

Report to Committee

To:

Community Safety Committee

Date:

February 10, 2023

From:

Dave Chauhan

File:

09-5000-01/2023-Vol

01

Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge

Re:

RCMP Monthly Activity Report - January 2023

Recommendation from Officer in Charge

That the report titled "RCMP Monthly Activity Report – January 2023", dated February 10, 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	

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

Road Rage Suspect

On January 9, 2023, the Richmond RCMP issued a public appeal for witnesses following a road rage incident on December 27, 2022. During the exchange, the suspect deployed bear spray against the victim and left the scene. Police provided a suspect description and requested witnesses to share dashcam footage of the area.

Illegal Gaming House

On January 17, 2023, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release advising that an illegal gaming house in the 6000 block of Skaha Crescent had been dismantled. The Richmond RCMP Organized Crime Unit arrested 16 individuals with the assistance of several law enforcement partners, including the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of BC.

Forgery Lab

On January 19, 2023, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release advising that police had executed a search warrant on a sophisticated forged identification lab. Police seized multiple high-end printers, laminators, and thousands of blank identification cards. A suspect was arrested and released with conditions. The investigation is ongoing.

Civilian Recognition

On January 25, 2023, the Richmond RCMP presented three civilians with awards for their actions following a violent assault on a police officer. On February 17, 2022, Richmond RCMP officers responded to fraud and theft at a local hotel. The three civilians assisted police in apprehending a suspect after he injured a police officer during an attempted arrest.

Analysis of Police Statistics

Arson

In January 2023, there were three reported arsons, down one incident from the previous month and two from January 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of arsons this month is within the average range.

Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)

There were 17 serious assault events in January 2023, which is a six percent increase from the previous month and is a six per cent decrease from January 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of serious assaults this month is within the average range.

To date, suspects have been identified in 76 per cent of assaults this month. Of the events reported in January 2023, 29 per cent were domestic in nature.

Auto Theft

In January 2023, there were 21 incidents of auto theft, which is a 24 per cent increase from the previous month and is a five per cent increase from January 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of auto thefts this month is within the average range.

Drugs

In January 2023, there were 26 drug files, which is up 24 per cent from the previous month and up 73 per cent from January 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of drug incidents this month is within the average range.

Mental Health

There were 263 mental health-related incidents in January 2023, which is an 18 per cent increase from the previous month and is a 14 per cent increase from January 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of mental health-related incidents this month is within the average range.

There were 70 police apprehensions this month and the average hospital wait time was 92 minutes; both of these statistics are within the average range.

¹ A statistically low number of drug files were recorded in January 2022.

Residential Break and Enter

There were 25 break and enters to residences in January 2023, which is a four per cent decrease from the previous month and is a 19 per cent decrease from January 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of residential break and enters this month is within the average range.

Commercial Break and Enter

In January 2023, there were 33 break and enters to businesses, which represents a six per cent decrease from the previous month and is a 30 per cent increase from January 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of commercial break and enters this month is within the average range.

Robbery

There were no robberies in January 2023, which is down six incidents from the previous month and down 10 incidents from January 2022. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of robberies this month is below the average range.

Sexual Offences

In January 2023, there were 21 sexual offence files, which is a 24 per cent increase from the previous month and is a 62 per cent increase from January 2022.² No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of sexual offences this month is within the average range.

Referrals from the BC Integrated Child Exploitation Team accounted for one-third of the files this month. Suspects have been identified in 93 per cent of the remaining 14 incidents.

Shoplifting

There were 77 reported shoplifting thefts in January 2023, which is a 10 per cent increase from the previous month and is a 79 per cent increase from January 2022.³ No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of shoplifting thefts this month is within the average range.

Theft from Automobile

There were 178 theft from automobile incidents in January 2023, which is up 47 per cent from the previous month and up 33 per cent from January 2022. While the number of thefts from automobiles this month remained within the average range, police observed an increase in catalytic converter thefts, which are classified as a theft from automobile. No additional patterns or trends have been identified.

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. A statistically low number of sex offences were recorded in January 2022.

³ A statistically low number of shoplifting thefts were recorded in January 2022.

Hate Crimes and Incidents

Table 1 presents the number of hate crimes and hate incidents reported between January 1, 2019 and January 31, 2023.⁴ 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 comments and graffiti.

Table 1 – Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents							
Year	Hate Crime Files	Hate Crime Files Hate Incident Files					
2019	11	9	20				
2020	21	13	34				
2021	21	24	45				
2022	8	26	34				
2023 (YTD)	0	3	3				

Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions

Data on crime rates is presented in Figure 1.⁵ In January 2023, out of the four largest municipalities policed by the RCMP in the Lower Mainland District (LMD), Richmond had the lowest violent crime rate. The property crime rate for Richmond was below the LMD average.

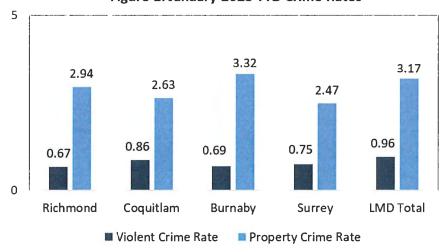


Figure 1: January 2023 YTD Crime Rates

In January 2023, multiple jurisdictions across the Lower Mainland experienced an increase in catalytic converter thefts. This trend was also observed in Richmond, which contributed to a 20 per cent increase in the property crime rate compared to the previous year. The Richmond RCMP

⁴ The BC Hate Crimes Unit uses the terms hate-motivated crime and hate-motivated incident.

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

used intelligence-led deployment strategies to target the areas which were experiencing these thefts and by the end of the month a notable decrease had been observed. Investigative and enforcement efforts are ongoing.

Block Watch

At the end of January 2023, the Block Watch program had 303 groups totaling 7,040 participants. Currently, the program includes 442 captains and co-captains. This month, a new group in the Hamilton area received Block Watch group training at the Cambie Community Centre.

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.

During the month of January, volunteer highlights included:

- The deployment of eight volunteer foot/van patrol totalling 40 hours.
- A total of eight Fail to Stop deployments took place, which resulted in 229 information letters
- There were 31 Lock Out Auto Crime deployments, during which 561 information letters were distributed.
- Speed Watch was conducted on 1,150 vehicles and 104 information letters were issued.
- January 7 Volunteers conducted three Fail to Stop deployments in central Richmond and issued 90 information letters.
- January 12 Volunteers conducted Lock Out Auto Crime deployments at multiple locations in central Richmond and issued 72 information letters.
- January 13 Volunteers conducted two Lock Out Auto Crime deployments in central Richmond and issued 42 information letters.
- January 20 Volunteers conducted a Speed Watch deployment at Hamilton Elementary.
- January 26 Volunteers conducted Speed Watch deployments at Thomas Kidd Elementary, Choice Elementary and Hamilton Elementary. A total of 10 information letters were issued and 148 vehicles were scanned through the Stolen Auto Recovery System.

Lock Out Auto Crime

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

6,000 4,000 2,000 0 Feb Mar Apr May Jul Sep Oct Nov Dec Total Aug 2019 3,569 5,048 4,376 49,212 4,848 3,927 3,451 3,634 4,230 4,068 3,385 3,304 5,372 **2020** 4,116 4,050 1,134 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 63 20 9,383 □ 2021 242 239 2,897 98 132 255 162 53 118 293 421 323 561 □ 2022 183 389 589 638 438 855 678 469 333 322 5,006 0 112 ■ 2023 561 561

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.

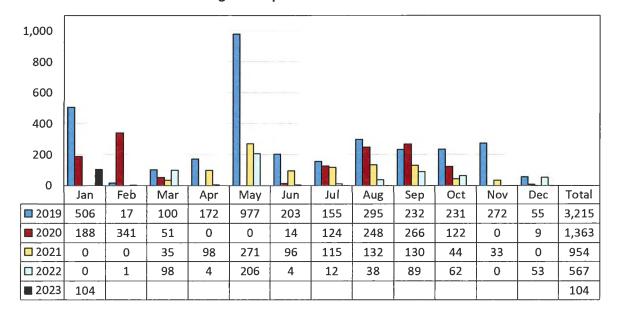


Figure 3: Speed Watch Letters Sent

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.

Crime Prevention Unit

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

- Business Outreach
- Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives
- Pedestrian Safety Presentation
- Place of Worship Patrols
- Proactive Foot 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 January 2023 to both November 2022 and December 2022. Violation tickets were issued for the following infractions:

Infraction November 2022 December 2022 January 2023 Distracted Driving 92 99 83 **Driver License** 189 220 174 **Impaired** 31 54 46 Intersection Offences 39 34 42 84 Moving Infractions⁷ 60 89 Speeding 58 71 90 Seatbelts 15 25 6 Vehicle Related⁸ 190 118 252 Other9 14 6 6 Total 680 724 783

Table 2: Violation Tickets Issued

Victim Services

In January 2023, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 76 new clients and attended eight crime/trauma scenes after hours. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 90 files. In January, Victim Services responded to a number of cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, mental health issues and family conflict.

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.

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 January, Youth Section highlights included:

- RCMP officers in the Youth Section conducted 57 proactive school visits at secondary schools and 49 visits at elementary schools. Police officers engaged with the students at recess and lunch, as well as during morning and afternoon supervision.
- The second term of DARE launched for the 2022-2023 school year. DARE classes were delivered to a total of 513 students in six schools.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

In January 2023, the Richmond RCMP conducted a number of noteworthy investigations, including a road rage incident and a sophisticated forgery lab. Police statistics for this month indicate that most crime types were within the average ranges, except for robberies, which were below average.

In January, 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

E. Word

(604-207-4767)

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.

JANUARY 2023 STATISTICS

RICHMOND RCMP

The following information is a limited list of select crime-type samples, which does not comprise the entirety or assortment of all crimes captured by the RCMP. The statistics in this chart should be considered independently of the analysis provided as the data is unrelated to the research provided earlier in this report.

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.

	Month	5-Yr Avg	5-Yr Range	Year to Date Totals			
	Jan - 23	January		2022	2023	% Change	# Change
VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	153	137.2	119-155	138	153	11%	15
Robbery	0	6.6	4-9	10	0	-100%	-10
Assault Common	48	47.4	42-53	41	48	17%	7
Assault Serious	17	13.6	10-17	18	17	-6%	-1
Sexual Offences	21	19.0	14-24	13	21	62%	8
PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	667	609.2	507-711	469	667	42%	198
Business B&E	33	39.6	23-56	30	39	30%	9
Residential B&E	25	59.2	32-86	31	25	-19%	-6
Auto Theft UCR 2 - 5 (1-10) 217.8	21	24.4	16-32	20	21	5%	1
Theft from Auto	178	171.6	139-204	134	178	33%	44
Theft UGR 2 130 2 140	105	82.2	61-103	69	105	52%	36
Shoplifting UCR2133 2143	77	63.4	52-75	43	77	79%	34
Fraud	88	67.6	59-76	53	88	66%	35
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	305	177.2	158-197	182	305	68%	123
Arson	3	3.8	2-6	5	3	-40%	-2
SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	1125	924.2	831-1017	790	1125	42%	335
DRUGS (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	26	66.8	5-129	15	26	73%	11
MHA RELATED CALLS (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	263	239.0	214-264	230	263	14%	33

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