



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

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**To:** Community Safety Committee **Date:** December 9, 2019  
**From:** Cecilia Achiam **File:** 09-5000-01/2019-Vol  
General Manager, Community Safety 01  
**Re:** RCMP Monthly Activity Report – November 2019

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### Staff Recommendation

That the report titled “RCMP Monthly Activity Report – November 2019”, dated December 9, 2019, from the General Manager, Community Safety, be received for information.

Cecilia Achiam  
General Manager, Community Safety  
(604-276-4122)

Att. 3

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS:  CA
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

##### *Toy Drive*

On November 16, 2019, the Richmond RCMP held its fifth annual Toy Drive and Pancake Breakfast in support of the Richmond Christmas Fund. The event was hosted at Ironwood Mall and included the participation of local community partners and sponsors. Members of the public who made a donation received a free pancake breakfast. The Richmond RCMP, in addition to collecting a large quantity of toys, raised \$10,000 for the Richmond Christmas fund.

##### *Fatal Vehicle Collision*

On November 19, 2019, Richmond RCMP officers responded to the area of No. 4 Road and Tomicki Avenue for reports of a single vehicle collision involving a hydro pole. The driver, an 83-year-old Richmond man, was taken to hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. The Richmond RCMP Criminal Collision Investigation Team is investigating.

##### *Missing Person*

On November 21, 2019, the Richmond RCMP issued a public appeal for assistance in locating a missing 75-year-old woman. Richmond RCMP officers were deployed in the search and received assistance from a number of community partners, including the Canadian Coast Guard, Surrey

Search and Rescue, Richmond-Fire-Rescue and Lower Mainland Integrated Teams. The investigation is ongoing.

### *Suspicious Occurrences*

On November 18 and 27, 2019, Richmond RCMP officers responded to the 11000 block of Oldfield Drive for a report of a suspicious occurrence. The first incident involved two men posing as City of Richmond Bylaw officers. The suspects were armed and forced their way into the residence; however, the female occupant of the home was able to contact authorities, causing the men to flee. On November 27, 2019, Richmond RCMP officers responded to the same residence for a break and enter. Investigators believe the incidents were targeted. Richmond RCMP issued a media release with a composite sketch of one of the suspects. The investigation is ongoing.

### *Volunteer Appreciation*

On November 28, 2019, the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner was held at the Executive Airport Plaza Hotel in Richmond. The event recognized 239 Richmond Detachment volunteers from the Auxiliary program, Victim Services and the three community police stations: City Centre, South Arm and Steveston. These volunteers contributed 21,327 hours from September 2018 to September 2019.

### Analysis of Police Statistics

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

### *Arson*

In November 2019, there were three reported incidents of arson, representing no change from the previous month. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of arsons this month is half the number of incidents reported in November 2018 and remains within the five-year average range.

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

*Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)*

There were 14 assault serious events in November 2019, which is up 27 per cent from October 2019 and up 75 per cent from November 2018, during which a statistically low number of serious assaults were reported. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of serious assaults this month is slightly above the five-year average range. This increase is likely attributed to the CCJS scoring changes.

*Auto Theft*

There were 22 auto theft incidents this month, which represents a 37 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 14 per cent decrease from November 2018. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of auto thefts this month is below the five-year average range.

*Drugs*

In November 2019, there were 101 drug incidents, which represent a four per cent decrease from the previous month. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of drug incidents this month is five times the number recorded in November 2018 and is significantly above the five-year average range.

The majority of the drug offences this month originated as Canada Customs seizures at YVR. The spike in drug offences is largely attributed to the processing of a backlog of drug exhibits.

*Mental Health*

There were 169 mental health incidents in November 2019, which is down 38 per cent from October 2019 but still represents a 42 per cent increase from November 2018. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of mental health incidents has been significantly above the five-year average range in every month of 2019. Year to date, mental health-related files are up 50 per cent compared to the same period in 2018.

There were 76 police apprehensions this month and hospital wait times averaged 84 minutes, indicating that both numbers have remained consistent with previous months.

*Residential Break and Enter*

There were 57 break and enters to residences in November 2019, which represents a 46 per cent increase from the previous month and a 35 per cent decrease from November 2018. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of residential break and enters this month is within the five-year average range. Year to date, there has been a 24 per cent reduction in residential break and enters compared to the same period last year.

*Commercial Break and Enter*

In November 2019, there were 41 break and enters to businesses, which represents a 29 per cent decrease from October 2019 and a 41 per cent increase from November 2018. No patterns or

trends have been identified. Commercial break and enters are above the five-year average range. Year to date totals are up eight per cent from the same period in 2018.

Recent investigations have yielded positive results and last month's trend of increased break and enters to underground parkades has notably diminished after the arrest of a key suspect. In addition, six files in this month relate to an investigation from earlier in the year.

### *Robbery*

There were nine robbery incidents in November 2019, which is down one incident from the previous month. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of robberies this month is more than four times the number recorded in November 2018, during which there was a statistically low number of robberies. The number of robberies this month is within the five-year average range.

### *Sexual Offences*

There were 17 sexual offence files in November 2019, which represents no change from the previous month and a 42 per cent increase from November 2018. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of sex offences this month is above the five-year average range.

Year to date, sexual offences are up 61 per cent compared to the same period in 2018. Crime analysts have identified that this increase is likely due to CCJS scoring changes. The incidents this month include eleven sexual assaults. In the majority of these incidents the victim and suspect were known to each other.

### *Shoplifting*

There were 64 shoplifting thefts in November 2019, which represents a 32 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 49 per cent increase from November 2018. No patterns or trends have been identified. Reported shoplifting thefts had been above the five-year average range since March 2019, however they are within the normal range this month.

### *Theft from Automobile*

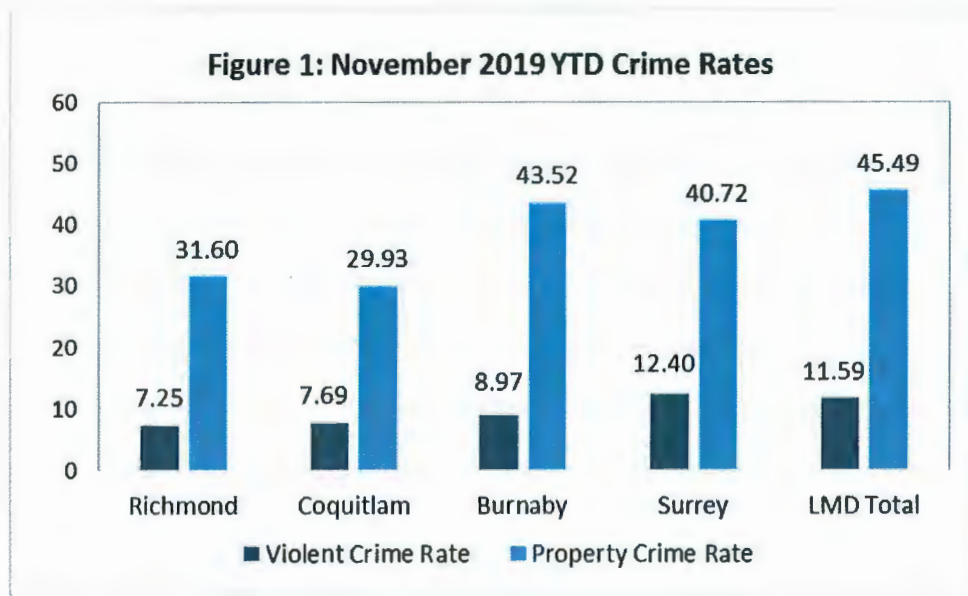
There were 187 theft from automobile incidents in November 2019, which represents a 15 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 31 per cent increase from November 2018. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of thefts from automobiles this month is within the five-year average range. Year to date, there has been a nine per cent decrease in thefts from automobiles compared to the same period in 2018.

### Crime Trends across Jurisdictions

Data on crime rates is presented below (Figure 1).<sup>2</sup> Out of the four largest municipalities policed by the RCMP in the LMD, Richmond has the lowest violent crime rate as well as the second lowest property crime rate. These rankings have remained steady throughout 2019.

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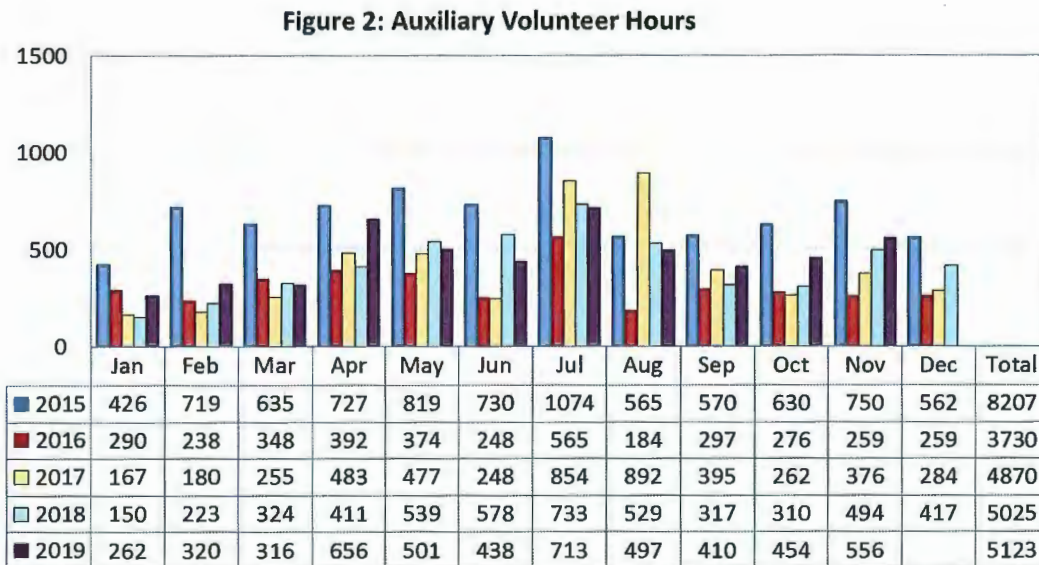
<sup>2</sup> Crime rate is calculated per 1,000 people (using 2019 population projections)



Auxiliary Program

In November 2019, Richmond Detachment had a complement of 31 Auxiliaries.<sup>3</sup> Auxiliaries provided a total of 556 volunteer hours during the month of November.

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



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

### *Auxiliary Program Activities*

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

- Bait Car
- Crime Watch
- Remembrance Day
- Toy Drive
- Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
- Youth Squad

### Block Watch

At the end of November 2019, the Block Watch program had 341 groups totaling 7,310 participants. Currently, the program includes 461 captains and co-captains.<sup>4</sup>

### Community Police Station Programs

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

During the month of November volunteer highlights included:

- The deployment of 35 volunteer foot/van patrols totalling 264 hours and six bike patrols, totalling 66 hours.
- 37 Fail to Stop deployments took place, which resulted in 914 warning letters.
- Speed Watch was conducted on 3,374 vehicles at various locations.
- November 2 – Two volunteers assisted RCMP members at Aberdeen Mall raising money for the Toy Drive.
- November 5 – In collaboration with ICBC, eight volunteers and RCMP members participated in a Pedestrian Safety event at Ironwood Mall. A total of 765 reflectors were distributed.
- November 14 – Five volunteers and RCMP members participated in a School Sports Event at Walter Lee Elementary.
- November 16 – 12 volunteers and RCMP members participated in the fifth Annual Richmond Detachment Toy Drive at Ironwood Mall.
- November 20 – Six Volunteers and RCMP members participated in a School Sports Event at Hamilton Elementary.
- November 20 – Five volunteers and RCMP members participated in the annual Windows of Hope fundraiser at the Richmond Auto Mall, in support of the Richmond Christmas Fund.

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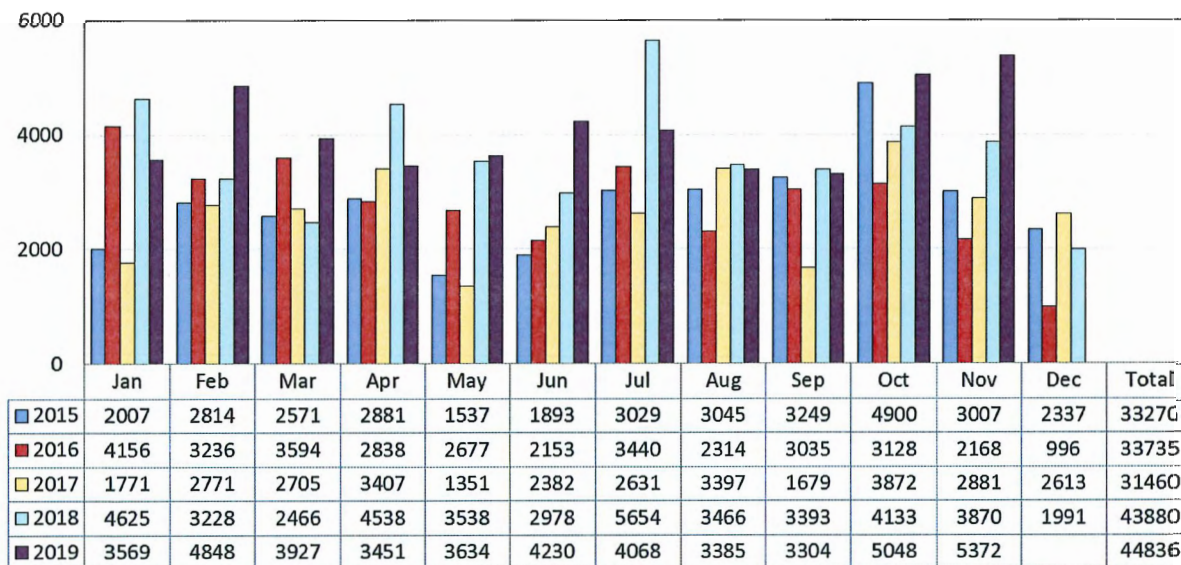
<sup>4</sup> The variance from previous months' data is due to an ongoing database upgrade. Revised numbers will continue to reflect more accurate participation data.

- November 21 – Four volunteers assisted RCMP members in the search for a missing Richmond senior.
- November 25 – Five volunteers conducted bike patrols in central Richmond and distributed notices providing a continued effort to locate the missing person.
- November 30 – Two volunteers assisted two RCMP members at Lansdowne mall raising money for the Toy Drive.

*Lock Out Auto Crime*

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

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

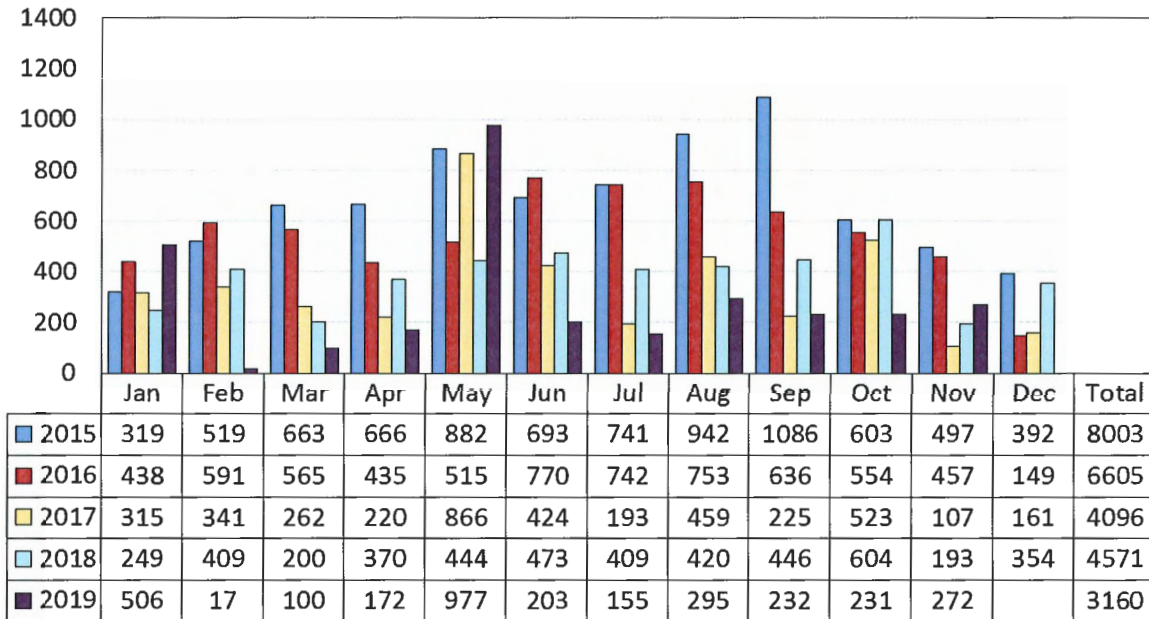




*Speed Watch*

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

**Figure 4: Speed Watch Letters Sent**



Crime Prevention Unit

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

- Broadmoor Patrols
- Pedestrian Safety Event
- School Sports Events
- Toy Drive
- Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
- Vulnerable Institution Patrols

Road Safety Unit

The Road Safety Unit makes Richmond’s roads safer through evidence-based traffic enforcement, investigation of serious vehicle collisions and public education programs. The following statistics compare November 2019 data to both September 2019 and October 2019.

Violation Tickets were issued for the following infractions:

Table 1: Violation Tickets Issued

<b>Infraction</b>	<b>September 2019</b>	<b>October 2019</b>	<b>November 2019</b>
Distracted Driving	192	155	104
Driver License	248	236	280
Impaired	38	30	45
Intersection Offences	82	57	88
Moving Violations <sup>5</sup>	237	194	196
Speeding	255	332	387
Seatbelts	6	9	5
Vehicle Related <sup>6</sup>	76	63	61
Other <sup>7</sup>	6	5	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,140</b>	<b>1,081</b>	<b>1,170</b>

### Victim Services

In November 2019, Richmond RCMP Victim Services attended to 55 new clients and attended nine crime/trauma scenes after hours. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 168 ongoing files. Victim Services responded to a number of cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, family conflict, motor vehicle accidents and a missing person.

### Youth Section

The Detachment's Youth Section focuses on strategies that contribute to safe and healthy behaviours essential to the development of productive and civic-minded adults. During the month of November, Youth Section highlights included:

- Lockdown drills were conducted at two secondary schools and one elementary school in Richmond.<sup>8</sup> During these drills Youth Section members conducted a walk-through of the school and provided feedback to school staff.
- RCMP Youth Section members continued presenting Youth Squad classes to Richmond students in grades 10-12. Youth Squad is an eight-week long program that consists of weekly classes at the Richmond Detachment, which give youth a better understanding of careers in emergency services. Participating agencies include Richmond Fire-Rescue, BC Ambulance and a variety of RCMP units including Police Dog Section and Emergency Response Team.

<sup>5</sup> Moving violations 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.

<sup>8</sup> A lockdown drill relates to safety practices in schools in the event of an active threat.

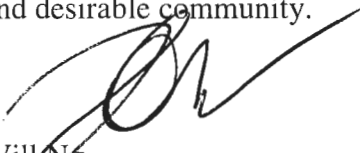
**Financial Impact**

None.


**Conclusion**

This month in collaboration with partner agencies, Richmond RCMP dedicated numerous resources in an effort to locate a missing person, however the investigation is ongoing. Richmond RCMP also supported the annual Richmond Christmas Fund drive through a number of fundraising efforts, including a pancake breakfast at Ironwood Mall.

During November, there were several successful investigations into commercial break and enters, which contributed to a notable decrease in this crime type from the previous month. The Officer in Charge of Richmond Detachment will continue to ensure Richmond remains a safe and desirable community.



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



Edward Warzel  
Manager, RCMP Administration  
(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](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.

# NOVEMBER 2019 STATISTICS

## RICHMOND RCMP

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

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

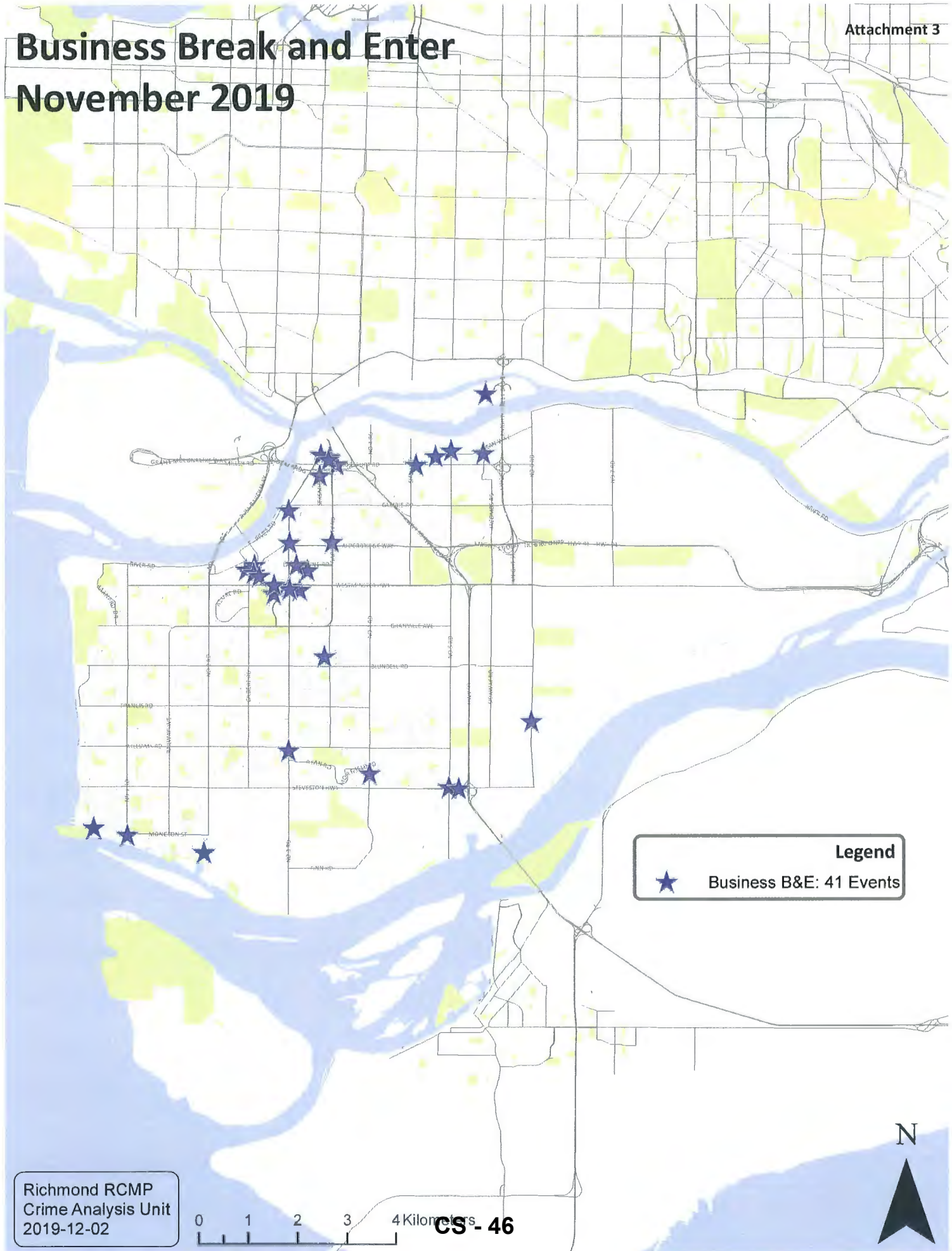
The 5 year average range data is based on activity within a single month over the past 5 years. If the current monthly total for an offence is above the expected average range (using one standard deviation) due to crime trends, patterns, or spikes, it will be noted in **red**. If the current monthly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

Year-to-Date percentage change is used to numbers from the prior year, but the new CCIS/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			
	Nov-19	November		2018	2019	% Change	# Change
<b>VIOLENT CRIME</b> (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	<b>152</b>	<b>109.0</b>	<b>103-115</b>	<b>1233</b>	<b>1604</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>371</b>
Robbery <small>UCR 1610 (1-3)</small>	<b>9</b>	6.2	3-9	53	77	45%	24
Assault Common <small>UCR 1430</small>	<b>52</b>	37.8	34-42	454	572	26%	118
Assault Serious <small>UCR 1410, 1420</small>	<b>14</b>	9.8	7-13	119	120	1%	1
Sexual Offences <small>UCR 1345, 1336, 1308, 1318, 2400, 2401</small>	<b>17</b>	12.2	8-16	130	209	61%	79
<b>PROPERTY CRIME</b> (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	<b>651</b>	<b>638.6</b>	<b>587-690</b>	<b>6991</b>	<b>7158</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>167</b>
Business B&E <small>UCR 2120-1</small>	<b>41</b>	30.4	25-36	333	361	8%	28
Residential B&E <small>UCR 2120-2</small>	57	76.0	54-98	713	539	-24%	-174
Auto Theft <small>UCR 2135 (1-10), 2178</small>	<b>22</b>	29.0	24-34	284	274	-4%	-10
Theft from Auto <small>UCR 2132, 2142</small>	187	178.0	153-203	2032	1841	-9%	-191
Theft <small>UCR 2130, 2140</small>	82	91.8	68-116	945	1056	12%	111
Shoplifting <small>UCR 2133, 2143</small>	64	56.2	46-66	665	944	42%	279
Fraud <small>UCR 2190 (all), 2165, 2166</small>	<b>85</b>	67.2	60-74	799	824	3%	25
<b>OTHER CRIMINAL CODE</b> (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	<b>176</b>	<b>157.6</b>	<b>137-178</b>	<b>1975</b>	<b>2135</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>160</b>
Arson <small>UCR 1625, 2110</small>	3	4.2	2-6	30	34	13%	4
<b>SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES</b> (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	<b>979</b>	<b>905.2</b>	<b>847-963</b>	<b>10199</b>	<b>10877</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>678</b>
<b>DRUGS</b> (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	<b>101</b>	<b>55.4</b>	<b>31-79</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>MHA RELATED CALLS</b> (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	<b>169</b>	<b>112.4</b>	<b>95-130</b>	<b>1396</b>	<b>2099</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>703</b>

Prepared by Richmond RCMP Crime Analysts. Data collected from PRIME on 2019-12-02. Published 2019-12-02. 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).

# Business Break and Enter November 2019



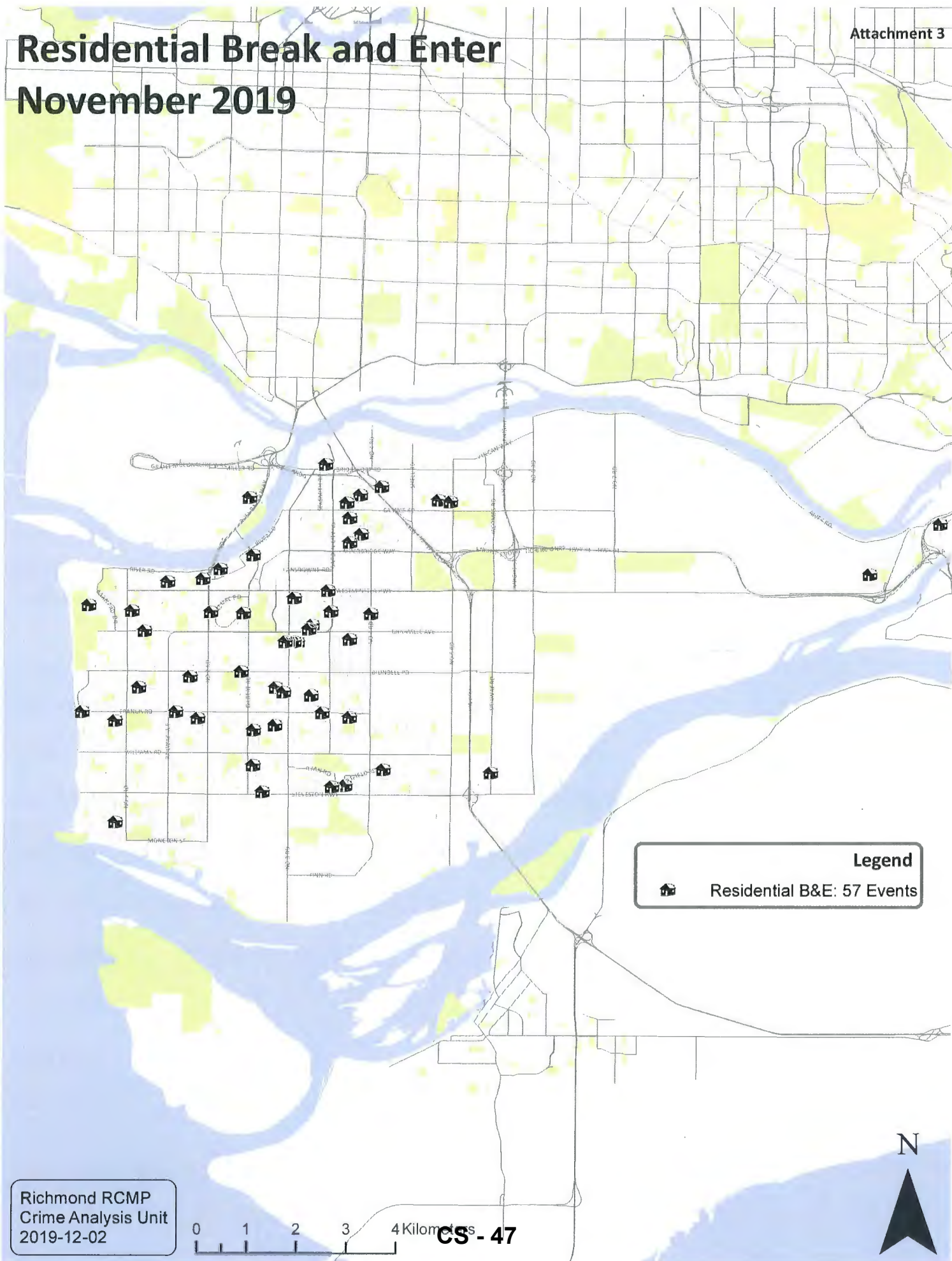
**Legend**  
★ Business B&E: 41 Events

Richmond RCMP  
Crime Analysis Unit  
2019-12-02

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers **CS - 46**

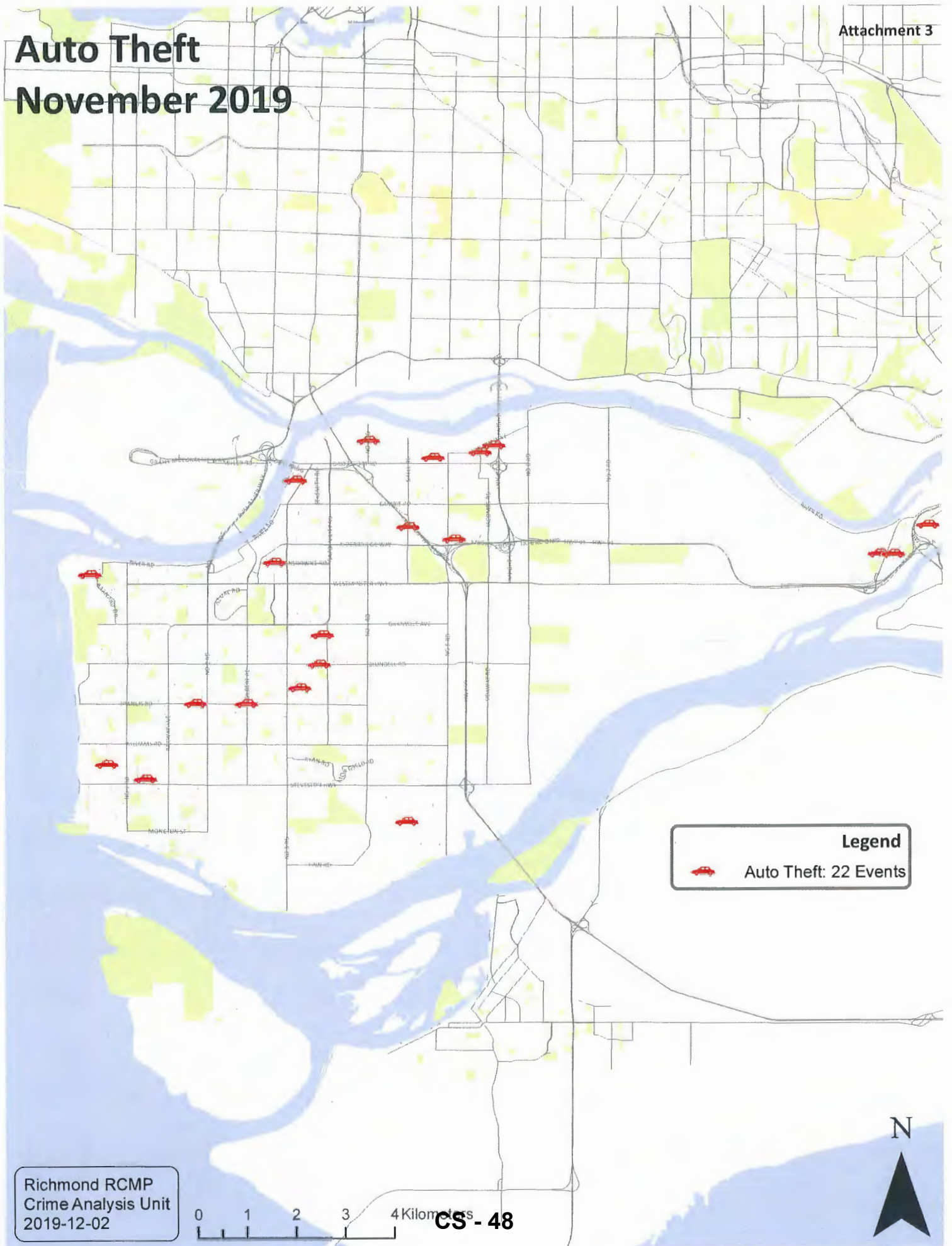


# Residential Break and Enter November 2019





# Auto Theft November 2019



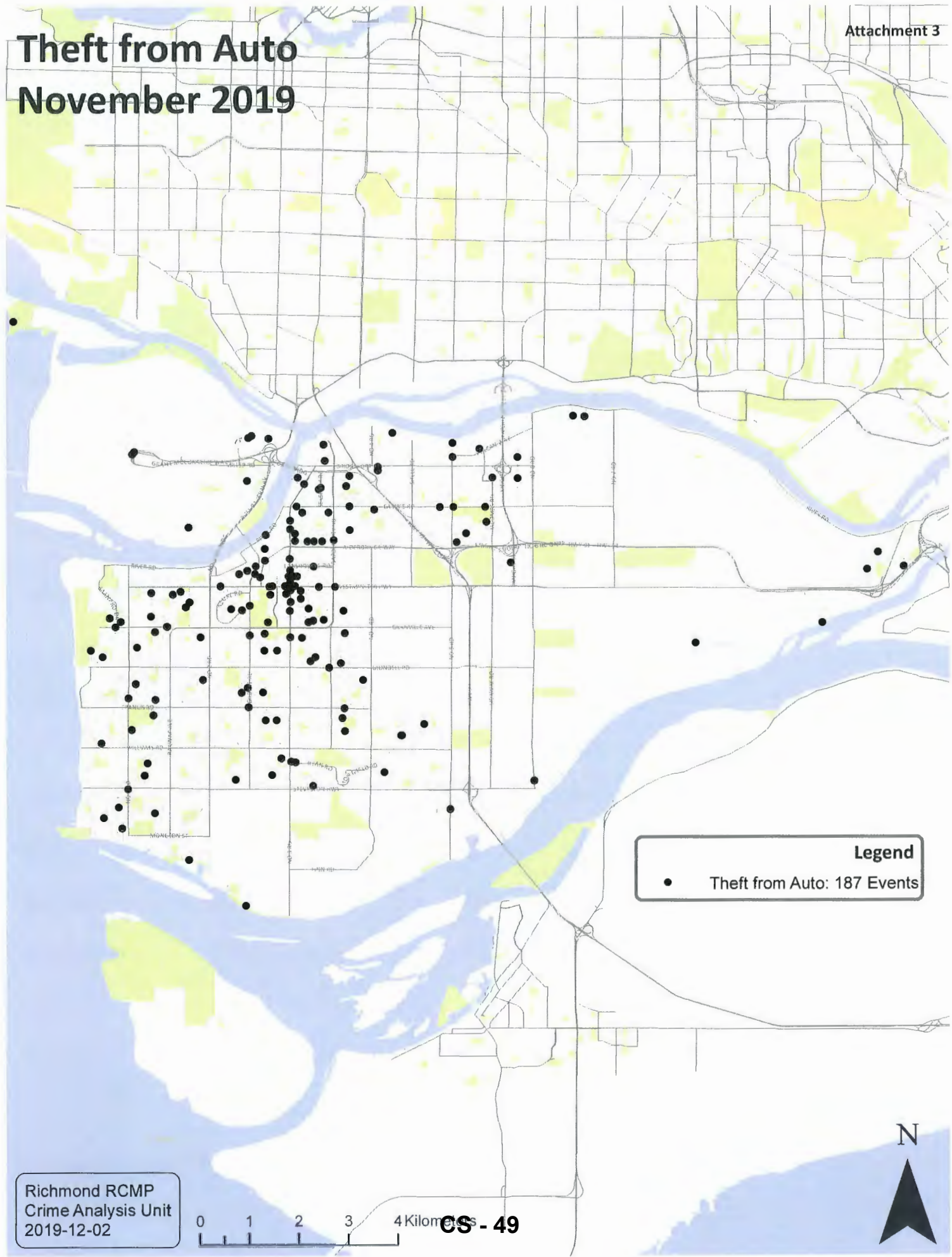
**Legend**  
Auto Theft: 22 Events

Richmond RCMP  
Crime Analysis Unit  
2019-12-02

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers  
CS - 48



# Theft from Auto November 2019



**Legend**  
• Theft from Auto: 187 Events

Richmond RCMP  
Crime Analysis Unit  
2019-12-02

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers **CS - 49**

