



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

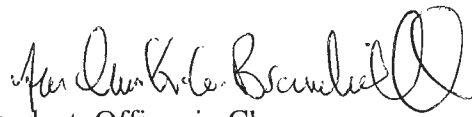
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|--------------|--|--------------|---------------------------|
| <b>To:</b>   | Community Safety Committee   | <b>Date:</b> | November 13, 2019         |
| <b>From:</b> | Will Ng, Superintendent<br>Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment | <b>File:</b> | 09-5000-01/2019-Vol<br>01 |
| <b>Re:</b>   | <b>RCMP Monthly Activity Report - October 2019</b>                     |              |                           |

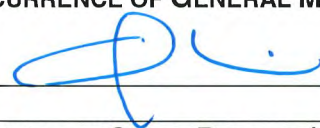


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### Staff Recommendation

That the report titled "RCMP Monthly Activity Report – October 2019", dated November 13, 2019, 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<br> |  |
| REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT /<br>AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE   | INITIALS:<br> |
| APPROVED BY CAO<br>                |  |

## 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

##### *Protests*

On October 1 and 5, 2019, Richmond RCMP officers were deployed to the Aberdeen Canada Line Station in response to organized demonstrations. Demonstrators scheduled the events in support of protests in Hong Kong. Police were given advance notice by the organizer and were on scene to ensure public safety throughout the demonstrations. No arrests were made.

##### *Police Vehicle Collision*

On October 7, 2019, Richmond RCMP officers responded to Richmond Hospital after a patient, who was not permitted to leave the premises, fled on foot. Police attempted to take custody of the man but he was able to escape in a police vehicle. The suspect subsequently collided with an unmarked police vehicle and two other vehicles before being apprehended. One civilian driver sustained serious but non-life-threatening injuries in the incident. An RCMP officer received treatment for a minor injury. Police are investigating the theft and collisions, while the Independent Investigations Office BC is also conducting an investigation because the incident involved a serious civilian injury.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Independent Investigations Office BC is an independent civilian oversight agency of the police in BC and investigates all officer-related incidents that result in serious harm, whether or not there is any allegation of wrongdoing. <https://iiobc.ca/media/iio-notified-of-incident-in-richmond-2019-191/>

### *Suspicious Death*

On October 18, 2019, Richmond RCMP officers responded to a business in the 8200 block of Granville Avenue after receiving a report of a deceased male. The death was deemed suspicious and the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team is investigating. The incident appears to be targeted and there is no threat to the public.

### *Found Body*

On October 26, 2019, Richmond RCMP officers located at the Vancouver International Airport (YVR) responded to the southwest corner of Sea Island after receiving reports that a body had been found in an area with limited access. The Richmond RCMP and the BC Coroners Service are investigating.

### Analysis of Police Statistics

In January 2019, important changes were implemented regarding the collection of Uniform Crime Reporting Survey data.<sup>2</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 creates numerous 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 October 2019, there were three reported incidents of arson, which is down one incident from the previous month. The number of arsons this month is up one incident from October 2018 and remains within the five-year average range.

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

There were 11 assault serious events in October 2019, which is an increase of two incidents from September 2019 and down one incident from October 2018. The number of serious assaults is within the five-year average range.

### *Auto Theft*

There were 35 auto theft incidents this month, which represents a 17 per cent increase from the previous month and a six per cent increase from October 2018. The number of auto thefts this

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<sup>2</sup> Statistics Canada, <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2018001/article/54973-eng.htm>

month is slightly above the five-year average range. Criminal analysis has identified areas of concern and police have deployed additional patrols to target this activity.

### *Drugs*

In October 2019, there were 105 drug incidents, which represents a 54 per cent increase from the previous month. The number of drug incidents this month is over four times the number recorded in October 2018 and is significantly above the five-year average range.

The majority of the drug offences this month have 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 273 mental health incidents in October 2019, which is up 29 per cent from September 2019 and represents 95 per cent increase from October 2018. 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 51 per cent compared to the same period in 2018.

No patterns or trends have been identified. There were 76 police apprehensions this month and hospital wait times averaged 83 minutes, indicating that both numbers have remained steady in recent months. One high volume client was responsible for 101 calls this month. Of note, the majority of mental health-related files this month did not require a significant use of resources or police action.

### *Residential Break and Enter*

There were 39 break and enters to residences in October 2019, which represents a 17 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 32 per cent decrease from October 2018. The number of residential break and enters this month is within the five-year average range. Year to date, there has been a 23 per cent reduction in residential break and enters compared to the same period last year. No patterns or trends have been identified.

### *Commercial Break and Enter*

In October 2019, there were 58 break and enters to businesses, which represents a 32 per cent increase from September 2019 and is more than two-and-a-half times the number recorded in October 2018. Commercial break and enters are above the five-year average range. Year to date totals are up five per cent from the same period in 2018.

A significant number of these break enters involved construction sites and residential parkades, which offenders targeted for access to mail, vehicles and storage lockers. Suspected offenders have been identified and investigations continue.

### *Robbery*

There were 10 robbery incidents in October 2019, which represents a 67 per cent increase from the previous month. The number of robberies this month is up 43 per cent from October 2018 and is above the five-year average range. No patterns or trends have been identified.

### *Sexual Offences*

There were 17 sexual offence files in October 2019, which represents a 26 per cent decrease from the previous month and is more than double the number of incidents recorded in October 2018. The number of sex offences this month is above the five-year average range.

No patterns or trends have been identified. Year to date, sexual offences are up 63 per cent compared to the same period in 2018. Crime analysts have identified that this is likely due to CCJS scoring changes. The occurrences this month include eight sexual assaults, four indecent acts and three sexual interference incidents.

### *Shoplifting*

There were 94 shoplifting thefts in October 2019, which represents a nine per cent increase from the previous month and a 32 per cent increase from October 2018. Reported shoplifting thefts have been above the five-year average range since March 2019. No patterns or trends have been identified and the increase is likely attributed to improved detection rather than an actual increase in this crime type.

### *Theft from Automobile*

There were 220 theft from automobile incidents in October 2019, which represents a 26 per cent increase from the previous month and a 29 per cent increase from October 2018. The number of theft from automobile incidents this month is within the five-year average range. Year to date, there has been a 12 per cent decrease in thefts from automobiles compared to the same period in 2018.

### Crime Trends across Jurisdictions

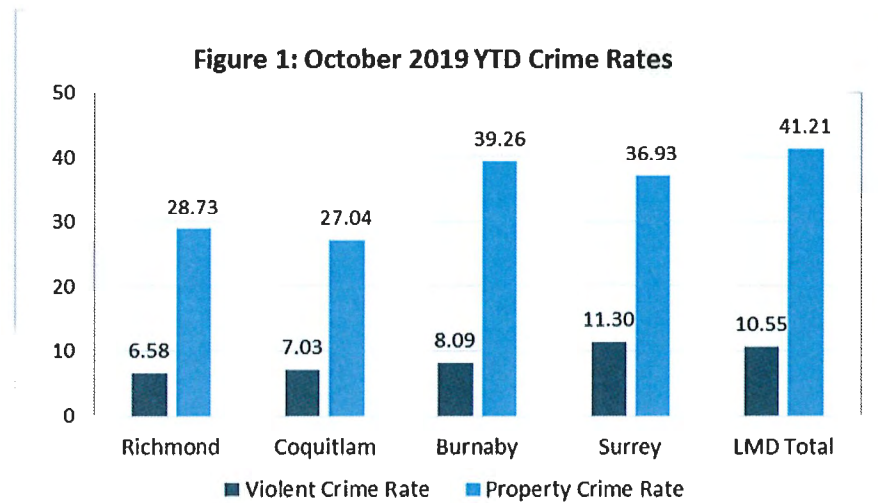
The CCJS scoring changes implemented this year have had a pronounced effect on violent crime rates throughout police jurisdictions across Canada. Year to date, every RCMP Detachment in the Lower Mainland District (LMD) has seen an increase in violent crime; the overall year to date increase in the LMD is 48 percent.<sup>3</sup> As a result, continued analysis will be required to more accurately capture changes in the rates of violent crime.

Data on crime rates is presented on the following page (Figure 1).<sup>4</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.

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<sup>3</sup> Violent crime in Richmond increased 30 per cent.

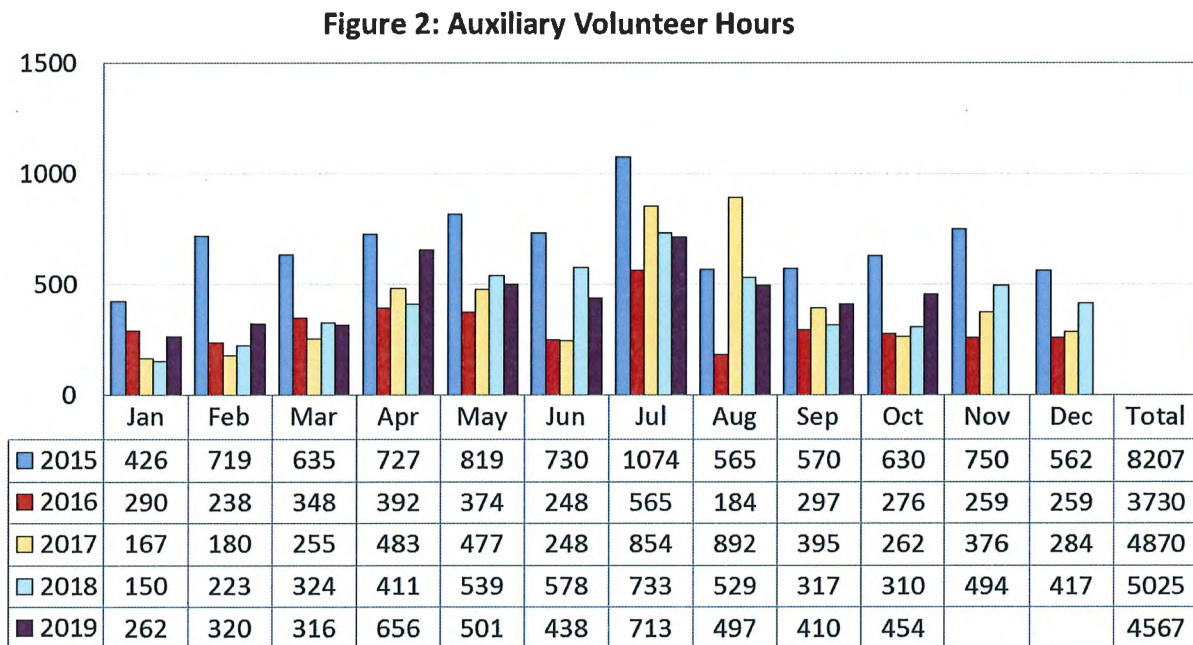
<sup>4</sup> Crime rate is calculated per 1,000 people (using 2019 population projections)



### Auxiliary Program

In October 2019, Richmond Detachment had a complement of 31 Auxiliaries.<sup>5</sup> Auxiliaries provided a total of 454 volunteer hours during the month of October.

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



<sup>5</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 October, Auxiliaries participated in:

- Bait Car
- Crime Watch
- Halloween Foot Patrols
- Home Security Checks
- Pedestrian Safety Campaign
- Youth Squad

### Block Watch

At the end of October 2019, the Block Watch program had 339 groups totaling 7,280 participants. Currently, the program includes 459 captains and co-captains.<sup>6</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 October volunteer highlights included:

- The deployment of 32 volunteer foot/van patrols totalling 243 hours and five bike patrols, totalling 63 hours.
- 45 Fail to Stop deployments took place, which resulted in 1,452 warning letters.
- Speed Watch was conducted on 2,584 vehicles at various locations.
- October 3 – Volunteers and RCMP members participated at a School Sports event at Pythagorus Academy.
- October 6 – Two volunteers and two RCMP members attended the Autism Speaks Walk and provided crime prevention information at the Richmond RCMP table.
- October 15 – Six volunteers and an RCMP member visited two elementary schools and conducted a Youth Pedestrian Safety blitz. A total of 280 reflectors and 42 arm bands were distributed to students.
- October 16 – Five volunteers and an Auxiliary visited Hamilton Elementary School and conducted a Youth Pedestrian Safety blitz. A total of 229 reflectors and 104 arm bands were distributed to students.
- October 23 – Two volunteers and two RCMP members held a Project 529 Bike Registry in the area of Railway Avenue and Blundell Road in support of “Bike to Work” week. A total of 20 bicycles were registered.

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<sup>6</sup> The variance from previous months' data is due to an ongoing database upgrade. Revised numbers will continue to reflect more accurate participation data.

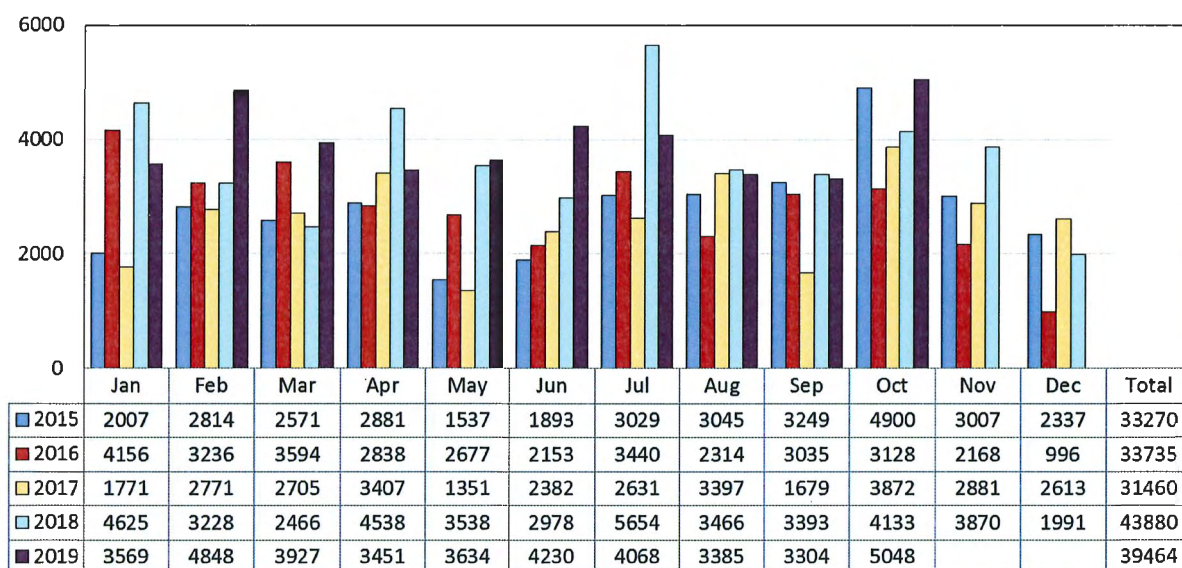


- October 24 – In collaboration with ICBC, a Pedestrian Safety Blitz was deployed near the Brighthouse Canada Line Station. Eleven volunteers and three RCMP members participated in the blitz and 2,250 reflectors were distributed.
- October 30 – In collaboration with ICBC, a Pedestrian Safety Blitz was deployed in Steveston Village. Five volunteers and two RCMP members participated in the blitz and 721 reflectors were distributed.
- October 31 – A total of 18 volunteers participated in Halloween patrols and distributed 1,425 reflectors.

### *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**

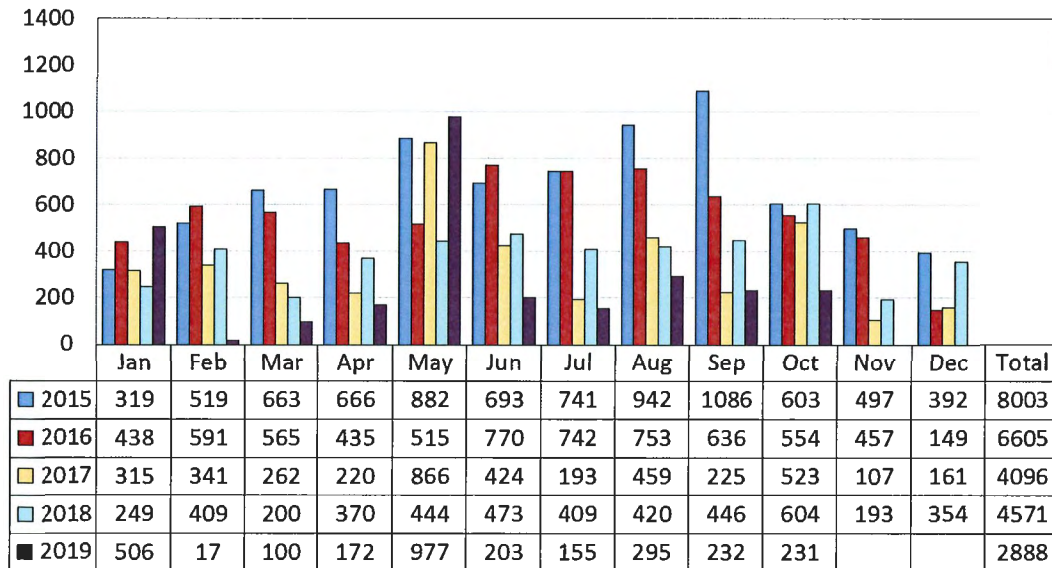




### Speed Watch

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

- Autism Speaks Walk
- Broadmoor Patrols
- Pedestrian Safety Campaign
- School Sports Events
- Seniors' Safety Presentation
- 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 October 2019 data to both August 2019 and September 2019.

Violation Tickets were issued for the following infractions:

Table 1: Violation Tickets Issued

| <b>Infraction</b>              | <b>August 2019</b> | <b>September 2019</b> | <b>October 2019</b> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Distracted Driving             | 155                | 192                   | 155                 |
| Driver License                 | 244                | 248                   | 236                 |
| Impaired                       | 56                 | 38                    | 30                  |
| Intersection Offences          | 78                 | 82                    | 57                  |
| Moving Violations <sup>7</sup> | 232                | 237                   | 194                 |
| Speeding                       | 367                | 255                   | 332                 |
| Seatbelts                      | 6                  | 6                     | 9                   |
| Vehicle Related <sup>8</sup>   | 66                 | 76                    | 63                  |
| Other <sup>9</sup>             | 13                 | 6                     | 5                   |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>1,217</b>       | <b>1,140</b>          | <b>1,081</b>        |

### Victim Services

In October 2019, Richmond RCMP Victim Services attended to 52 new clients and attended nine crime/trauma scenes after hours. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 155 ongoing files. Victim Services responded to a number of cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, attempted suicides and a suspicious death.

### 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 October, Youth Section highlights include:

- In partnership with ICBC, Pedestrian Safety was taught to 429 Grade 5 students across 19 schools. Students were provided with a reflector and a colouring sheet with a summary of pedestrian safety information for sharing this message with their families.
- RCMP Youth Section members launched this year's Youth Squad. Youth Squad is an eight-week long program that consists of weekly classes at 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. A total of 34 high school students were selected for the program.

### **Financial Impact**

None.

<sup>7</sup> Moving violations refers to unsafe lane change and unsafe passing.

<sup>8</sup> Vehicle related refers to vehicle defects, for example no lights and no insurance.

<sup>9</sup> Other refers to miscellaneous charges including fail to remain at the scene of an accident and failing to stop for police.

November 13, 2019

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### **Conclusion**

Crime statistics for October 2019 indicate that a number of crime types are outside of the expected ranges. The Richmond RCMP has strategically deployed investigative and enforcement measures to target active criminals. In addition, this month the Crime Prevention Unit collaborated with partners to promote Pedestrian Safety initiatives. Volunteer participation was a key element of the community engagement and outreach for these initiatives. The Officer in Charge, Richmond Detachment continues to ensure 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.



# OCTOBER 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.

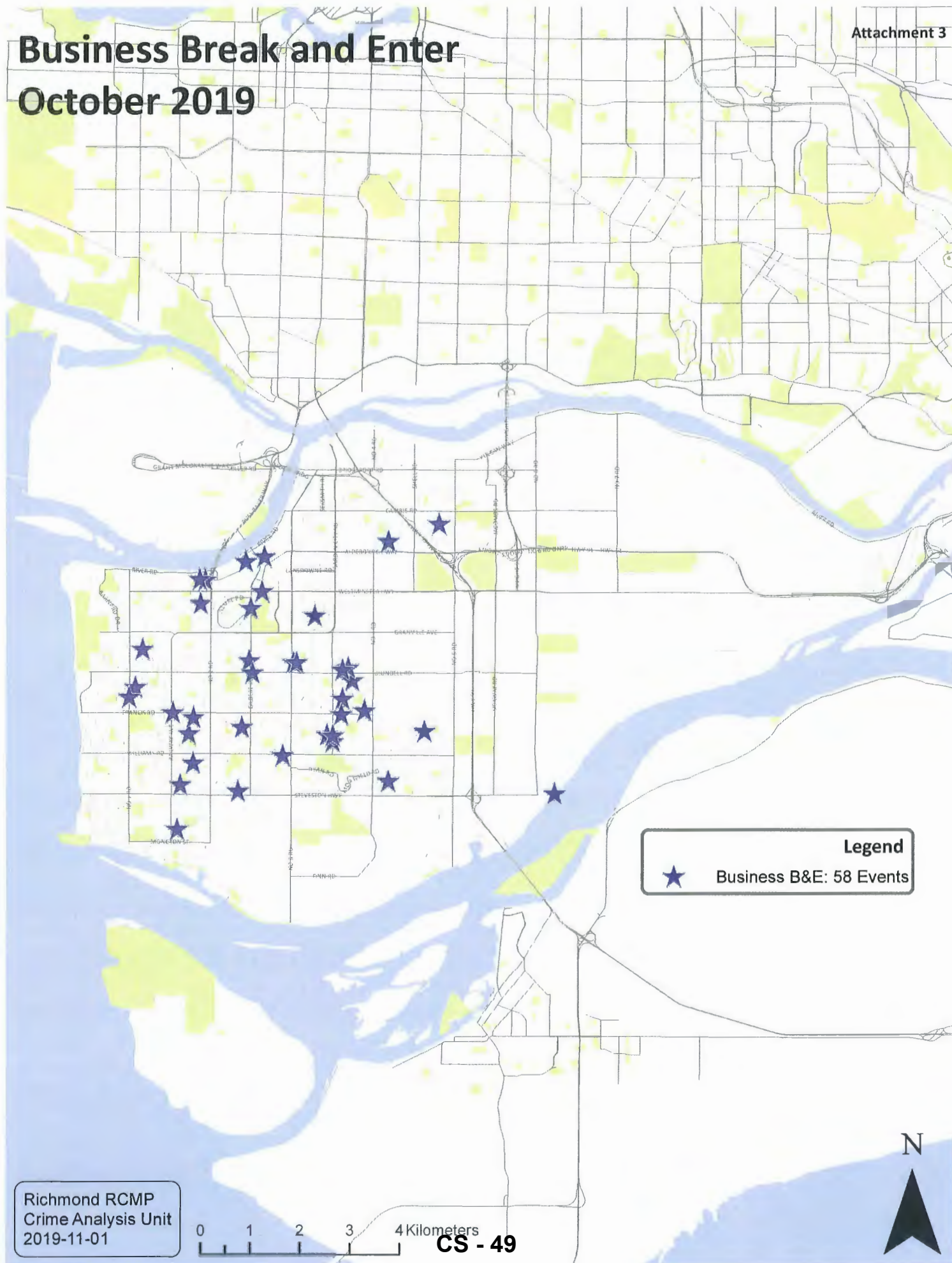
The 5 year average range data is based on activity within a single month over the past 5 years. If the current monthly total for an offence is above the expected average range (using one standard deviation) due to crime trends, patterns, or spikes, it will be noted in **red**. If the current monthly 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 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 |             |            |            |
|--|-------------|--------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------|------------|------------|
|  | Oct-19      | October      |                | 2018                | 2019        | % Change   | # Change   |
| <b>VIOLENT CRIME</b><br>(UCR 1000-Series Offences)                       | <b>137</b>  | <b>103.6</b> | <b>90-118</b>  | <b>1118</b>         | <b>1452</b> | <b>30%</b> | <b>334</b> |
| Robbery<br><small>UCR 1610 (1-3)</small>                                 | <b>10</b>   | 6.0          | 5-7            | 51                  | 68          | 33%        | 17         |
| Assault Common<br><small>UCR 1430</small>                                | <b>53</b>   | 39.6         | 29-50          | 410                 | 520         | 27%        | 110        |
| Assault Serious<br><small>UCR 1410, 1420</small>                         | 11          | 11.2         | 8-14           | 111                 | 106         | -5%        | -5         |
| Sexual Offences<br><small>UCR 1345, 1350, 1356, 1319, 3450, 5539</small> | <b>17</b>   | 9.8          | 7-13           | 118                 | 192         | 63%        | 74         |
| <b>PROPERTY CRIME</b><br>(UCR 2000-Series Offences)                      | <b>767</b>  | <b>670.4</b> | <b>642-699</b> | <b>6403</b>         | <b>6507</b> | <b>2%</b>  | <b>104</b> |
| Business B&E<br><small>UCR 2120-1</small>                                | <b>58</b>   | 37.0         | 28-46          | 304                 | 320         | 5%         | 16         |
| Residential B&E<br><small>UCR 2120-2</small>                             | 39          | 53.8         | 35-72          | 625                 | 482         | -23%       | -143       |
| Auto Theft<br><small>UCR 2135 (1-10), 2173</small>                       | <b>35</b>   | 27.8         | 21-34          | 258                 | 252         | -2%        | -6         |
| Theft from Auto<br><small>UCR 2132, 2142</small>                         | 220         | 196.8        | 168-225        | 1889                | 1654        | -12%       | -235       |
| Theft<br><small>UCR 2130, 2140</small>                                   | 94          | 98.4         | 87-109         | 866                 | 974         | 12%        | 108        |
| Shoplifting<br><small>UCR 2133, 2143</small>                             | <b>94</b>   | 64.2         | 60-68          | 622                 | 880         | 41%        | 258        |
| Fraud<br><small>UCR 2160, 2165, 2166</small>                             | <b>92</b>   | 68.0         | 61-75          | 731                 | 739         | 1%         | 8          |
| <b>OTHER CRIMINAL CODE</b><br>(UCR 3000-Series Offences)                 | <b>183</b>  | <b>177.2</b> | <b>158-196</b> | <b>1853</b>         | <b>1959</b> | <b>6%</b>  | <b>106</b> |
| Arson<br><small>UCR 1629, 2110</small>                                   | 3           | 3.0          | 2-4            | 24                  | 31          | 29%        | 7          |
| <b>SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES</b><br>(UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)                 | <b>1087</b> | <b>951.2</b> | <b>911-991</b> | <b>9374</b>         | <b>9898</b> | <b>6%</b>  | <b>524</b> |
| <b>DRUGS</b><br>(UCR 4000-Series Offences)                               | <b>105</b>  | <b>49.2</b>  | <b>34-64</b>   | <b>519</b>          | <b>526</b>  | <b>1%</b>  | <b>7</b>   |
| <b>MHA RELATED CALLS</b><br>(MHA files or Mental Health flag)            | <b>273</b>  | <b>116.0</b> | <b>97-137</b>  | <b>1277</b>         | <b>1930</b> | <b>51%</b> | <b>653</b> |

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# Business Break and Enter October 2019



Richmond RCMP  
Crime Analysis Unit  
2019-11-01

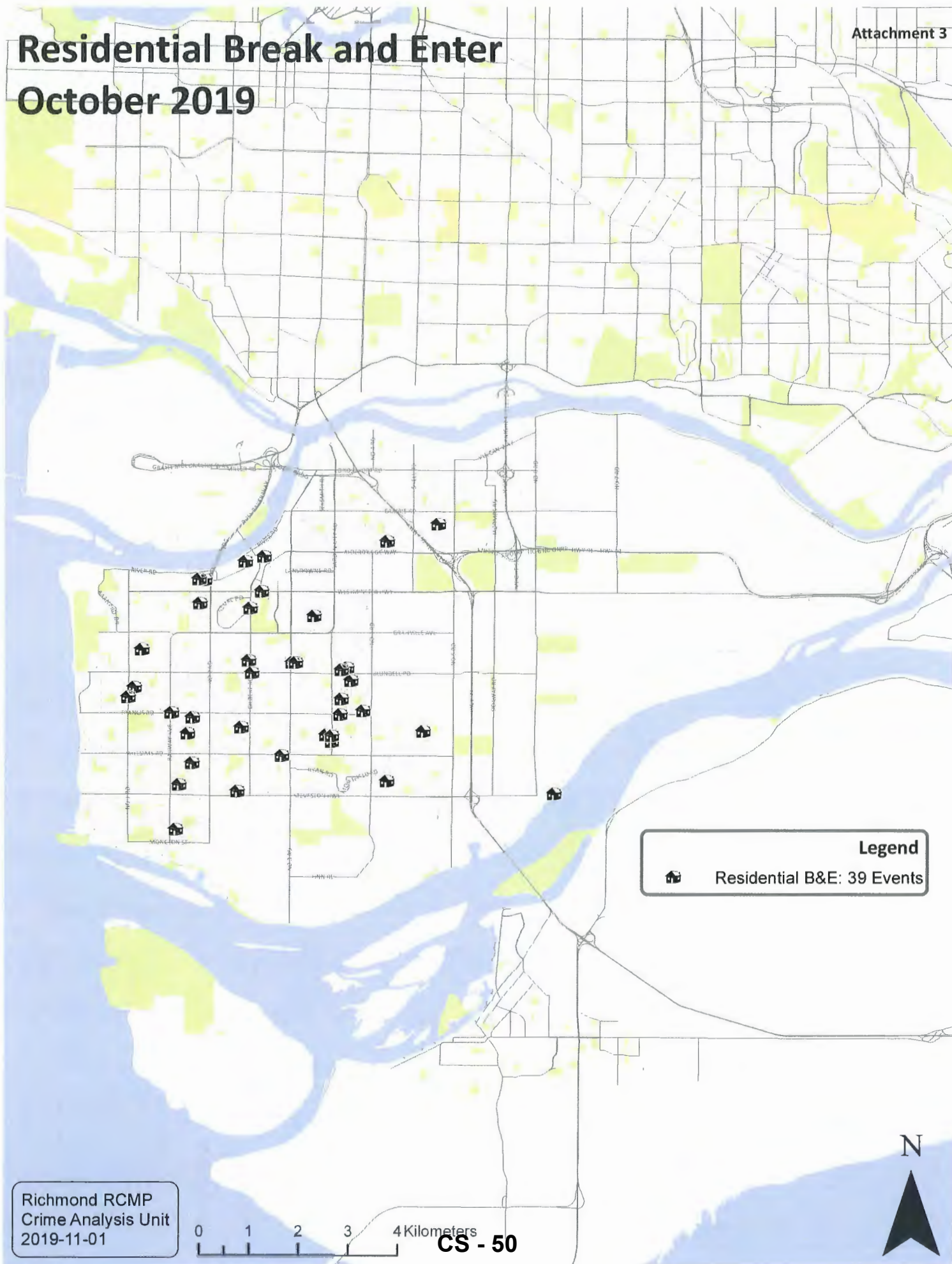
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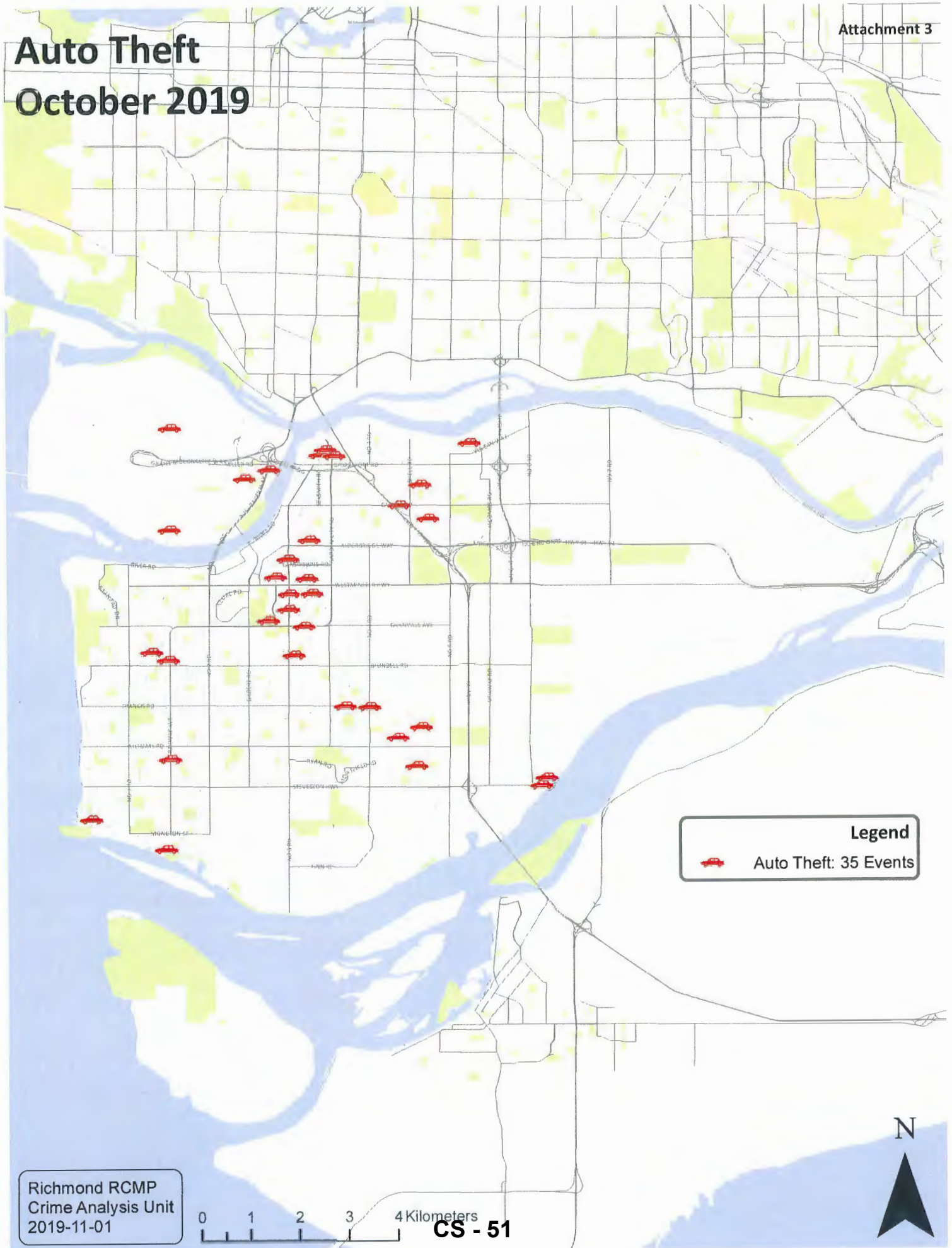




# Residential Break and Enter October 2019



# Auto Theft October 2019





# Theft from Auto October 2019

