



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** May 16, 2022
From: Dave Chauhan **File:** 09-5000-01/2022-Vol
 Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge 01
Re: RCMP Monthly Activity Report – April 2022

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “RCMP Monthly Activity Report – April 2022”, dated May 16, 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

Arson Charges

On April 5, 2022, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release advising that a suspect had been arrested in connection with two arsons targeting the same residence. No one was injured in the incidents, which resulted in moderate damage to a home in the 9000 block of Auburn Road. The suspect is facing 10 charges, including arson and mischief endangering life.

Fraud Arrests

On April 5, 2022, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release advising that 24 charges had been laid against four individuals following an extensive fraud investigation. Investigators collected evidence of frauds committed in multiple jurisdictions including Richmond, Vancouver, Surrey and Langley. The charges include fraud, forgery and possession of property obtained by crime.

Youth Assault

On April 21, 2022, the Richmond RCMP responded to an assault at Hugh Boyd Secondary School. A 14-year-old female was transported to hospital with serious but non-life-threatening injuries. A 17-year-old male was arrested by police at the scene and was later released. The investigation is ongoing.

Fraud Trend

On April 27, 2022, the Richmond RCMP issued a public warning regarding a new debit card fraud involving a fake taxi, driver and passenger. Between April 22 and April 27, 2022, a total of seven victims had reported similar incidents to police. A media release was issued including a description of the suspects and vehicle used in the incidents.

Policing Priorities in Action – Diversity and Inclusion

In April, the Richmond RCMP recognized Diversity Month by acknowledging and celebrating the diverse cultures, backgrounds and traditions represented in the community. The Richmond RCMP issued a media release on April 4, 2022 where they shared multiple social media posts throughout the month promoting diversity, equity and inclusion, including features highlighting the different perspectives of police officers and employees.¹

Analysis of Police Statistics

Arson

In April 2022, there were 10 reported arsons, which is up five incidents from the previous month and represents no change from April 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 19 assault serious events in April 2022, which is up 27 per cent from the previous month and up 46 per cent from April 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of serious assaults this month is above the expected range.

Of the incidents reported this month, 37 per cent were domestic in nature and more than half occurred in private residences.

Auto Theft

In April 2022, there were 29 incidents of auto theft, which is a 93 per cent increase from the previous month and is more than double the number of auto thefts reported in April 2021.² No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of auto thefts this month is above the expected range.

Approximately half of the stolen vehicles have been recovered. In addition, 17 per cent of the incidents reported this month were not related to an actual theft but involved other situations, such as confusion related to vehicle locations.

¹ The Richmond RCMP Diversity and Inclusion Section was launched in July 2020 as a pilot project. This initiative has added diversity training, enhanced internal communications and provided support resources for staff. The proactive programs and measures promoted by the Diversity and Inclusion Section enable the Richmond RCMP to continue to build positive community relationships and foster public trust in local policing.

² Both of these comparison periods include months where auto thefts were below the expected range.

Drugs

In April 2022, there were 62 drug files, which is down 23 per cent from the previous month and is up 82 per cent from April 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of drug incidents this month is within the expected range.

Of the incidents reported this month, 88 per cent occurred at the Vancouver International Airport.

Mental Health

There were 118 mental health-related incidents in April 2022, which is a five per cent increase from the previous month and is a six per cent decrease from April 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of mental health-related incidents this month is within the expected range.

There were 85 police apprehensions this month and the median hospital wait time was 94 minutes.³ The increase in wait times was attributed to a small proportion of incidents that required increased police presence in the hospital.

Residential Break and Enter

There were 33 break and enters to residences in April 2022, which is a decrease of eight per cent from the previous month and is a 13 per cent decrease from April 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 April 2022, there were 31 break and enters to businesses, which is a 33 per cent decrease from the previous month and is a 41 per cent increase from April 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 two robbery incidents in April 2022, which is down five incidents from the previous month and down two incidents from April 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of robberies this month is within the expected range.

Both incidents reported this month involved the use of a weapon. A suspect was arrested at the scene in one of the incidents, while the second incident remains under investigation.

³ The median statistic has been presented this month due to an incident with a wait time in excess of nine-hours, which skewed the monthly average to 122 minutes.

Sexual Offences

In April 2022, there were 12 sexual offence files, which is down 48 per cent from previous month and down 37 per cent from April 2021.⁴ No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of sexual offences this month is within the expected range.

Shoplifting

There were 86 reported shoplifting thefts in April 2022, which is a 25 per cent increase from the previous month and is a 51 per cent increase from April 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 148 theft from automobile incidents in April 2022, which is up three per cent from the previous month and up 12 per cent from April 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 April 30, 2022.⁵ 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. Two of the events reported this month involved anti-Black comments and one incident was related to anti-Asian comments.

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	1	8	9

Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions

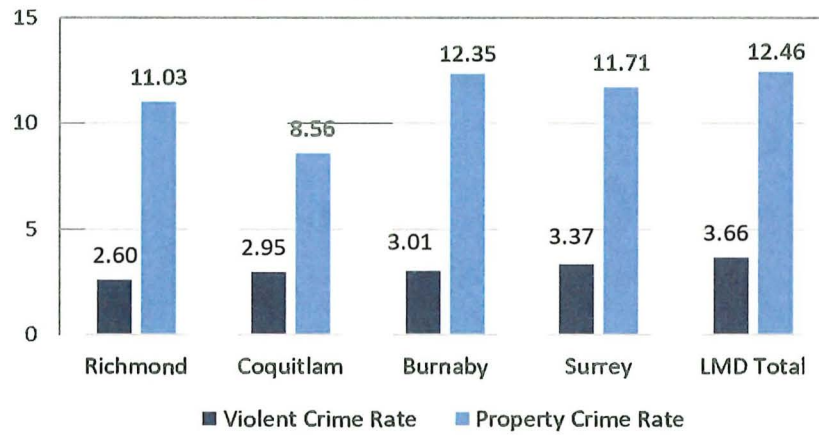
Data on crime rates is presented in Figure 1.⁶ In April 2022, out of the four largest municipalities policed by the RCMP in the Lower Mainland District (LMD), Richmond had the lowest violent crime rate and the second-lowest property crime rate.

⁴ 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.

⁵ The BC Hate Crimes Unit uses the terms hate-motivated crime and hate-motivated incident.

⁶ Crime rate is calculated per 1,000 people.

Figure 1: April 2022 Crime Rates



Cryptocurrency investment scams continue to be on the rise. On March 8, 2022, the BC RCMP issued a media release advising of this trend and efforts being undertaken by the Federal Policing Cybercrime Operations Group to disrupt these virtual criminal networks, including the successful dismantling of eight associated websites. The media release also included information on recognizing and preventing these frauds.

On April 13, 2022, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release advising of cryptocurrency frauds reported so far in Richmond in 2022. There have been 22 reports of cryptocurrency frauds this year with total losses reported at approximately \$2.6 million. The three main trends identified by specialized investigators are fake investment schemes, romance scams and individuals posing as government representatives.

Block Watch

At the end of April 2022, the Block Watch program had 295 groups totaling 6,893 participants. Currently, the program includes 422 captains and co-captains.

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. Even with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on operations, City staff and volunteers have continued to pursue safety initiatives to enhance crime prevention program awareness, community engagement and police accessibility and have resumed many activities which had previously been suspended. In addition, the new City Centre Community Police Station opened to the public on April 1, 2022. The location now offers the same services that are available at the main Richmond RCMP Detachment.

During the month of April, volunteer highlights included:

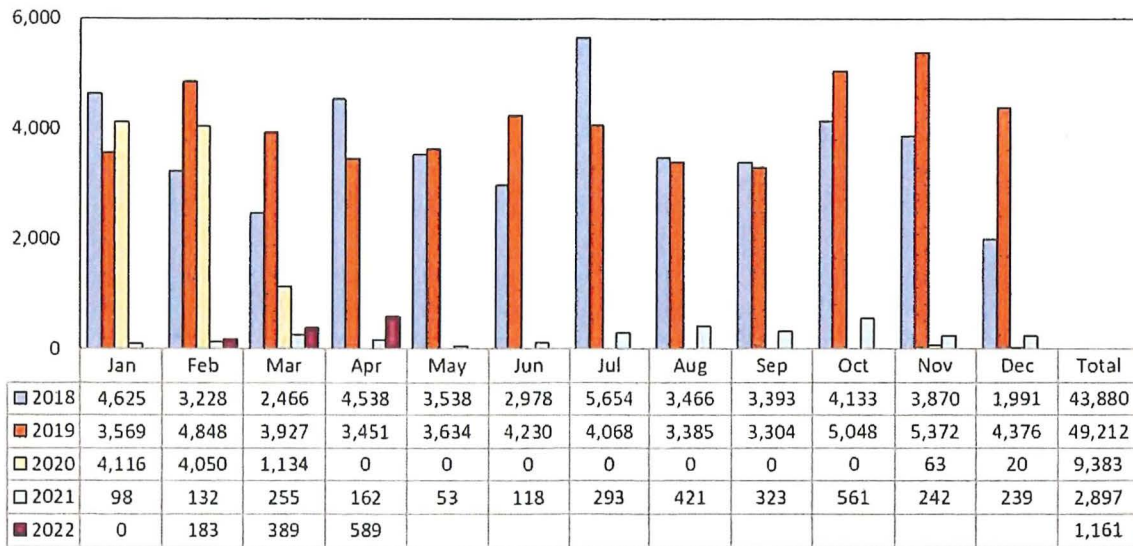
- The deployment of two volunteer bike patrols, totalling 20 hours.
- Five Fail to Stop deployments took place, which resulted in 127 information letters.
- One Crime Watch deployment took place, during where volunteers checked 291 vehicles through the Stolen Auto Recovery program.⁷
- There were 12 Lock Out Auto Crime deployments, in addition to four blitzes in support of a month-long public education and awareness campaign targeting thefts from vehicles. These activities resulted in 589 information letters being distributed.
- Speed Watch was conducted on 70 vehicles and four information letters were issued.
- April 7 – In collaboration with ICBC, volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a Lock Out Auto Crime Blitz at the Minoru Centre for Active Living. A total of 415 cars were checked and 79 letters were sent to vehicle owners. The new Spot the Target initiative was also introduced, which consists of frequently stolen items being placed in the volunteer van for participants to identify.
- April 12 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a Lock Out Auto Crime Blitz in central Richmond. A total of 948 vehicles were checked and 103 letters were sent to vehicle owners.
- April 12 and 13 – City staff and RCMP officers provided training to new volunteers. Topics covered included crime prevention and road safety program overviews, in addition to deployment procedures.
- April 28 – Approximately 70 volunteers attended the Volunteer Appreciation BBQ event at the Chinese Bunkhouse in Steveston.
- April 30 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a pop-up Detachment at the Lansdowne Mall Block Party event. Approximately 1,000 people attended the event where police and volunteers shared crime prevention information and resources.

⁷ During Crime Watch deployments volunteers check for stolen vehicles and report suspicious activities to police.

Lock Out Auto Crime

Figure 2 provides a comparison by year of the number of vehicle notices issued.⁸

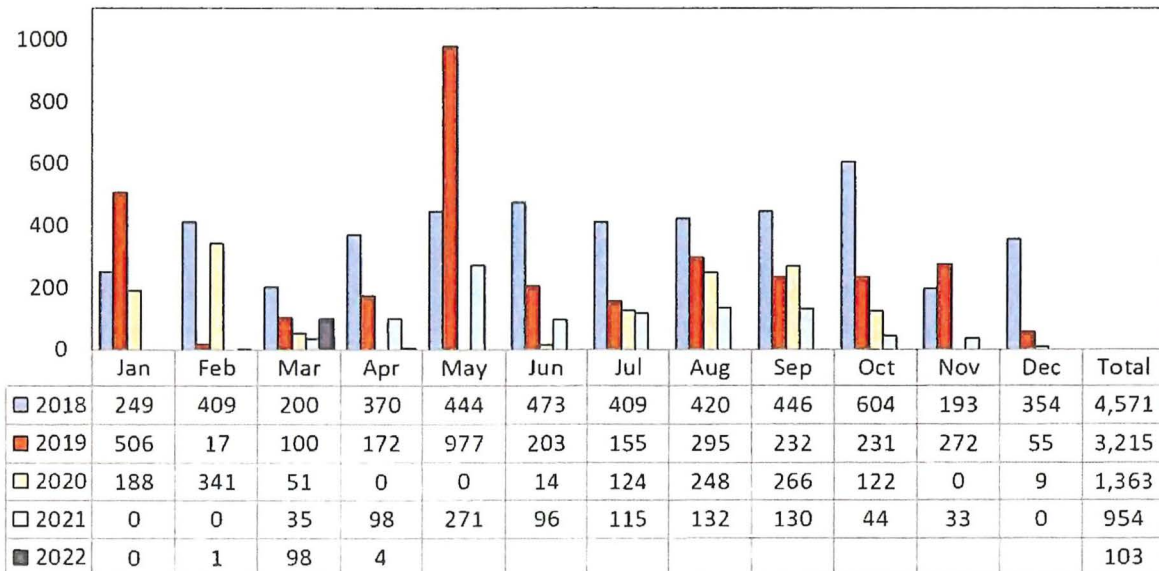
Figure 2: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice



Speed Watch

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

Figure 3: Speed Watch Letters Sent



⁸ 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.

Crime Prevention Unit

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

- Business Outreach
- Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives
- Lock Out Auto Crime
- Place of Worship Patrols
- Traffic Safety Deployments
- Volunteer Appreciation

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

Table 2: Violation Tickets Issued

Infraction	February 2022	March 2022	April 2022
Distracted Driving	28	34	19
Driver License	85	91	92
Impaired	28	41	35
Intersection Offences	35	33	36
Moving Infractions ⁹	46	51	61
Speeding	126	106	82
Seatbelts	2	3	2
Vehicle Related ¹⁰	33	40	42
Other ¹¹	5	5	8
Total	388	404	377

Victim Services

In April 2022, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 72 new clients and attended six crime/trauma scenes after hours. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 118 files. In April, Victim Services responded to a number of cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, property crimes and mental health issues.

⁹ Moving infractions refers to unsafe lane change and unsafe passing.

¹⁰ Vehicle related refers to vehicle defects, for example no lights and no insurance.

¹¹ 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 that contribute to safe and healthy behaviours essential to the development of productive and civic-minded adults. During the month of April, Youth Section highlights included:

- The Youth Section launched the third term of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program. A total of 22 DARE classes were delivered to Grade 5 students at eight schools this month.
- RCMP officers in the Youth Section conducted 33 proactive school visits at secondary schools and 47 visits at elementary schools. Police officers engaged with the students at recess and lunch, as well as during morning and afternoon supervision.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

In April 2022, the Richmond RCMP conducted a number of noteworthy investigations, including an assault at a high school and an emerging debit card fraud issue. Police statistics for this month indicate that most crime types were within the expected ranges, with the exception of auto thefts and serious assaults, which were elevated.

In April, the Richmond RCMP partnered with ICBC to raise public awareness of thefts from vehicles. 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 Police Services
(604-207-4767)

- 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.

APRIL 2022 STATISTICS

RICHMOND RCMP

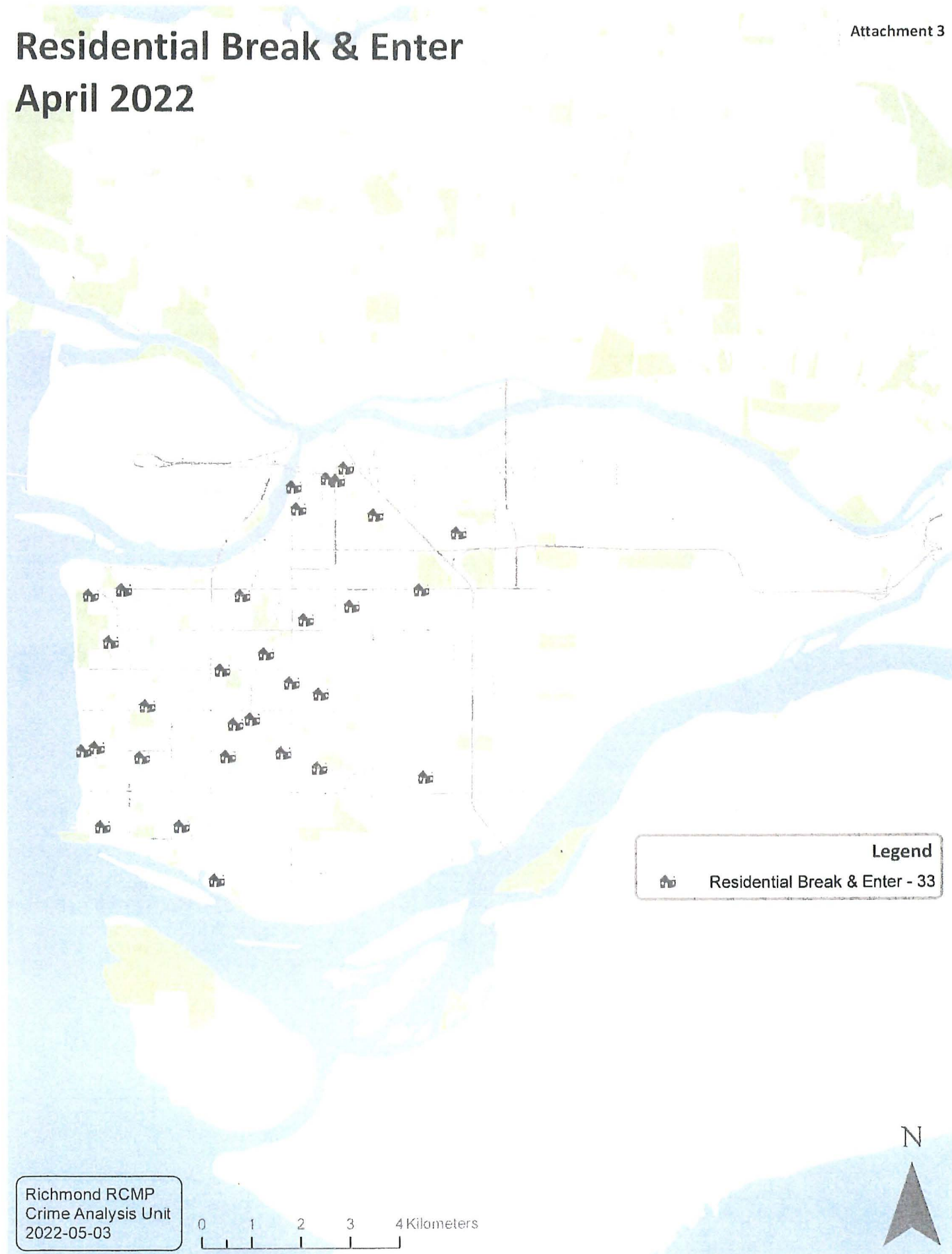
This chart identifies the monthly totals for founded Criminal Code incidents, excluding traffic-related Criminal Code incidents. Based on Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) scoring, there are three categories: (1) Violent Crime, (2) Property Crime, and (3) Other Criminal Code. Within each category, particular 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			
	April-22	April		2021	2022	% Change	# Change
VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	143	120.6	105-136	564	545	-3%	-19
Robbery	2	3.6	3-5	19	24	26%	5
Assault Common	55	39.0	32-46	174	187	7%	13
Assault Serious	19	11.8	10-14	53	63	19%	10
Sexual Offences	12	16.8	10-23	75	65	-13%	-10
PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	651	559.0	472-646	2160	2248	4%	88
Business B&E	31	25.0	21-29	102	145	42%	43
Residential B&E	33	43.4	34-53	137	131	-4%	-6
Auto Theft	29	18.4	14-23	84	86	2%	2
Theft from Auto	148	154.6	114-196	566	521	-8%	-45
Theft	93	74.6	50-100	226	299	32%	73
Shoplifting	86	57.6	42-74	249	269	8%	20
Fraud	82	64.8	55-75	304	278	-9%	-26
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	223	187.8	145-231	884	864	-2%	-20
Arson	10	6.2	2-11	28	21	-25%	-7
SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	1018	867.6	767-968	3610	3661	1%	51
DRUGS (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	62	42.6	29-57	152	194	28%	42

Prepared by Richmond RCMP Crime Analysts. Data collected from PRIME on 2022-05-03. Published 2022-05-04. 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).

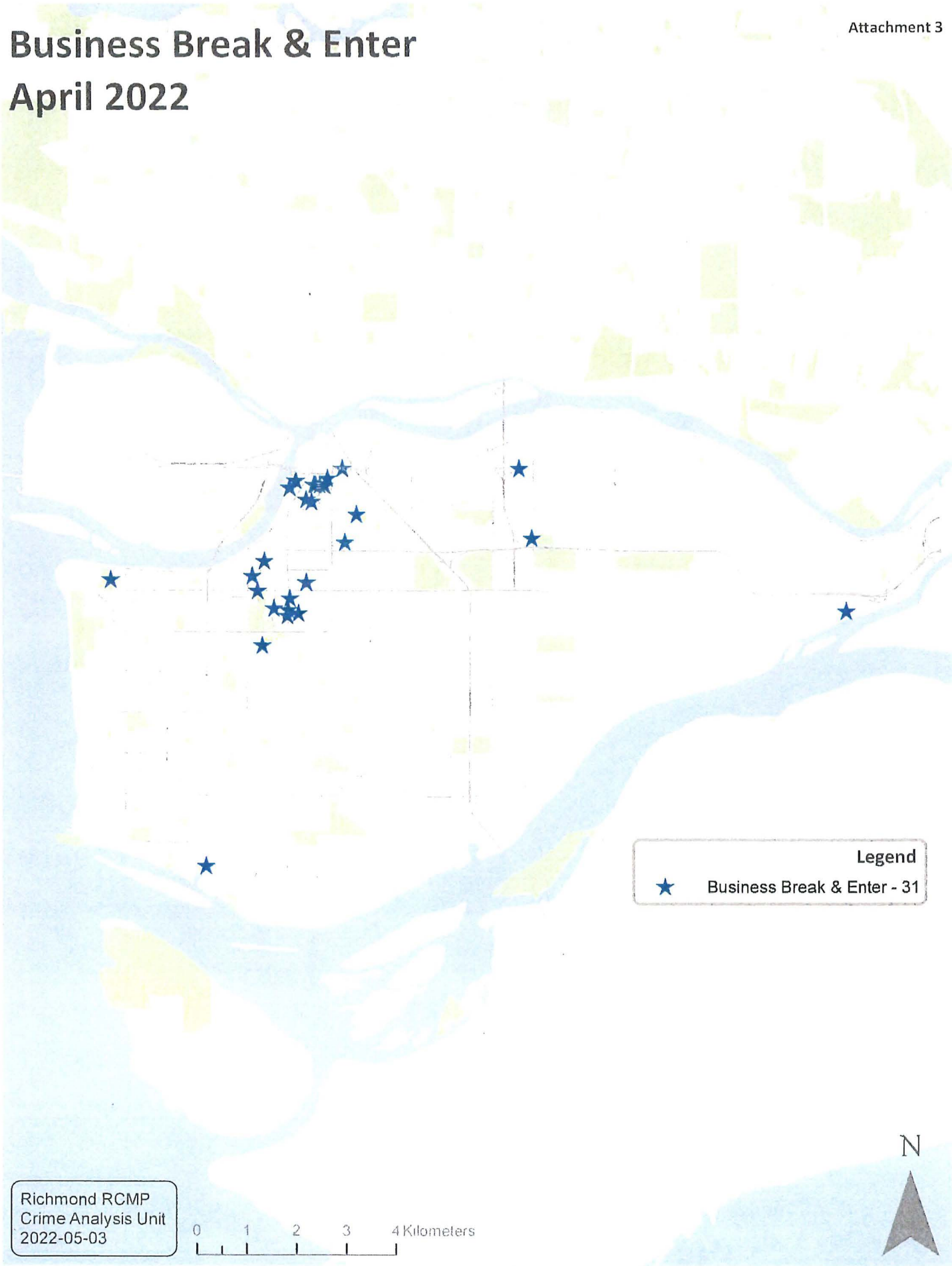
Residential Break & Enter April 2022



Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2022-05-03

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

Business Break & Enter April 2022



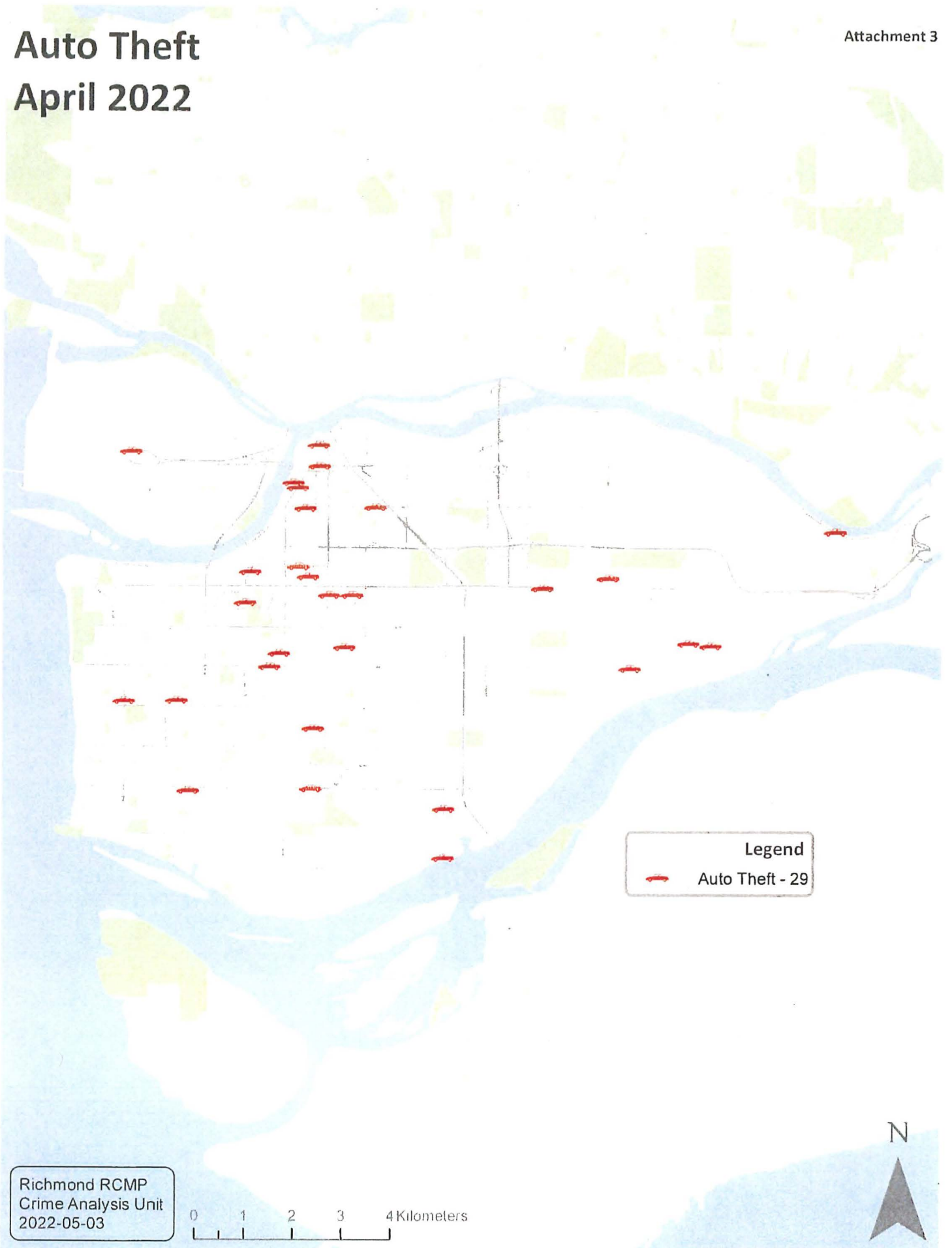
Legend
★ Business Break & Enter - 31

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2022-05-03

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers



Auto Theft April 2022



Theft from Auto April 2022



Legend
● Theft from Auto - 148

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2022-05-03

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

