City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To:	Community Safety Committee	**Date:**	August 20, 2018
From:	Will Ng, Superintendent Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment	**File:**	09-5000-01/2018-Vol 01
Re:	**RCMP Monthly Activity Report – July 2018**		

Staff Recommendation

That the report titled "RCMP Monthly Activity Report – July 2018", dated August 20, 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

Fire

On July 7, 2018, Richmond RCMP officers in the Property Crime Unit were near Arcadia Road for an unrelated matter when they observed smoke coming from an apartment building. The officers entered the building and began knocking on doors to evacuate the building. They provided assistance and direction to residents in order to get them safely out of the building. Richmond Fire Rescue subsequently attended the scene.

Fatality

On July 13, 2018, Richmond RCMP officers responded to the intersection of Minoru Boulevard and Murdoch Avenue for a collision involving a vehicle and a pedestrian. A woman in her 80s was crossing at a designated crosswalk when she was struck by a vehicle. She was taken to hospital and later succumbed to her injuries. The incident is under investigation by the Richmond RCMP Road Safety Unit.

Fraud

On July 16, 2018, Richmond RCMP responded to a report of an abduction. The suspect had contacted the victim by phone and requested payment in order to ensure the safe return of her

partner. The phone number was falsified to appear as that of the partner's phone. The victim paid the requested ransom by depositing funds in excess of $10,000 to a Bitcoin ATM in Richmond. The victim's partner was later located unharmed and unaware of the alleged abduction. This incident is currently under investigation.

Injured Cyclist

On July 26, 2018, Richmond RCMP officers responded to reports of a collision between a vehicle and a cyclist in the area of Blundell Road and St. Albans Road. The cyclist, a non-helmeted 16-year old male, was transported to hospital with critical injuries. The driver, a 21-year old female from Richmond, has cooperated with police. The collision is being investigated the Richmond RCMP Road Safety Unit and the Integrated Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Service.

Analysis of Crime Statistics

Arson

In July 2018, there were three incidents of arson, which is down one from the previous month and represents no change from July 2017. This number is below the five-year statistical average range. Year to date, the number of arsons is down 36 per cent from the same period last year.

Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)

There were 19 assault serious events in July 2018, which is two incidents more than the previous month. For the second consecutive month, the number of assault files is statistically high and above the five-year average range. However, the number of serious assaults this month represents no change from the number recorded in July 2017 and year to date totals are down three per cent from the same period last year.

Serious assault event files are monitored for patterns or trends. The majority of assaults involve suspects known to victims. There appears to be a seasonal variation in file counts, with more events occurring in the summer months.

Auto Theft

There were 26 auto theft incidents this month, which is up 37 per cent from June 2018. The number of auto thefts this month is within the five-year average range and represents a 24 per cent decrease from July 2017. Year to date, the number of auto thefts is 21 per cent lower than the same period last year.

Drugs

In July 2018, there were 67 drug incidents, which is an eight per cent increase from the previous month. This number represents a 37 per cent increase from July 2017 and remains within the five-year average range.

Mental Health

There were 168 mental health incidents in July 2018, which represents a 25 per cent increase from June 2018 and a 71 per cent increase from July 2017. The number of mental health incidents this month is outside the five-year average range. Year to date totals, however, indicate there has been a one per cent decline in mental health-related calls files over the same period last year.

A number of these files were produced by a high volume client, who repeatedly called police to report the same incident.[1] The calls did not require police involvement. Of the total mental health incidents recorded this month, four involved high-risk missing persons, six involved assault and three involved mischief.

Residential Break and Enter

There were 67 break and enters to residences in July 2018, which is up 37 incidents from the previous month. The total number of residential break and enters this month is within the expected range and represents a 180 per cent increase from July 2017, during which a statistically low number of break and enters were recorded.

Year to date, the number of residential break and enters is 10 per cent higher than the number reported during the same period last year.

Commercial Break and Enter

In July 2018, there were 23 break and enters to businesses, which is a 21 per cent decrease from June 2018. This number marks a 44 per cent increase from July 2017 and remains within the five-year expected range.

Robbery

There were seven robbery incidents in July 2018, which is up three incidents from the previous month. The total this month is above the five-year average range and is five more incidents than were reported in July 2017. Files were reviewed and no patterns or files of interest were identified.

Sexual Assault

In July 2018, 11 sexual offence files were recorded, which is up 83 per cent from the previous month. The total number of sexual assault files this month is 57 per cent higher than recorded in July 2017 and remains within the five-year average range. Year to date totals for 2018 indicate that there has been a 63 per cent increase in the number of sexual assault files compared to the same period in 2017. At the beginning of the year there were 24 sexual offence files that caused a significant increase in this crime category.

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[1] This individual had 24 files, which equals 14 per cent of the total mental health-related files for July 2018.

Shoplifting

There were 54 shoplifting thefts in July 2018, which is an eight per cent decrease from the previous month and a 42 per cent increase from July 2017. Reported shoplifting thefts are within the five-year expected range.
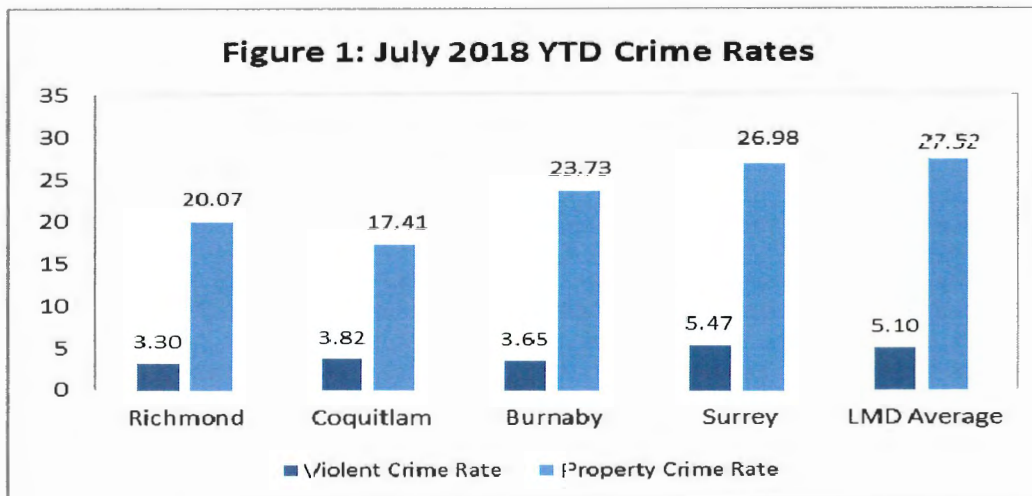
Theft from Auto

There were 147 theft from auto incidents in July 2018, which is an 11 per cent decrease from June 2018 and a seven per cent increase from July 2017. This number is within the five year average range.

Crime Trends across Jurisdictions

Year to date, fraud files have increased in the Lower Mainland District (LMD) compared to the same period last year. While fraud files in Richmond have not followed this trend, July marked the second consecutive month during which fraud files were above the expected range. In recent months, there has also been an increase in frauds involving Bitcoin. Bitcoin transactions are anonymous, irreversible and almost impossible to trace.[2] These characteristics make virtual currency appealing and lucrative to criminals.

In order to facilitate a meaningful comparison of crime types across jurisdictions, data on crime rates is presented on the following page (Figure 1).[3] Out of the four largest RCMP Detachments in the LMD, Richmond had the lowest violent crime rate in July. Richmond's property crime rate also remains low ranking second lowest among Burnaby, Surrey, Coquitlam and the Lower Mainland.

Figure 1: July 2018 YTD Crime Rates

Jurisdiction	Violent Crime Rate	Property Crime Rate
Richmond	3.30	20.07
Coquitlam	3.82	17.41
Burnaby	3.65	23.73
Surrey	5.47	26.98
LMD Average	5.10	27.52

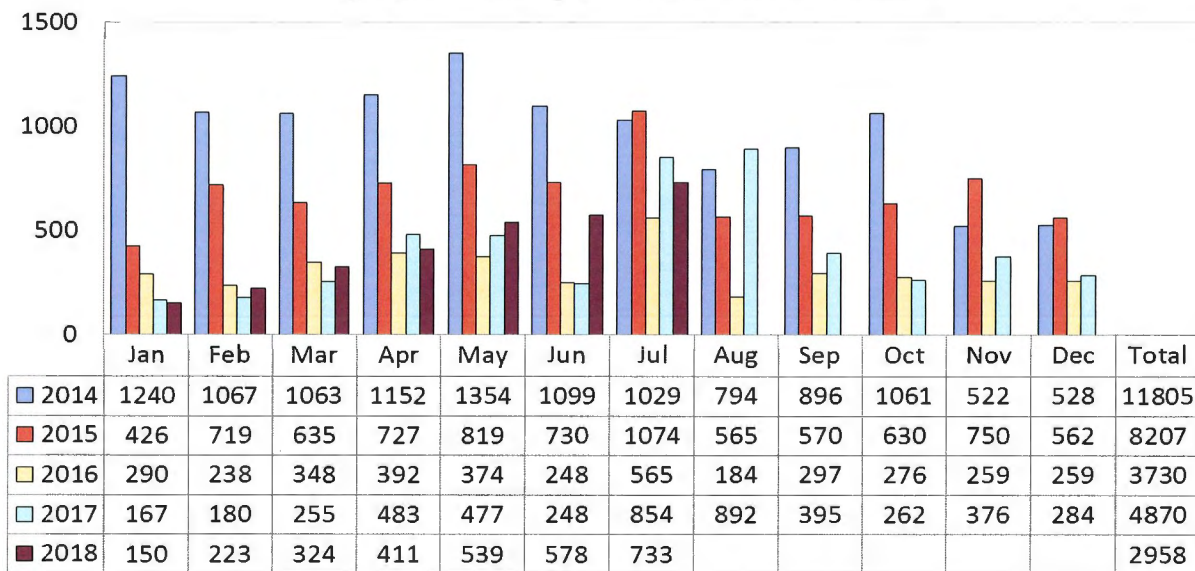[2] https://localcoinatm.com/fraud-and-scams/
[3] Crime rate is calculated per 1,000 people (using 2017 populations)

Auxiliary Constable Program

In July 2018, Richmond Detachment had a complement of 37 Auxiliary Constables, one more than the previous month as a result of a recent transfer from another LMD location. Auxiliary Constables provided a total of 733 volunteer hours during the month of July. 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.[4] Once these details are announced, the Auxiliary Constable coordinator will commence recruitment of a new troop of Auxiliary Constables anticipated near the end of 2018.

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

Figure 2: Auxiliary Constable Volunteer Hours

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2014	1240	1067	1063	1152	1354	1099	1029	794	896	1061	522	528	11805
2015	426	719	635	727	819	730	1074	565	570	630	750	562	8207
2016	290	238	348	392	374	248	565	184	297	276	259	259	3730
2017	167	180	255	483	477	248	854	892	395	262	376	284	4870
2018	150	223	324	411	539	578	733						2958

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[4] http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/auxiliary-program-tiers

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 July Auxiliary Constables participated in:

- Canada Day
- Crime Watch
- Dolphin Classic Basketball Tournament
- Nations Cup

- Marine Patrol
- Maritime Festival
- Youth Summer Camps

Block Watch

At the end of July 2018, the Block Watch program had 458 groups totaling 10,459 participants. Currently, the program includes 609 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.

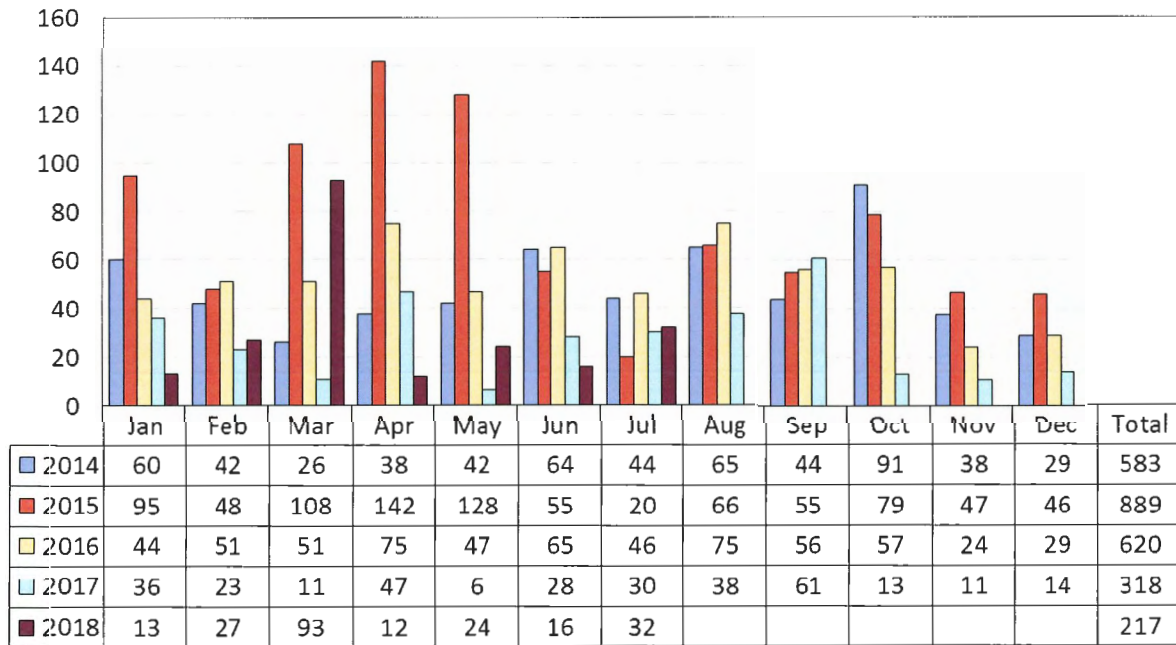During the month of July volunteer highlights included:

- The deployment of 50 foot/van patrols totalling 334 hours and 15 bike patrols totalling 147 hours.

- 35 Fail to Stop deployments, which resulted in 1,167 warning letters.

- Speed Watch was conducted on 6,100 vehicles at various locations throughout the City.

- Three volunteer Speed Watch deployments occurred on River Road. These deployments resulted in 58 letters being sent out to registered vehicle owners.

- July 1 – Volunteers assisted with Canada Day festivities in Steveston, including conducting foot patrols throughout the day. Volunteers also participated in the parade, including two volunteers who wore the Safety Bear and Darren the Lion (DARE mascot) costumes.

- July 7 – Community Police Station volunteers participated in Community Day at the Richmond Oval.

- July 24 – Volunteers assisted RCMP Crime Prevention officers with the Police Day camp at Richmond Pentecostal Church. Approximately 100 children participated in this event.

- July 25 – In partnership with ICBC, 16 volunteers received training in the use of the Observational Scope, which is used to detect distracted drivers from a distance.
- July 28 – Volunteer Bike Patrol attended the Outdoor Movie Night at Garden City Park and patrolled the park.

Distracted Drivers

Figure 3 provides a yearly comparison of the number of letters sent to registered vehicle owners.[5]

Figure 3: Distracted Driver Letters Sent

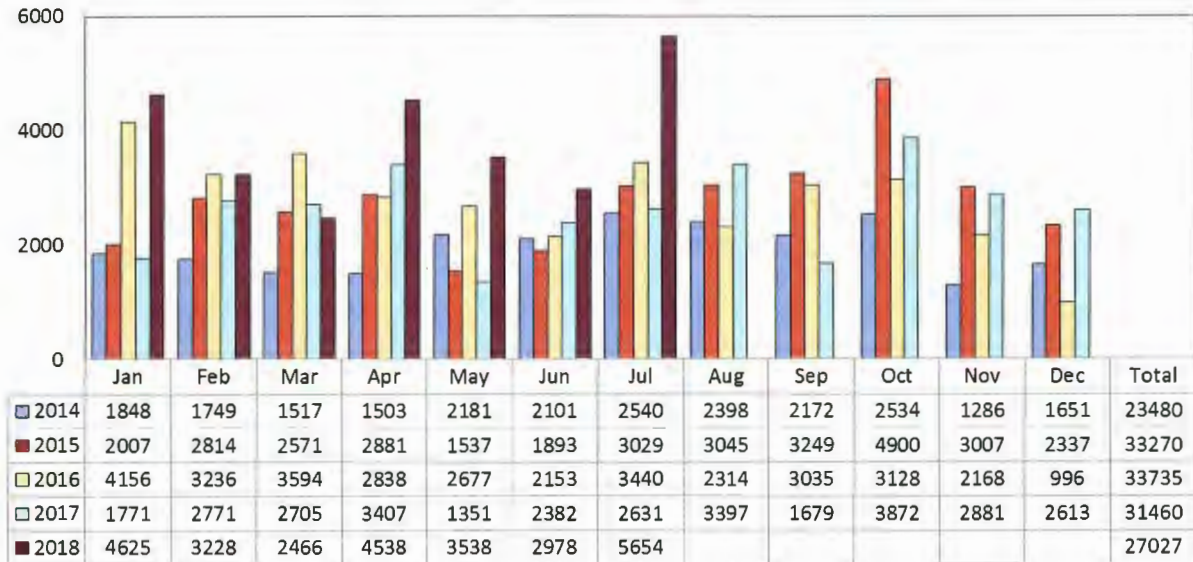|	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2014	60	42	26	38	42	64	44	65	44	91	38	29	583
2015	95	48	108	142	128	55	20	66	55	79	47	46	889
2016	44	51	51	75	47	65	46	75	56	57	24	29	620
2017	36	23	11	47	6	28	30	38	61	13	11	14	318
2018	13	27	93	12	24	16	32						217

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

Lock-Out Auto Crime

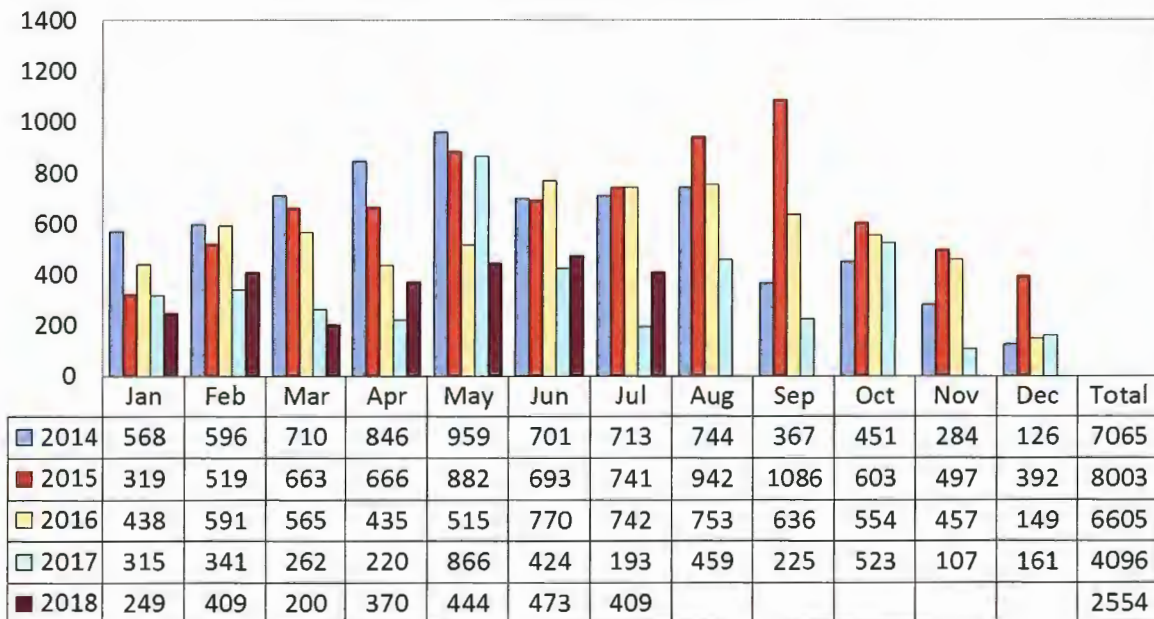Figure 4 provides a comparison by year of the number of vehicle notices issued.

Figure 4: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2014	1848	1749	1517	1503	2181	2101	2540	2398	2172	2534	1286	1651	23480
2015	2007	2814	2571	2881	1537	1893	3029	3045	3249	4900	3007	2337	33270
2016	4156	3236	3594	2838	2677	2153	3440	2314	3035	3128	2168	996	33735
2017	1771	2771	2705	3407	1351	2382	2631	3397	1679	3872	2881	2613	31460
2018	4625	3228	2466	4538	3538	2978	5654						27027

Speed Watch

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

Figure 5: Speed Watch Letters Sent

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2014	568	596	710	846	959	701	713	744	367	451	284	126	7065
2015	319	519	663	666	882	693	741	942	1086	603	497	392	8003
2016	438	591	565	435	515	770	742	753	636	554	457	149	6605
2017	315	341	262	220	866	424	193	459	225	523	107	161	4096
2018	249	409	200	370	444	473	409						2554

Crime Prevention Unit

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

- Canada Day
- City Centre Community Day
- Hot Spot Deployments
- Lock Out Auto Crime Deployments
- Red Serge Boardwalk Patrol
- Vulnerable Site 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 July 2018 data to both May 2018 and June 2018. The Moving Violations category refers to violations such as unsafe lane change and unsafe passing. The Vehicle category refers to motor vehicle regulation defects such as no insurance and no lights. The Other category refers to other motor vehicle infractions such as miscellaneous charges including fail to remain at the scene of accident and failing to stop for police. In July 2018, the number of Violation Tickets issued for speeding more than doubled from the previous month. This is increase is the result of the addition of two police officers to the enforcement team.

Violation Tickets were issued for the following infractions:

Infraction	May 2018	June 2018	July 2018
Distracted Driving	73	98	81
Driver License	205	188	227
Impaired	35	24	31
Intersection offences	89	97	125
Moving Violations	146	107	132
Speeding	200	258	562
Seatbelts	8	19	10
Vehicle Related	46	77	61
Other	16	30	13
Total	**731**	**996**	**1242**

Parking Tickets:

Name	Act	Example	May 2018	June 2018	July 2018
Parking	Municipal Bylaw	Municipal parking offences	19	20	26

Victim Services

In July 2018, Richmond RCMP Victim Services attended to 63 new clients and attended 11 crime/trauma scenes. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 151 ongoing files. Victim Services responded to a number of cases such as frauds, serious motor vehicle accidents and medical-related sudden deaths.

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 July, Youth Section highlights include:

- Youth Section members participated in several community centre summer and day camps, engaging with youth on a variety of subjects.
- Extensive patrols were conducted in the Steveston area due to recent suspicious activity.
- Members in the Youth Section ensured curfew checks were completed for a number of youth in the community who have court ordered curfews.

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.

JULY 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			
	July-18	July		2017	2018	% Change	# Change
VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	118	105.8	104-107	793	734	-7%	-59
Robbery UCR 1310 (1-3)	7	3.4	1-6	31	32	3%	1
Assault Common UCR 1430	39	41.0	37-45	276	270	-2%	-6
Assault Serious UCR 1410, 1420	19	11.6	7-16	87	84	-3%	-3
Sexual Offences UCR 1345, 1330, 1350, 1310	11	11.0	9-13	52	85	63%	33
PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	616	647.6	580-715	4538	4456	-2%	-82
Business B&E UCR 2120-1	23	25.6	19-32	241	222	-8%	-19
Residential B&E UCR 2120-2	67	50.0	33-67	379	418	10%	39
Auto Theft UCR 2135 (1-10), 2178	26	27.2	18-37	187	148	-21%	-39
Theft from Auto UCR 2132, 2142	147	165.6	122-210	1212	1366	13%	154
Theft UCR 2130, 2140	82	114.2	88-140	668	608	-9%	-60
Shoplifting UCR 2133, 2143	54	59.6	47-72	354	441	25%	87
Fraud UCR 2160 (1-10), 2165, 2160	79	64.6	55-74	540	523	-3%	-17
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	175	206.2	189-223	1202	1251	4%	49
Arson UCR 1629, 2110	3	5.2	3-8	25	16	-36%	-9
SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	909	959.6	895-1024	6533	6441	-1%	-92
DRUGS (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	67	62.6	51-75	428	389	-9%	-39
MHA RELATED CALLS (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	168	111.6	101-122	834	899	8%	65

Prepared by Richmond RCMP Crime Analysts.
Data collected from PRIME on 2018-08-08. Published 2018-08-08.
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).
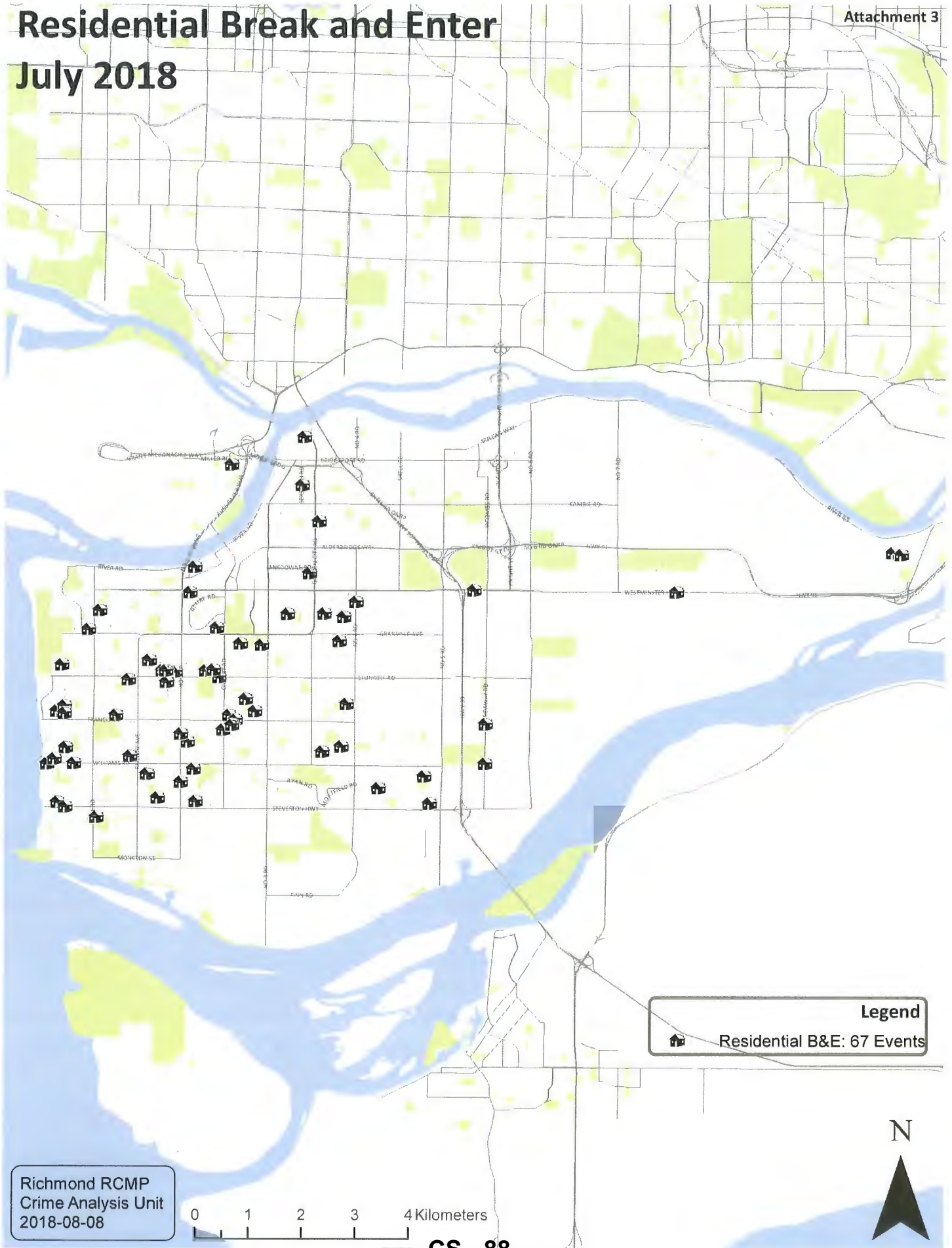
Business Break and Enter
July 2018

Legend

★ Business B&E: 23 Events

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2018-08-08

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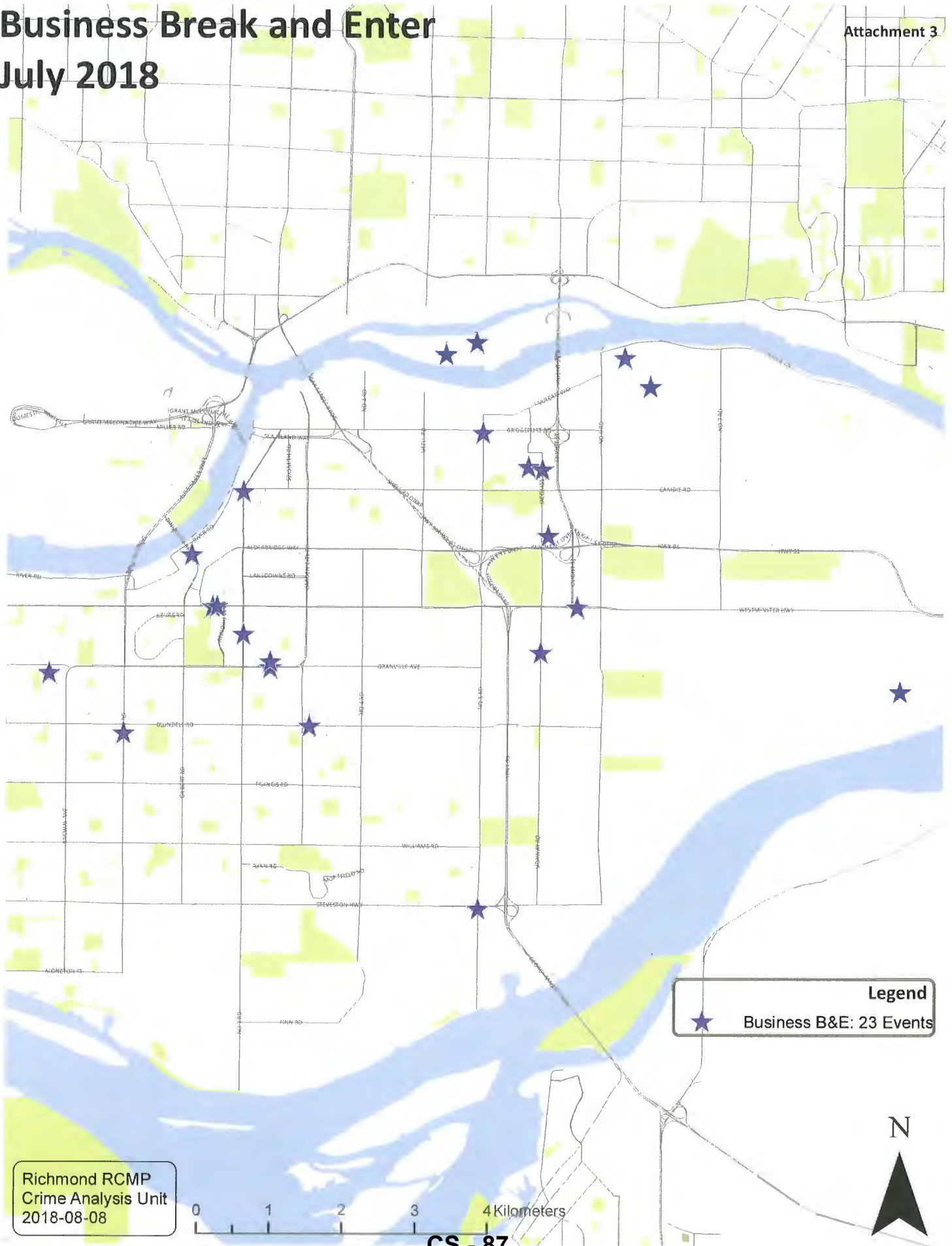
Residential Break and Enter
July 2018

Legend

🏠 Residential B&E: 67 Events

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2018-08-08

0   1   2   3   4 Kilometers

N

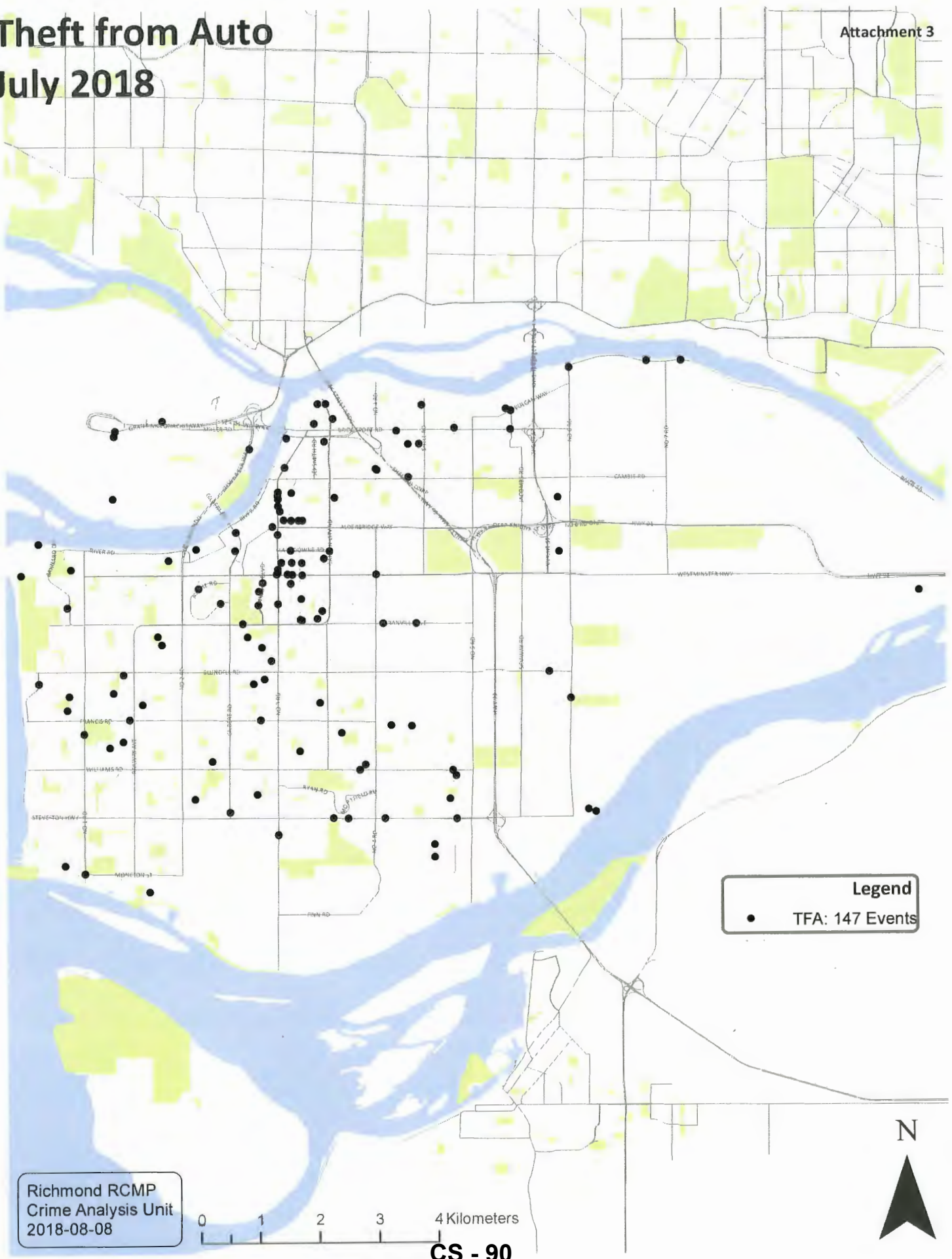# Auto Theft
July 2018
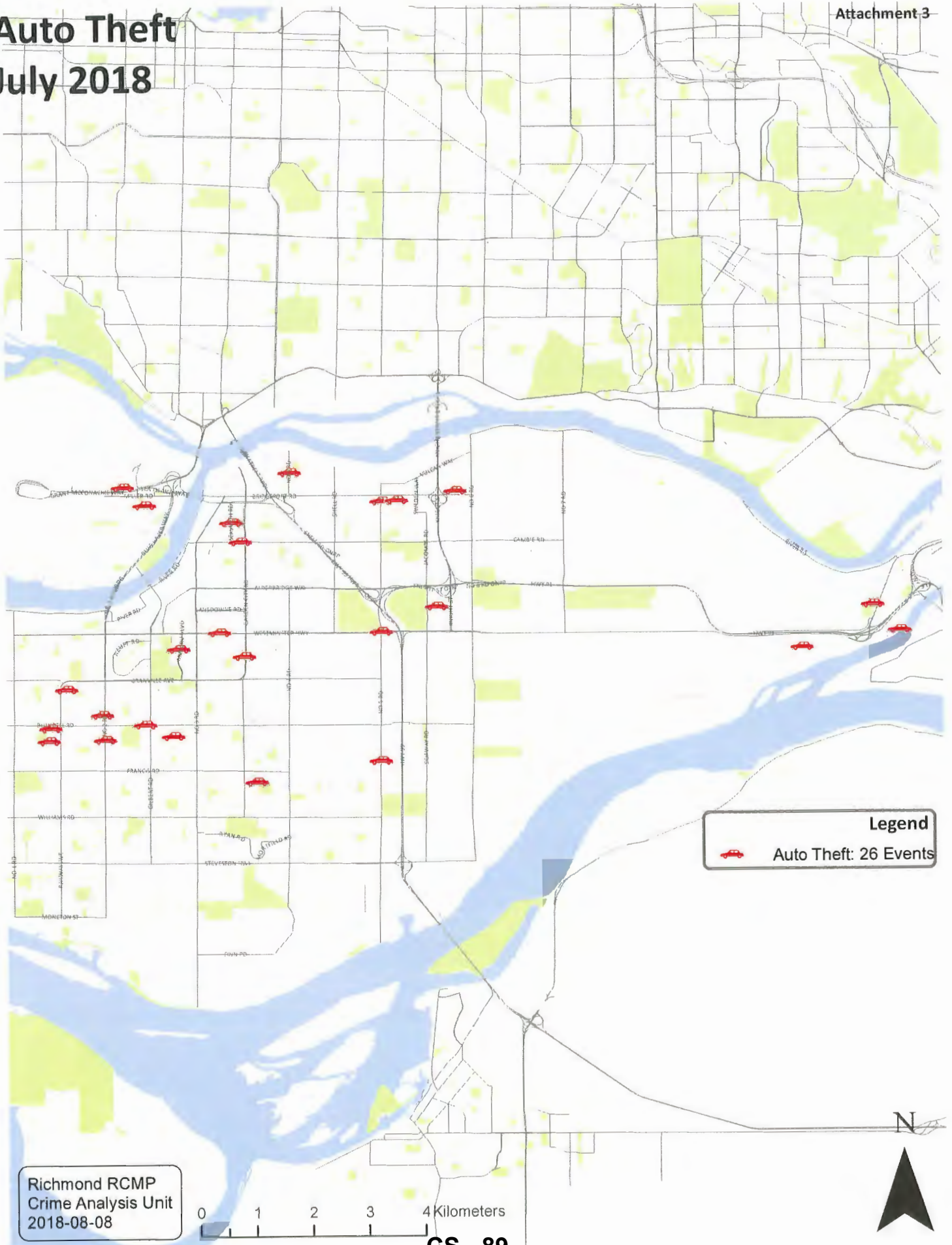
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Auto Theft: 26 Events

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2018-08-08

0   1   2   3   4 Kilometers

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CS - 89

Theft from Auto
July 2018

Legend

● TFA: 147 Events

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2018-08-08

0   1   2   3   4 Kilometers

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