



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Community Safety Committee

**Date:** January 8, 2021

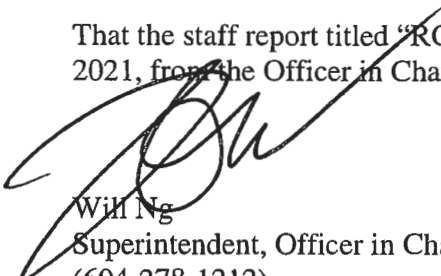
**From:** Will Ng  
Superintendent, Officer in Charge

**File:** 09-5000-01/2021-Vol  
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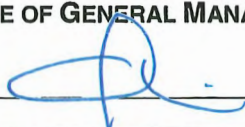

**Re:** RCMP Monthly Activity Report – December 2020

### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "RCMP Monthly Activity Report – December 2020", dated January 8, 2021, from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment, be received for information.

  
Will Ng  
Superintendent, Officer in Charge  
(604-278-1212)

Att. 3

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: MO
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. 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:

*Enhance and protect the safety and well-being of Richmond.*

### **Analysis**

#### **Activities and Noteworthy Files**

##### ***Safe Place Program***

On December 1, 2020, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release promoting the Safe Place program, which is a police-sponsored initiative for LGBTQ2S+ victims of crime. As part of the Safe Place program, participating schools, business and other institutions pledge to assist victims and witnesses of anti-LGBTQ2S+ crimes, while offering them a safe place to wait for police. Participating locations are identified by the Safe Place decal, which is placed prominently near the main entrance to the building.

##### ***Child Luring***

On December 3, 2020, a male driving a van approached a boy in the 10400 block of Seacote Road and attempted to lure him away. The boy immediately left the area and reported the incident to school officials, who contacted police. The Richmond RCMP issued a media release with a description of the suspect driver, in addition to a photograph of a vehicle of interest. The incident is under investigation.

##### ***Search Warrants***

On December 19, 2020, Richmond RCMP specialized units were assisted by the RCMP Lower Mainland Integrated Emergency Response Team with the execution of three search warrants.

The search warrants were the result of an ongoing investigation targeting a multi-jurisdictional crime group responsible for frauds throughout the province. Police arrested five suspects and seized stolen property, including a vehicle. Police also discovered materials used for the production of fraudulent identification and credit cards. The investigation is ongoing.

#### *Pedestrian Fatality*

On December 26, 2020, Richmond RCMP officers responded to a collision involving a pedestrian at the intersection of No. 2 Road and Andrews Road. A female pedestrian was struck by a vehicle while crossing at a marked crosswalk. The driver of the vehicle remained at the scene and was cooperative with police. The pedestrian was taken to hospital but later succumbed to her injuries. Richmond RCMP have ruled out alcohol and speed as contributing factors in the collision. The collision remains under investigation.

#### *Shooting*

On December 29, 2020, Richmond RCMP officers responded to a shooting in the 8000 block of Jones Road. Police located a 19-year-old male victim at the scene suffering from a gunshot wound. The man was transported to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. Police believe this was a targeted event and suspects have been identified. The incident remains under investigation and is not believed to be related to the ongoing Lower Mainland gang conflict.

#### Analysis of Police Statistics

##### *Arson*

In December 2020, there were 16 reported arsons, which is up 10 incidents from the previous month and up 15 incidents from December 2019. Investigators have identified suspects in three of these events. Police have also linked one of the suspicious fires to a series of arsons, which are under investigation. No additional patterns or trends have been identified. The number of arsons this month is above the expected range.

In 2020, the number of arsons was more than double the number reported in 2019. Police have identified links between a number of these events and the incidents remain under investigation.

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

There were 25 assault serious events in December 2020, which is a 79 per cent increase from the previous month and is more than three times the number reported in December 2019. Of the incidents reported this month, 32 per cent were domestic in nature. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of serious assaults this month is above the expected range.

In 2020, the number of assault serious events increased 36 per cent when compared to 2019. Criminal analysis has not identified any notable patterns or trends.

*Auto Theft*

In December 2020, there were 26 incidents of auto theft, which is a 10 per cent reduction from the previous month and a seven per cent reduction from December 2019. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of auto thefts this month is within the expected range.

In 2020, the number of auto thefts decreased eight per cent when compared to 2019.

*Drugs*

In December 2020, there were 28 drug files, which is down 20 per cent from the previous month and down 76 per cent from December 2019. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of drug incidents this month is within the expected range.

In 2020, the number of drug incidents decreased 20 per cent when compared to the total reported in 2019.

*Mental Health*

There were 141 mental health-related incidents in December 2020, which is up four per cent from the previous month and down 27 per cent from December 2019. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of mental health-related incidents this month is within the expected range.

Police apprehension numbers increased to 106 events this month, representing a 41 per cent increase from the previous month; 13 individuals accounted for 28 per cent of these events.<sup>1</sup> Conversely, the average hospital wait time decreased to 75 minutes, which is a 23 per cent reduction from the previous month and represents a return to the expected range.

The number of mental health-related incidents in 2020 decreased 17 per cent when compared to 2019.

*Residential Break and Enter*

There were 47 break and enters to residences in December 2020, which represents a four per cent increase from the previous month and a six per cent increase from December 2019. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of residential break and enters this month is within the expected range.

In 2020, residential break and enters decreased 21 per cent when compared to the number reported in 2019.

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<sup>1</sup> A person apprehended under the Mental Health Act may be brought to a hospital for assessment by a health practitioner who would determine if hospitalization, medical treatment or a further referral is required.

*Commercial Break and Enter*

In December 2020, there were 25 break and enters to businesses, which represents no change from the previous month and is down 26 per cent from December 2019. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of commercial break and enters this month is below the expected range.

In 2020, commercial break and enters decreased four per cent when compared to 2019.

*Robbery*

There were four robbery incidents in December 2020, which is up two incidents from the previous month and down two incidents from December 2019. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of robberies this month is within the expected range.

In 2020, the number of robberies decreased 35 per cent when compared to 2019.

*Sexual Offences*

In December 2020, there were nine sexual offence files, which represents a 31 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 25 per cent decrease from December 2019. Sexual offences declined for the fourth consecutive month in December 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of sexual offences this month is within the expected range.

In 2020, the number of sexual offences decreased 14 per cent when compared to the number reported in 2019.

*Shoplifting*

There were 65 shoplifting thefts in December 2020, which up 10 per cent from the previous month and down 30 per cent from December 2019. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of reported shoplifting thefts this month is within the expected range.

In 2020, shoplifting thefts decreased 38 per cent when compared to 2019.

*Theft from Automobile*

There were 141 theft from automobile incidents in December 2020, which is up four per cent from the previous month and down 30 per cent from December 2019. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of thefts from automobiles this month is below the expected range.

In 2020, the number of thefts from automobiles decreased 18 per cent when compared to 2019.

*COVID-19 Statistics*

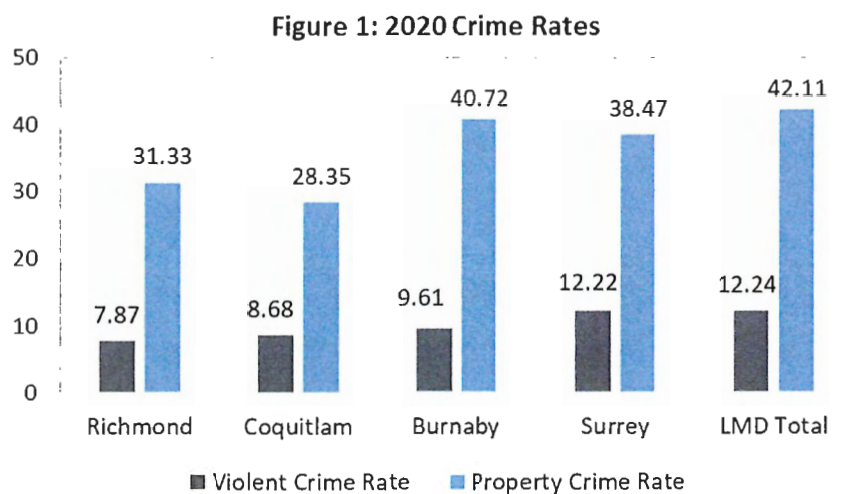
Table 1 outlines the number of police calls for service related to COVID-19. In December 2020, there were 35 COVID-19-related files and 36 Violation Tickets were issued under the *COVID-19-Related Measures Act*. Notable incidents occurred at the end of December and included a

large social gathering in a condominium. Police also discovered an illegal liquor den in a commercial area and issued 20 Violation Tickets, including 18 Violation Tickets for Failure to Wear Face Covering in Indoor Public Space.

Table 1: COVID-19-related Calls for Service December 2020	
Total COVID-19-related files	35
Quarantine Act (Federal)	3
Public Health Act (Provincial)	10
COVID-19-Related Measures Act	22

### Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions

Data on crime rates is presented in Figure 1.<sup>2</sup> 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 in 2020. Richmond's property crime rate decreased 12 per cent when compared to 2019.



### Auxiliary Program

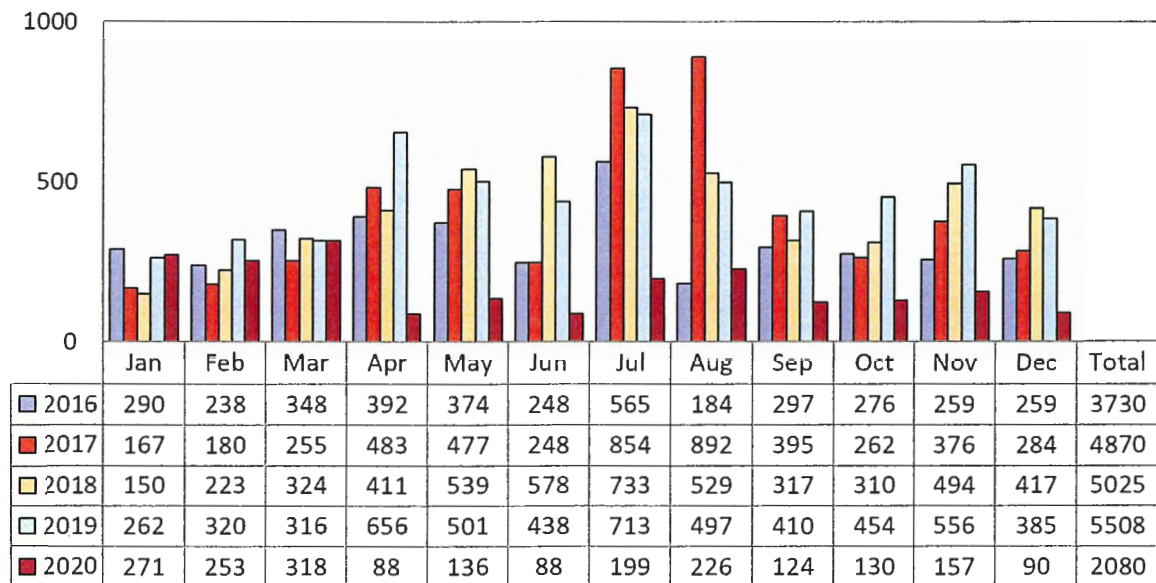
In December 2020, the Richmond RCMP Detachment had a complement of 31 Auxiliaries.<sup>3</sup> Due to COVID-19 safety protocols, volunteer activities have been significantly reduced. The number of volunteer hours in 2020 were considerably lower than in previous years. Auxiliaries provided a total of 90 volunteer hours during the month of December.

<sup>2</sup> Crime rate is calculated per 1,000 people (using 2020 population projections).

<sup>3</sup> Previously referred to as Auxiliary Constables.

Figure 2 compares the monthly hours of service provided from 2016 to 2020.

**Figure 2: Auxiliary Volunteer Hours**



#### *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 December, Auxiliaries participated in:

- Bait Car
- Departmental Operations Centre
- Home Security Checks (virtual)
- Media (videos shared on Twitter)
- Mobile App

#### Block Watch

At the end of December 2020, the Block Watch program had 309 groups totaling 6,732 participants. Currently, the program includes 442 captains and co-captains. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Block Watch program has suspended training for new 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. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all three community police stations have been closed to the public since March 2020. Volunteer deployments resumed in June, in accordance with guidelines established by RCMP "E" Division's Crime Prevention Services; however, the scope of volunteer activities has been limited. City staff and volunteers continue to pursue safety initiatives to enhance crime prevention program awareness, community engagement and police accessibility.



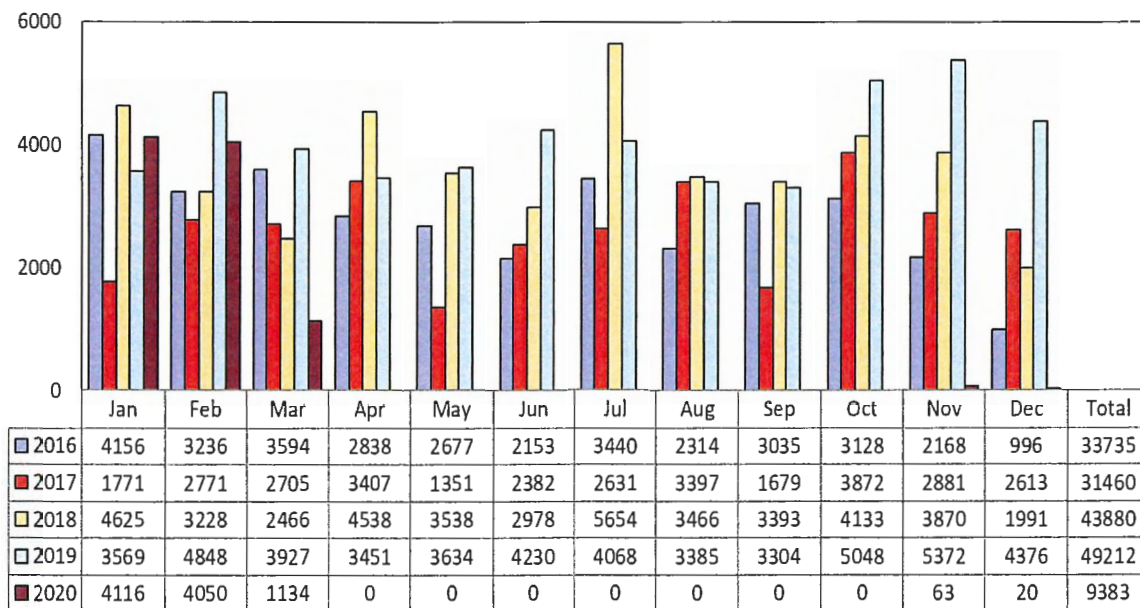
During the month of December volunteer highlights included:

- December 7 and 17 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with Lock Out Auto Crime deployments and issued 20 information letters. Crime prevention notices have been temporarily replaced by information letters, which are mailed to registered vehicle owners.
- December 12 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a Toy Drive Fundraiser at the Lansdowne Mall. Police officers wore Red Serge to raise money for the Richmond Christmas Fund.
- December 15 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a Speed Watch deployment. Nine information letters were mailed to registered vehicle owners.

### *Lock Out Auto Crime*

Figure 3 provides a comparison by year of the number of vehicle notices issued.<sup>4</sup>

**Figure 3: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice**



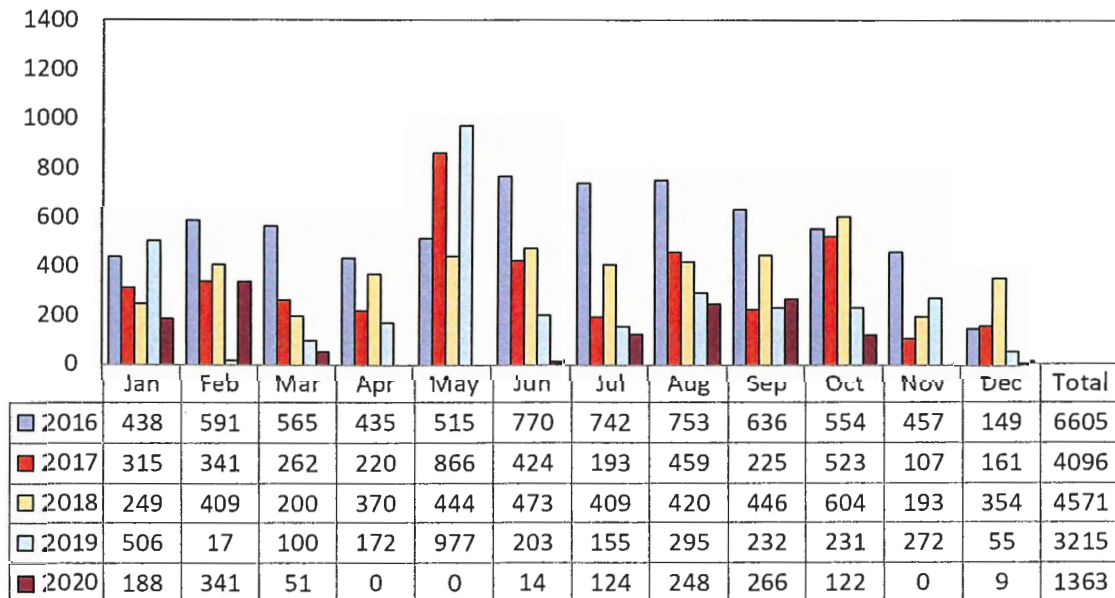
<sup>4</sup> Beginning in November 2020, Lock Out Auto Crime letters were issued in place of notices.



### 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 education initiatives. During the month of December, the Crime Prevention Unit participated in the following events/activities:

- Diversity & Inclusion Initiatives
- Lock Out Auto Crime
- Richmond Christmas Fund Event
- Safe Place Program
- Speed Watch
- S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Presentation

### 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. In December, the Road Safety Unit partnered with frontline officers and the Metro Vancouver Transit Police for increased road safety enforcement, including police road blocks. Notably, during one three-hour operation, officers issued 34 Violation Tickets and impounded/towed four vehicles. The offences included driving while prohibited, a 90-day Immediate Roadside Prohibition and two suspensions under the *Motor Vehicle Act*.

Table 2 compares statistics for December 2020 to both October 2020 and November 2020. Violation Tickets were issued for the following infractions:

Table 2: Violation Tickets Issued

<b>Infraction</b>	<b>October 2020</b>	<b>November 2020</b>	<b>December 2020</b>
Distracted Driving	130	84	122
Driver License	230	207	198
Impaired	23	27	35
Intersection Offences	55	54	55
Moving Infractions <sup>5</sup>	165	217	204
Speeding	288	332	289
Seatbelts	5	4	2
Vehicle Related <sup>6</sup>	99	82	109
Other <sup>7</sup>	7	0	49
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,002</b>	<b>1,007</b>	<b>1,063</b>

### Victim Services

In December 2020, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 53 new clients and attended seven crime/trauma scenes after hours. Victim Services reduced in-person client services in March 2020 and began offering services by phone but continue to attend some of the more serious calls in-person. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 207 files. In December, Victim Services responded to a number of cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, mental health issues and a fatal pedestrian accident.

### 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 December, Youth Section highlights included:

- Twenty Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) classes delivered via Zoom as the program continued through virtual lessons. The first term of the program successfully concluded with virtual DARE graduations.
- RCMP officers in the Youth Section conducted 33 proactive school visits at Secondary Schools and 25 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.

<sup>5</sup> Moving infractions refers to unsafe lane change and unsafe passing.

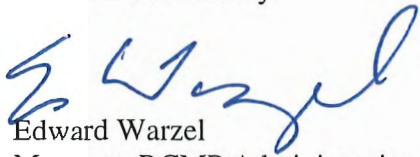
<sup>6</sup> Vehicle related refers to vehicle defects, for example no lights and no insurance.

<sup>7</sup> Other refers to miscellaneous charges including fail to remain at the scene of an accident and failing to stop for police.

## Conclusion

In December 2020, the Richmond RCMP conducted a number of noteworthy investigations, including the execution of search warrants relating to a multi-jurisdictional crime group and the targeted shooting of a 19-year-old man. There was also a pedestrian fatality this month, which remains under investigation. Police statistics for 2020 indicate that there were notable reductions in almost all crime types, including a 35 per cent decrease in robberies and a 21 per cent decrease in residential break and enters. The property crime rate in 2020 also declined by 12 per cent.

In December, the Richmond RCMP promoted the Safe Place program, a police sponsored initiative for LGBTQ2S+ victims of crime. In addition, the first term of the DARE program successfully concluded with virtual lessons and student graduations. The Officer in Charge of the Richmond RCMP Detachment will continue to ensure that Richmond remains a safe and desirable community.



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

EW:

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

### 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](http://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](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.

#### 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.



## DECEMBER 2020 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.

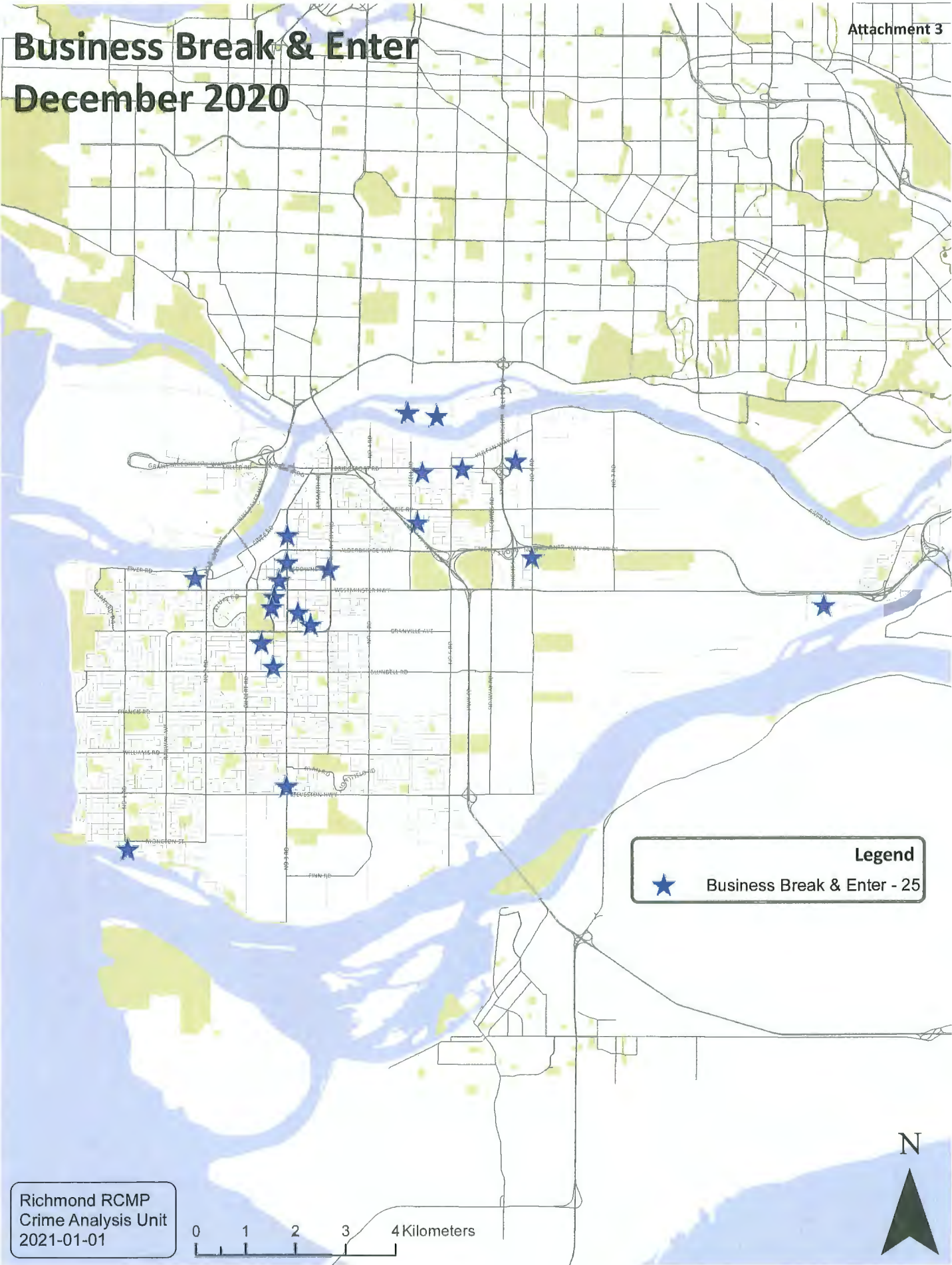
The 5 year average range data is based on activity within a single month over the past 5 years. If the current monthly total for an offence is above the expected average range (using one standard deviation) due to crime trends, patterns, or spikes, it will be noted in **red**. If the current monthly 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			
	Dec-20	December		2019	2020	% Change	# Change
<b>VIOLENT CRIME</b> (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	<b>144</b>	<b>110.2</b>	<b>92-129</b>	<b>1733</b>	<b>1704</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>-29</b>
Robbery <small>UCR 18 10 (1-3)</small>	4	4.4	2-6	83	54	-35%	-29
Assault Common <small>UCR 14 30</small>	53	43.8	33-54	631	611	-3%	-20
Assault Serious <small>UCR 14 10, 14 20</small>	25	10.0	7-13	127	173	36%	46
Sexual Offences <small>UCR 14 5, 14 36, 14 54, 14 55, 14 56, 14 57, 14 58, 14 59, 14 60, 14 61, 14 62, 14 63, 14 64, 14 65, 14 66, 14 67, 14 68, 14 69, 14 70, 14 71, 14 72, 14 73, 14 74, 14 75, 14 76, 14 77, 14 78, 14 79, 14 80, 14 81, 14 82, 14 83, 14 84, 14 85, 14 86, 14 87, 14 88, 14 89, 14 90, 14 91, 14 92, 14 93, 14 94, 14 95, 14 96, 14 97, 14 98, 14 99</small>	9	8.6	5-12	221	189	-14%	-32
<b>PROPERTY CRIME</b> (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	<b>592</b>	<b>665.4</b>	<b>621-710</b>	<b>7831</b>	<b>6712</b>	<b>-14%</b>	<b>-1119</b>
Business B&E <small>UCR 2 120-1</small>	25	41.8	38-46	395	379	-4%	-16
Residential B&E <small>UCR 2 120-2</small>	47	63.6	42-86	583	462	-21%	-121
Auto Theft <small>UCR 2 135 (1-10), 2 178</small>	26	29.2	24-35	302	277	-8%	-25
Theft from Auto <small>UCR 2 132, 2 141</small>	141	202.4	175-230	2041	1671	-18%	-370
Theft <small>UCR 2 130, 2 140</small>	49	96.2	87-105	1159	703	-39%	-456
Shoplifting <small>UCR 2 133, 2 143</small>	65	64.6	49-80	1037	641	-38%	-396
Fraud <small>UCR 2 134, 2 135, 2 136, 2 137, 2 138, 2 139, 2 140, 2 141, 2 142, 2 143, 2 144, 2 145, 2 146, 2 147, 2 148, 2 149, 2 150, 2 151, 2 152, 2 153, 2 154, 2 155, 2 156, 2 157, 2 158, 2 159, 2 160, 2 161, 2 162, 2 163, 2 164, 2 165, 2 166, 2 167, 2 168, 2 169, 2 170, 2 171, 2 172, 2 173, 2 174, 2 175, 2 176, 2 177, 2 178, 2 179, 2 180, 2 181, 2 182, 2 183, 2 184, 2 185, 2 186, 2 187, 2 188, 2 189, 2 190, 2 191, 2 192, 2 193, 2 194, 2 195, 2 196, 2 197, 2 198, 2 199</small>	77	63.0	51-75	894	874	-2%	-20
<b>OTHER CRIMINAL CODE</b> (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	<b>217</b>	<b>182.2</b>	<b>162-203</b>	<b>2329</b>	<b>2316</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>-13</b>
Arson <small>UCR 3 120, 3 121</small>	16	2.6	1-4	35	87	149%	52
<b>SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES</b> (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	<b>954</b>	<b>957.8</b>	<b>892-1024</b>	<b>10873</b>	<b>10878</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>DRUGS</b> (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	<b>28</b>	<b>58.0</b>	<b>25-91</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>-20%</b>	<b>-147</b>
<b>MHA RELATED CALLS</b> (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	<b>141</b>	<b>144.0</b>	<b>118-170</b>	<b>2291</b>	<b>1907</b>	<b>-17%</b>	<b>-384</b>

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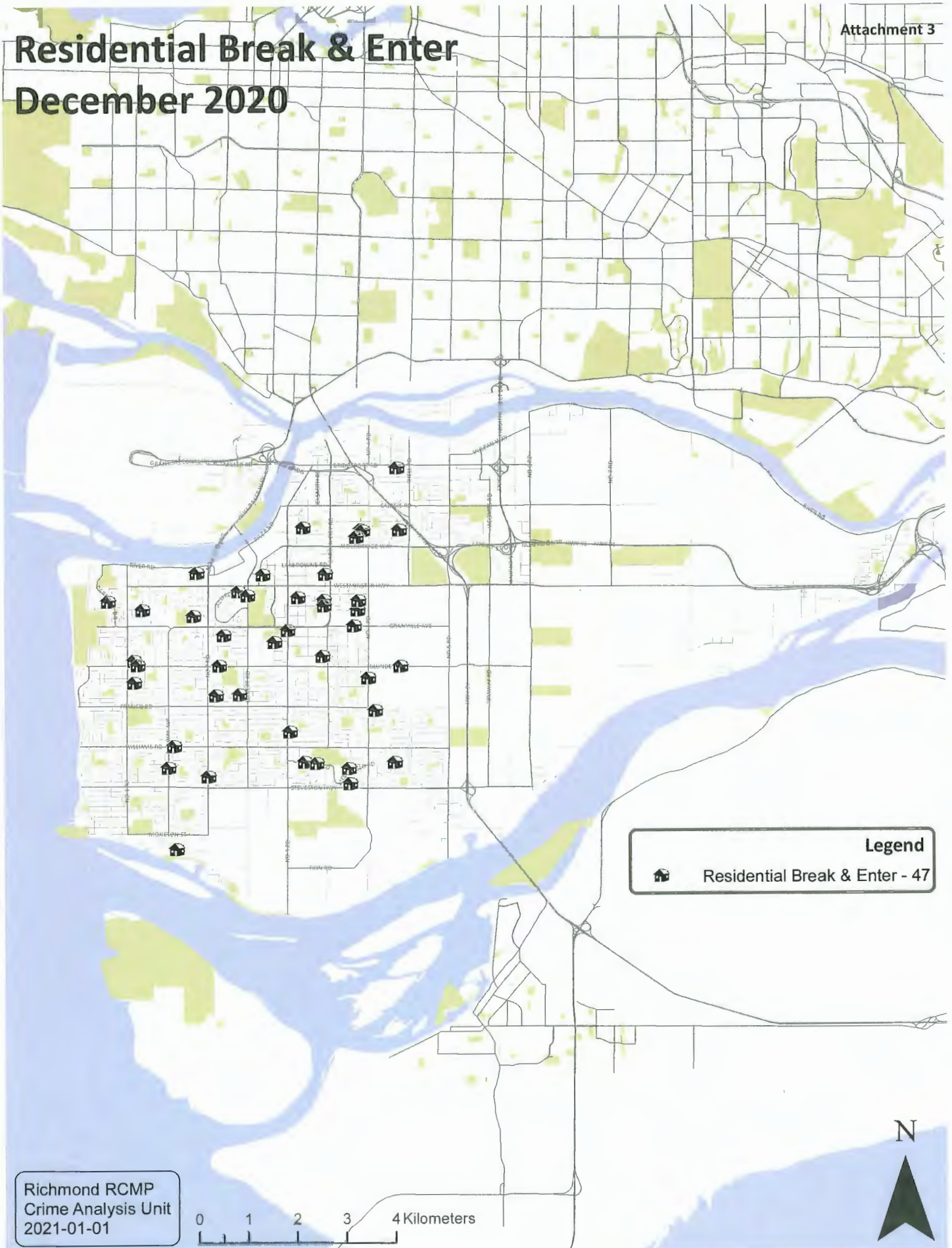
# Business Break & Enter December 2020



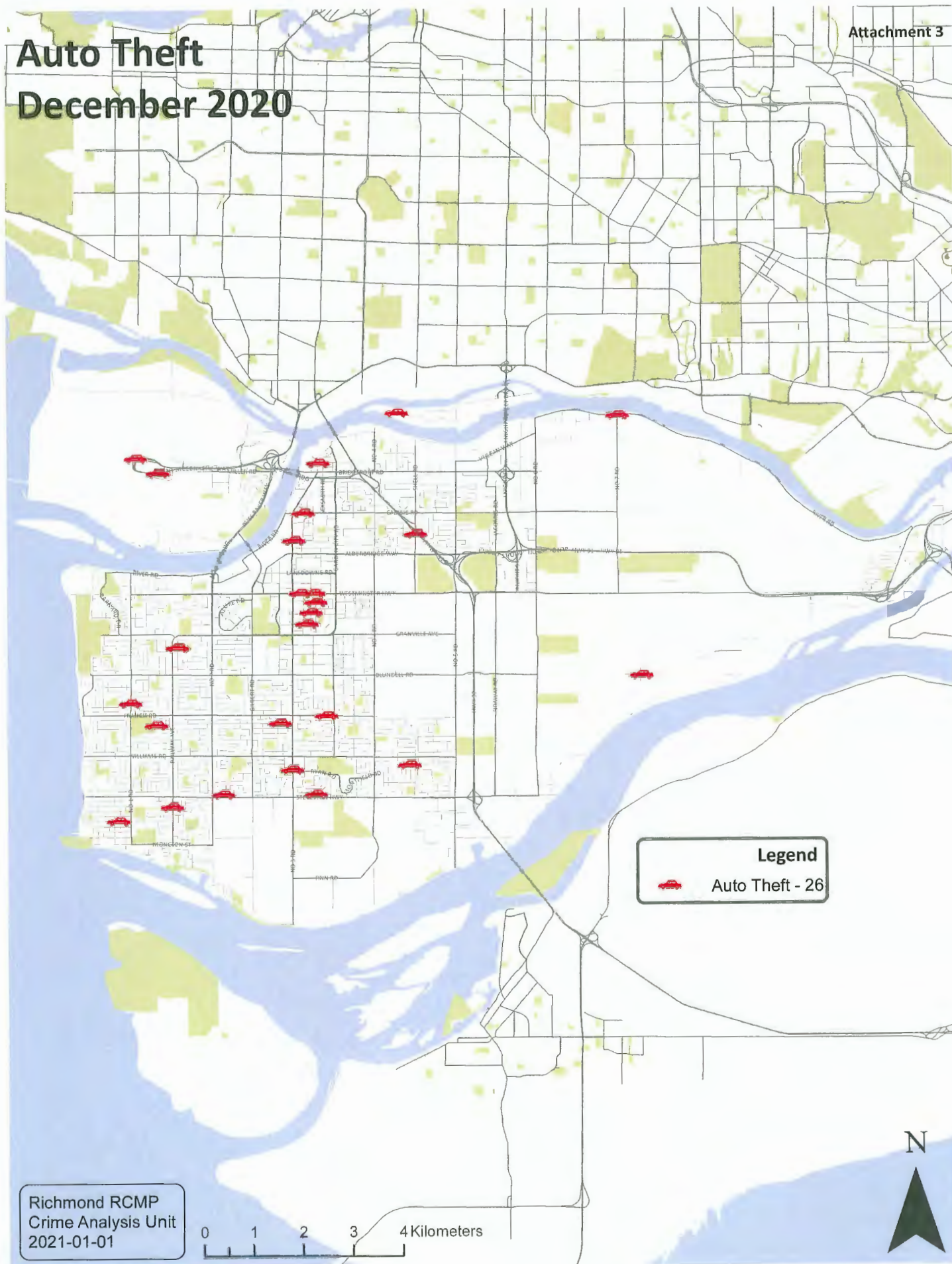
Richmond RCMP  
Crime Analysis Unit  
2021-01-01



# Residential Break & Enter December 2020

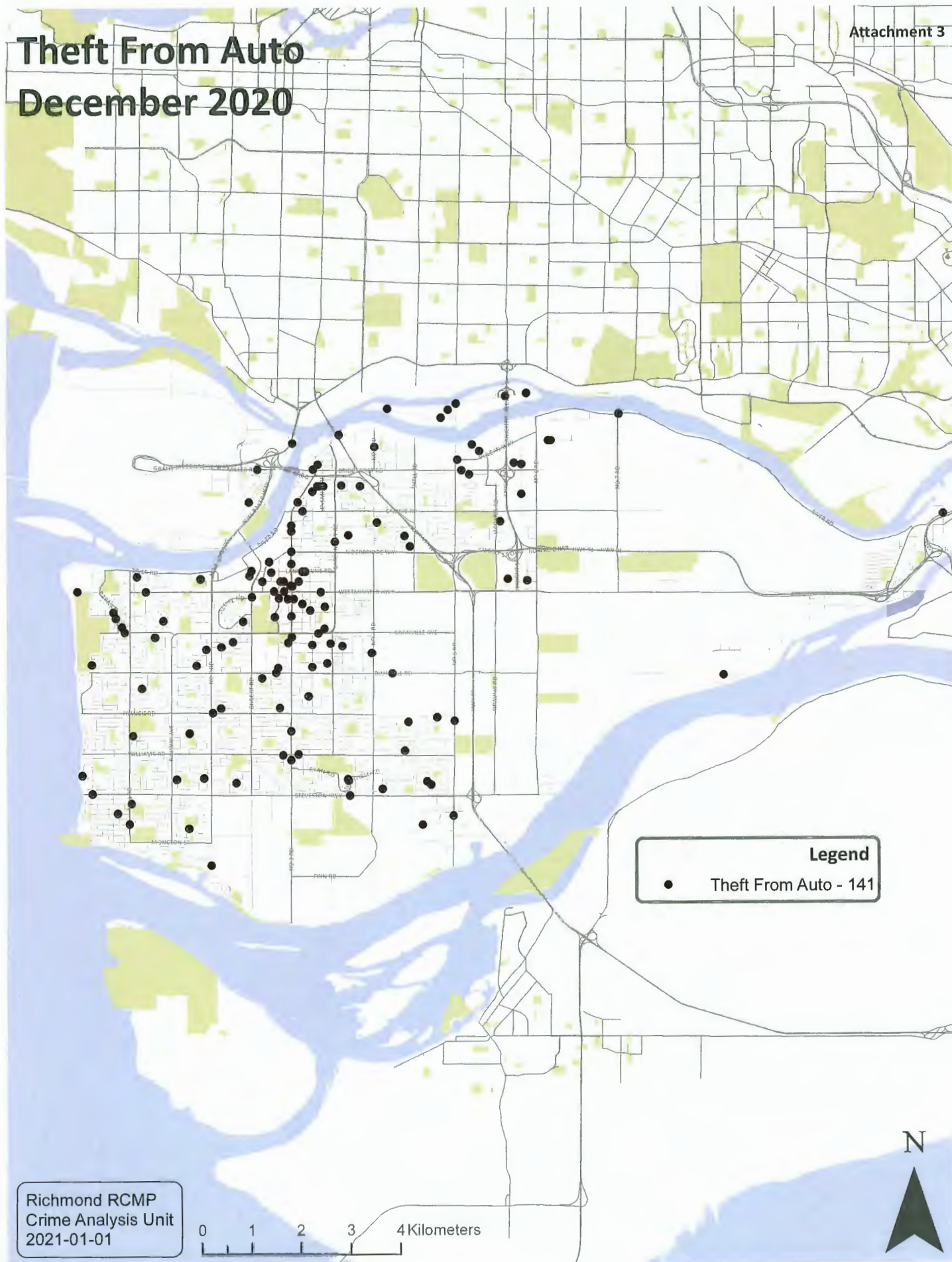


# Auto Theft December 2020





# Theft From Auto December 2020



**Legend**  
● Theft From Auto - 141

Richmond RCMP  
Crime Analysis Unit  
2021-01-01

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

