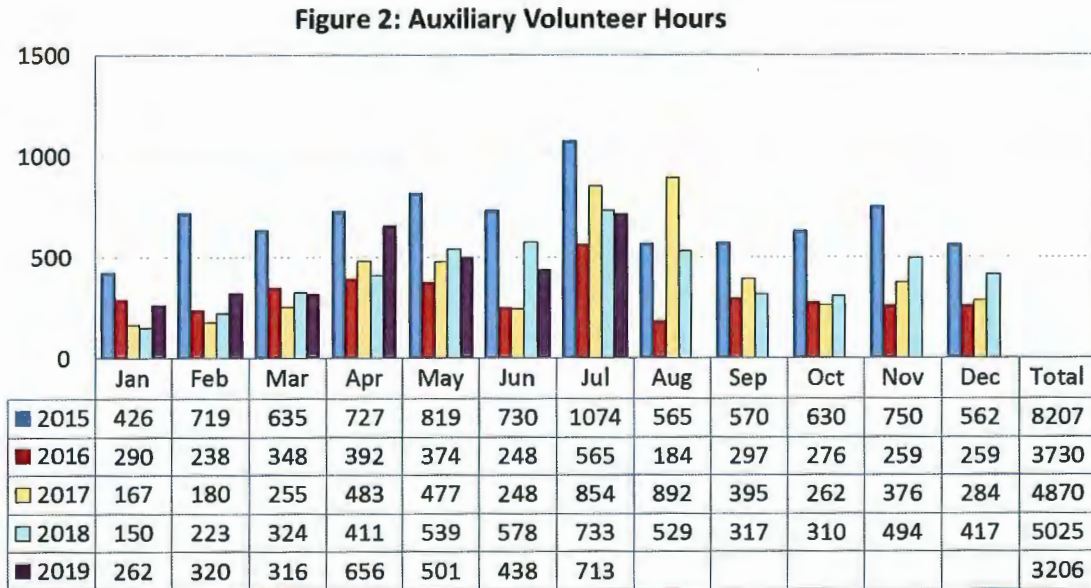
Data on crime rates is presented below (Figure 1).³ Out of the four largest municipalities policed by the RCMP in the Lower Mainland District (LMD), Richmond has the lowest violent crime rate as well as the second lowest property crime rate.



Auxiliary Program

In July 2019, Richmond Detachment had a complement of 32 Auxiliaries.⁴ Auxiliaries provided a total of 713 volunteer hours during the month of July.

Figure 2 compares the monthly hours of service provided from 2015 to 2019.



³ Crime rate is calculated per 1,000 people (using 2019 population projections)

⁴ Previously referred to as Auxiliary Constables.

Auxiliary Program Activities

Auxiliaries attend events in the community to promote a positive police presence, support RCMP members and assist with community policing and crime prevention initiatives as well as traffic and crowd control. During the month of July, Auxiliaries participated in:

- Canada Day/Salmon Festival
- Bait Car
- Block Watch BBQ
- Crime Watch
- Dolphin Basketball Classic
- Home Security Checks

Block Watch

At the end of July 2019, the Block Watch program had 391 groups totaling 8,452 participants. Currently, the program includes 549 captains and co-captains.⁵

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, events and the availability of volunteers.

During the month of July volunteer highlights included:

- The deployment of 20 volunteer foot/van patrols totalling 149 hours and nine bike patrols, totalling 104 hours.
- 27 Fail to Stop deployments took place, which resulted in 923 warning letters.
- Speed Watch was conducted on 2,953 vehicles at various locations.
- July 1 – 24 volunteers participated in Canada Day/Salmon Festival and conducted foot patrols throughout the day.
- July 6 – Volunteers attended the Richmond Oval to participate in the Richmond Community Day event. Volunteers set up an information booth as well as a Fatal Vision obstacle course.⁶
- July 11 – Three volunteers, accompanied by an RCMP member, conducted business break and enter outreach in East Richmond where they visited 21 businesses. Height strips and crime prevention information were provided to businesses.
- July 16 – Accompanied by an RCMP member, five volunteers attended the Chabad Richmond Summer BBQ in Burkeville. Volunteers set up an information booth as well as facilitated education and engagement activities, including a Fatal Vision obstacle course.

⁵ The variance from previous months' data is due to an ongoing database upgrade. Revised numbers will continue to reflect more accurate participation data.

⁶ Fatal Vision goggles provide a hands-on educational tool which simulates the effects of impairment, highlighting the risks associated with impaired driving.

- July 18 and 19 –Volunteers and RCMP members conducted business break and enter outreach in the industrial area on No. 6 Road between Bridgeport Road and Alderbridge Way. Over two days a total of 38 businesses were visited.

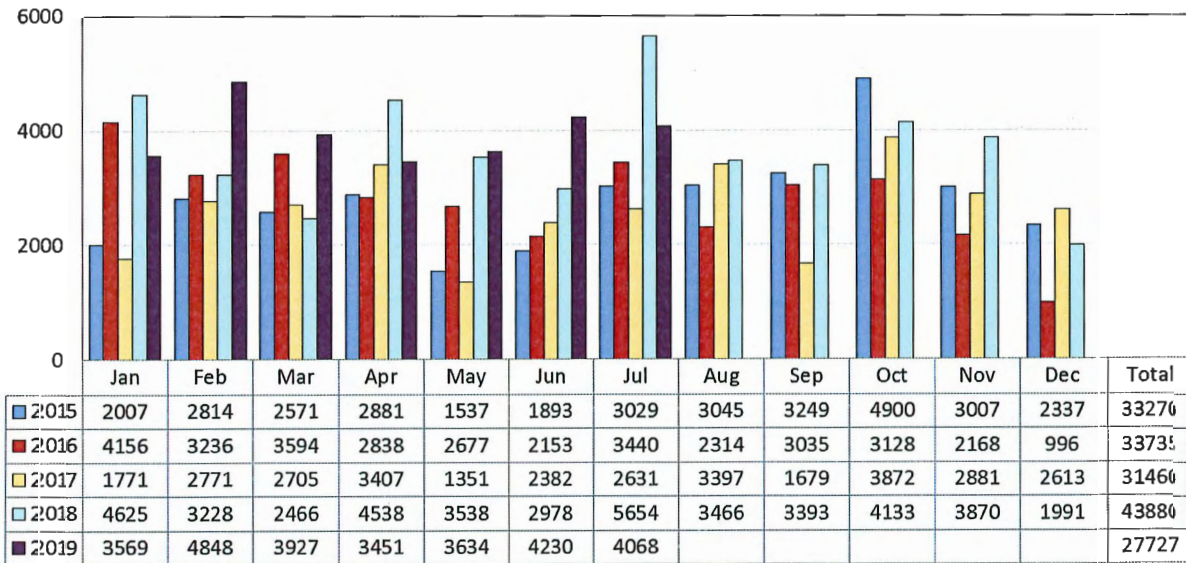
Volunteers and police also conducted foot patrols in the area and spoke to residents and businesses of recent catalytic converter thefts. As a result of this public engagement, one of these individuals shared the crime prevention information with 500 other truck drivers through the WhatsApp messaging platform.

- July 20 – Volunteers located a stolen vehicle in the Minoru parkade during the course of a Crime Watch deployment.
- July 23 – While conducting a Fail to Stop deployment, volunteers located an occupied stolen vehicle and reported it to police.
- July 28 – Volunteers and an RCMP member participated at the Steveston Maritime Festival and shared crime prevention information, including information on the Project 529 bike registry. Volunteers registered over 80 bicycles at the event.

Lock Out Auto Crime

Figure 3 provides a comparison by year of the number of vehicle notices issued.

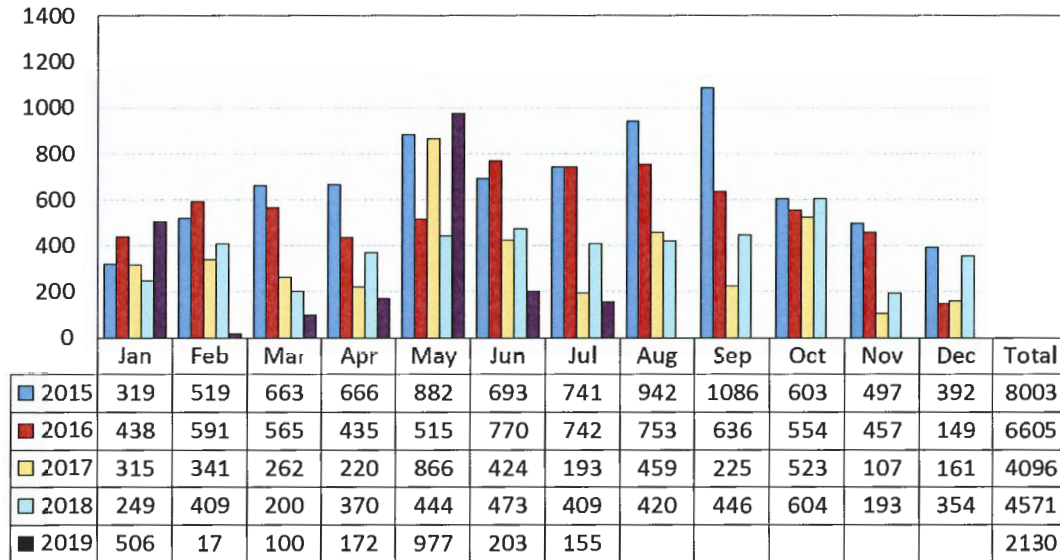
Figure 3: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice



Speed Watch

Figure 4 provides a yearly comparison of the number of letters sent to registered vehicle owners.

Figure 4: Speed Watch Letters Sent



Crime Prevention Unit

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

- Break and Enter Outreach
- Broadmoor Patrols
- Canada Day/Salmon Festival
- Project 529 Bike Registry
- Steveston Maritime Festival
- Vulnerable Institution Patrols

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. The following statistics compare July 2019 data to both May 2019 and June 2019.

Violation Tickets were issued for the following infractions:

Table 1: Violation Tickets Issued

Infraction	May 2019	June 2019	July 2019
Distracted Driving	133	121	133
Driver License	265	252	259
Impaired	36	49	38
Intersection Offences	62	57	112
Moving Violations ⁷	108	189	220
Speeding	439	508	495
Seatbelts	8	6	8
Vehicle Related ⁸	74	84	65
Other ⁹	19	13	7
Total	1,144	1,279	1,337

Victim Services

In July 2019, Richmond RCMP Victim Services attended to 63 new clients and attended nine crime/trauma scenes after hours. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 156 ongoing files. Victim Services responded to a number of cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, robberies, family conflict and a stabbing death.

Youth Section

The 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 July, Youth Section highlights include:

- On July 9, 2019, RCMP members from the Youth Section participated in a Pop-up Detachment at King George Park and Garden City Road Park. They engaged with youth, displaying police vehicles, as well as handing out stickers and positive tickets.
- An RCMP member in the Youth Section attended a number of summer schools and summer camps and presented to youth on the role of police and how to become a police officer.

Financial Impact

None.

⁷ Moving violations 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 fail to remain at the scene of an accident and failing to stop for police.

August 8, 2019

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Conclusion

The Officer in Charge, Richmond Detachment continues to ensure Richmond remains a safe and desirable community.



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

EW: mf

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

Auxiliary Constables

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

Block Watch

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

Distracted Driving Program

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

Fail to Stop

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

Lock Out Auto Crime

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

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

Project 529

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

Speed Watch

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

Stolen Auto Recovery

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

Volunteer Bike and Foot Patrol Program

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

JULY 2019 STATISTICS

RICHMOND RCMP

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

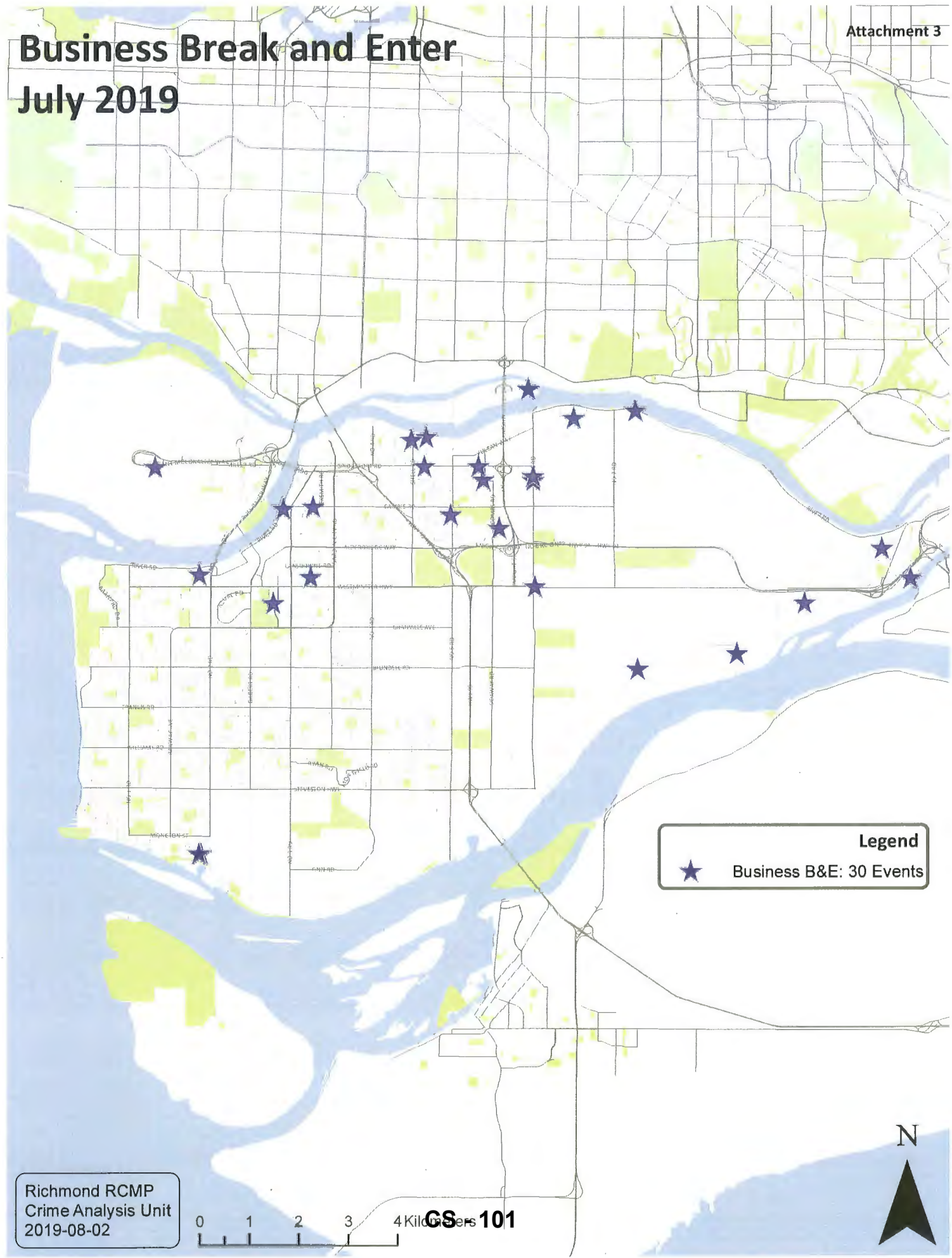
In 2019, changes were implemented regarding the collection of UCR data. The new standards provide much more stringent criteria to classify a file as unfounded. As a result, there will be an increase in many crime statistics, and clearance rates will conversely decline. This creates numerous challenges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

The 5 year average range data is based on activity within a single month over the past 5 years. If the current monthly total for an offence is above the expected average range (using one standard deviation) due to crime trends, patterns, or spikes, it will be noted in **red**. If the current monthly total for an offence is above the expected average range due to primarily non-operational reasons such as the new UCR standards or other scoring issues, the total will be noted in **purple**. Below expected numbers will be noted in **blue**.

Year-to-Date percentage change is used to numbers from the prior year, but the new CCJS/UCR standards reduce the utility of this metric. 2019 YTD numbers will be biased to increase from the 2018 totals, despite any positive police action.

	Month	5-Yr Avg	5-Yr Range	Year to Date Totals			
	July-19	July		2018	2019	% Change	# Change
VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	140	107.8	103-113	734	1049	43%	315
Robbery <small>UCR 1610 (1-3)</small>	12	4.8	3-7	32	49	53%	17
Assault Common <small>UCR 1430</small>	50	39.0	38-40	270	368	36%	98
Assault Serious <small>UCR 1410, 1420</small>	12	13.2	8-19	84	79	-6%	-5
Sexual Offences <small>UCR 1734 (320, 1250, 1310, 3400000)</small>	18	11.0	9-13	85	134	58%	49
PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	660	654.2	592-717	4456	4418	-1%	-38
Business B&E <small>UCR 2120-1</small>	30	26.2	20-33	222	188	-15%	-34
Residential B&E <small>UCR 2120-2</small>	33	49.4	33-66	418	359	-14%	-59
Auto Theft <small>UCR 2135 (1-10), 2173</small>	26	30.6	28-34	148	169	14%	21
Theft from Auto <small>UCR 2132, 2142</small>	133	174.8	142-208	1366	1099	-20%	-267
Theft <small>UCR 2130, 2140</small>	126	106.0	77-135	608	688	13%	80
Shoplifting <small>UCR 2133, 2143</small>	92	54.8	46-64	441	602	37%	161
Fraud <small>UCR 2160 (20), 2165, 2165</small>	80	70.4	63-78	523	502	-4%	-21
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	253	200.8	180-222	1251	1332	6%	81
Arson <small>UCR 1629, 2110</small>	6	4.6	2-7	16	21	31%	5
SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	1053	962.8	902-1024	6441	6779	5%	338
DRUGS (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	48	60.8	50-71	389	280	-28%	-109
MHA RELATED CALLS (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	194	122.4	97-147	899	1234	37%	335

Business Break and Enter July 2019



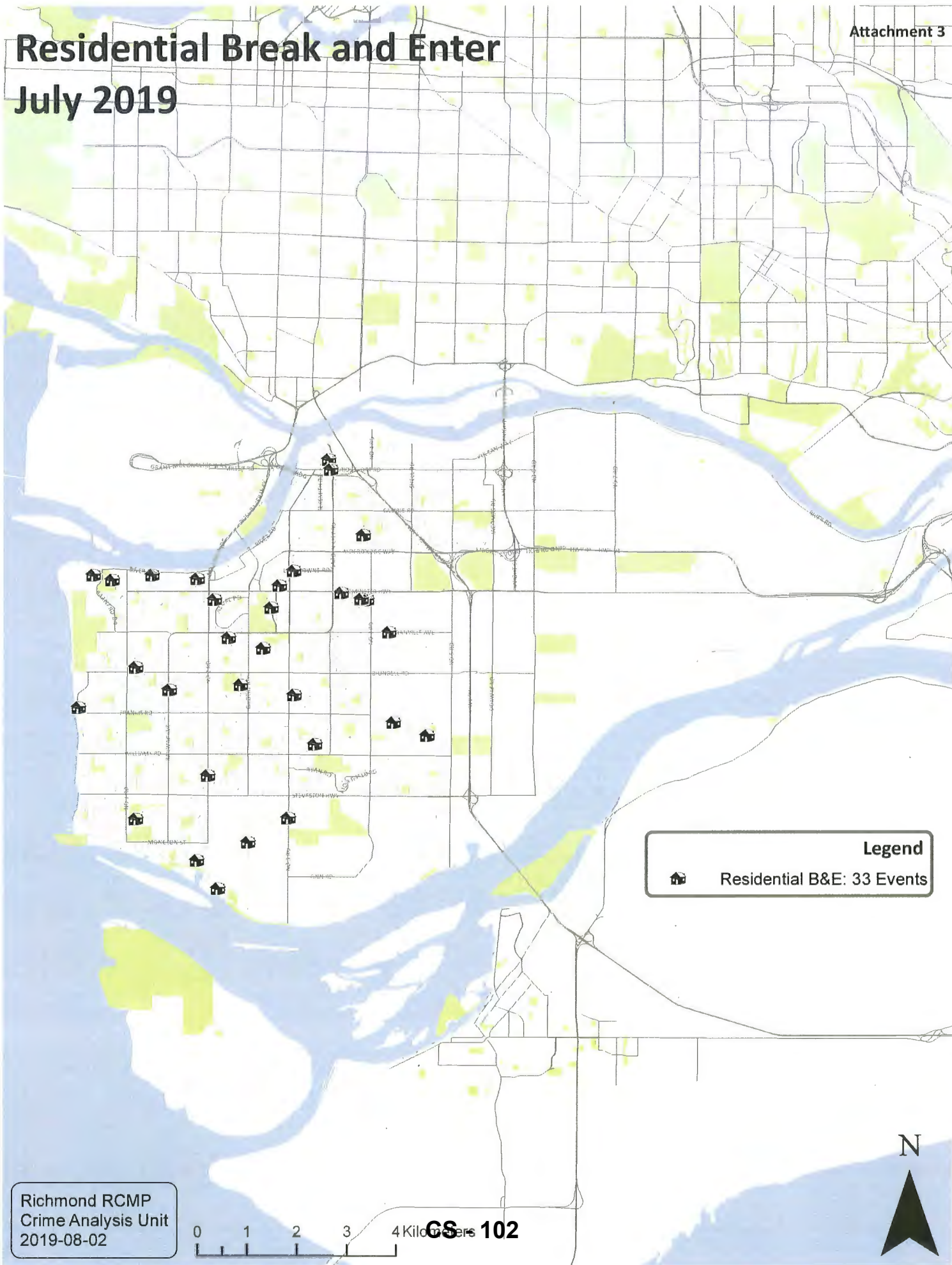
Legend
★ Business B&E: 30 Events

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2019-08-02

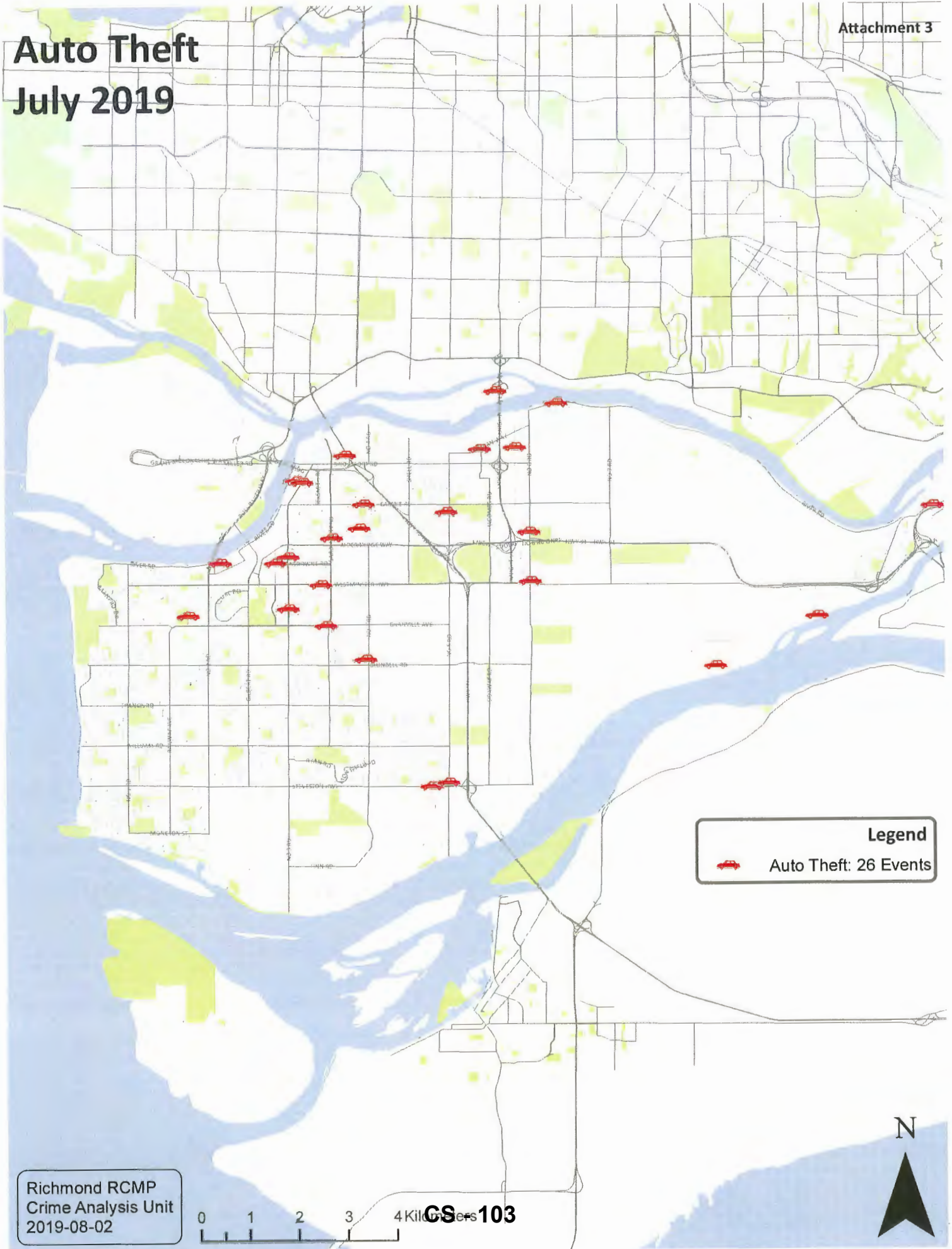
0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers **CS 101**



Residential Break and Enter July 2019



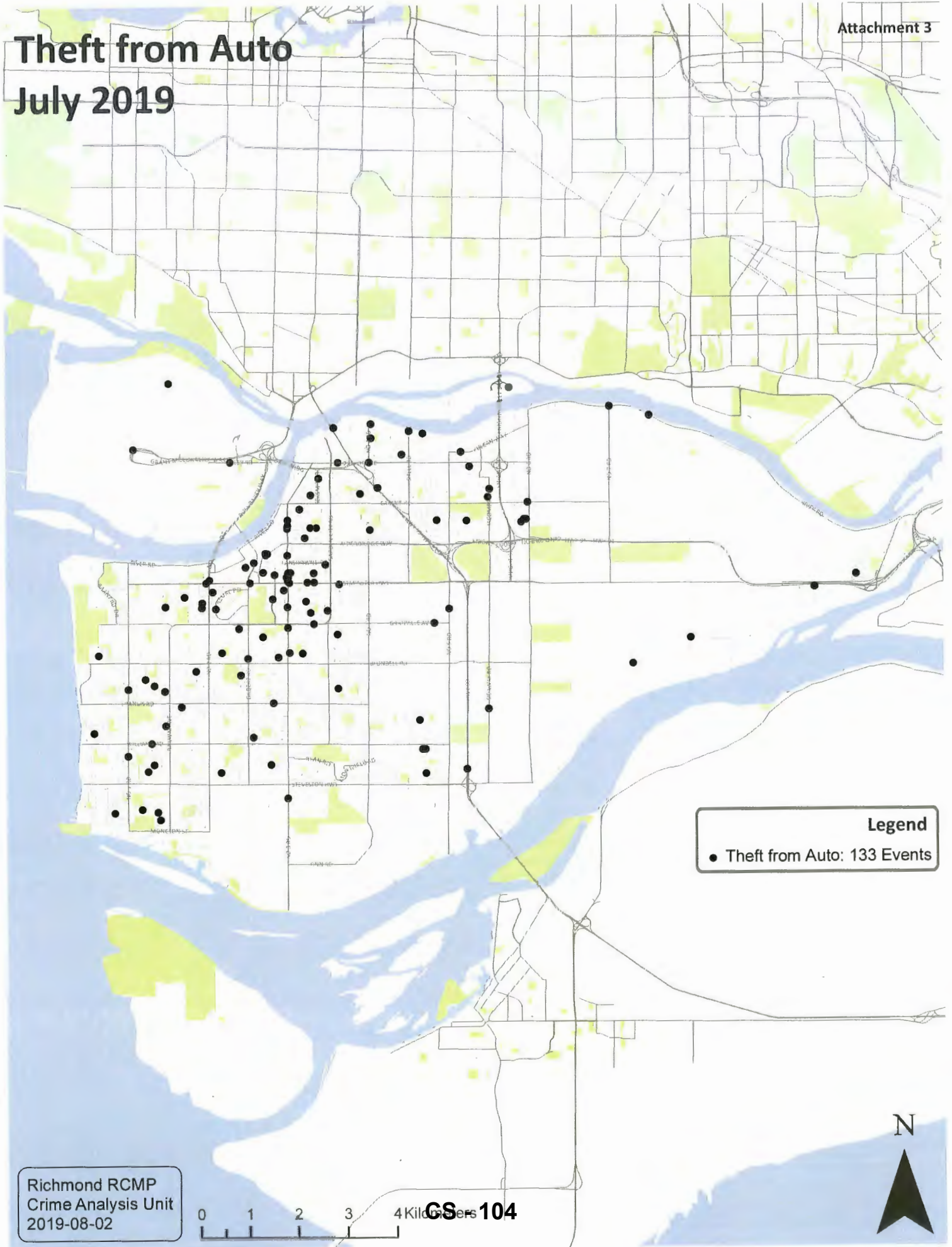
Auto Theft July 2019



Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2019-08-02

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers **CS 103**

Theft from Auto July 2019



Legend
● Theft from Auto: 133 Events

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2019-08-02

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers **CS 104**

