



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** December 14, 2023
From: Dave Chauhan **File:** 09-5000-01/2023-Vol
Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge 01
Re: RCMP Monthly Activity Report – November 2023

Recommendation from the OIC

That the report titled “RCMP Monthly Activity Report – November 2023”, dated December 14, 2023, from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment, be received for information.

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

Att. 3

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 of 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 #1 Proactive in Stakeholder and Civic Engagement:

Proactive stakeholder and civic engagement to foster understanding and involvement and advance Richmond's interests.

Analysis

Activities and Noteworthy Files

Arrests

On November 14, 2023, Richmond RCMP officers responded to Alderbridge Way and Cedarbridge Way following a report of a vehicle collision. Police determined that the occupants of one vehicle had targeted the other vehicle for a robbery. Three occupants of the suspect vehicle were arrested. The incident remains under investigation.

Toy Drive

On November 18, 2023, the Richmond RCMP hosted its 9th Annual Christmas Toy Drive in partnership with Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives and Richmond Fire-Rescue. The fundraising event was held outside of Lansdowne Centre and featured mini-donuts for supporters who donated. Over \$29,000 in cash and 4.6 tons in toys were collected to support the Richmond Christmas Fund.

Cryptocurrency Fraud

On November 24, 2023, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release advising that charges had been laid in a complex cryptocurrency fraud investigation stemming from a home invasion in

September 2022. Approximately 10 million dollars were stolen in the incident. A 34-year-old Richmond man is facing 11 charges, including robbery, forcible confinement and assault.

Double Homicide

On November 30, 2023, Richmond RCMP officers attended a residence in the 6200 block of Goldsmith Drive for a report of a suspicious circumstance. Upon attendance, police located the bodies of a 46-year-old man and a 13-year-old boy. The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team is conducting the investigation.

Analysis of Police Statistics

Arson

In November 2023, there were ten reported arsons, an increase of seven incidents from the previous month and an increase of three incidents from November 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of arsons this month is above the average range.

Approximately half of the incidents are believed to be connected to homeless persons setting fires to keep warm.

Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)

There were 16 serious assault events in November 2023, representing a 14 per cent increase from the previous month and no change from November 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of serious assaults this month is within the average range.

There was one unprovoked stranger assault in November 2023; police arrested the suspect after receiving multiple 911 calls reporting a man threatening people with a knife.

Auto Theft

In November 2023, there were 21 auto theft incidents, an eleven per cent increase from the previous month and an 11 per cent increase from November 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of auto thefts this month is within the average range.

Drugs

In November 2023, there were 44 drug offences, a two per cent decrease from the previous month and a 15 per cent decrease from November 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of drug incidents this month is within the average range.

Approximately 75 per cent of the files in November 2023 occurred at the Vancouver International Airport.

Mental Health

There were 213 mental health-related incidents in November 2023, a 15 per cent decrease from the previous month and a seven per cent decrease from November 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of mental health-related incidents this month is below the average range.

There were 18 police apprehensions this month, the lowest number recorded in over five years. However, the average hospital wait time was 132 minutes and above the monthly average. The extended wait time has been attributed to five files with exceptionally long wait times.

Residential Break and Enter

There were 13 break and enters to residences in November 2023, a 50 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 19 per cent decrease from November 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of residential break and enters this month is below the average range.

Commercial Break and Enter

In November 2023, there were 29 break and enters to businesses, representing a six per cent decrease from the previous month and a 16 per cent increase from November 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 six robberies in November 2023, half the number of incidents from the previous month, and there was an increase of three incidents from November 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of robberies this month is within the average range.

Eight persons of interest have been identified to date.

Sexual Offences

In November 2023, there were 15 sexual offence files, representing a 15 per cent increase from the previous month and a six per cent decrease from November 2022.¹ No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of sexual offences this month is within the average range.

Approximately 53 per cent of the incidents were sexual assaults. Suspects have been identified in 73 per cent of the offences reported in November 2023.

¹ 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.

Shoplifting

There were 112 reported shoplifting thefts in November 2023, a 17 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 75 per cent increase from November 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of shoplifting thefts this month is above the average range.

The top targeted location remained consistent with previous months. Twenty-two per cent of the identified suspects are Richmond residents.

Theft from Automobile

There were 80 thefts from automobile incidents in November 2023, a 51 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 29 per cent decrease from November 2022. The number of thefts from automobiles this month is below the average range.

Hate Crimes and Incidents

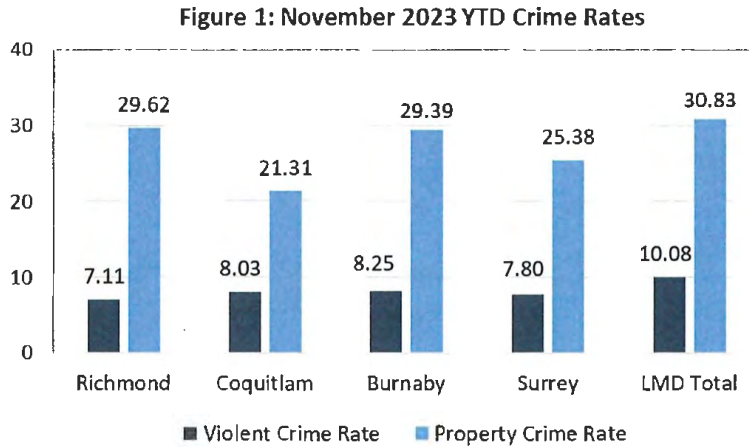
Table 1 presents the number of hate crimes and hate incidents reported between January 1, 2019 and November 30, 2023.² A “hate crime” refers to any criminal offence targeting an identifiable group. The criteria for an offence to be considered a hate crime, as per the *Criminal Code*, carries a higher 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. No hate crimes or incidents were reported in November 2023.

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)	6	19	25

² 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 1.³ In November 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.



Block Watch

At the end of November 2023, the Block Watch program had 307 groups, totalling 7,090 participants. Currently, the program includes 442 captains and co-captains.

Community Police Station Programs

Community police stations continue to enhance the Richmond Detachment’s policing services by providing various crime prevention resources and community safety initiatives. City staff and volunteers pursue safety initiatives to improve 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, reflecting weather conditions, seasonal initiatives and the availability of volunteers.

During November, volunteer highlights included:

- The deployment of two volunteer foot/van patrols, totalling 18 hours.
- A total of 14 Fail to Stop deployments took place, resulting in 477 information letters issued.
- There were 23 Lock Out Auto Crime deployments, resulting in 527 information letters issued.
- Speed Watch was conducted on 1,454 vehicles, resulting in 109 information letters issued.

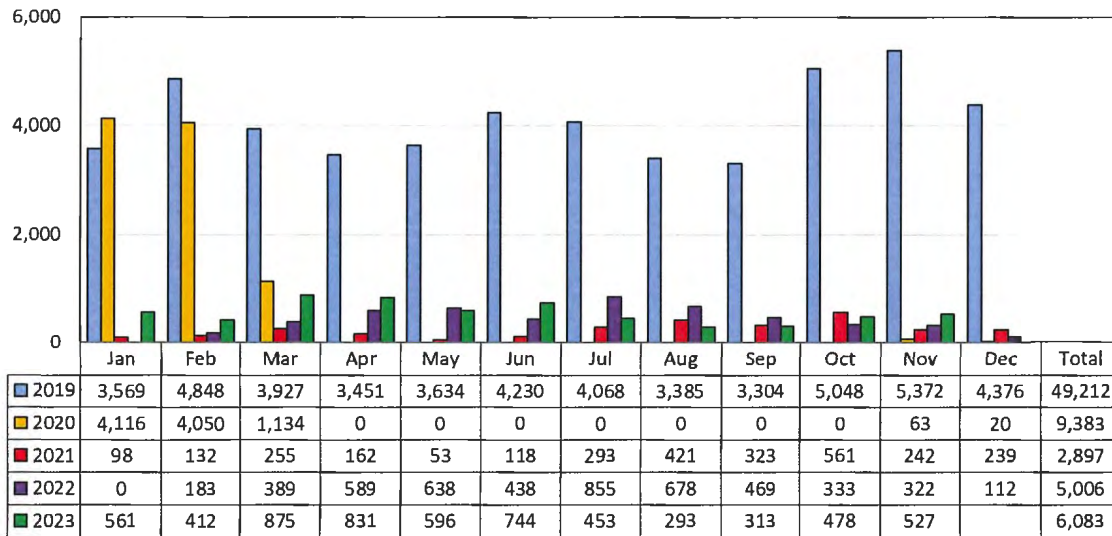
³ Crime rate is year to date (YTD) and calculated per 1,000 people.

- November 4 – In partnership with ICBC, volunteers participated in a Walk Richmond event at South Arm Park.⁴ Volunteers provided pedestrian safety information, safety reflectors and Community Safety App cards.
- November 8 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with pedestrian safety outreach at Lansdowne Mall and T&T Supermarket and distributed 1,200 safety reflectors.
- November 10 – Volunteers hosted a Crime Prevention information booth at the South Arm Community Centre, providing crime prevention resources and distributing safety reflectors.
- November 11 – 14 volunteers attended the Remembrance Day ceremony and conducted foot patrols, assisting with barricades, the command post and reception.
- November 15 – In partnership with ICBC, RCMP officers and volunteers attended a Seniors Wellness Clinic at the Minoru Centre for Active Living. They promoted Crime Prevention programs, the Community Safety App, and distributed safety reflectors.
- November 18 – Over 25 volunteers assisted with the Toy Drive, including handing out stickers and DARE resources and assisting with the photo booth and mascot handling.

Lock Out Auto Crime

Figure 2 provides a yearly comparison of the number of vehicle notices issued.⁵

Figure 2: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice



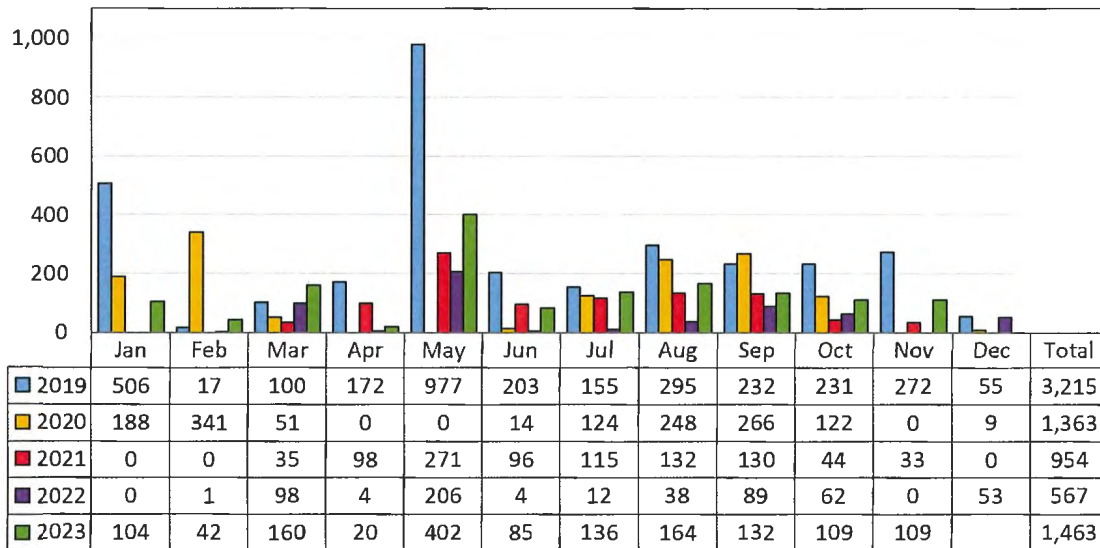
⁴ Walk Richmond is a City initiative promoting physical activity by offering free walks and resources throughout the year.

⁵ 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 compares the number of letters sent to registered vehicle owners yearly.

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 November, the Crime Prevention Unit participated in the following events/activities:

- Business Outreach
- Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives
- Pedestrian Safety
- Place of Worship Patrols
- Remembrance Day
- Toy Drive

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 November 2023 to both October 2023 and September 2023. Violation tickets were issued for the following infractions:

Table 2: Violation Tickets Issued

Infraction	September 2023	October 2023	November 2023
Distracted Driving	89	73	72
Driver License	175	179	146
Impaired	28	22	34
Intersection Offences	47	38	41

Infraction	September 2023	October 2023	November 2023
Moving Infractions ⁶	56	73	85
Speeding	195	282	160
Seatbelts	6	10	7
Vehicle-Related ⁷	112	139	108
Other ⁸	20	8	15
Total	728	824	668

Victim Services

In November 2023, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 45 new clients and attended five crime/trauma scenes after hours. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 80 files. In November, Victim Services responded to several cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, family conflicts and frauds.

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 November, Youth Section highlights included:

- RCMP officers in the Youth Section conducted 55 proactive school visits at secondary schools and 64 visits at elementary schools. Police officers engaged with students during recess, lunch and morning and afternoon supervision.
- DARE classes were delivered to 280 elementary school students in 11 classes.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

In November 2023, the Richmond RCMP conducted several noteworthy investigations, including a robbery and double homicide. Police statistics for this month indicate that most crime types were within the average ranges, except for arson and shoplifting thefts, which were elevated and residential break and enters, mental health-related incidents and thefts from automobiles, which were below average.

In November, the Richmond RCMP hosted its 9th Annual Toy Drive to support the Richmond Christmas Fund. The Community Engagement Team and volunteers continued promoting crime prevention and road safety initiatives, including pedestrian safety outreach. The Officer in

⁶ Moving infractions refers to unsafe lane change and unsafe passing.

⁷ Vehicle related refers to vehicle defects, for example no lights and no insurance.

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

December 14, 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

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.



NOVEMBER 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.

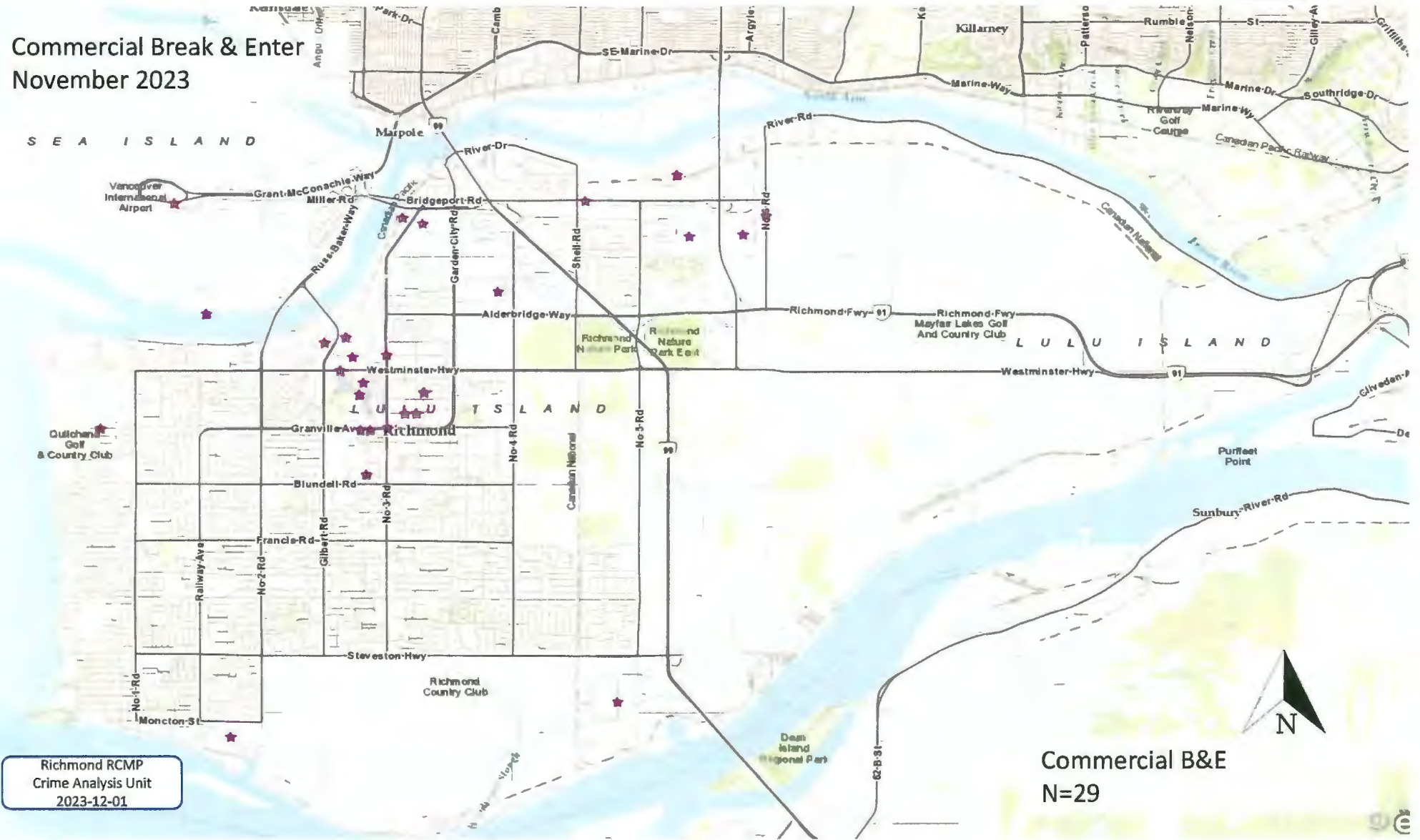
This chart identifies the monthly totals for founded Criminal Code incidents, excluding traffic-related Criminal Code incidents. Based on Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) scoring, there are three categories: (1) Violent Crime, (2) Property Crime, and (3) Other Criminal Code. Within each category, particular 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 is based on activity within a single month over the past 5 years. If the current monthly total for an offence falls outside the 5 year range (using one standard deviation) due to crime trends, patterns, or spikes, it will be noted in **red** if higher and **blue** if below. If the current monthly total for an offence is above the 5 year range due to primarily non-operational reasons such as the new UCR

	Month	5-Yr Avg	5-Yr Range	Year to Date Totals			
	Nov - 23	November		2022	2023	% Change	# Change
VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	155	137.0	123-151	1383	1689	22%	306
Robbery UCR 1610 (1-3)	6	4.0	1-7	52	58	12%	6
Assault Common UCR 1430	54	51.2	47-55	491	546	11%	55
Assault Serious UCR 1410, 1420	16	13.6	11-17	176	217	23%	41
Sexual Offences	15	16.6	12-21	175	202	15%	27
PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	664	567.4	510-625	5726	7214	26%	1488
Business B&E UCR 2120 1	29	27.0	19-35	301	286	-5%	-15
Residential B&E UCR	13	47.0	22-72	251	255	2%	4
Auto Theft UCR 2135 (1-10), 2178	21	23.0	19-27	216	232	7%	16
Theft from Auto UCR 32, 2142	80	139.8	114-166	1167	1339	15%	172
Theft UCR 2130 2140	121	78.4	66-91	881	1253	42%	372
Shoplifting UCR 2143	112	59.2	51-68	692	1170	69%	478
Fraud	100	71.0	60-82	679	927	37%	248
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	248	194.0	148-240	2508	2946	17%	438
Arson UCR 3030, 2110	10	6.0	4-8	78	70	-10%	-8
SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	1067	898.6	848-950	9623	11853	23%	2230
DRUGS (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	44	46.4	17-76	428	514	20%	86
MHA RELATED CALLS (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	213	245.4	230-260	1646	2611	59%	965

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Commercial Break & Enter November 2023



Richmond RCMP
 Crime Analysis Unit
 2023-12-01



Commercial B&E
 N=29

Residential Break & Enter November 2023

SEA ISLAND

LULU ISLAND

LULU ISLAND

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2023-12-01

Residential Break & Enter
N=13



Auto Theft November 2023

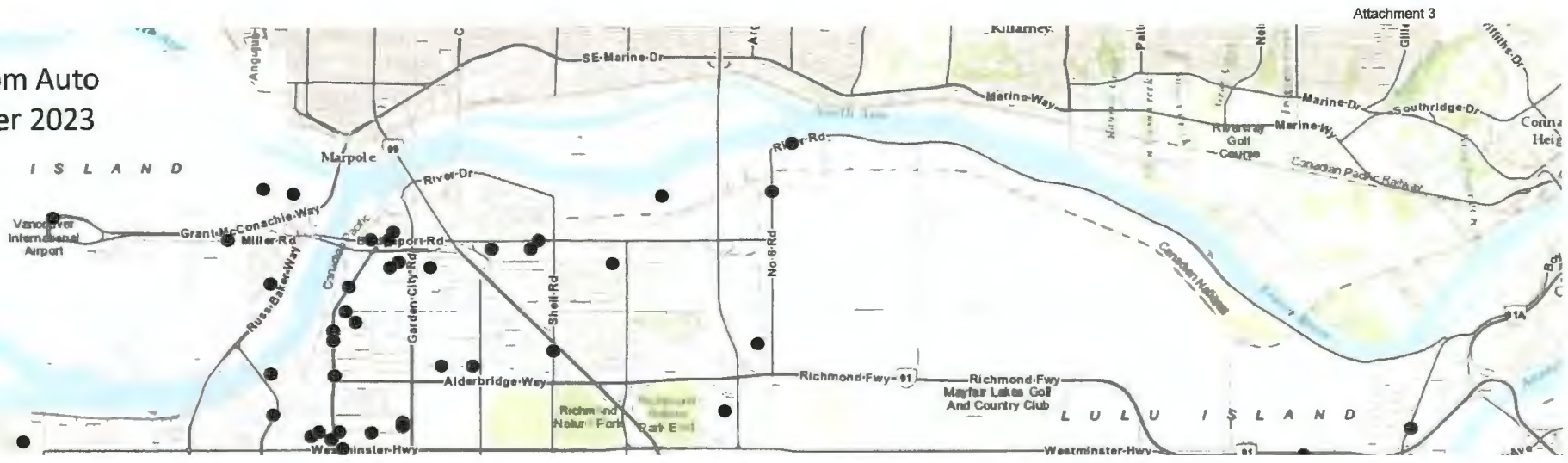
SEA ISLAND

Quilchena
Golf
& Country Club



Theft From Auto November 2023

S E A I S L A N D



Attachment 3