



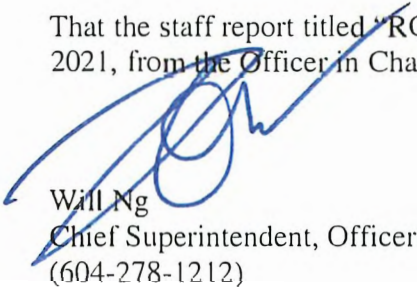
To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** November 8, 2021

From: Will Ng
Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge **File:** 09-5000-01/2021-Vol
01

Re: RCMP Monthly Activity Report – October 2021



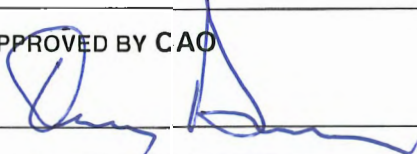
Staff Recommendation

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



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

Att. 4

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	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 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 2018-2022 Strategy #1 A Safe and Resilient City:

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

Analysis

Activities and Noteworthy Files

Weapons Call

On October 5, 2021, Richmond RCMP officers responded to the 7300 block of Turnill Street for reports of a man with a weapon. Upon attendance, police located the suspect and cordoned off the area. The man sustained injuries and was subsequently transported to hospital in serious condition. The Independent Investigations Office of BC is investigating the incident.

Fatal Collision

On October 19, 2021, Richmond RCMP officers responded to the 21000 block of Westminster Highway for a collision involving a motorcycle and semi-truck. The motorcyclist died at the scene. The cause of the collision remains under investigation.

Pedestrian Safety Campaign

On October 20, 2021, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release promoting a month-long Pedestrian Safety campaign. Public awareness and the education initiative reminded road users that visibility and weather conditions worsen during the fall and winter months and provided related road safety tips. Police distributed pedestrian safety reflectors and conducted targeted traffic enforcement in support of this campaign.

Protest at YVR Airport

On October 25, 2021, Richmond RCMP officers attended a planned protest to assist with traffic detours and congestion in the vicinity of the Vancouver International Airport. Police liaised with organizers to ensure the event was peaceful and safe; however, 18 people were eventually arrested and now face potential mischief-related charges.

Indecent Exposure

On October 28, 2021, Richmond RCMP officers conducted patrols near a school park in the 7000 block of Lombard Road after receiving reports of a man exposing himself. Investigators reviewed video footage taken and were able to arrest the suspect during patrols of the area. The Richmond RCMP Youth Section is investigating.

Analysis of Police Statistics

Arson

In October 2021, there were five reported arsons, which is up two incidents from the previous month and is down nine incidents from October 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of arsons this month is within the expected range.

Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)

There were 14 assault serious events in October 2021, which is up six incidents from the previous month and down three incidents from October 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of serious assaults this month is within the expected range.

Auto Theft

In October 2021, there were 23 incidents of auto theft, which is down eight per cent from the previous month and down 21 per cent from October 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of auto thefts this month is within the expected range.

Drugs

In October 2021, there were 34 drug files, which is up 42 per cent from the previous month and up six per cent from October 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of drug incidents this month is within the expected range.

Mental Health

There were 147 mental health-related incidents in October 2021, which is a nine per cent increase from the previous month and is a seven per cent decrease from October 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of mental health-related incidents this month is within the expected range.

There were 102 police apprehensions this month, which is a 20 per cent increase from the previous month and the average hospital wait time increased by 19 per cent to 121 minutes. This

is the longest average wait time recorded this year and has been attributed to a small proportion of incidents which required police to remain in hospital for an extended period of time.

Residential Break and Enter

There were 28 break and enters to residences in October 2021, which is a 27 per cent increase from the previous month and is a 59 per cent decrease from October 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of residential break and enters this month is within the expected range.

Commercial Break and Enter

In October 2021, there were 25 break and enters to businesses, which represents a 31 per cent decrease from the previous month and is a 36 per cent decrease from October 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of commercial break and enters this month is within the expected range.

Robbery

There were four robbery incidents in October 2021, which represents no change from the previous month and is down one incident from October 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of robberies this month is below the expected range.

Sexual Offences

In October 2021, there were 16 sexual offence files, which is down 11 per cent from previous month and up seven per cent from October 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of sexual offences this month is within the expected range.

Shoplifting

There were 43 reported shoplifting thefts in October 2021, which is a 17 per cent decrease from the previous month and is a 35 per cent decrease from October 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of shoplifting thefts this month is below the expected range.

Theft from Automobile

There were 119 theft from automobile incidents in October 2021, which is down 13 per cent from the previous month and down 22 per cent from October 2020. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of thefts from automobiles this month is below the expected range.

Hate Crimes and Incidents

Table 1 presents the number of hate crimes and hate incidents reported between January 1, 2018 and October 31, 2021.¹ 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

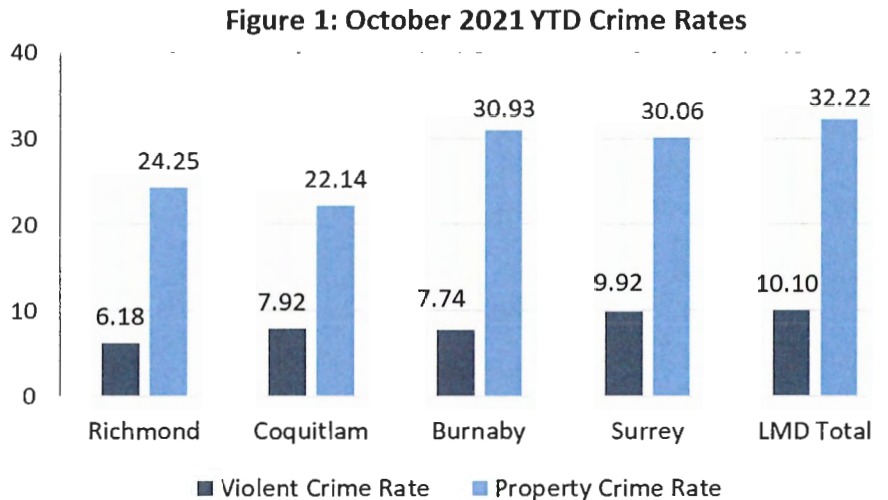
¹ The BC Hate Crimes Unit uses the terms hate-motivated crime and hate-motivated incident.

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. The single incident reported this month was related to the use of racial slurs.

Table 1 – Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents			
Year	Hate Crime Files	Hate Incident Files	Total
2018	19	4	23
2019	11	9	20
2020	21	13	34
2021 YTD	18	25	43

Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions

Data on crime rates is presented in Figure 1.² In October 2021, out of the four largest municipalities policed by the RCMP in the Lower Mainland District (LMD), Richmond had the lowest violent crime rate and the second lowest property crime rate.



The Richmond RCMP issued a media release on October 29, 2021, advising that 238 catalytic converters had been reported stolen across the city in the first nine months of 2021. This crime type has increased in municipalities across the Lower Mainland and property crime investigators are working with partner policing agencies to target these thefts. The media release also provided related crime prevention tips.

Block Watch

At the end of October 2021, the Block Watch program had 303 groups totaling 7,013 participants. Currently, the program includes 437 captains and co-captains.

² Crime rate is calculated per 1,000 people.

Community Police Station Programs

Community police stations enhance the Richmond RCMP Detachment's policing services by providing an array of crime prevention resources and community safety initiatives. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all three community police stations have been closed to the public since March 2020. Volunteer deployments resumed in June 2020, in accordance with the guidelines established by RCMP 'E' Division's Crime Prevention Services; however, the scope of volunteer activities has been limited. City staff and volunteers continue to pursue safety initiatives to enhance crime prevention program awareness, community engagement and police accessibility.

During the month of October volunteer highlights included:

- The deployment of two volunteer bike patrols, totalling 32 hours.
- 15 Lock Out Auto Crime deployments took place, which resulted in 561 information letters being distributed.
- Speed Watch was conducted on 422 vehicles at multiple locations and 44 information letters were issued.
- There were two Fail to Stop deployments during which 40 information letters were issued.
- In collaboration with ICBC, a total of 3,980 safety reflectors were distributed as part of a month-long Pedestrian Safety campaign.
- October 20 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers and Metro Vancouver Transit Police with a Pedestrian Safety Blitz at the Brighouse SkyTrain station. A total of 1,250 safety reflectors were distributed.
- October 21 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a Pedestrian Safety Blitz at Lansdowne Mall. A total of 1,050 safety reflectors were distributed.
- October 27 – Volunteers partnered with Walk Richmond and ICBC to promote Pedestrian Safety at the Richmond Nature Park.³
- October 29 – Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a Pedestrian Safety deployment at the Broadmoor Shopping Centre and Brighouse Elementary School and distributed 790 safety reflectors.
- October 31 – Four volunteers participated in the first Crime Watch deployment since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴ During the deployment, volunteers checked 195 cars at multiple locations throughout the city.

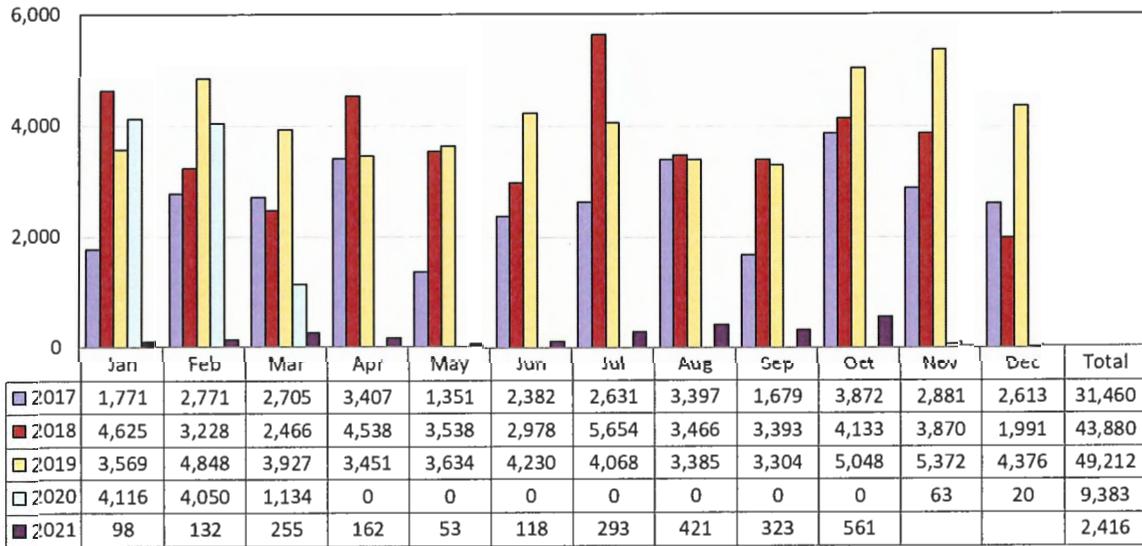
³ Walk Richmond is a City program that provides volunteer opportunities and resources promoting walking.

⁴ During Crime Watch deployments volunteers check for stolen vehicles and report suspicious activities to police

Lock Out Auto Crime

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

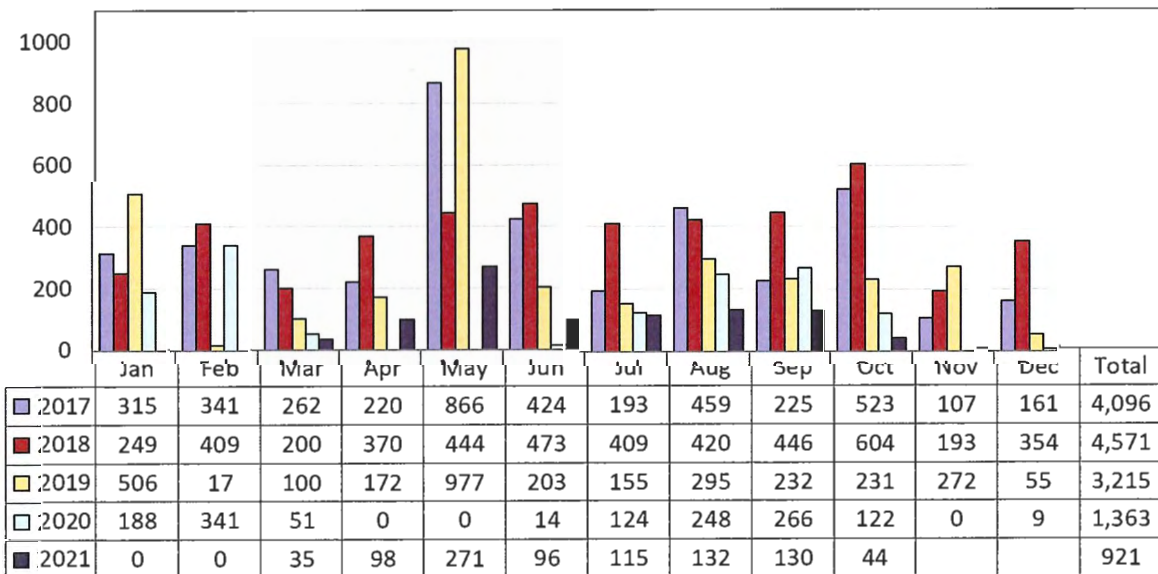
Figure 2: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice



Speed Watch

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

Figure 3: Speed Watch Letters Sent



⁵ Beginning in November 2020, Lock Out Auto Crime letters were issued in place of notices.

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:

- Business Outreach
- Community Outreach Patrols
- Fraud Prevention Presentation
- Pedestrian Safety
- Place of Worship Patrols
- Speed Watch

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 October 2021 to both August 2021 and September 2021. Violation Tickets were issued for the following infractions:

Table 2: Violation Tickets Issued

Infraction	August 2021	September 2021	October 2021
Distracted Driving	155	226	114
Driver License	147	190	161
Impaired	42	35	40
Intersection Offences	38	39	34
Moving Infractions ⁶	155	144	128
Speeding	150	175	204
Seatbelts	15	15	9
Vehicle Related ⁷	62	106	89
Other ⁸	2	8	7
Total	766	938	786

Victim Services

In October 2021, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 96 new clients and attended eight crime/trauma scenes after hours. Victim Services reduced in-person client services in March 2020 and began offering services by phone but continue to attend some of the more serious calls in person. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 145 files. In October, Victim Services responded to a number of cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, mental health issues and traffic accidents.

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 fail to remain at the scene of an accident and failing to stop for police.

Youth Section

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

- The Youth Section continued the first term of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program and delivered 74 DARE classes to Grade 5 students.
- RCMP officers in the Youth Section conducted 36 proactive school visits at Secondary Schools and 113 visits at Elementary Schools. Police officers engaged with the students at recess and lunch, as well as during morning and afternoon supervision.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

In October 2021, the Richmond RCMP conducted a number of noteworthy investigations, including a fatal collision involving a motorcyclist and an indecent exposure at a school park. Police statistics for this month indicate that most crime types were within the expected ranges, with the exception of robbery, theft from automobiles and shoplifting, which were all below the expected ranges.

In October, the Richmond RCMP Community Engagement Team and volunteers promoted a month-long Pedestrian Safety Campaign. In addition, the DARE program continued the first term of the 2021-2022 school year. The Officer in Charge of the Richmond RCMP Detachment will continue to ensure that Richmond remains a safe and desirable community.



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

EW:

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

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

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.

OCTOBER 2021 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.

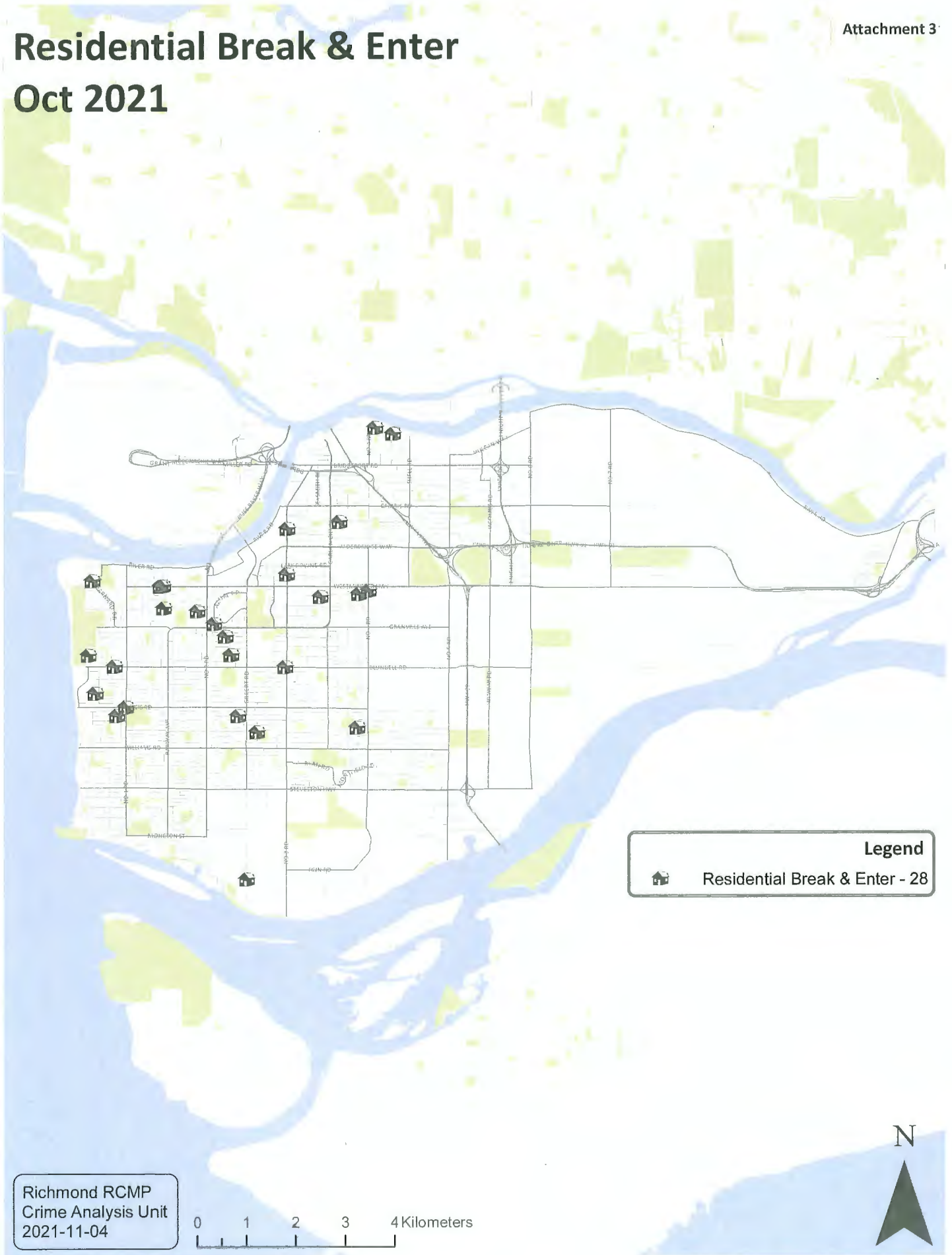
In 2019, changes were implemented regarding the collection of UCR data. The new standards provide much more stringent criteria to classify a file as unfounded. As a result, there will be an increase in many crime statistics, and clearance rates will conversely decline. This creates numerous challenges 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.

	Month	5-Yr Avg	5-Yr Range	Year to Date Totals			
	Oct-21	October		2020	2021	% Change	# Change
VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	143	121.8	103-141	1432	1437	0%	5
Robbery	4	7.2	6-9	48	46	-4%	-2
Assault Common	53	45.8	36-56	505	466	-8%	-39
Assault Serious	14	12.4	10-15	134	151	13%	17
Sexual Offences	16	13.0	10-16	167	197	18%	30
PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	486	683.6	635-732	5528	5273	-5%	-255
Business B&E	25	40.6	28-53	329	281	-15%	-48
Residential B&E	28	49.6	36-64	370	247	-33%	-123
Auto Theft	23	28.2	23-34	222	215	-3%	-7
Theft from Auto	119	198.0	163-233	1394	1353	-3%	-41
Theft	61	83.6	64-103	594	574	-3%	-20
Shoplifting	43	71.2	59-83	517	578	12%	61
Fraud	76	78.2	70-86	723	720	0%	-3
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	227	177.2	158-196	1907	2443	28%	536
Arson <small>(UCR 2000-2100)</small>	5	4.8	0-9	65	59	-9%	-6
SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	856	982.6	918-1048	9011	9156	2%	145
DRUGS (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	34	51.4	23-80	536	352	-34%	-184
MHA RELATED CALLS (MHA files or Mental Health Unit)	147	163.8	108-220	1631	1333	-18%	-298

Prepared by Richmond RCMP Crime Analysts. Data collected from PRIME on 2021-11-02. Published 2021-11-04. 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).

Residential Break & Enter Oct 2021

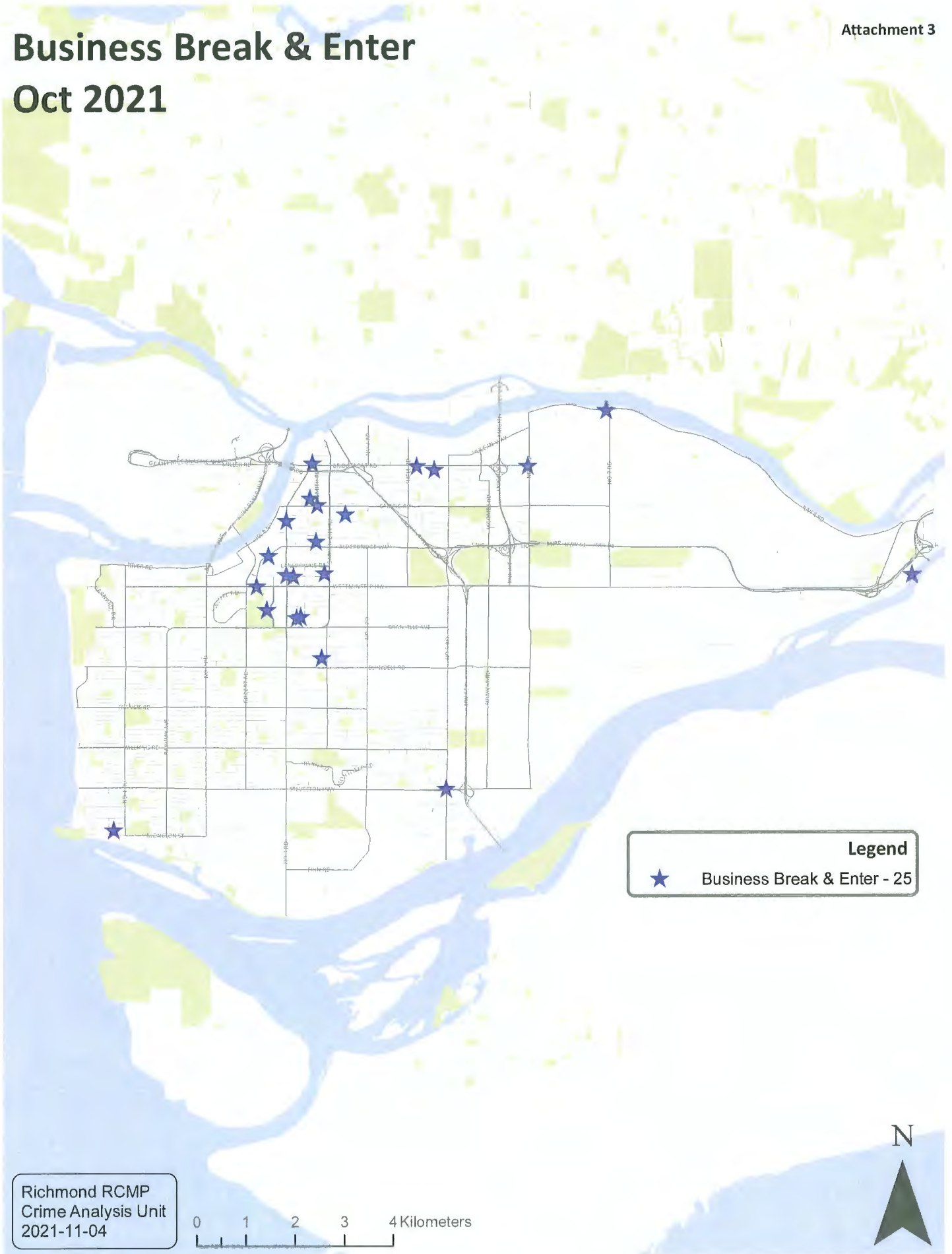


Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2021-11-04

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

Legend
Residential Break & Enter - 28

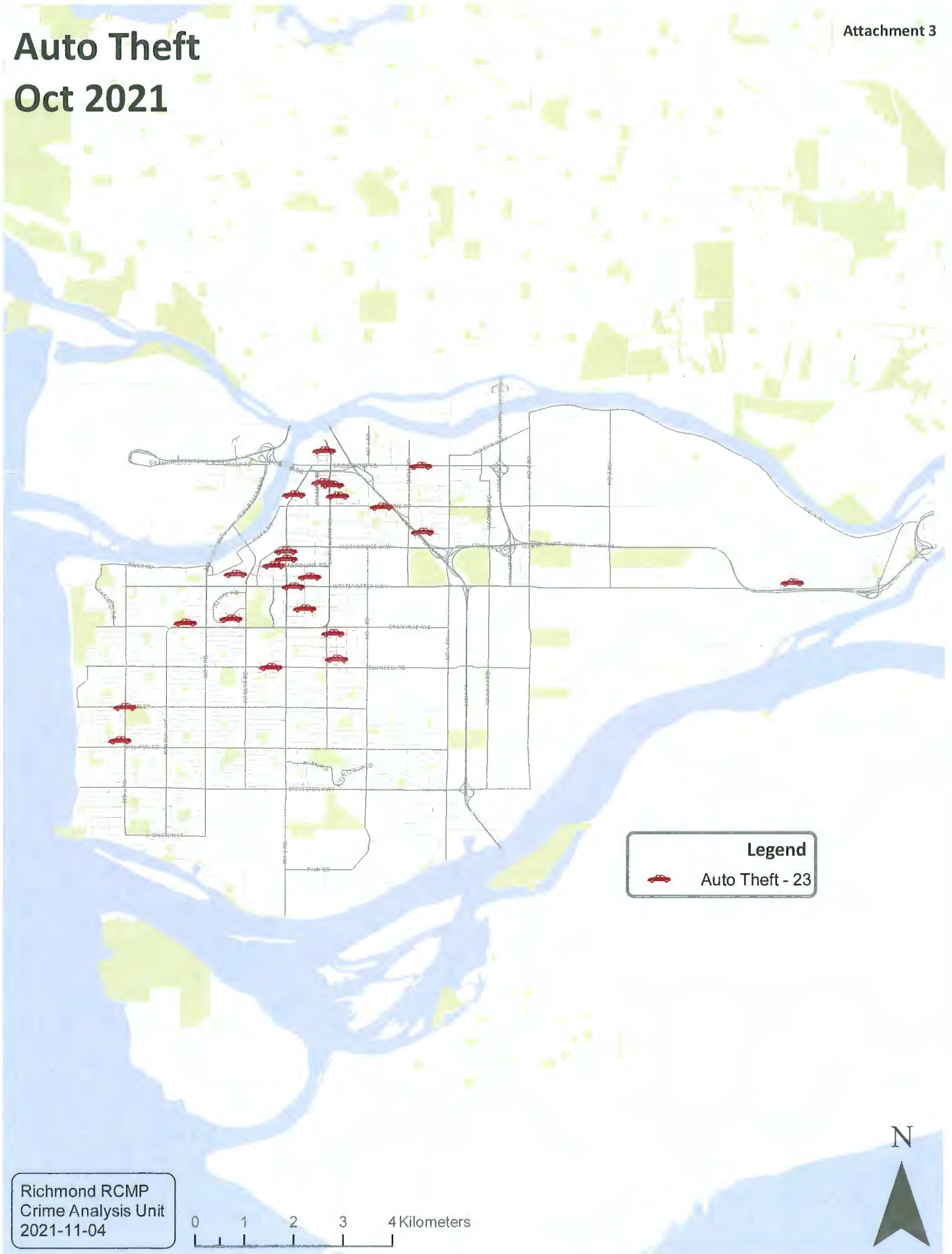
Business Break & Enter Oct 2021



Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2021-11-04

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

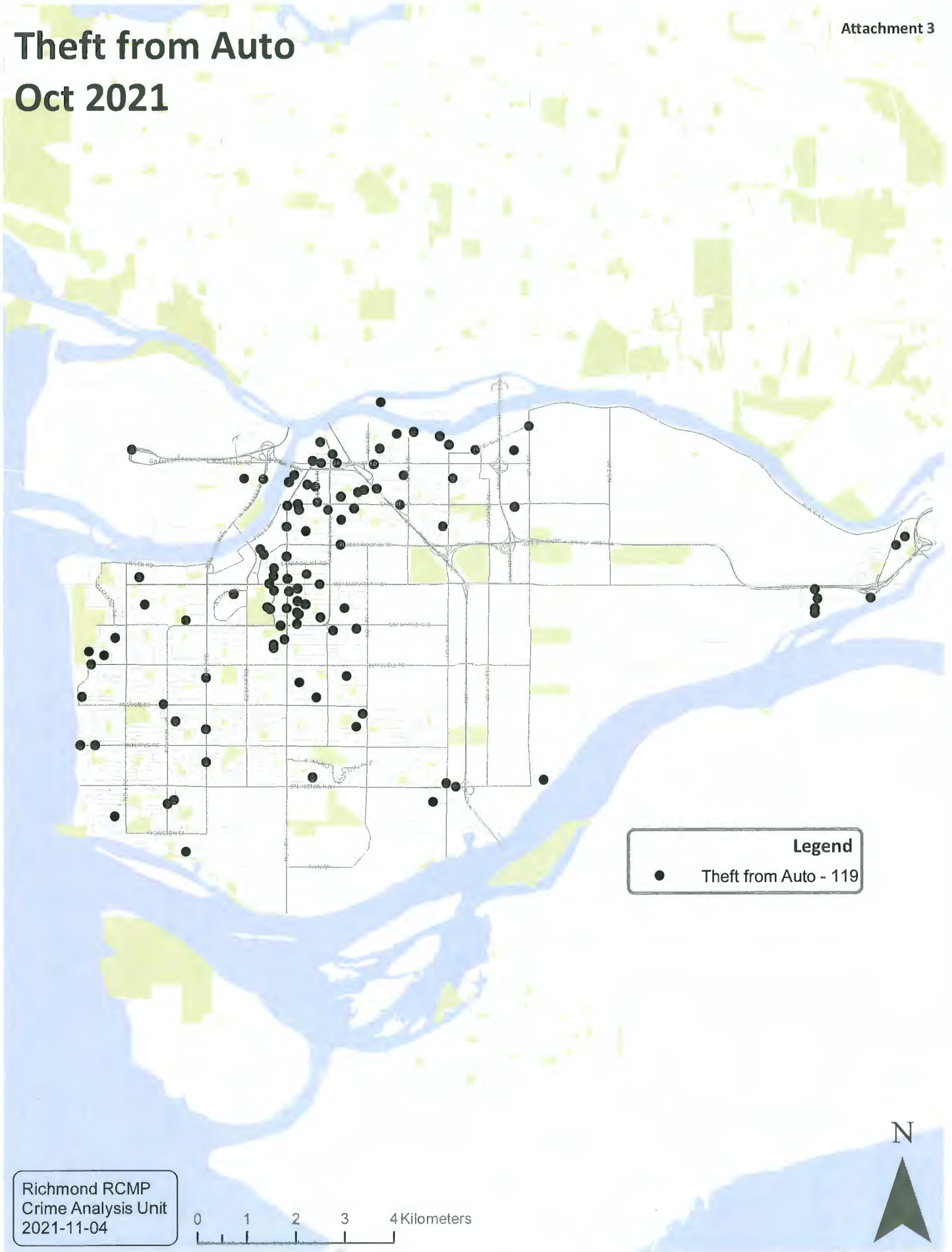
Auto Theft Oct 2021



Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2021-11-04

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

Theft from Auto Oct 2021



Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2021-11-04

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers



CRIME PREVENTION

WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME

NEWSLETTER

Reporting to the Police

Calling the police is an important part of protecting yourself and of being a good neighbour. When you observe suspicious behaviour it is important to call the police as soon as you can and ideally from a safe and discreet position while the incident is happening. Informing the police about crimes that have occurred is one way of preventing future crimes, regardless of whether or not damage was caused.

9-1-1 is for Police, Fire, or Medical emergencies when **immediate action is required**: someone's health, safety or property is in jeopardy or a crime is in progress. If you need police assistance that is not of an emergency nature, please call the Richmond RCMP at 604-278-1212. You can also report certain types of incident online, please visit <https://richmond.rcmp.gc.ca> for more information.

When calling the police:

- Try to remain calm, listen carefully and speak clearly.
- Provide your information.
- Know your location and let call taker know when asked.
- Call takers are trained to ask questions that are needed to provide accurate and specific information to responders. Please be patient and provide the answers as requested.
- Stay on the line until you are told to hang up.

Being able to describe the suspicious behaviour and people are valuable skills that take practice. When you see something suspicious, observe and start gathering information. These observations are important for the call taker to determine what resources are needed.

- Observe and note down what the suspicious person is doing. What is their body language telling you?
- What are they wearing, any logos or unique design on their clothing or hat?
- What shoes are they wearing? A thief may wear extra layers of clothing in order to change their appearance while fleeing the scene but rarely do they change their shoes.
- Is there anything distinct about the suspect? Do they have any piercings, scars, or tattoos?

It's always good practice to start your descriptions from the head down.

Also pay attention to the method of travel. Are they walking, biking or driving? Note down the direction of travel. If you observe a suspect get into a vehicle, try and remember the license plate, colour, make and model of the car, and whether or not the suspect is the driver or passenger.



RICHMOND RCMP CRIME PREVENTION NEWSLETTER

Online Shopping Fraud

Prevention Tips:

Online Fraud cost consumers millions of dollars every year and scammers can use many ways to attract potential victims including:

- Classified Ad Sales
- Website Pop Ups on Social Media
- Fake Company websites that look like the genuine online retail stores and may even use stolen logos

Items offered for sale by fraudsters can be almost anything, including:

- Event tickets
- Puppies
- Luxury Items such as clothing, jewellery or electronics
- Apartments and vacation rentals
- Motor Vehicles



How do you spot an online shopping scam?

- Is the offer too good to be true? Unbelievably low prices or amazing benefits and features?
- If it sounds too good to be true it probably is a scam.
- Unusual Payment Method: Are you asked to do a wire transfer, bitcoin, money order or pre-loaded payment card. Sending money this way means you have no recourse if the item does not arrive.
- Are the contact details vague? No customer phone number or email listed on the website. Can you contact the company if anything goes wrong. Are you being pressured to make a decision or keep it a secret? Take the time to think it through and do your research.
- Are there spelling and grammatical errors. Legitimate organizations have professionals prepare their sites and they rarely contain errors.

What can you do to protect yourself?

- Never click on a link in an unsolicited email, instant message or on social media. Go to your internet browser and type in the full website address yourself.
- Check online reviews – Search the results yourself do not rely on the information provided.
- Beware of sellers that have limited or no reviews.
- Buy from companies or individuals you know by reputation or from past experience.
- Use companies that offer secure payment services such as PayPal and websites with SSL certificate.
- Before you buy: Check the refund and return policy and make sure that they sound fair.
- Use a different password for each online site.
- Contact your Financial Institution or Credit Card Company to report any fraudulent transactions.
- Check Bank and Credit Card statements frequently for unknown charges.
- If you went through an online Market Place such as eBay or Amazon contact them for assistance.
- File a police report if you have been the victim of fraud. Call Richmond RCMP at 604-278-1212.

Caller ID Spoofing

For phone scams to be successful, scammers need people to answer their phone in order to initiate the conversation. As most people are not picking up calls from unknown callers and blocked numbers anymore, scammers are always looking for new ways to get people to answer their calls. A common technique they use nowadays is spoofing their caller ID information. This allows them to modify what phone numbers and information to appear on caller ID. They often use neighbour spoofing so it appears that the incoming call is from a local number, company or government agency that you may know and trust in order to try and get you to answer the call. It makes it more difficult to tell right away if an incoming call is spoofed therefore you need to be extremely careful when responding to any request for personal identifying information.

- If you answer the phone and the caller or recording asks you to press any buttons, hang up immediately.
- Never give out personal information such as bank account number, social insurance number, mother's maiden name or other identifying information to unsolicited calls.
- If you have any suspicions about the caller, do not stay on the line. Hang up and call the organization yourself using the number from a trustworthy source, such as their website, invoices or account statements.
- When in doubt, just let the call go to voicemail.



Stay informed. Check out the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre website and learn about how to recognize and protect yourself from scams and fraud.

Pedestrian Safety

- **Always use crosswalks** and follow the pedestrian signs and traffic signals.
- **Wear reflective or light-coloured clothing** - use reflectors on the front, back and sides. A reflective vest is an inexpensive option.
- **Choose familiar routes** that are well lit, allow you to walk away from traffic, and don't have a lot of shrubbery or dark areas.
- **Use extra caution when crossing streets.** Drivers may be focused on oncoming traffic and not see you. Never assume that a driver has seen you.
- **Beware of tripping hazards.** It is harder to see uneven sidewalks, roots, rocks, potholes, and trash when it's dark. Scan the ground ahead.
- **Don't use earphones or gaze at your phone.** This may make you more of a target to criminals as you may appear to be distracted. Your vision won't be as acute if you've been looking at the lighted screen instead of the path ahead.



BUSINESS LINK

WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME

NEWSLETTER

Prevent Catalytic Converter Theft

Catalytic converter thefts are on the rise as the price for precious metals is increasing. Thieves can remove them within matters of minutes and sell it on the black market where there is a high demand of platinum and rhodium. The increase in catalytic converters theft to any vehicle especially business vehicles happen mostly at night and over the weekend, when there are no witnesses or cameras to record the instances. A lot of the parking lots on business properties are either unsecured and fully accessible by the public or located within a gated area that is solely secured by a chain lock. Locations with easy access, low foot traffic, low natural surveillance and multiple targets are very attractive to thieves; hence business owners should put extra effort in securing their vehicles and preventing catalytic converter theft.

Walk around your property and examine it for potential problems.

- Which areas are vulnerable to access?
- Are there any hiding places?
- Could trimming shrubbery or blocking off alcoves make your vehicles less desirable for thieves?
- Remove or move any items that may aid thieves in gaining access including ladders and large containers.



Install Security Cameras: Cameras should be placed strategically to cover the area. Mounting the cameras too low can be an invitation for vandals to damage the camera lens. Mounting the camera too high means you will only see the top of visitors' heads and no faces. Make sure resolution is high to be able to provide a clear identifiable image. Cameras should be protected with a cage to prevent tampering.

Block access: In order to steal the parts, thieves need to slide under the vehicle and use cutting tools to detach the box from the pipes around it. This means how you park your car matters. Parking close to walls or fences or installing barriers can help.

Hire Security Patrols: Randomly timed patrols can be an effective deterrent.

Use Signage: Signs alerting would be criminals that items are marked for identification, that they are under video surveillance and the premises are security patrolled may persuade them to go elsewhere.



Please help by reporting any suspicious behaviour: RCMP Non-Emergency line **604-278-1212**. If you witness a crime in progress, dial **9-1-1**.

Email Break & Enter Alerts

To receive email alerts of neighbourhood commercial break and enters, register your business name and street address at:
RCMP_Business_Link@richmond.ca

