



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** March 16, 2023
From: Dave Chauhan **File:** 09-5000-01/2023-Vol
Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge 01
Re: RCMP Monthly Activity Report – February 2023

Recommendation from Officer in Charge

That the report titled “RCMP Monthly Activity Report – February 2023”, dated March 16, 2023, from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment, be received for information.

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

Att. 4

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

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.

Analysis

Activities and Noteworthy Files

Catalytic Converter Thefts

On February 2, 2023, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release advising of increased catalytic converter thefts in jurisdictions across BC. Catalytic converters are a target for theft due to their relatively easy access, lack of identifying markings and the value of the metals within. Police provided related theft prevention information, in addition to distributing information bulletins through community outreach programs.

Commercial Vehicle Collision

On February 10, 2023, Richmond RCMP officers responded to an incident on Knight Street, near the Cambie Road overpass, after a commercial vehicle failed to clear the overpass. The driver of the vehicle was uncooperative with investigators. The Richmond RCMP is investigating alongside the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Assaults

On February 14, 2023, Richmond RCMP officers responded to the 6400 block of Buswell Street after an unconscious woman was found on the street. Police received a subsequent report that another woman had been assaulted in the same area. Investigators identified a suspect and

arrested the man on February 17, 2023. A Special Post Incident Community Engagement (SPICE) event was held in the neighbourhood on February 28, 2023, as investigators and Victim Services spoke to the people affected by the incidents.

Homicide

On February 20, 2023, the Richmond RCMP responded to a report of a deceased female residing in the 6500 block of Barnard Drive. Upon arrival, police located the bodies of a 43-year-old and a 14-year-old. Integrated Homicide Investigation Team is investigating. Police believe this to be an isolated incident with no outstanding suspects.

Youth Academy

The Richmond RCMP held its second annual Youth Academy between February 16 and 20, 2023. The program was jointly coordinated with the Richmond School District and is aimed at students in grades 10 to 12 interested in policing. The 32 participants engaged in practical police-related scenarios and had the opportunity to speak with police officers from various specialized sections, including the Integrated Police Dog Services and Emergency Response Team. Participants also experienced an RCMP-style Regimental Dinner and parents were able to attend a formal graduation ceremony.

Analysis of Police Statistics

Arson

In February 2023, there were 12 reported arsons, which is an increase of nine incidents from the previous month, up 11 incidents from February 2022.¹ No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of arsons this month is above the average range.

Suspects have been identified in two of the files reported this month. Most incidents reported in February 2023 involved random items being set on fire, such as a garbage can and a suitcase.

Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)

There were 22 serious assault events in February 2023, which is a 29 per cent increase from the previous month and is double the number reported in February 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of serious assaults this month is above the average range.

To date, suspects have been identified in 90 per cent of the incidents. Of the events reported in February 2023, 32 per cent were domestic in nature.

Auto Theft

In February 2023, there were 25 incidents of auto theft, which is a 19 per cent increase from the previous month and is a 14 per cent increase from February 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of auto thefts this month is above the average range.

¹ A statistically low number of arsons were reported in February 2022.

The majority of auto thefts occurred in central Richmond. Approximately 40 per cent of the stolen vehicles have been recovered.

Drugs

In February 2023, there were 31 drug files, which is up 19 per cent from the previous month and down 14 per cent from February 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of drug incidents this month is within the average range.

Mental Health

There were 252 mental health-related incidents in February 2023, which is a four per cent decrease from the previous month and is a six per cent increase from February 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of mental health-related incidents this month is within the average range.

There were 70 police apprehensions this month, which is within the average range. However, the average hospital wait time increased by 23 per cent to 113 minutes.. This increase is above average and has been attributed to a small number of files with exceptional wait times.

Residential Break and Enter

There were 17 break and enters to residences in February 2023, which is a 32 per cent decrease from the previous month and is a 45 per cent decrease from February 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 February 2023, there were 23 break and enters to businesses, which represents a 30 per cent decrease from the previous month and is a 39 per cent decrease from February 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of commercial break and enters this month is within the average range.

Robbery

There were three robberies in February 2023, which is up three incidents from the previous month and down two incidents from February 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of robberies this month is within the average range.

A suspect was arrested at the scene of one of the robberies; the other incidents remain under investigation.

Sexual Offences

In February 2023, there were 19 sexual offence files, which is a 10 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 12 per cent increase from February 2022.² No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of sexual offences this month is within the average range.

There were four referrals from the BC Integrated Child Exploitation Team, which accounted for 21 per cent of the files this month. Suspects have been identified in 67 per cent of the remaining 15 incidents.

Shoplifting

There were 102 reported shoplifting thefts in February 2023, which is a 32 per cent increase from the previous month and a 44 per cent increase from February 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of shoplifting thefts this month is above the average range.

While an analysis of shoplifting thefts has not identified any factors contributing to this observed increase, files will continue to be monitored to determine whether additional enforcement action is required.

Theft from Automobile

There were 129 theft from automobile incidents in February 2023, which is down 28 per cent from the previous month and up 34 per cent from February 2022. The number of thefts from automobiles this month were 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 February 28, 2023.³ 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 incidents reported this month were related to racist 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	5	5

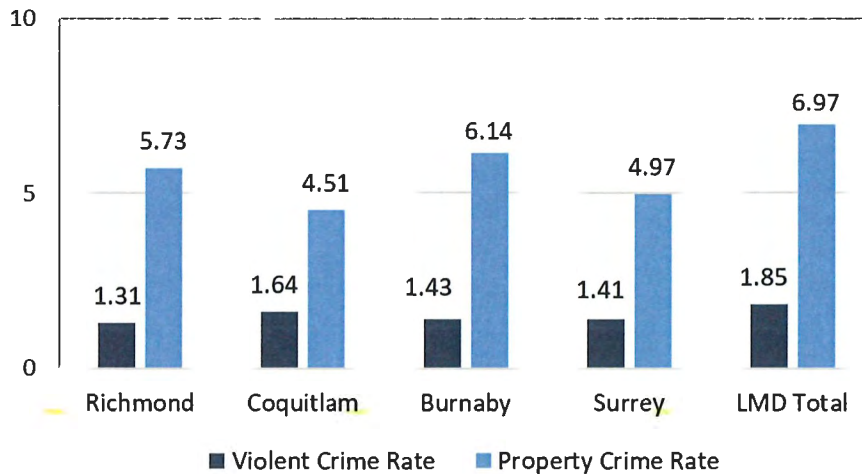
² The Sexual Offences category comprises a range of offences including: sexual assault, sexual interference, making and distributing child pornography, possessing and accessing child pornography and indecent acts/exposing.

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 February 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.

Figure 1: February 2023 YTD Crime Rates



Block Watch

At the end of February 2023, the Block Watch program had 303 groups totalling 7,037 participants. Currently, the program includes 438 captains and co-captains. This month, training was provided for a new Block Watch group.

Community Police Station Programs

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

During the month of February, volunteer highlights included:

- The deployment of seven volunteer foot/van patrols totalling 33 hours.
- A total of nine Fail to Stop deployments took place, resulting in 419 information letters.

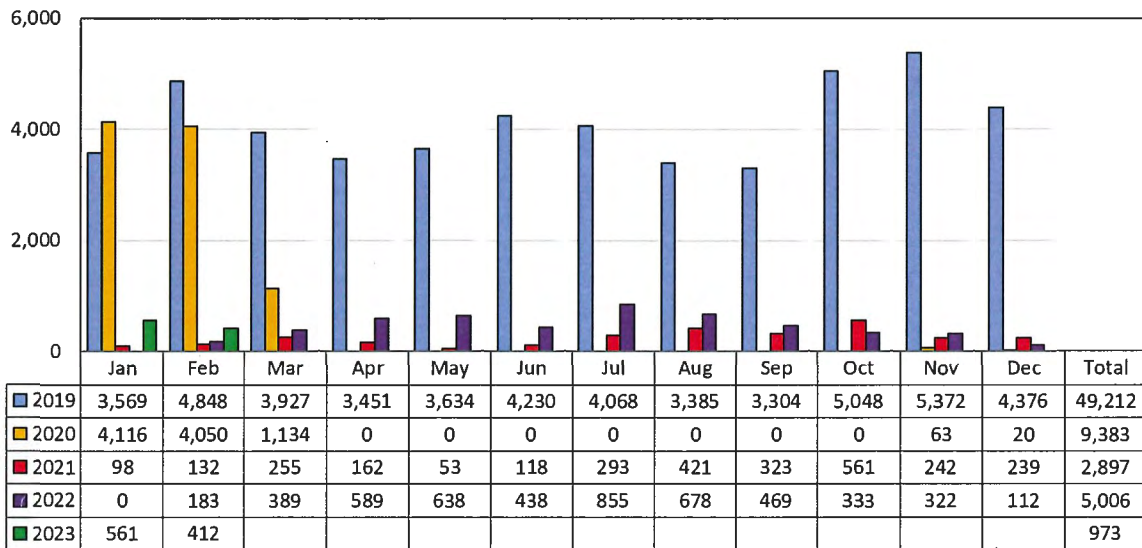
⁴ Crime rate is year to date (YTD) and calculated per 1,000 people.

- There were 28 Lock Out Auto Crime deployments, during which 412 information letters were distributed. Volunteers also distributed catalytic converter theft information handouts.⁵
- Speed Watch was conducted on 1,106 vehicles, and 42 information letters were issued.
- February 9 – Volunteers conducted Business Link outreach with a RCMP officer visiting six businesses in central Richmond.
- February 16 to 20 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with the 2023 Youth Academy. This included assisting with scenario-based training.
- February 22 – Volunteers assisted police with a Coffee a Cop event in Hamilton.
- February 24 and 27 –Volunteers were deployed to Buswell Street and distributed posters seeking witnesses to the assaults in the area on February 14. Over 140 complexes and businesses were visited.
- February 25 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with Business Link outreach in central Richmond, visiting five businesses.
- February 25 – Volunteers conducted a Speed Watch deployment in Hamilton and issued 29 information letters.
- February 28 –Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a SPICE deployment held in the area of Buswell Street.

Lock Out Auto Crime

Figure 2 compares by year the number of vehicle notices issued.⁶

Figure 2: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice



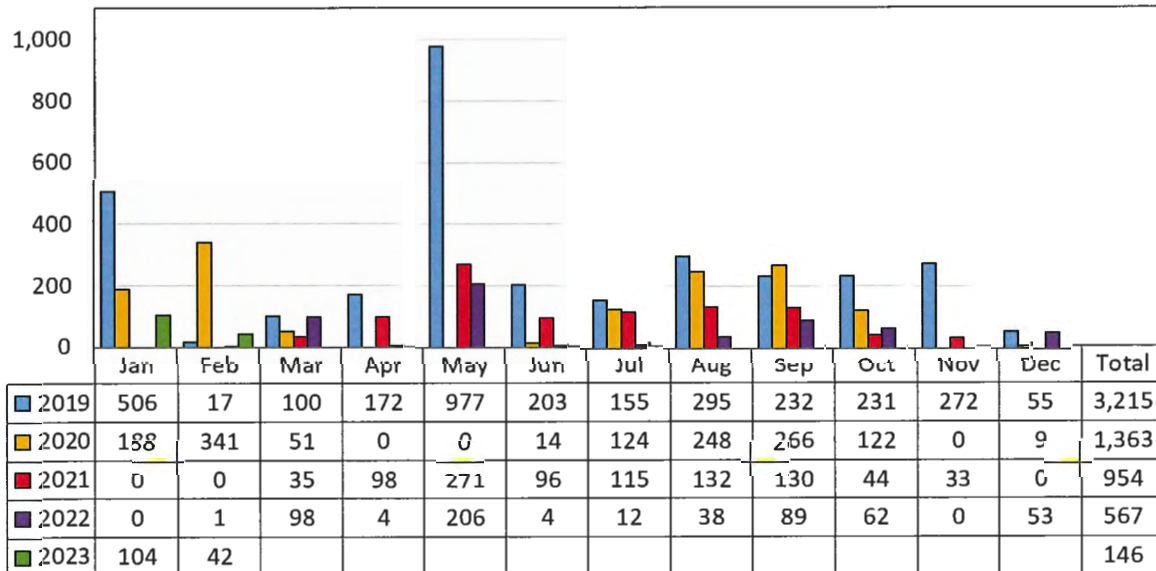
⁵ These bulletins will also be available in Simplified Chinese.

⁶ Beginning in November 2020, Lock Out Auto Crime letters were issued in place of notices. Letters are only issued to vehicles displaying security vulnerabilities; whereas previously, notices were issued to all vehicles. This has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of letters issued.

Speed Watch

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

Figure 3: Speed Watch Letters Sent



Crime Prevention Unit

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

- Business Outreach
- Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives
- Coffee with a Cop
- Place of Worship Patrols
- Pink Shirt Day
- SPICE Event

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 February 2023 to both December 2022 and January 2023. Violation tickets were issued for the following infractions:

Table 2: Violation Tickets Issued

Infraction	December 2022	January 2023	February 2023
Distracted Driving	99	83	76
Driver License	220	174	183
Impaired	54	46	29
Intersection Offences	34	42	38

Infraction	December 2022	January 2023	February 2023
Moving Infractions ⁷	89	84	65
Speeding	71	90	155
Seatbelts	25	6	19
Vehicle Related ⁸	118	252	141
Other ⁹	14	6	10
Total	724	783	716

Victim Services

In February 2023, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 57 new clients and attended six crime/trauma scenes after hours. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 77 files. In February, Victim Services responded to a number of cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, assaults and family conflicts.

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 February, Youth Section highlights included:

- RCMP officers in the Youth Section conducted 24 proactive school visits at secondary schools and 26 visits at elementary schools. Police officers engaged with the students at recess and lunch, as well as during morning and afternoon supervision.
- The second term of DARE continued for the 2022-2023 school year. DARE classes were delivered to a total of 513 students in six schools.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

In February 2023, the Richmond RCMP conducted a number of noteworthy investigations, including two serious stranger assaults and an increase in catalytic converter thefts. Police statistics for this month indicate that most crime types were within the average ranges, except for arson, serious assaults, auto theft and shoplifting, which were elevated.

In February, the Richmond RCMP hosted its second annual Youth Academy for students in grades 10 to 12 interested in policing. In addition, the Community Engagement Team and volunteers continued to promote crime prevention and road safety initiatives. The Officer in

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.

March 16, 2023

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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
- 4: Theft Awareness Bulletin

Block Watch

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

Distracted Driving Program

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

Fail to Stop

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

Lock Out Auto Crime

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

Project 529

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

Speed Watch

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

Spot the Target

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

Stolen Auto Recovery

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

Volunteer Bike and Foot Patrol Program

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

FEBRUARY 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.

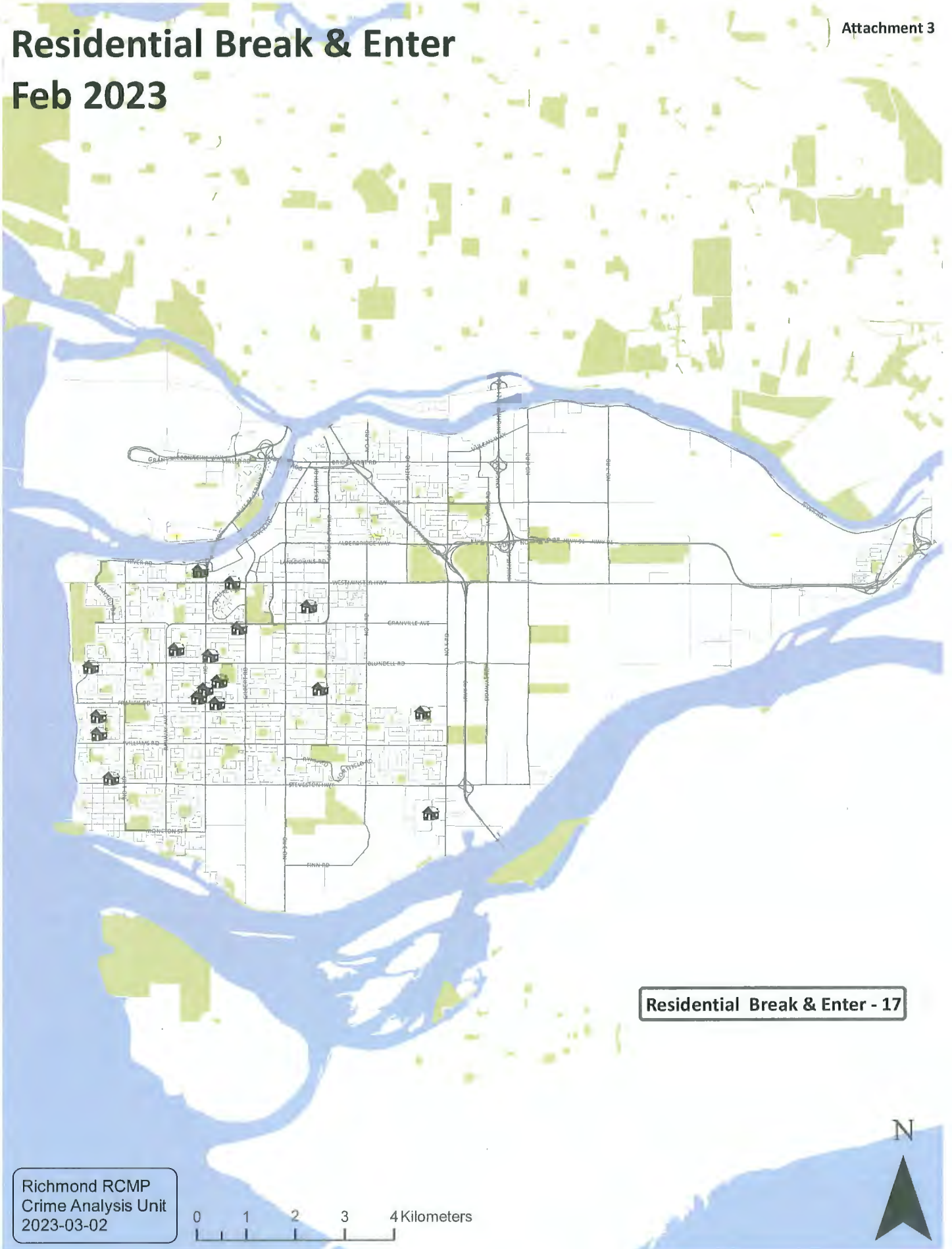
This chart identifies the monthly totals for founded Criminal Code incidents, excluding traffic-related Criminal Code incidents. Based on Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) scoring, there are three categories: (1) Violent Crime, (2) Property Crime, and (3) Other Criminal Code. Within each category, particular 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			
	Feb - 23	February		2022	2023	% Change	# Change
VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	145	118.6	100-138	265	298	12%	33
Robbery <small>UCR 839 (1-3)</small>	3	4.2	2-7	15	4	-73%	-11
Assault Common <small>UCR 840</small>	47	43.2	36-50	82	95	16%	13
Assault Serious <small>UCR 842, 843</small>	22	7.4	5-10	29	38	31%	9
Sexual Offences <small>UCR 134, 130, 135, 131, 3450/55/56</small>	19	12.4	7-18	30	40	33%	10
PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	634	559.4	505-614	967	1301	35%	334
Business B&E <small>UCR 210-1</small>	23	29.0	23-35	68	62	-9%	-6
Residential B&E <small>UCR 210-2</small>	17	54.8	32-78	62	42	-32%	-20
Auto Theft <small>UCR 215 (1-10), 217</small>	25	18.4	16-20	42	46	10%	4
Theft from Auto <small>UCR 212, 214</small>	129	146.2	112-180	230	307	33%	77
Theft <small>UCR 210, 216</small>	97	75.6	65-86	129	202	57%	73
Shoplifting <small>UCR 213, 214</small>	102	64.2	59-69	114	179	57%	65
Fraud <small>UCR 219 (30), 215, 218</small>	79	71.2	65-78	123	167	36%	44
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	213	185.6	164-208	393	518	32%	125
Arson <small>UCR 319, 216</small>	12	1.8	0-4	6	15	150%	9
SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	992	863.8	832-896	1627	2117	30%	490
DRUGS (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	31	42.2	30-55	51	57	12%	6
MHA RELATED CALLS (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	252	228.6	199-259	467	515	10%	48

Prepared by Richmond RCMP Crime Analysts. Data collected from PRIME on 2023-03-01. Published 2023-03-03. 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 Feb 2023



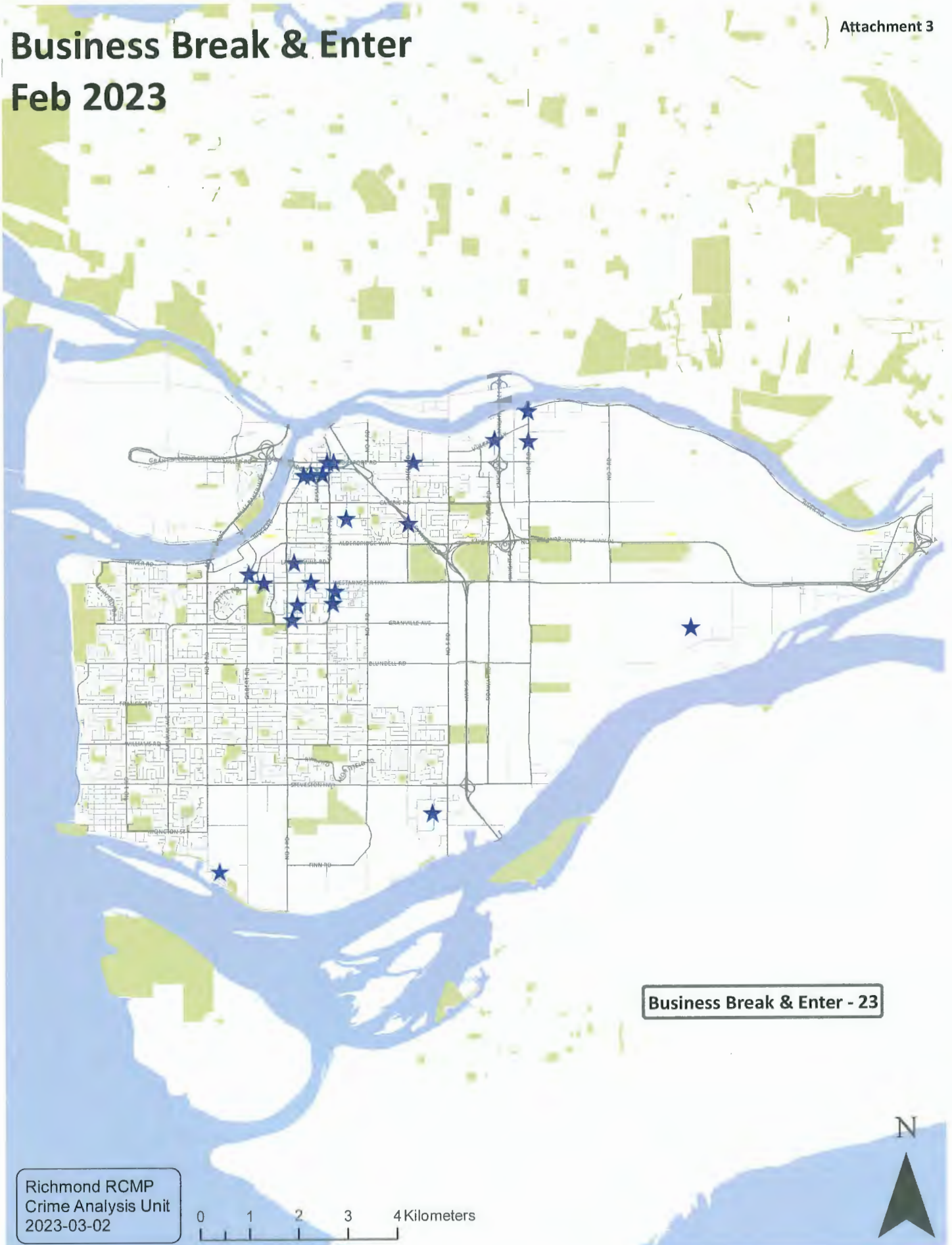
Residential Break & Enter - 17

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2023-03-02

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers



Business Break & Enter Feb 2023



Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2023-03-02

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

Theft from Auto Feb 2023

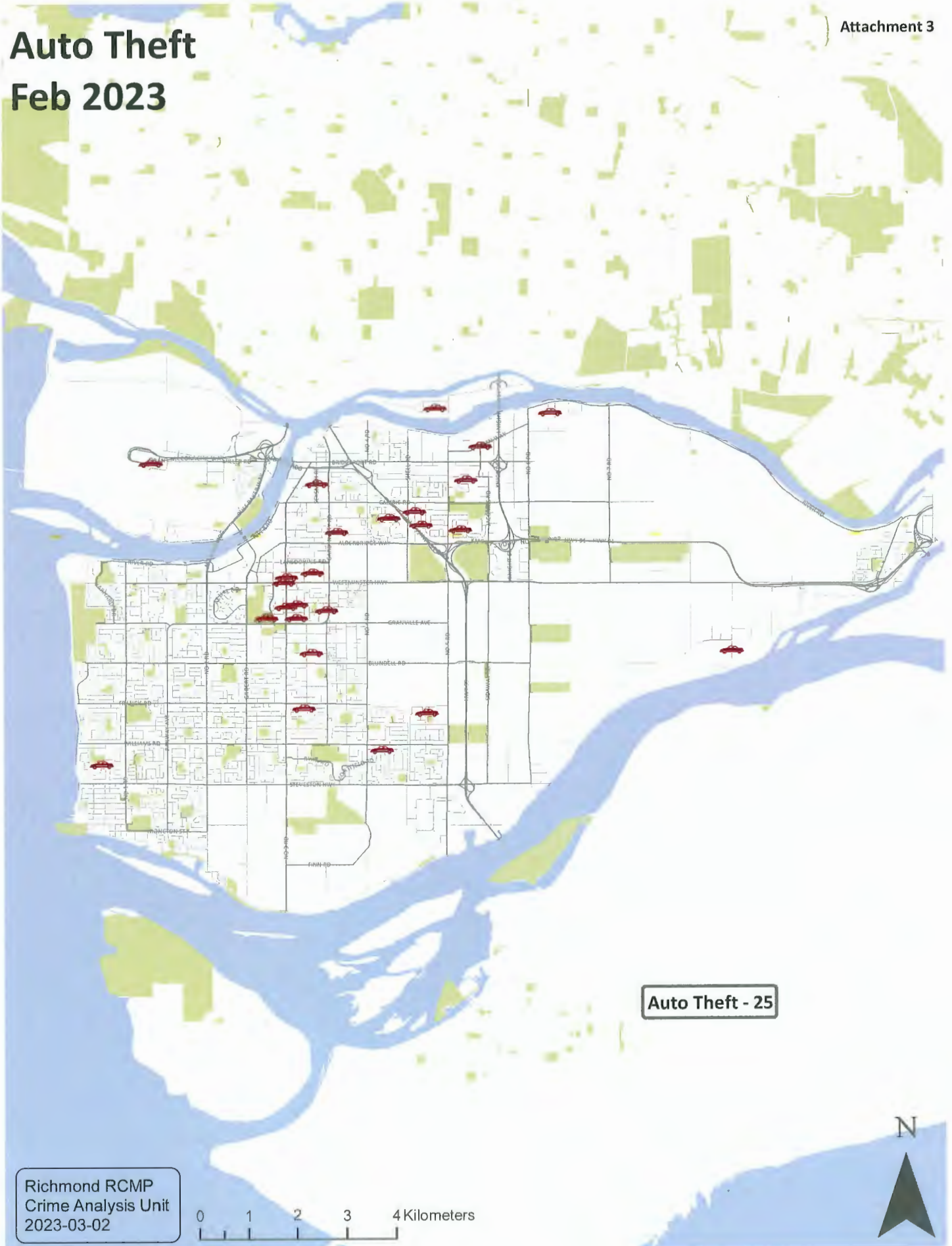


Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2023-03-02

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers



Auto Theft Feb 2023



Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2023-03-02

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

Auto Theft - 25

RCMP

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Richmond RCMP

Community Awareness Bulletin

Catalytic Converter Theft



Background

Richmond RCMP and police across the Lower Mainland are seeing a significant increase in catalytic converter thefts in recent years. Overall, ICBC claims for catalytic converter thefts have risen from 89 in 2017 to 1,953 in 2021, with an estimated cost of \$4 Million.

Catalytic converter theft is a crime of opportunity, but you can lessen your chances of becoming a victim.

Catalytic Converter Thefts in BC



What is a Catalytic Converter and Why Are They Being Stolen?



A catalytic converter is an exhaust emission control device that reduces pollutants in exhaust. They contain precious metals like rhodium, palladium and platinum, and are a target for thefts due to the increase in the prices of these metals. Catalytic converters are easy to access, are not marked with any identification, and are quick to remove making them popular targets for thieves.



How Are They Being Stolen?



Unfortunately, stealing a catalytic converter is very easy to do. Thieves usually slide underneath a vehicle with a battery-powered reciprocating saw or grinder and cut it right out of the exhaust line. It can take just 2 to 3 minutes to remove a catalytic converter, however, it does generate noise and sparks in the process, which can alert a vigilant public to a theft in progress. If your vehicle makes a lot of unusual noise once started your catalytic converter may have been stolen.



How You Can Deter Theft

- Whenever possible park in a secure garage or compound, if this is not an option park in a well-lit and well-populated area.
- Park so it is difficult to gain access under the vehicle. When possible park against a wall or closer to lower vehicles.
- There are products designed to deter catalytic converter theft, including engraving, wire cages, painting, alarms and straps.
- Business owners should secure their vehicles behind locked fences.
- Install good lighting and functional security cameras that you know how to use.



If You See Something, Say Something

A portable saw or grinder is typically used to remove the catalytic converter, resulting in loud noises and sparks. If you hear or see suspicious activity near parked vehicles report it to the police. If the suspicious activity is currently in progress call **9-1-1**. If the person of concern has left then call the non-emergency line at **604-278-1212**. If you are an unfortunate victim of catalytic converter theft please make sure to report it to your local police.



Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Gendarmerie royale du Canada

