



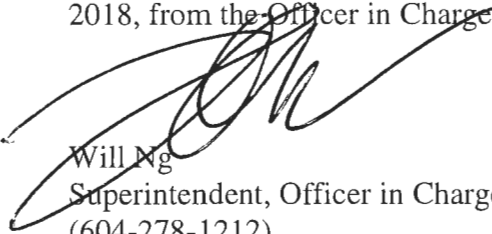
City of Richmond

Report to Committee




To: Community Safety Committee
From: Will Ng, Superintendent
Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment
Date: October 16, 2018
File: 09-5000-01/2018-Vol
01
Re: RCMP Monthly Activity Report – September 2018

Staff Recommendation

That the report titled “RCMP Monthly Activity Report – September 2018”, dated October 16, 2018, 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 	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 
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 Crime Statistics
3. Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions
4. Auxiliary Constable Program
5. Block Watch
6. Community Police Stations and Programs
7. Crime Prevention Unit
8. Road Safety Unit
9. Victim Services
10. Youth Section

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #1 A Safe Community:

Maintain emphasis on community safety to ensure Richmond continues to be a safe community.

Analysis

Activities and Noteworthy Files

Assault, Kidnapping and Robbery

On September 11, 2018, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release warning the public of the safety risks associated with dating apps use and meeting strangers in non-public areas. The warning was prompted by two separate incidents on September 8 and 9, 2018. Both male victims went to a residence to meet a female they had met through the dating app Tantan. In the first instance, the victim was assaulted by two suspects. In the second instance, the victim was abducted and forced to withdraw funds from an ATM before being released. The incidents are under investigation.

BC Wildfire Deployments

In September 2018, RCMP members from Richmond Detachment concluded their deployments to the wildfires in northern British Columbia. For approximately one month, police officers from Richmond Detachment assisted in various capacities in wildfire relief. These roles included participating at the Division Emergency Operations Centre and managing logistics across the various communities affected. Auxiliary Constables also volunteered 100 hours in assisting relief efforts.

Suspicious Death

On September 20, 2018, Richmond RCMP responded at an empty residence in the 9000 block of Odlin Road for the discovery of a deceased male. The death is considered suspicious. The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team has conduct of the investigation and will be working in close partnership with Richmond RCMP.

Consumer Data Investigation

On September 21, 2018, Richmond RCMP announced an investigation into the online sale of data storage devices previously belonging to a well-known, no longer in business, computer retailer. These devices are alleged to still contain the data of consumers, former employees, as well as addresses and payment information. The devices have been seized by the Richmond RCMP and the investigation is ongoing.

Residential Break and Enter Arrest

On September 25, 2018, Richmond RCMP responded to an in progress residential break. The homeowner was alerted of the incident through his home security system. The Lower Mainland Integrated Police Dog Services were deployed to assist in locating the suspects. A 16-year old male suspect was located and arrested. Richmond RCMP is looking for a second suspect and have issued a media release with the suspect's description.

Analysis of Crime Statistics

Arson

In September 2018, there were 2 incidents of arson, which is down two from the previous month and represents no change from September 2017. This number is within the five-year statistical average range. Year to date, the number of arsons is down 27 per cent from the same period last year.

Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)

There were five assault serious events in September 2018, which is a 50 per cent reduction from the previous month. The number of assault serious files this month is significantly below the five-year average range and represents a marked decline of 13 incidents from September 2017, during which a statistically high number of assaults occurred (18). Year to date totals are down 19 per cent from the same period last year.

Auto Theft

There were 39 auto theft incidents this month, which is a three per cent increase from August 2018. The number of auto thefts this month is outside of the five-year average range and represents a 22 per cent increase from September 2017. This increase is connected to the increase in residential break and enters during which offenders are able to gain access to home owner's vehicles.

Year to date totals indicate there has been an eleven per cent reduction in the number of auto thefts compared to the same period last year.

Drugs

In September 2018, there were 51 drug incidents, which is a six per cent decline from the previous month. This number represents an eleven per cent reduction from September 2017 and remains within the five-year average range.

Mental Health

There were 118 mental health incidents in September 2018, which represents a two per cent reduction from August 2018. This is one more incident than was recorded in September 2017. Mental health incidents this month are outside the five-year average range. Year to date totals indicate there has been a four per cent increase in mental health-related files over the same period last year.

Although the number of mental health-related incidents continues to be elevated this month, the increase is not attributable to increases in high volume clients. In general, the increase is due to the activities of a variety of individuals.

Residential Break and Enter

There were 84 break and enters to residences in September 2018, which is a 27 per cent increase from the previous month. The total number of residential break and enters this month is outside the expected range and represents a 127 per cent increase from September 2017. Year to date, the number of residential break and enters is 23 per cent higher than during the same period last year.

Residential break and enters have been elevated for three consecutive months and this crime type continues to be one of the Detachment's active crime priorities. At this time no major patterns have been identified. Police continue to target problem areas. On September 19, 2018, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release advising the public of a significant increase in the number of residential break and enters and reminded residents to increase the security of their home through various safety measures, including the following:

- Ensure all doors and windows are secured and garage doors are closed;
- Keep vehicle keys somewhere secure and not close to the door;
- Join Block Watch;
- Have someone check on your residence when planning to be away for an extended period of time;
- Use timers on interior lights;
- Use monitored alarms and video security systems; and
- Report suspicious persons and vehicles to police.

Commercial Break and Enter

In September 2018, there were 24 break and enters to businesses, which is a 33 per cent reduction from August 2018. This number represents a 14 per cent decline from September 2017 and remains within the five-year expected range.

Robbery

There were four robberies in September 2018, which is down 50 per cent from the previous month. This number is below the five-year average range and represents no change from September 2017.

Sexual Offences

There were nine sexual offence files in September 2018, which is a 44 per cent reduction from the previous month. The number of sexual offences this month is 29 per cent higher than in September 2017 and remains within the five-year average range.

Year to date totals for 2018 indicate that there has been a 55 per cent increase in the number of reported sexual offences compared to the same period in 2017. No patterns or trends have been identified. This increase is primarily due to the significantly high number of offences recorded in January 2018. In particular, a large number of child pornography files were identified by the BC Integrated Child Exploitation Unit. In addition, there were a number of child pornography investigations originating from seizures at the Vancouver International Airport.

Shoplifting

There were 50 shoplifting thefts in September 2018, which is a 17 per cent decline from the previous month and a seven per cent reduction from September 2017. Reported shoplifting thefts are within the five-year expected range.

Theft from Auto

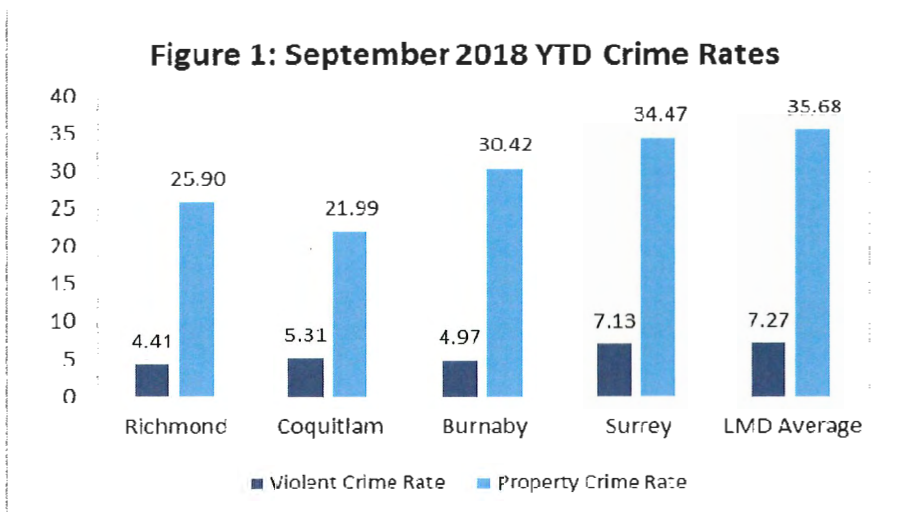
There were 182 theft from auto incidents in September 2018, which represents a seven per cent increase from the previous month. This number marks a 34 per cent increase from September 2017, however the total remains within the five year average range.

Crime Trends across Jurisdictions

Residential break and enters continue to be outside of the expected range in Richmond. At this time this trend has not been observed in neighbouring municipalities. Although an overarching trend has not been identified, some common elements have been noted. In a significant number of instances, break and enters are occurring to residences where the owner is away for an extended period of time. Offenders are also gaining access to residences through insecure doors and windows. This crime trend is also linked to an increase in the ancillary crime of auto theft. Offenders are often using keys obtained during residential break in's to steal vehicles. Richmond

RCMP’s media relations have addressed these various concerns and identified precautions residents can implement to prevent victimization.

For comparison jurisdictional data crime rates are presented below (Figure 1).¹ Out of the four largest municipalities policed by the RCMP in the Lower Mainland District (LMD), Richmond continues to have the lowest violent crime rate. Richmond’s property crime rate also remains low, ranking second lowest in its peer group.



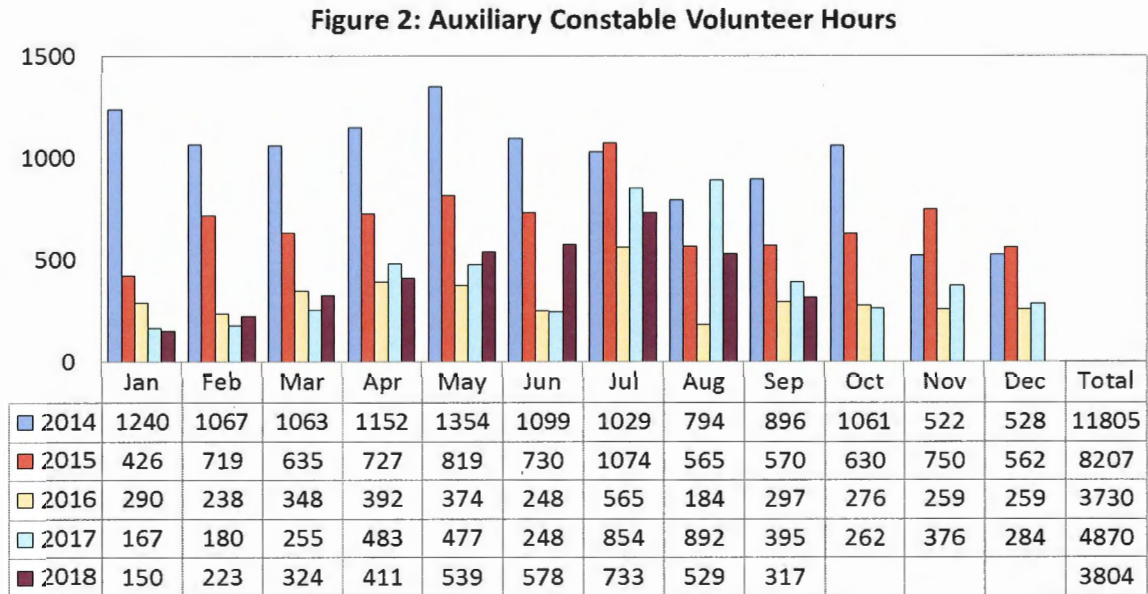
Auxiliary Constable Program

In September 2018, Richmond Detachment had a complement of 37 Auxiliary Constables. Auxiliary Constables provided a total of 317 volunteer hours during the month of September. In the coming months, the Province of BC and RCMP “E” Division are expected to announce the uniform and training standards for the new Tier 3 Auxiliary program; however, the details of these changes are not yet available.² Once these details are addressed, the Detachment will commence recruitment of a new troop of Auxiliary Constables, anticipated by the end of 2018.

¹ Crime rate is calculated per 1,000 people (using 2017 populations)

² <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/auxiliary-program-tiers>

Figure 2 compares the monthly hours of service provided by month from 2014 to 2018.



Auxiliary Constable Activities

Auxiliary Constables attend events in the community to promote a positive police presence, support RCMP members and provide traffic and crowd control. During the month of September Auxiliary Constables participated in:

- Autism Speaks Canada Walk
- Bait Car Deployments
- Crime Watch
- Home Security Checks
- Richmond World Festival
- School Sports

Block Watch

At the end of September 2018, the Block Watch program had 459 groups totaling 10,477 participants. Currently, the program includes 611 captains and co-captains.

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.

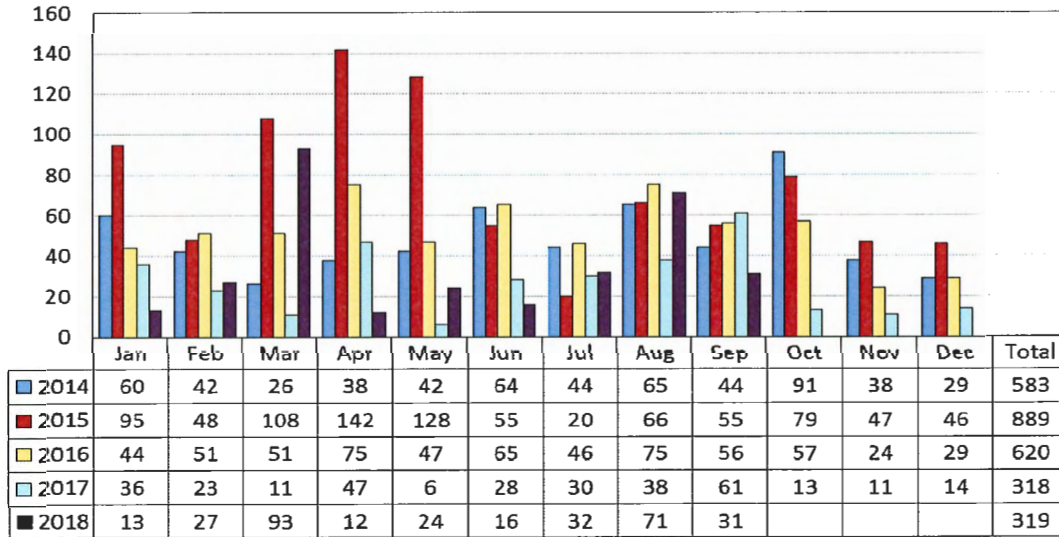
During the month of September volunteer highlights included:

- The deployment of 47 foot/van patrols totalling 329 hours and 10 bike patrols totalling 98 hours.
- 52 Fail to Stop deployments took place, which resulted in 1,492 warning letters.
- Speed Watch was conducted on 8,899 vehicles at various locations.
- September 10 – While volunteers were conducting Van/Foot patrols at Garden City Park, they reported a homeless camp and advised the Detachment's Vulnerable Persons Unit.
- September 11 – A total of nine volunteers assisted five RCMP members with a Distracted Driving Blitz during which 3,858 vehicles were checked. Police issued three tickets.
- September 13 – Volunteers attended the Minoru Senior Centre, pool, arena and track and distributed 160 brochures regarding the Canada Revenue Agency scam.
- September 19 – A total of 18 volunteers participated in a Cell Watch Blitz with deployments at numerous locations across Richmond. Over the course of six hours 9,642 vehicles were checked for distracted drivers and 83 warning letters were issued.
- September 20 – Three volunteers participated in a Schools Sports event at Homma Elementary School.
- September 24 – Nine volunteers and an RCMP member participated in a Residential Hot Spot Blitz, visiting 45 homes and speaking to approximately 90 residents. Home security, Block Watch and property crime prevention information was disseminated.
- September 27 – Six volunteers participated in a Distracted Driver Blitz at two locations. A total of 2,874 vehicles were checked.
- September 30 – Four volunteers attended the Autism Speaks Canada Walk, along with an RCMP member and provided crime prevention information while engaging with members of the public.

Distracted Drivers

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

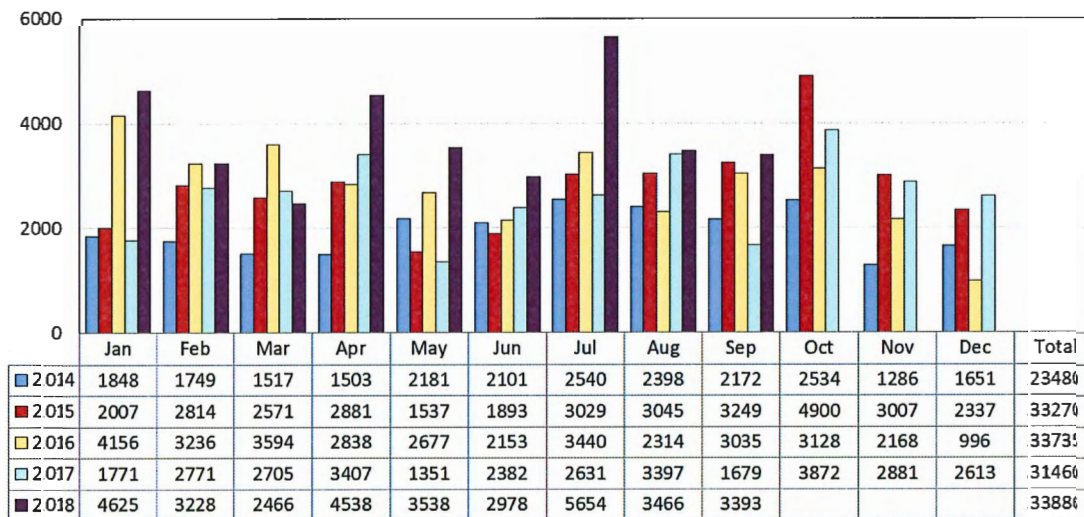
Figure 3: Distracted Driver Letters Sent



Lock-Out Auto Crime

Figure 4 provides a comparison by year of the number of vehicle notices issued.

Figure 4: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice

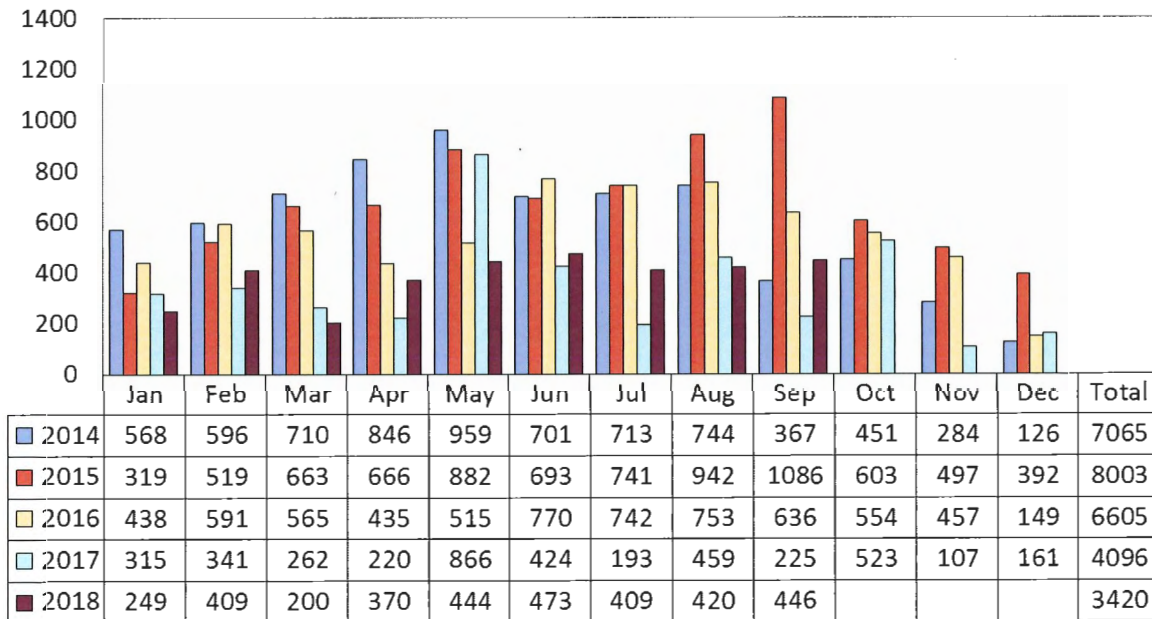


³ The total for March 2018 includes 92 warning letters that were sent as a result of the multiple Distracted Driving Campaign Blitzes which occurred that month.

Speed Watch

Figure 5 provides a yearly comparison of the number of letters sent to registered vehicle owners.

Figure 5: Speed Watch Letters Sent



Crime Prevention Unit

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

- Autism Speaks Canada Walk
- Distracted Driving Blitzes
- Ironwood 20th Anniversary
- Operation Hang Up with ICBC
- 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 September 2018 data to both July 2018 and August 2018. During “Operation Hang Up” on September 19, 2018, the Road Safety Unit issued 58 Violation Tickets to distracted drivers.

Violation Tickets were issued for the following infractions:

Infraction	July 2018	August 2018	September 2018
Distracted Driving	81	57	107
Driver License	227	162	233
Impaired	31	31	31
Intersection offences	125	93	106
Moving Violations ⁴	132	225	207
Speeding	562	271	229
Seatbelts	10	11	7
Vehicle Related ⁵	61	55	62
Other ⁶	13	3	15
Total	1242	908	997

Parking Tickets:

Name	Act	Example	July 2018	Aug 2018	Sept 2018
Parking	Municipal Bylaw	Municipal parking offences	26	26	10

Victim Services

In September 2018, Victim Services responded to a number of cases involving property crime, motor vehicle accidents and medical related sudden deaths resulting in 66 new clients and attendance to 14 crime/trauma scenes. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 144 ongoing files.

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 September, Youth Section highlights include:

- Youth Section began implementing the DARE schedule for the 2018-2019 school year, resulting in 36 DARE classes presented this month.
- Members in the Youth Section ensured curfew checks were completed for a number of youth having court ordered curfews.
- Members in the Youth Section attended Camp Stillwood at Cultus Lake with students from Steveston London Secondary School.

⁴ Moving violations refers to unsafe lane change and unsafe passing.

⁵ Vehicle related refers to vehicle defects, for example no lights and no insurance.

⁶ Other refers to miscellaneous charges including fail to remain at the scene of an accident and failing to stop for police.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

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: mf

- 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

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

Difference Maker Project

- The Difference Maker Project is an off-shoot of the School Sports Programs. Elementary school students are mentored by teachers, police officers and community ambassadors. This activity aims to encourage social and civic responsibility amongst elementary and secondary school aged youth through community projects.

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.

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.

SEPTEMBER 2018 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. For 2017, some inclusion criteria have been modified to improve accuracy and accommodate RCMP scoring regulations. For more information, contact Richmond Crime Analysts.

The Average Range data is based on activity in a single month over the past 5 years. If the current monthly total for an offence is above the expected average range (using a standard deviation), it will be noted in **red**, while below expected numbers will be noted in **blue**. Year-to-Date percentage increases of more than 10% are marked in **red**, while decreases of more than 10% are **blue**.

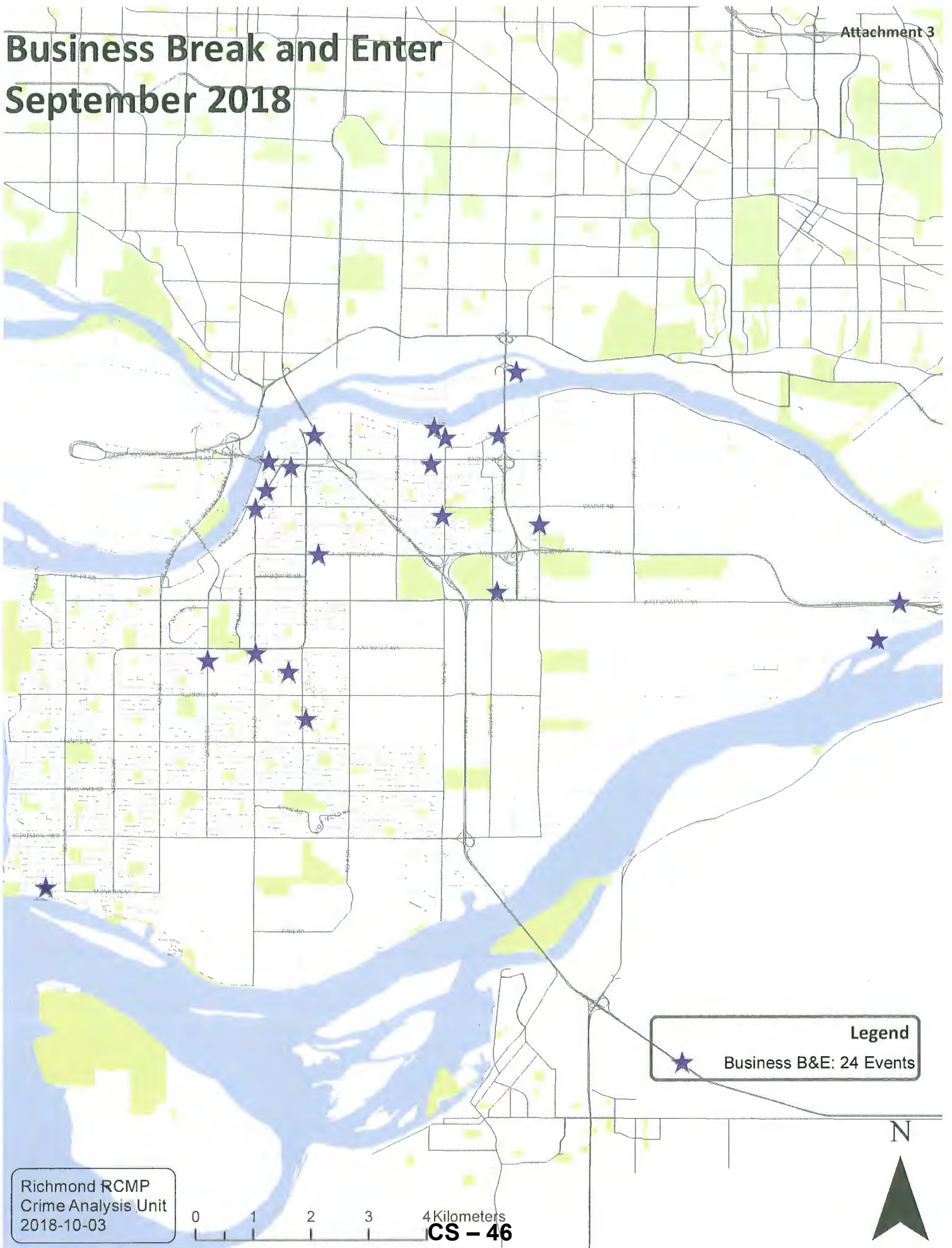
	Month	5-Yr Avg	5-Yr Range	Year to Date Totals			
	Sept-18	September		2017	2018	% Change	# Change
VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	111	110.0	98-122	1050	991	-6%	-59
Robbery <small>UCR 1610 (1-3)</small>	4	5.6	5-6	43	44	2%	1
Assault Common <small>UCR 1430</small>	40	38.8	31-47	360	352	-2%	-8
Assault Serious <small>UCR 1410 1420</small>	5	13.0	9-17	122	99	-19%	-23
Sexual Offences <small>UCR 1345, 1330, 1355, 1310</small>	9	12.0	9-15	71	110	55%	39
PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	652	616.6	534-699	5772	5749	0%	-23
Business B&E <small>UCR 2120-1</small>	24	28.2	21-36	296	282	-5%	-14
Residential B&E <small>UCR 2120-2</small>	84	54.8	33-77	460	568	23%	108
Auto Theft <small>UCR 2135 (1-10), 2178</small>	39	27.8	20-36	254	225	-11%	-29
Theft from Auto <small>UCR 2132, 2142</small>	182	170.2	135-205	1507	1718	14%	211
Theft <small>UCR 2130, 2140</small>	69	99.4	85-114	851	772	-9%	-79
Shoplifting <small>UCR 2133, 2143</small>	50	54.6	46-64	476	551	16%	75
Fraud <small>UCR 2160 (1-10), 2165, 2166</small>	78	60.4	47-74	676	653	-3%	-23
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	960	914.8	810-1020	8376	8394	0%	18
Arson <small>UCR 1629, 2110</small>	2	5.4	2-8	30	22	-27%	-8
SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	197	188.2	158-218	1554	1654	6%	100
DRUGS (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	51	55.6	51-61	542	494	-9%	-48
MHA RELATED CALLS (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	118	100.0	87-113	1089	1137	4%	48

Prepared by Richmond RCMP Crime Analysts.

Data collected from PRIME on 2018-10-03. Published 2018-10-03.

These data are operational and subject to change. This document is not to be copied, reproduced, used in whole or part or disseminated to any other person or agency without the consent of the originator(s). **CS - 45**

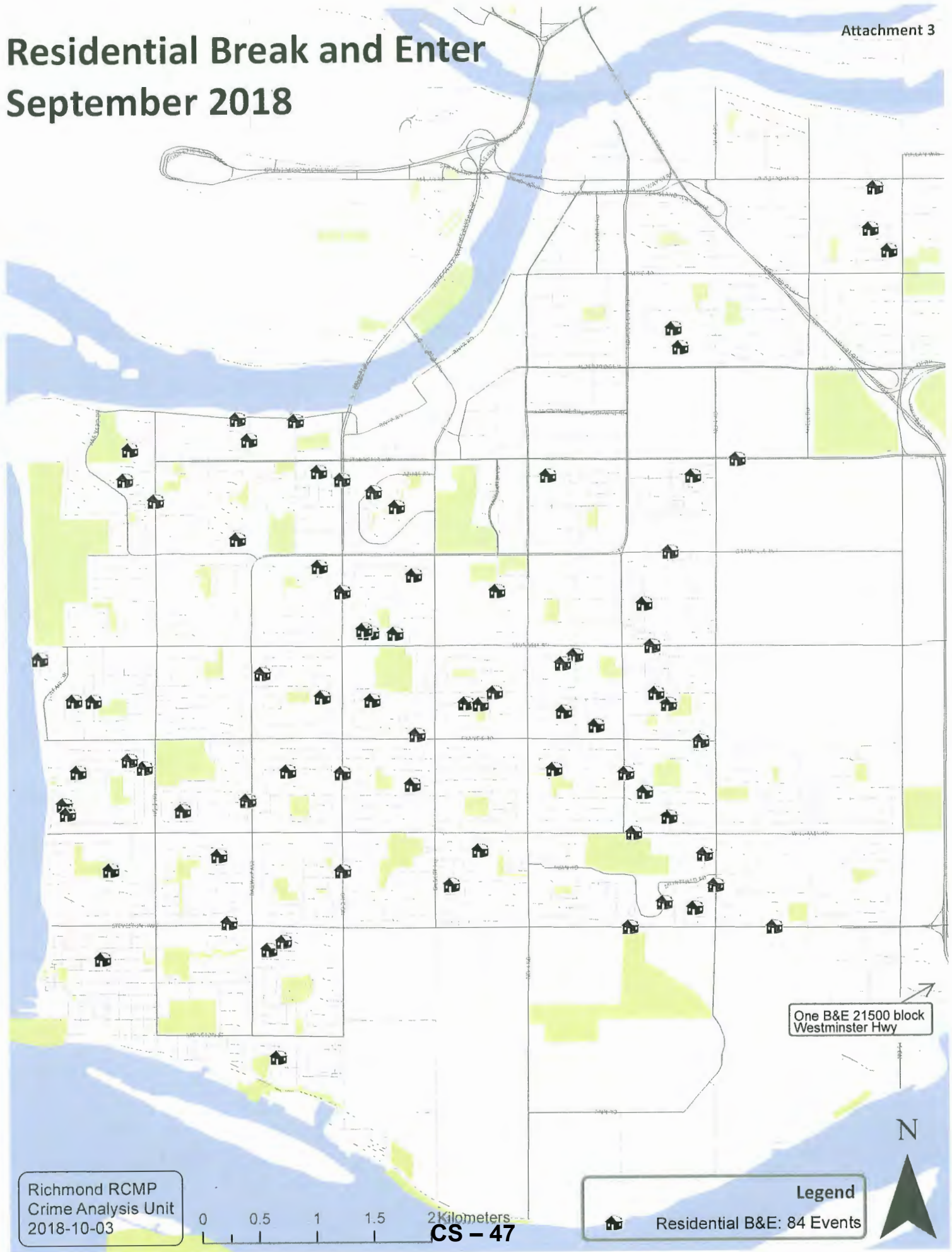
Business Break and Enter September 2018



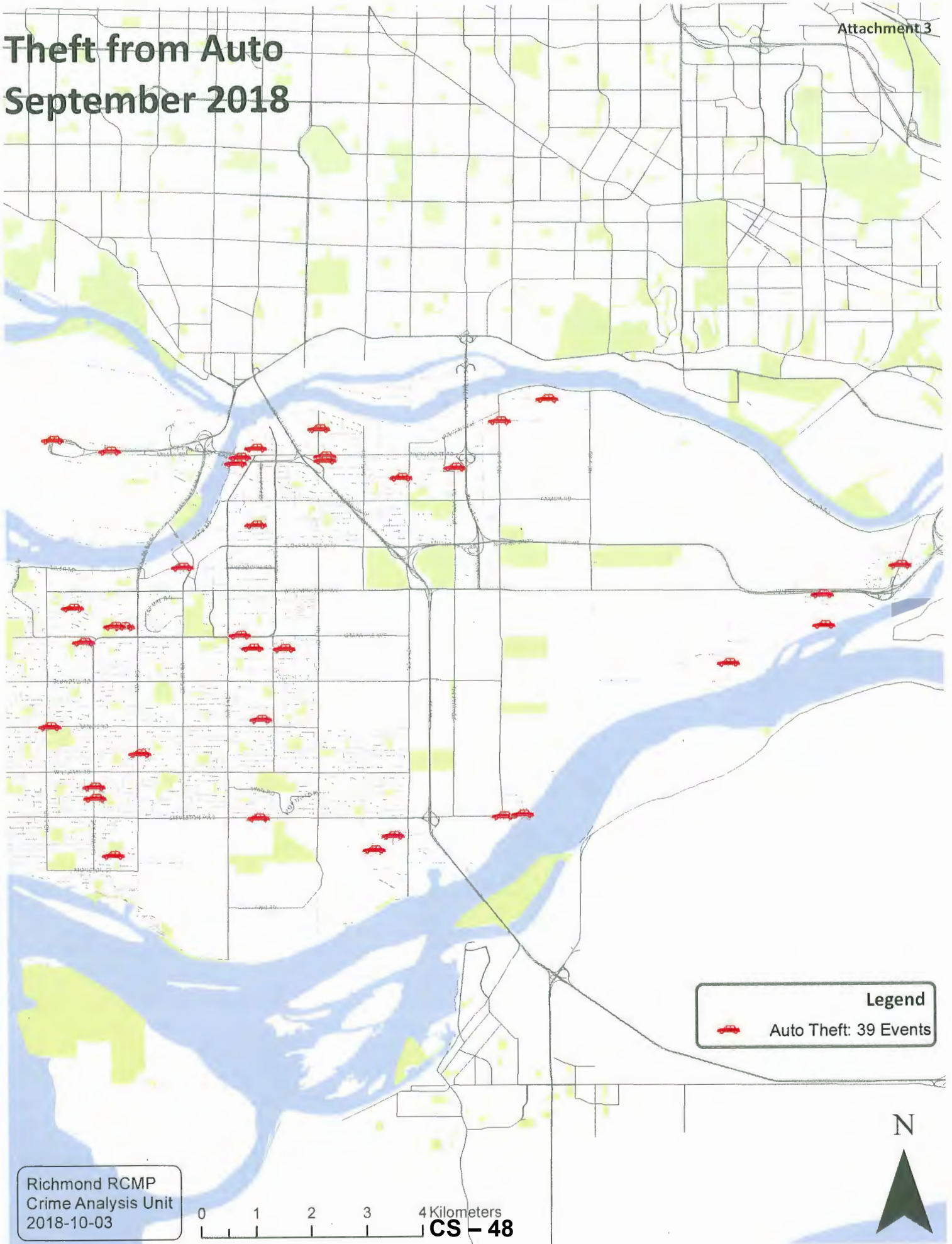
Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2018-10-03

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Residential Break and Enter September 2018



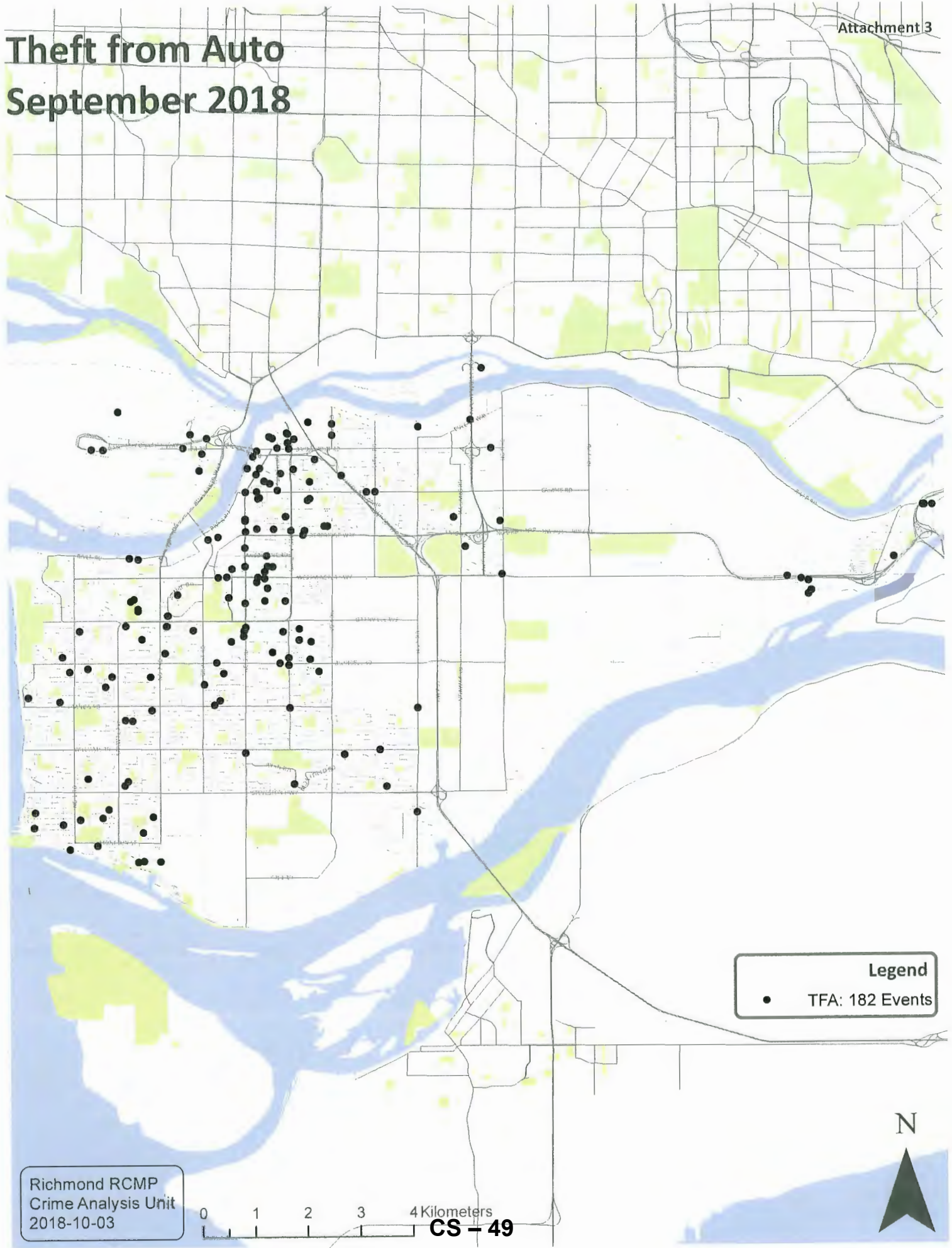
Theft from Auto September 2018



Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2018-10-03

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers
CS - 48

Theft from Auto September 2018



Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2018-10-03

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers
CS - 49

Legend
• TFA: 182 Events

N