



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: January 14, 2023

From: Dave Chauhan
Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge

File: 09-5375-02/2023-Vol
01




Re: RCMP Monthly Activity Report – December 2022 and Year in Review

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “RCMP Monthly Activity Report – December 2022 and Year in Review”, dated January 14, 2023, from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment, be received for information.

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

Att. 3

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: 
APPROVED BY CAO 	

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

Property Crime Awareness

On December 8, 2022, the Richmond RCMP issued two property crime-related media releases to increase awareness of holiday-related crime trends. Prevention information included proactive measures to keep homes secure as well as tips to prevent thefts from automobiles.

Volunteer Appreciation

On December 9, 2022, the Richmond RCMP honoured its volunteers with a gala event at the Executive Hotel Vancouver Airport. Over 90 people attended the event, which recognized the dedicated efforts of our local volunteers. Despite the impacts of pandemic-related limitations, volunteers provided more than 18,000 hours of service to the community since 2019.

Impaired Driving Campaign

On December 15, 2022, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release to promote road safety and increase awareness of impaired driving during the holiday season. This included a video featuring the Officer in Charge discussing the risks of driving while impaired and reminding drivers to plan a safe ride home.

Property Crime Operation

On December 13, 2022, Richmond RCMP officers, along with Metro Vancouver Transit Police and a group of local businesses, conducted a coordinated enforcement project targeting property crime and shoplifting. The joint operation yielded 11 arrests, including a man and woman who were arrested for attempting to use a fraudulently obtained gift card.

Threat Aboard Flight

On December 30, 2022, Richmond RCMP officers at the Vancouver International Airport (YVR) responded to a threat aboard a flight originating from Edmonton. Officers boarded the flight and cleared the aircraft prior to passengers and crew disembarking. The police investigation determined the threat was not credible.

Analysis of Police Statistics*Arson*

In December 2022, there were four reported arsons, which is down three incidents from the previous month and down two incidents from December 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of arsons this month is within the average range.

In 2022, reported arsons increased by 22 per cent compared to the previous year. This increase is within the expected year over year statistical variance.

Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)

There were 16 assault serious events in December 2022, which represents no change from the previous month and is a seven per cent increase from December 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of serious assaults this month is within the average range.

In 2022, assaults serious events increased by 14 per cent compared to the previous year. This increase is within the expected year over year statistical variance.

To date, suspects have been identified in 69 per cent of assaults this month. Of the events reported in December 2022, 63 per cent occurred between people who were known to each other.

Auto Theft

In December 2022, there were 17 incidents of auto theft, which is an 11 per cent decrease from the previous month and represents a six per cent decrease from December 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of auto thefts this month is within the average range.

The number of auto thefts reported in 2022 remained unchanged from 2021.

Drugs

In December 2022, there were 21 drug files, which is down 60 per cent from the previous month and down 13 per cent from December 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of drug incidents this month is within the average range.

In 2022, drug incidents increased by 25 per cent compared to the previous year. This increase is within the expected year over year statistical variance and has been partially attributed to an increase in files originating at YVR, where air traffic increased in 2022.

Mental Health

There were 222 mental health-related incidents in December 2022, which is a three per cent decrease from the previous month and is a nine per cent decrease from December 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of mental health-related incidents this month is within the average range.

In 2022, mental health-related incidents decreased by eight per cent compared to the previous year. This decrease is within the expected year over year statistical variance.

There were 68 police apprehensions this month, which is within the average range. The average hospital wait time increased by 20 per cent to 120 minutes, which was the highest wait time of 2022; this number has been attributed to a small number of files which had exceptional wait times.

Residential Break and Enter

There were 26 break and enters to residences in December 2022, which is a 63 per cent increase from the previous month and is a 21 per cent decrease from December 2021.¹ No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of residential break and enters this month is within the average range.

In 2022, residential break and enters decreased by 13 per cent compared to the previous year. This decrease is within the expected year over year statistical variance.

Commercial Break and Enter

In December 2022, there were 35 break and enters to businesses, which represents a 40 per cent increase from the previous month and is a three per cent increase from December 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of commercial break and enters this month is within the average range.

In 2022, commercial break and enters increased by nine per cent compared to the previous year. This increase is within the expected year over year statistical variance.

¹ A statistically low number of residential break and enters were reported in November 2022.

Robbery

There were six robberies in December 2022, which is up three incidents from the previous month and down one incident from December 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of robberies this month is within the average range.

In 2022, robberies increased by seven per cent compared to the previous year. This increase is within the expected year over year statistical variance.

To date, suspects have been identified in half of the incidents and two arrests have been made. Four of the robberies reported this month involved the use of a weapon.

Sexual Offences

In December 2022, there were 17 sexual offence files, which is a six per cent increase from the previous month and is an 11 per cent decrease from December 2021.² No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of sexual offences this month is within the average range.

In 2022, sexual offences decreased by 14 per cent compared to the previous year. This decrease is within the expected year over year statistical variance.

Suspects have been identified in 71 per cent of the incidents reported this month.

Shoplifting

There were 70 reported shoplifting thefts in December 2022, which is a nine per cent increase from the previous month and is a 23 per cent increase from December 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of shoplifting thefts this month is within the average range.

In 2022, shoplifting thefts increased by 18 per cent compared to the previous year. This increase is within the expected year over year statistical variance.

Theft from Automobile

There were 121 theft from automobile incidents in December 2022, which is up eight per cent from the previous month and up 34 per cent from December 2021. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of thefts from automobiles this month is within the average range.

In 2022, thefts from automobiles decreased by 10 per cent compared to the previous year. This decrease is within the expected year over year statistical variance.

² The Sexual Offences category comprises a range of offences including: sexual assault, sexual interference, making and distributing child pornography, possessing and accessing child pornography and indecent acts/exposing.

Hate Crimes and Incidents

Table 1 presents the number of hate crimes and hate incidents reported between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2022.³ A “hate crime” refers to any criminal offence targeting an identifiable group. The criteria for an offence to be considered a hate crime as per the *Criminal Code* carries a higher threshold and usually involves one or more criminal offences. A “hate incident” may be motivated by the same factors as a hate crime, but does not reach the threshold of being a criminal offence. The incidents reported this month included racist graffiti and derogatory comments. The number of hate-related events in 2022 decreased by 24 per cent compared to the previous year.

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	21	24	45
2022	8	26	34

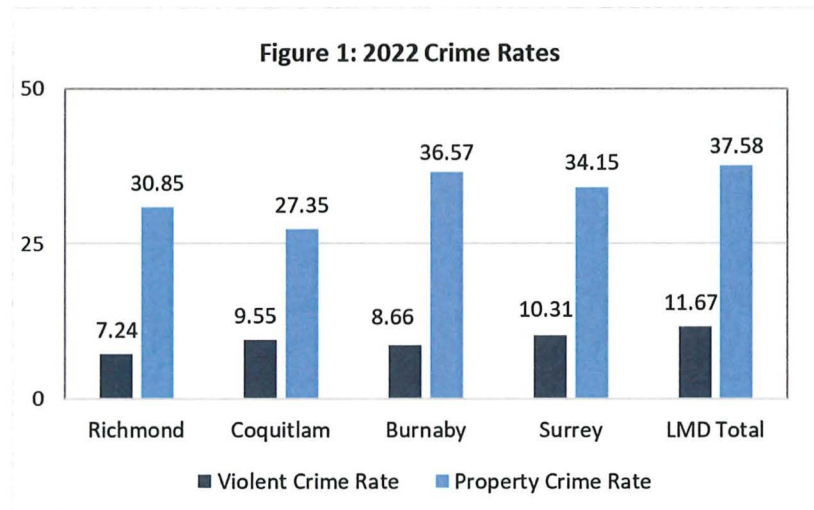
Of the events reported in 2022, nine incidents were anti-Chinese, seven were anti-Black, five targeted multiple groups, five were anti-LGBTQ+ and two were anti-Asian. Additional incidents were single events targeting a variety of groups including Russian, Middle Eastern, Sikh, Jewish, Indigenous and overall anti-immigrant sentiments.

Table 2 – Groups Targeted in Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents 2022	
Group Targeted	Number of Events
Chinese	9
Black	7
LGBTQ+	5
Multi-Bias	5
Asian	2
Sikh	1
Russian	1
Middle Eastern	1
Indigenous	1
Jewish	1
Immigrants	1
Total	34

³ The BC Hate Crimes Unit uses the terms hate-motivated crime and hate-motivated incident.

Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions

Data on crime rates is presented in Figure 1.⁵ In 2022, 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.



Block Watch

At the end of December 2022, the Block Watch program had 303 groups totaling 7,026 participants. Currently, the program includes 443 captains and co-captains. The number of participants in 2022 remained largely unchanged compared to the previous year. In 2022, additional recruitment and training efforts were conducted as the Block Watch Program remained responsive to ongoing changes in participant and group numbers.

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 and the availability of volunteers.

There were 85 active volunteers in 2022 who contributed 3,006 hours to community policing programs, including 231 hours of volunteer foot/van patrols and 245 hours of volunteer bike patrols. The number of volunteers more than doubled from 2021 as most volunteer activities resumed in 2022 and volunteer hours increased by 75 per cent from the previous year. In 2022, volunteers also distributed 3,810 Safety reflectors and issued 2,184 Fail to Stop letters, 567 Speed Watch letters and 5,006 Lock Out Auto Crime letters.

⁵ Crime rate is year to date (YTD) and calculated per 1,000 people.

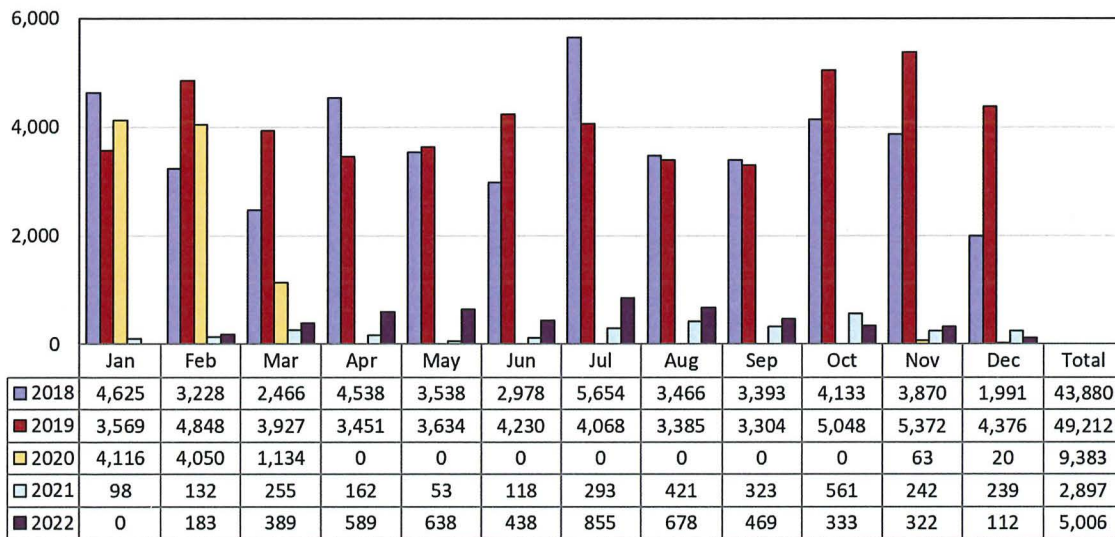
During the month of December, volunteer highlights included:

- The deployment of one volunteer foot/van patrol totalling four hours.
- A total of three Fail to Stop deployments took place, which resulted in 61 information letters.
- There were seven Lock Out Auto Crime deployments, during which 112 information letters were distributed.
- December 4 – Volunteers attended Santa’s arrival in Steveston, along with police officers who accompanied Santa along the boardwalk.
- December 7 – Volunteers assisted with a Coffee with a Cop event in Steveston. Topics discussed included pedestrian safety and property crime prevention.
- December 8 – Volunteers were recognized by the Mayor, Richmond RCMP officers and City Staff at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, which was held for this first time since 2019.
- December 15 – A volunteer tea event was held for senior volunteers who have been unable to volunteer due to the pandemic.
- December 31 – Volunteers participated in a Crime Watch deployment covering multiple zones in the city.

Lock Out Auto Crime

Figure 2 provides a comparison by year of the number of vehicle notices issued.⁶

Figure 2: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice

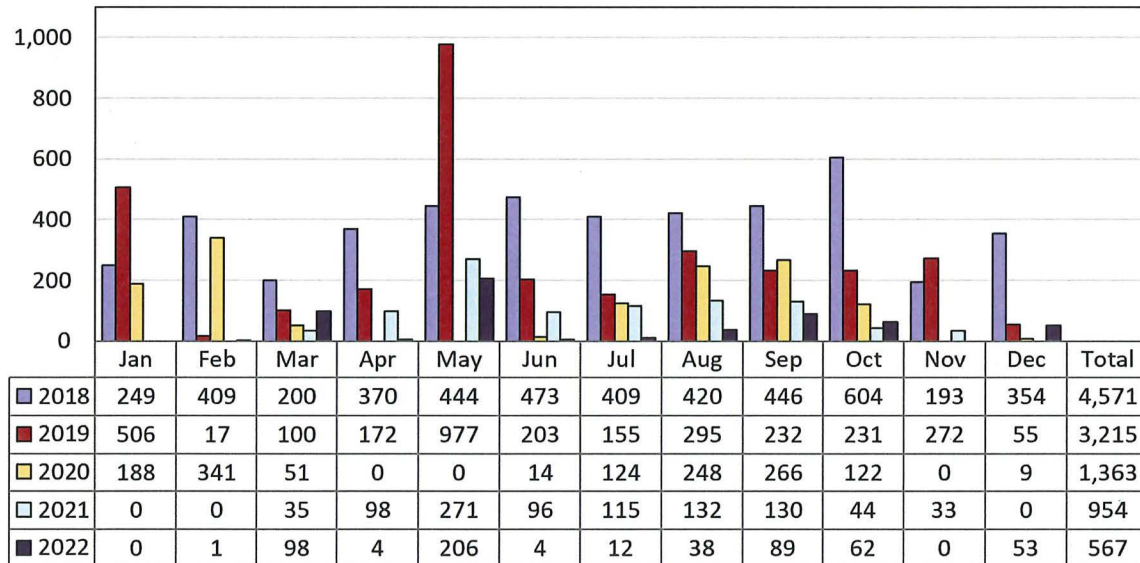


⁶ Beginning in November 2020, Lock Out Auto Crime letters were issued in place of notices. Letters are only issued to vehicles displaying security vulnerabilities; whereas previously, notices were issued to all vehicles. This has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of letters issued.

Speed Watch

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

Figure 3: Speed Watch Letters Sent

Crime Prevention Unit

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

- Coffee with a Cop
- Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives
- Place of Worship Patrols
- Santa's Arrival in Steveston
- Toy Drive Donation
- Volunteer Appreciation

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 3 compares statistics for December 2022 to both October 2022 and November 2022. Violation tickets were issued for the following infractions:

Table 3: Violation Tickets Issued

Infraction	October 2022	November 2022	December 2022
Distracted Driving	66	92	99
Driver License	190	189	220
Impaired	52	31	54
Intersection Offences	38	39	34
Moving Infractions ⁷	65	60	89
Speeding	145	58	71
Seatbelts	22	15	25
Vehicle Related ⁸	138	190	118
Other ⁹	5	6	14
Total	721	680	724

Victim Services

In December 2022, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 62 new clients and attended two crime/trauma scenes after hours. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 105 files. In December, Victim Services responded to a number of cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, mental health issues and property crime.

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 December, Youth Section highlights included:

- RCMP officers in the Youth Section conducted 25 proactive school visits at secondary schools and 24 visits at elementary schools. Police officers engaged with the students at recess and lunch, as well as during morning and afternoon supervision.
- The first term of DARE concluded for the 2022-2023 school year. A total of 14 DARE classes were delivered, in addition to six DARE graduations.

⁷ Moving infractions refers to unsafe lane change and unsafe passing.

⁸ Vehicle related refers to vehicle defects, for example no lights and no insurance.

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

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

In December 2022, the Richmond RCMP conducted a number of noteworthy investigations, including a joint enforcement project targeting shoplifting and a threat aboard an aircraft. Police statistics for this month indicate that most crime types were within the average ranges.

In December, the Community Engagement Team and volunteers continued to promote crime prevention and road safety initiatives. The Officer in Charge of the Richmond RCMP Detachment will continue to ensure that Richmond remains a safe and desirable community.



Edward Warzel
Manager, Police Services
(604-207-4767)

EW:

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

Block Watch

- Community-based crime prevention program aimed at helping neighbors organize themselves to prevent crime.
- Residents can receive email alerts of neighbourhood residential break and enters by registering their email addresses at: blockwatch@richmond.ca
- For more information, visit www.richmond.ca/safety/police/prevention/blockwatch.htm

Distracted Driving Program

- Trained volunteers monitor intersections and observe distracted drivers.
- A letter is sent to the registered owner of the offending vehicle with information on the safety risks associated to the observed behaviour and applicable fine amounts.
- For more information, visit www.richmond.ca/safety/police/prevention/programs.htm

Fail to Stop

- Trained volunteers monitor areas that have been referred to the program by local businesses or residents where drivers are not making a full stop at the stop sign, or running a red light.
- An information letter is sent to the registered owner of the vehicle advising them the date, time and location and applicable fine amounts if the driver received a violation ticket.

Lock Out Auto Crime

- Co-sponsored by the Insurance Corporation of BC (ICBC), volunteers patrol city streets and parking lots looking for automobile security vulnerabilities.
- Notices supplied by ICBC are issued to every vehicle inspected indicating to the owner what issues need to be addressed in order to keep the vehicle and contents secure.
- For more information, visit www.richmond.ca/safety/police/personal/vehicle.htm

Project 529

- This program allows riders to easily and securely register their bikes. This up-to-date database of bikes alerts its registrants if a fellow 529 bike is stolen.
- Project 529 is a unique, multi-national registry that holds a database of all registered and stolen bikes.

Speed Watch

- Co-sponsored by ICBC, promotes safe driving habits by alerting drivers of their speed.
- Trained volunteers are equipped with radar and a speed watch reader board that gives drivers instant feedback regarding their speed.
- Volunteers record the license plate number and the speed, and a letter is sent to the registered owner of the offending vehicle. The letter includes the date, time and location and applicable fine amounts if the driver received a violation ticket.

Spot the Target

- This initiative consists of frequently stolen items being placed in the volunteer van for participants to identify in order to enhance awareness of thefts from automobiles.

Stolen Auto Recovery

- Co-sponsored by ICBC, trained volunteers equipped with portable computers identify stolen vehicles.
- These volunteers recover hundreds of stolen vehicles each year throughout the Lower Mainland.

Volunteer Bike and Foot Patrol Program

- Trained volunteers patrol Richmond neighbourhoods reporting suspicious activities and providing a visible deterrent to crime and public order issues.

DECEMBER 2022 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.

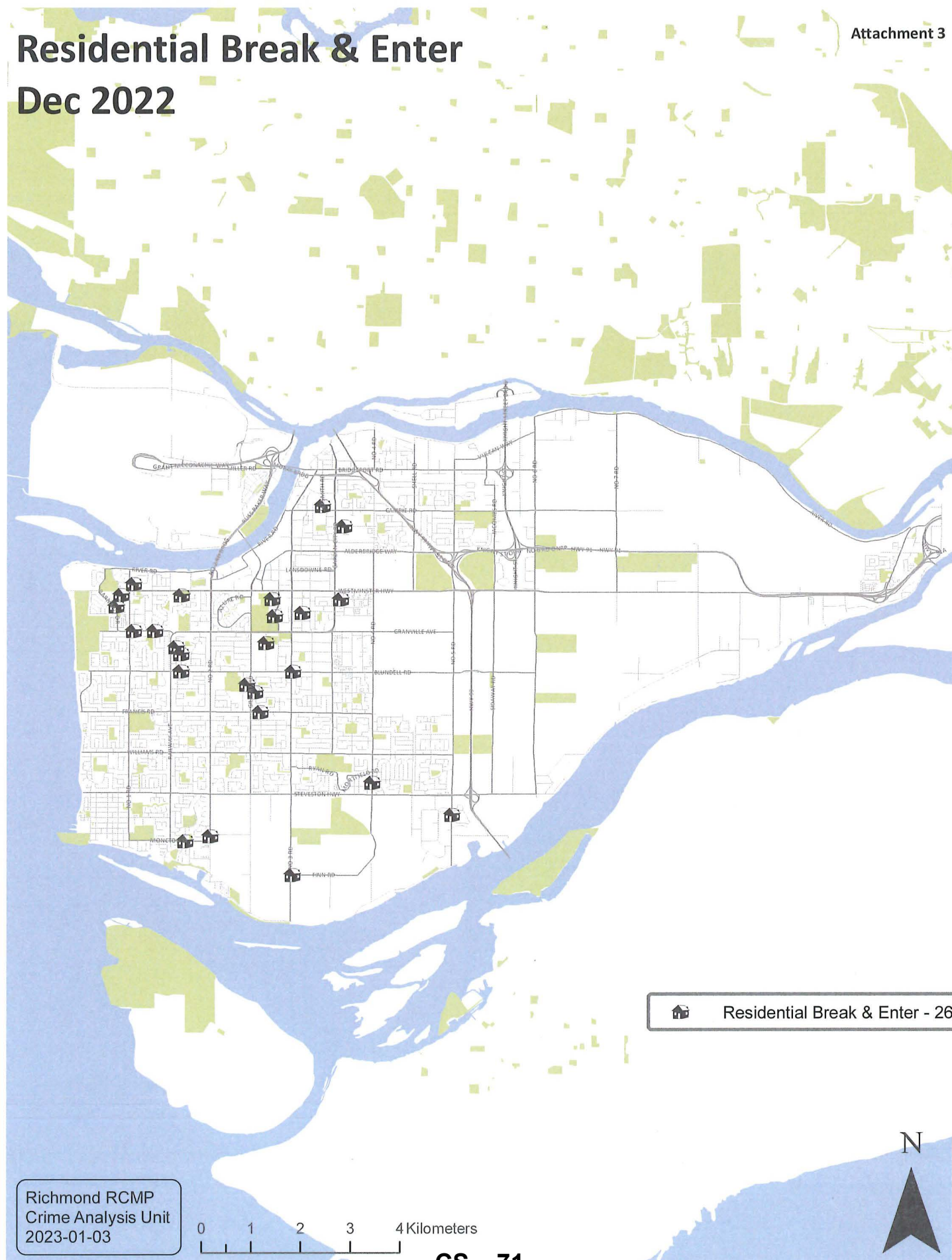
The 5 year average range data is based on activity within a single month over the past 5 years. If the current monthly total for an offence is above the expected average range (using one standard deviation) due to crime trends, patterns, or spikes, it will be noted in **red**. If the current monthly 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**.

Mental Health file query has been updated to capture all types of mental health study flags versus one type. Mental health study flag file numbers have been updated for the last five years. This change does not impact mental health apprehension numbers or hospital wait times.

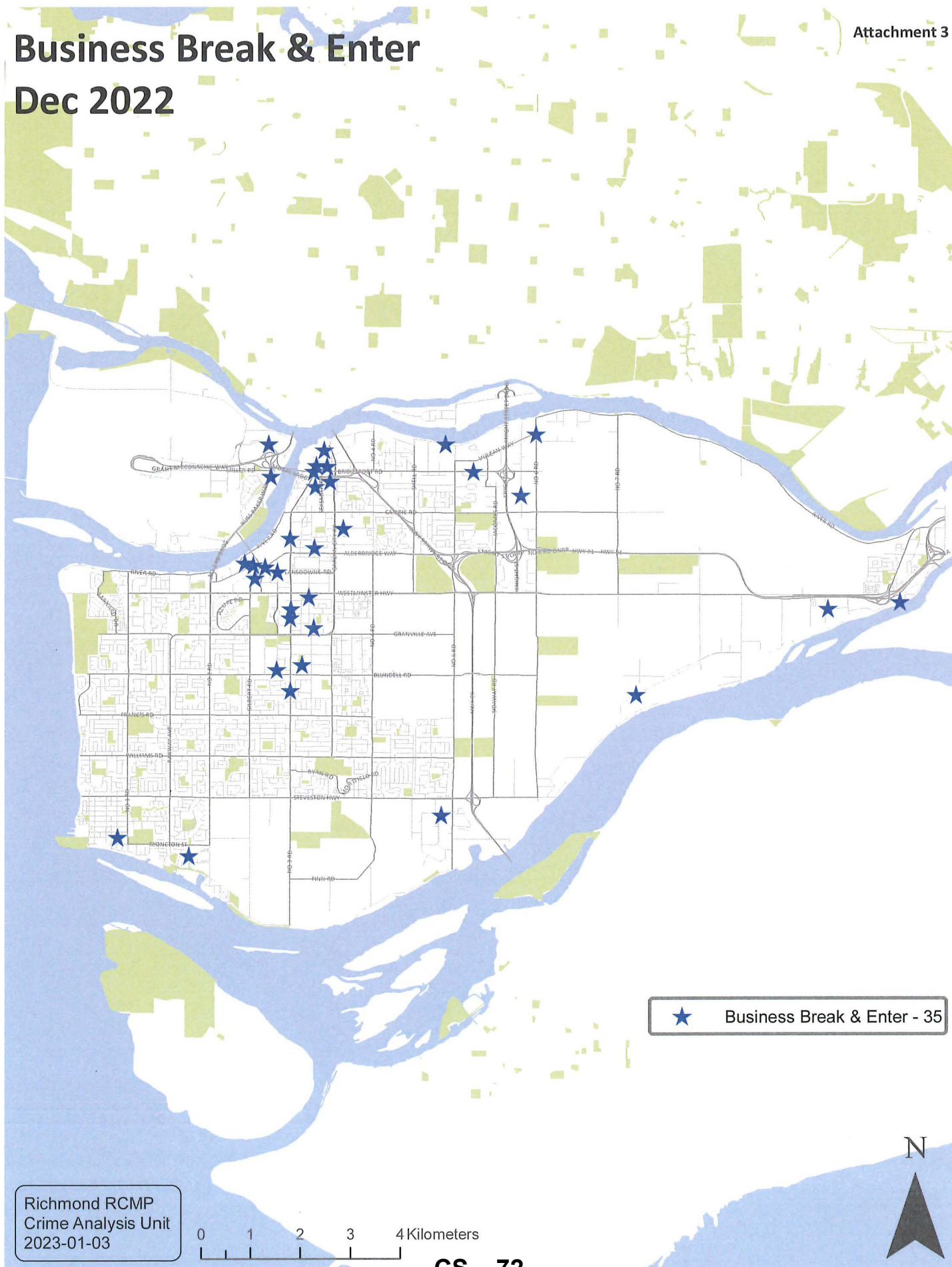
	Month	5-Yr Avg	5-Yr Range	Year to Date Totals			
	Dec - 22	December		2021	2022	% Change	# Change
VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	124	129.2	110-148	1725	1653	-4%	-72
Robbery <small>UCR 1610 (1-3)</small>	6	5.8	5-7	57	61	7%	4
Assault Common <small>UCR 1430</small>	35	49.2	42-57	562	581	3%	19
Assault Serious <small>UCR 1410, 1420</small>	16	12.4	5-19	182	208	14%	26
Sexual Offences <small>UCR 1345, 1330, 1356, 1310, 3450/55/56</small>	17	12.2	9-16	241	208	-14%	-33
PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	577	629.8	539-720	6254	6802	9%	548
Business B&E <small>UCR 2120-1</small>	35	36.8	29-45	330	361	9%	31
Residential B&E <small>UCR 2120-2</small>	26	59.0	35-83	336	293	-13%	-43
Auto Theft <small>UCR 2135 (1-10), 2178</small>	17	27.2	21-33	252	252	0%	0
Theft from Auto <small>UCR 2132, 2142</small>	121	172.8	121-225	1564	1400	-10%	-164
Theft <small>UCR 2130, 2140</small>	111	84.6	65-104	736	1090	48%	354
Shoplifting <small>UCR 2133, 2143</small>	70	63.4	47-79	701	826	18%	125
Fraud <small>UCR 2160 (all), 2165, 2166</small>	54	68.6	59-78	863	785	-9%	-78
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	271	201.2	174-228	2907	3040	5%	133
Arson <small>UCR 1629, 2110</small>	4	6.0	1-11	73	89	22%	16
SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	973	961.0	900-1022	10892	11502	6%	610
DRUGS (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	21	47.6	12-84	400	501	25%	101
MHA RELATED CALLS (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	222	242.4	214-271	2993	2768	-8%	-225

Prepared by Richmond RCMP Crime Analysts. Data collected from PRIME on 2023-01-03. Published 2023-01-03. The statistical data in this chart should be considered independently of any analysis provided in the Richmond RCMP Monthly Activity Report. 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 Dec 2022



Business Break & Enter Dec 2022

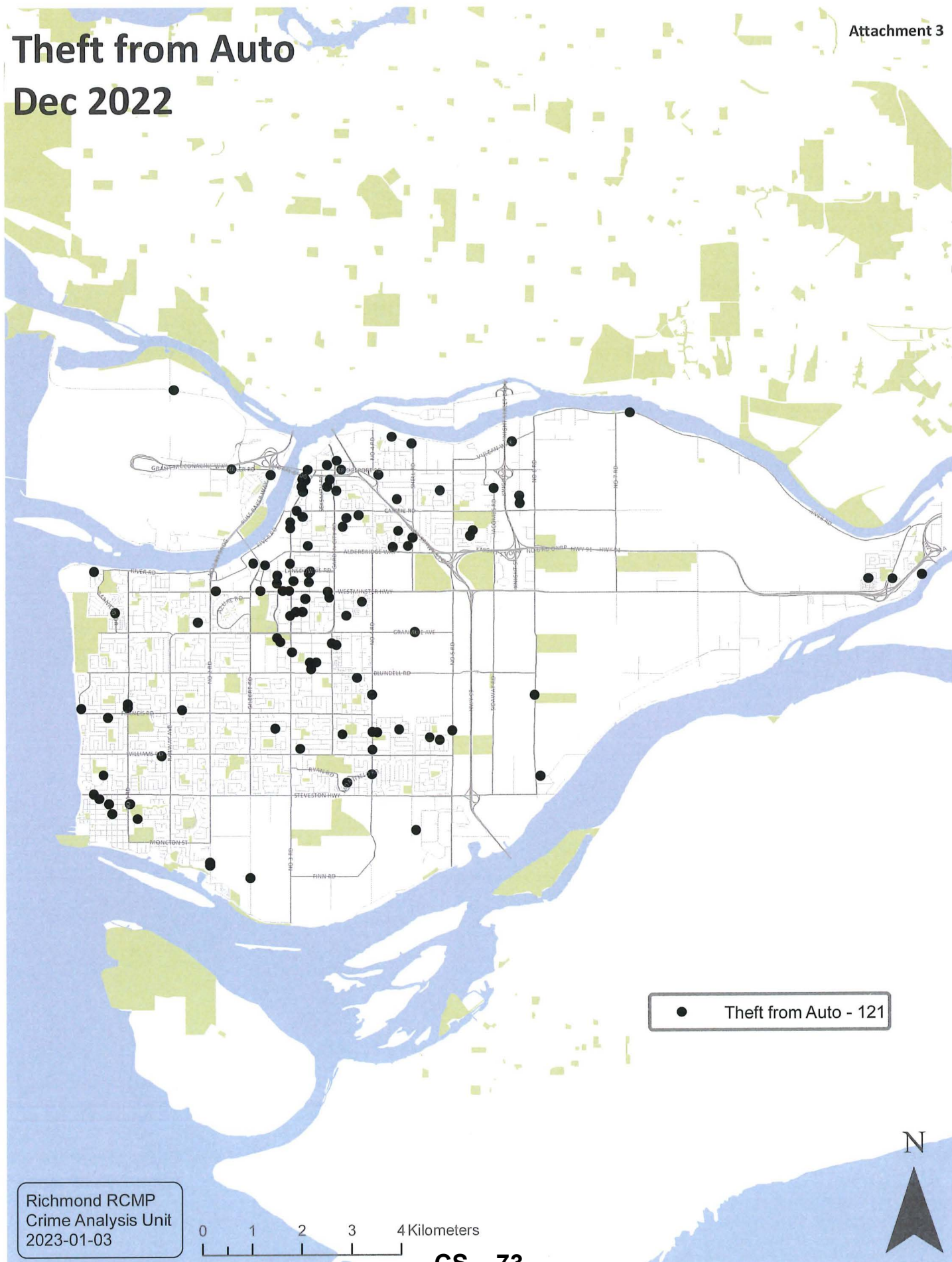


Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2023-01-03

0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

CS - 72

Theft from Auto Dec 2022



Auto Theft Dec 2022

