



**Community Safety Committee
Electronic Meeting**

**Council Chambers, City Hall
6911 No. 3 Road**

**Tuesday, April 9, 2024
4:00 p.m.**

Pg. # ITEM

MINUTES

CS-4 *Motion to adopt the **minutes** of the meeting of the Community Safety Committee held on March 12, 2024.*



NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

May 14, 2024, (tentative date) at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

COMMUNITY SAFETY DIVISION

1. **COMMUNITY BYLAWS MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT – FEBRUARY 2024**
(File Ref. No. 12-8375-02) (REDMS No. 7604699)

CS-10

See Page CS-10 for full report

Designated Speaker: Mark Corrado

Pg. # ITEM

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the staff report titled “Community Bylaws Monthly Activity Report – February 2024”, dated March 15, 2024, from the Director, Community Bylaws & Licencing, be received for information.



2. **RICHMOND FIRE-RESCUE MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT – FEBRUARY 2024**

(File Ref. No. 09-5140-01) (REDMS No. 7605409)

CS-18

See Page CS-18 for full report

Designated Speaker: Deputy Fire Chief Al McGrath

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – February 2024”, dated March 5, 2024, from the Fire Chief, be received for information.



3. **FIRE CHIEF BRIEFING**

(Verbal Report)

Designated Speaker: Deputy Fire Chief Al McGrath

Items for discussion: None.

4. **RICHMOND RCMP MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT – FEBRUARY 2024**

(File Ref. No. 09-5000-01) (REDMS No. 7596365)

CS-31

See Page CS-31 for full report

Designated Speaker: Chief Supt. Dave Chauhan

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the report titled “RCMP Monthly Activity Report – February 2024”, dated March 13, 2024, from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment, be received for information.



Community Safety Committee Agenda – Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Pg. # ITEM

5. **2024-2025 RICHMOND RCMP DETACHMENT ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN COMMUNITY PRIORITIES**
(File Ref. No. 09-5000-01) (REDMS No. 7592175)

CS-49

See Page CS-49 for full report

Designated Speaker: Chief Supt. Dave Chauhan

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the priorities, Property Crime, Organized Crime, Road Safety and Vulnerable Persons, listed in the report titled “2024-2025 Richmond RCMP Detachment Annual Performance Plan –Community Priorities”, dated March 19, 2024, from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP, be endorsed for inclusion in the Richmond RCMP Detachment’s fiscal year 2024-2025 (April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025) Annual Performance Plan.



6. **RCMP/OIC BRIEFING**
(Verbal Report)

Designated Speaker: Chief Supt. Dave Chauhan

Item for discussion:

(i) *Volunteer Appreciation (Video)*

7. **MANAGER’S REPORT**

ADJOURNMENT





Community Safety Committee

Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2024
Place: Council Chambers
Richmond City Hall
Present: Councillor Alexa Loo, Chair
Councillor Andy Hobbs
Councillor Laura Gillanders
Councillor Kash Heed
Councillor Bill McNulty
Also Present: Councillor Carol Day
Councillor Michael Wolfe (by teleconference)
Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

It was moved and seconded

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Safety Committee held on February 13, 2024, be adopted.

CARRIED

COMMUNITY SAFETY DIVISION

1. **PROPERTY USE AND PARKING ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT – JANUARY 2024**

(File Ref. No. 12-8375-02) (REDMS No. 7581639)

In reply to queries from Committee, staff noted that (i) they will report back to Committee on the breakdown of repeat offenders on short term rental non-compliance, (ii) an online short term rental advertisement portal is estimated to launch later in 2024, which will enhance bylaw enforcement, (iii) long form prosecution can be pursued if compliance isn't achieved through tickets and warnings for short term rental non-compliance, and (iv) staff would coordinate with Public Works into mailing recycling and garbage brochures to remind residents on how to recycle properly.

Community Safety Committee
Tuesday, March 12, 2024

It was moved and seconded

That the staff report titled “Property Use and Parking Enforcement Monthly Activity Report – January 2024”, dated February 12, 2024, from the Director, Community Bylaws & Licencing, be received for information.

CARRIED

2. ANIMAL PROTECTION SERVICES MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT – JANUARY 2024

(File Ref. No. 12-8060-01) (REDMS No. 7579289)

In reply to queries from Committee, staff noted that under the Dog Licensing and Animal Control Bylaw, it is an offence for a dog to chase, pursue or injure a person noting that a bite does not need to occur to deem a dog dangerous.

It was moved and seconded

That the staff report titled “Animal Protection Services Monthly Activity Report – January 2024”, dated February 12, 2024 from the General Manager, Community Safety, be received for information.

CARRIED

3. RICHMOND FIRE-RESCUE MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT – JANUARY 2024

(File Ref. No. 09-5140-01) (REDMS No. 7573577)

Fire Chief Jim Wishlove provided a breakdown on how many times naloxone was administered stating that of the 44 incidents RFR administered naloxone 4 times.

In reply to queries from Committee, Fire Chief Jim Wishlove noted (i) the increase in January incident volumes from 2023 to 2024 can be attributed to the natural gas leak and the extreme weather, (ii) public service calls are lift assist non-emergency calls that RFR receives directly from the community, (iii) an increase in capacity trial will begin after Q2 by reviewing the types of calls that come in freeing up units while reducing risk to staff and the public, (iv) RFR will look into implementing a prevention campaign on educating the public on administering naloxone, (v) grant funding was received for heat mapping and once installed RFR will report back on this as part of the heat response plan, and (vi) RFR participates in a Mutual Aid Agreement and has working relationships with BC Ambulance, Vancouver Airport Authority, RCMP as well as regional and provincial agreements should the City need them in an emergency.

Community Safety Committee
Tuesday, March 12, 2024

It was moved and seconded

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – January 2024”, dated February 12, 2024, from the Fire Chief, be received for information.

CARRIED

4. **FIRE CHIEF BRIEFING**

(Verbal Report)

(i) *Dogs on Bumpers Campaign*

Fire Chief Jim Wishlove spoke on the Dogs on Bumpers Campaign which saw over 20 families attend to take pictures of their dogs on the fire trucks. The event gave RFR an opportunity to promote public education, prevention and awareness for emergency preparedness.

(ii) *Risk Mitigation*

Fire Chief Jim Wishlove spoke on the ongoing trial of the new risk mitigation communication system installed in two fire trucks that alerts drivers with smart vehicles and GPS maps when fire trucks are approaching during an emergency. The new technology is time-saving for crews while reducing risks between the crews and public.

5. **RCMP MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT – JANUARY 2024**

(File Ref. No. 09-5000-01) (REDMS No. 7548636)

In reply to queries from Committee, Chief Supt. Chauhan noted that (i) officers carry drug prevention resource cards that include contact information for different support systems for the public and Chief Supt. Chauhan will provide Committee with copies, (ii) Youth Section officers focus on educating and creating awareness around law enforcement in high schools, and (iii) Richmond RCMP conducts outreaches with businesses to share strategies on deterring theft and crime reporting as well as delivering Crime Awareness bulletins that provide additional information on reducing crime.

Discussion ensued in regards to drug prevention initiatives and how the City can work with the Province of BC, Richmond School Board, Parent Advisory Councils, Community Associations to educate youth and the public on drug prevention.

It was moved and seconded

That the report titled “RCMP Monthly Activity Report – January 2024”, dated February 13, 2024, from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment, be received for information.

CARRIED

3.

Community Safety Committee
Tuesday, March 12, 2024

6. RCMP/OIC BRIEFING

(Verbal Report)

(i) *Launch of Community Safety Initiative – Safe Sale Exchange Program*

Chief Supt. Chauhan spoke on the new program that provides Richmond residents a secure environment to conduct online marketplace transactions due to an increase in criminal offences associated with online sales during in-person meet-ups.

(ii) *Launch of Crime Reduction Initiative – “You Etch It. We Catch it” Program*

Chief Supt. Chauhan spoke on the campaign which helps combat catalytic converter theft and unlawful sales. The new initiative is a partnership with ICBC and available at participating automotive shops in Richmond.

(iii) *Bike Patrols*

Chief Supt. Chauhan spoke on the Richmond RCMP Bike Patrol Unit initiative stating that the deployment of the bike patrols helps reduce theft and increases public safety noting that the officers can patrol parking lots, parks, alleys, shopping centres and can engage with businesses and the public more easily.

COUNCILLOR LAURA GILLANDERS

7. POLICIES AND BYLAWS RELATING TO BODY RUB STUDIOS

(File Ref. No. 12-8275-11)

Angela Wu, SWAN Vancouver, spoke on SWAN’s support on how Committee should review enforcement practices and current bylaws to develop policies and best practices for women’s safety working in body rub studios (copy on file, City Clerk’s Office).

Cathy Peters, Be Amazing Campaign, presented on raising awareness of sexual exploitation and strategies to prevent human trafficking. The delegate noted that with the potential decriminalization of prostitution in the province, the legalization will worsen the safety of women in this occupation (copy on file, City Clerk’s Office).

Community Safety Committee
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It was moved and seconded

- (1) *That staff research and review our current policies and bylaws relating to body rub studios by consulting with agencies and resources such as SWAN, PACE Society, Living in Community, Pivot Legal Society, VCASE, Benjamin Perrin, Trafficking in Persons report, Trafficking Victims Protection Act 2000-2003, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, and Canada Revenue Agency as well as compare ours to bylaws in other municipalities; that staff report back to Community Safety Committee with findings and/or options to ensure our policies are aligned with current best practices; and*
- (2) *That staff report back on services that support people to get out of prostitution, including programs or services that the City can be offering.*

The question on the motion was not called as discussion ensued regarding the consultation of other agencies and the stigma around Body Rub Studios.

The question on the motion was then called and it was **CARRIED** with Cllr. Loo opposed.

8. **MANAGER'S REPORT**

(i) *Beijing Mansion Update*

In reply to queries from Committee, staff noted that bylaw officers attended the residence on January 30, 2024, issuing 3 tickets. Owners are taking steps to obtain proper permits and the file is still active.

(ii) *Tokyo Health and Beauty*

In reply to queries from Committee, staff noted that the Aberdeen Centre location is currently under investigation and staff will be providing a report to Committee summarizing the investigation. Staff will report back on the ownership of the 3 Tokyo Health and Beauty locations.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded
That the meeting adjourn (5:25 p.m.).

CARRIED

Community Safety Committee
Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Safety Committee of the Council of the City of Richmond held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

Councillor Alexa Loo
Chair

Mizuguchi, Andrea
Legislative Services Associate



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** March 15, 2024
From: Mark Corrado **File:** 12-8375-02/2024-Vol
 Director, Community Bylaws & Licencing 01
Re: Community Bylaws Monthly Activity Report – February 2024

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Community Bylaws Monthly Activity Report – February 2024”, dated March 15, 2024, from the Director, Community Bylaws & Licencing, be received for information.

Mark Corrado
 Director, Community Bylaws & Licencing
 (604-204-8673)

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Finance Department	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS:	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

The CAO has implemented reorganization changes within the Community Safety Division which includes the responsibility of animal protection services returning to the direct supervision of the Director, Community Bylaws & Licencing. Consequently, the activities and initiatives of animal protection services will be included in this monthly report moving forward. This monthly report highlights activities, information, and statistics related to calls for service from the Property Use, Parking Enforcement, and Animal Protection units of Community Bylaws.

This report supports Council’s Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area # 3 A Safe and Prepared Community:

3.2 Leverage strategic partnerships and community-based approaches for comprehensive safety services.

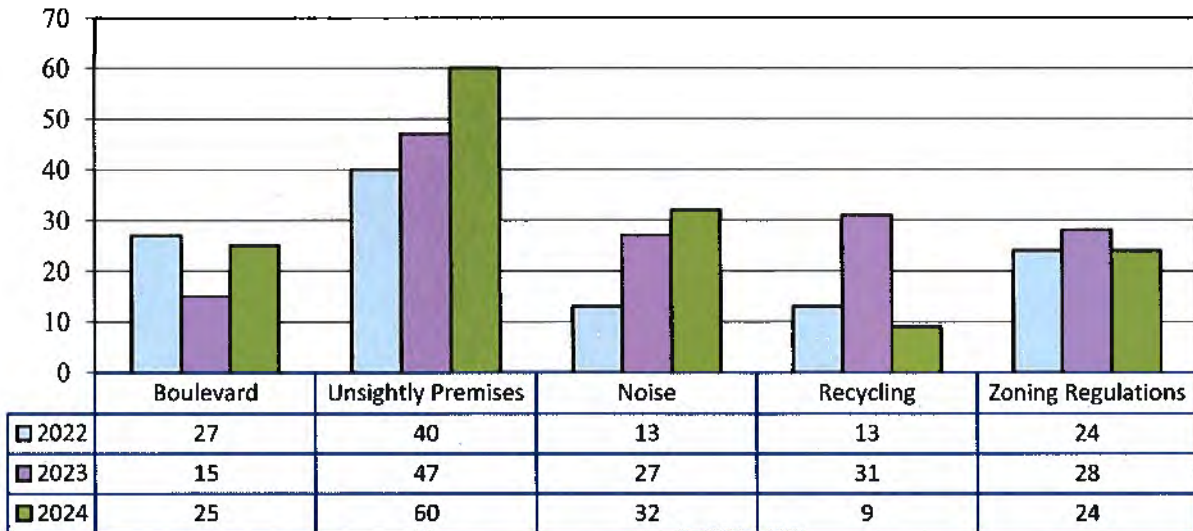
3.4 Ensure civic infrastructure, assets and resources are effectively maintained and continue to meet the needs of the community as it grows.

Analysis

Property Use Calls for Service

In February, a total of 107 calls for service files were received for investigation, which is a 19 per cent decrease (132) from the same period last year. Depending on the nature of the investigation, staff must often liaise with multiple departments and other government agencies to conduct a fulsome review of a received complaint. Among 24 potential calls for service categories, Figure 1 highlights the most common calls for service received for Property Use officers to follow up on and investigate.

Figure 1: Property Use Calls For Service - February Year-To-Date Comparison



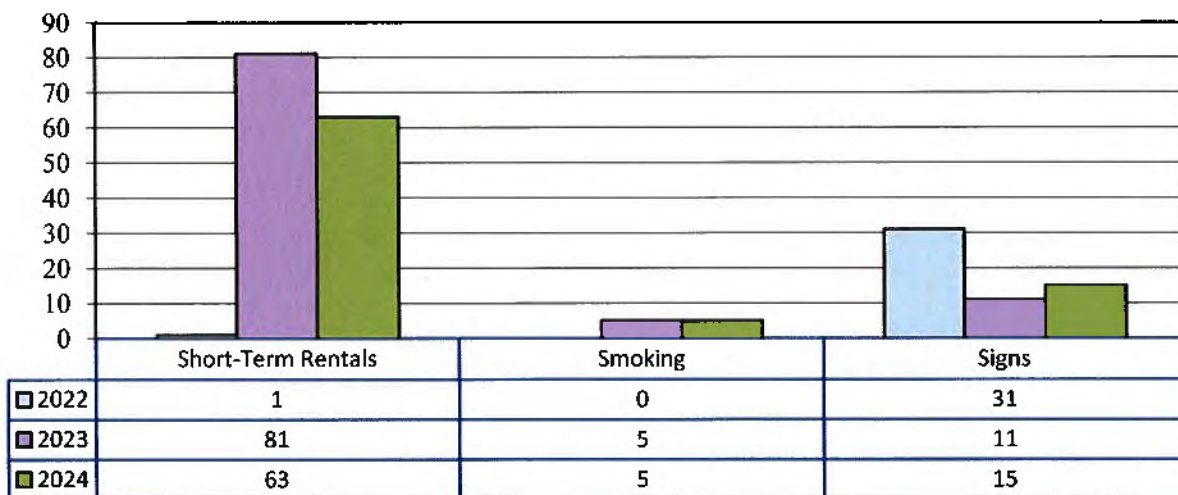
In February, there was a slight increase in reports of unsightly premises, which can be attributed to property garbage calls. This type of call is made when properties have loose debris and chattel strewn across them or piled up. In these cases, staff work with the property owner to set a timeline and expectation for cleanup to come into compliance. In the majority of the cases, voluntary compliance is achieved.

Noise-related calls also increased slightly. There is no trend in the type of noise call; rather, a variety of calls were received, spanning the range of mechanical noise, delivery vehicles and congestion.

Other Community Bylaws Calls for Service

Figure 2 shows a three-year break down of other calls for service that are closely related to Property Use matters.

Figure 2: Property Use Calls For Service - February Year-To-Date Comparison



In January and February, 23 calls for service related to short-term rental violations were received. Dedicated temporary full time staffing resources monitor complaints submitted by the community as well as proactively generating files. Ten out of the 23 calls for service involved properties that were previously the subject of investigation. In many cases, complaints are resolved by: voluntarily removing the short-term rental listing; by obtaining a business licence depending on eligibility; and by paying outstanding fines. However, in cases where voluntary compliance is not obtained a variety of violation notices can be issued for non-compliant operation of a short-term rental.

Often, an illegal rental operator will receive multiple violation notices upon inspection. Staff continue to monitor properties that have been found non-compliant and follow up accordingly should unpermitted operation continue. When there is a repeated and/or significant history of violations, staff will seek a resolution via Long-form Prosecution in Provincial Court.

Signage related calls cover a variety of types. In February, the Sign Inspector attended numerous calls regarding advertising signs that were placed in a manner that is non-compliant. In these cases, staff work with the advertiser or agency to ensure the signage is removed.

Administration Activity

In February, staff received a total of 1,059 calls from the public covering various subject areas. Property use and parking-related calls accounted for 437 of these, with the remaining 622 calls split between parking permit issuances, ticket disputes and general inquiries (257 calls). A total of 365 calls relating to animal control-related issues were also received. These calls frequently concern dog licenses, account updates, ticket disputes, reports of dogs at large and other concerns.

Soil Activity

Staff are responsible for responding to public complaints and issues of non-compliance related to unauthorized filling; monitoring permitted soil deposits and removal sites; and inspecting properties that are undergoing remediation to come into compliance with applicable City bylaws. Staff conducted 53 site inspections in the month of February.

Stop Work/Removal Orders issued for the following properties:

- 6471 No. 5 Road
- 6300 No. 4 Road
- 6991 No. 6 Road
- 10220 Blundell Road
- 10951 Granville Avenue

There are 28 soil deposit proposals under various stages of the application process. Staff are monitoring 10 approved sites and currently addressing 34 properties that are considered non-compliant.

Bylaw Prosecutions

No new bylaw charges were sworn in February.

Parking Enforcement

Staff responded to 330 calls for service in February. This is a 32 per cent increase (250) from the same month last year. When contrasted with 2023 data from the same period, parking enforcement revenue has increased by 11 per cent with parking violation issuance up by 26 per cent. This contrast between parking revenue and violation issuance is the result of proactive enforcement efforts leading to increased use of City parking meters, monthly parking permit issuance and an increase in the use of mobile payment applications. Monthly parking enforcement revenue is highlighted in Figure 3. Figure 4 highlights monthly parking violation issuance.

Figure 3: Parking Enforcement Revenue Comparison (000's)

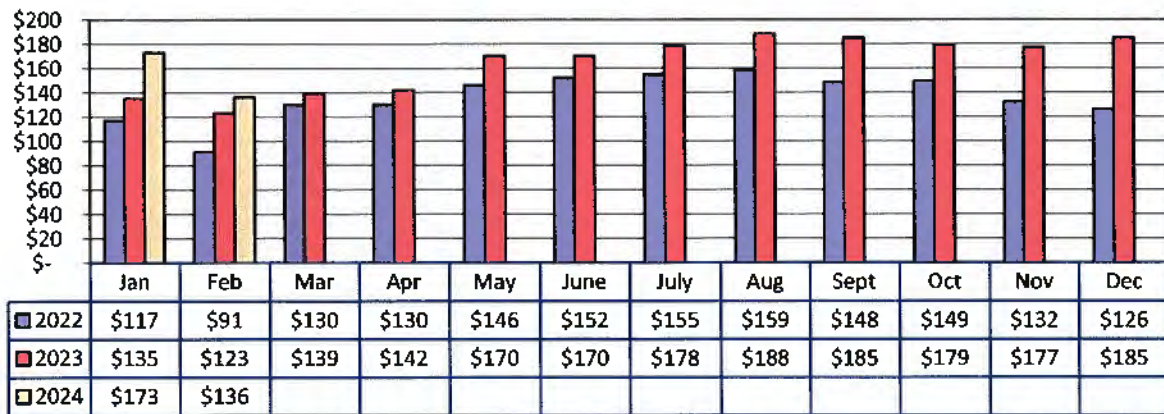
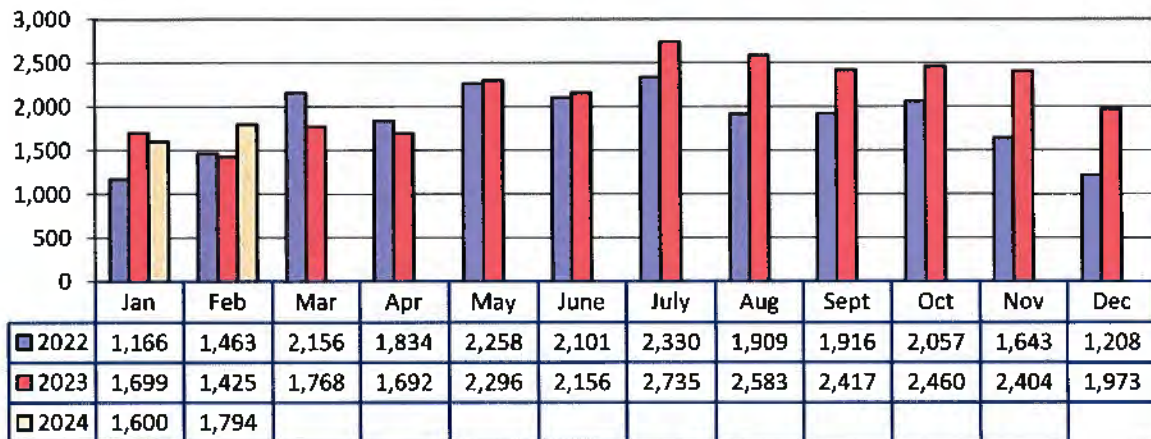


Figure 4: Parking Violation Issuance Comparison



Animal Protection and Dog Licencing

As of March 1, 2024, approximately 6,000 dog licences were issued. This figure represents 80 percent of the 7,500 licences on file as of last year. The discounted fee window ended on February 29, 2024 and staff efforts are now focused on following up on any outstanding accounts to ensure accuracy in owner information and dog status. Dog licences are valid for a calendar year and are not based on the purchase date of the license.

In February, BCSPCA Officers responded to 157 calls for service related to a range of animal control and dog licencing violations. They also conducted 56 park patrols across various parks, dikes and school grounds. The officers attended typical locations such as Garry Point, Terra Nova Rural Park and sections of the West Dyke Trail. Patrols were also carried out at the No. 3 Road Bark Park, South Arm Community Park and several school grounds. In addition to

enforcement actions, these patrols also serve an educational purpose by contributing to increased awareness and compliance.

Ticketing

Table 1 reflects non-parking related Bylaw ticket issuance for the month of February.

Table 1: Community Bylaw Offences

Ticket Issuance (BVN's & MTI's)	February	YTD
Short-Term Rental Offences	50	93
Soil Deposit and Removal Offences	8	15
Animal Regulation/Dog Licence Offences	11	37
Watercourse Protection Offences	0	0
Unightly Premises Offences	1	2
Noise Offences	3	4
Building Regulation Offences	0	2
Solid Waste and Recycling Offences	0	0
Parks Offences	0	0
Sign Offences	7	8
Watering Offences	0	0
Totals	80	161

Bylaw Adjudication

The next adjudication session will be held on March 6, 2024. The outcome of the adjudication session will be highlighted in next month's report.

Revenue and Expenses

Revenue in the Property Use section is primarily derived from permits, tickets and court fines related to bylaw prosecutions. Soil permit applications and volume fees follow a seasonal trend and tend to increase in the Q2 and Q3. The collection of revenue in other Bylaw fines can be primarily attributed to fines issued for the operation of unpermitted short-term rentals. These results are shown in Table 2.

Parking enforcement generates much of its revenue from meters, permits and fines. Parking typically sees receivable income as a result of the Richmond Night Market, which will open in late April. As this event is seasonal, the revenue in this budget line does vary. Table 3 outlines individual revenue sources within parking enforcement. Table 4 highlights funds collected from dog licencing and fines. The overall increase in licence revenue can be attributed to proactive work done by staff in prior years to ensure accuracy in dog licence accounts and canvassing efforts to ensure compliance.

Table 5 outlines the net revenue and expenses for both property use and parking enforcement and animal protection services.

Table 2: Property Use Revenue by Source

Program Revenue	Budget Feb 2024	Actual Feb 2024	YTD Budget Feb 2024	YTD Actual Feb 2024
False Alarm	4,858	0	9,718	5,940
Towing Permits	1,263	1,655	2,477	3,825
Newspaper Box Permits	0	1,024	0	1,024
Soil Permit Application and Volume Fees	9,311	3,147	18,262	5,957
Other Bylaw Fines	19,280	10,950	37,815	25,375
Total Revenue	34,712	16,776	68,272	42,121

Table 3: Parking Revenue by Source

Program Revenue	Budget Feb 2024	Actual Feb 2024	YTD Budget Feb 2024	YTD Actual Feb 2024
Contract Revenue ¹	5,000	5,000	10,000	10,000
Filming Revenue	0	1,564	0	1,564
Parking Revenue ²	174,767	135,961	349,533	309,013
Total Revenue	179,767	142,525	359,533	320,577

Table 4: Animal Protection and Dog Licencing Revenue by Source

Program Revenue	Budget Feb 2024	Actual Feb 2024	YTD Budget Feb 2024	YTD Actual Feb 2024
Dog Licences	53,502	57,456	169,493	199,374
Fines	410	2,175	780	3,050
Total Revenue	53,912	59,631	170,273	202,424

¹ City Towing Contract with Rusty's towing

² Parking Revenue consists of Parking Meters, Monthly Parking Permits, and Parking Enforcement

Table 5: Property Use, Parking and Animal Protection Services Revenue and Expenses

		Budget Feb 2024	Actual Feb 2024
Property Use	Revenue	35,378	25,279
	Expenses	163,666	104,143
	Net Revenue (Expense)	(128,288)	(78,864)
Parking	Revenue	179,767	178,052
	Expenses	152,516	124,297
	Net Revenue (Expense)	27,251	53,755
Animal Protection	Revenue	170,273	202,424
	Expenses	249,517	252,019
	Net Revenue (Expense)	(79,244)	(49,595)

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

Staff and contracted service providers administer and enforce 39 unique bylaws, covering a diverse range of various regulated community activities and service use, notably land use, noise, soil deposit/removal, short-term rentals, parking permits and enforcement, unsightly premises, and animal protection services. This report provides a summary of departmental activity in February.



Mark Corrado
 Director, Community Bylaws and Licencing
 (604-204-8673)



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

Date: March 5, 2024

From: Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief

File 09-5140-01/2024-Vol
01




Re: Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – February 2024

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – February 2024”, dated March 5, 2024, from the Fire Chief, be received for information.

Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief
(604-303-2715)

Att. 1

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

Staff Report

Origin

This monthly report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #3, A Safe and Prepared Community:

Community safety and preparedness through effective planning, strategic partnerships and proactive programs.

Analysis

Emergency Programs

During the month of February staff:

- Partnered with local regional partners in drafting the FIFA 2026 safety and security plan. During this session, multiple agencies and municipalities drafted response and mitigation options to prepare for the upcoming FIFA soccer tournament. Richmond Fire-Rescue (RFR) is one of many agencies who are participating in the development of a regional plan for FIFA 2026.
- Partnered with the Canadian Red Cross (CRC) on a group lodging training session in the training session culminated with a group lodging exercise conducted during a simulated evacuation event.
- Provided an in-person introduction to Emergency Management to 15 community youth as part of the Youth Civic Engagement Program.

Public Outreach & Education

In February 2024, staff facilitated outreach events to provide educational opportunities to the community, including fire hall and vehicle tours for five organizations. Additionally, staff continued with educational social media videos and posts throughout February.

Internal Staff Training

In February 2024, staff organized in-house training events including: Fire Service Leadership Level II, Incident Command Systems levels 100 and 200, First Responder Scope of Practice updates and ongoing recruit training evaluations.

Emergency Response

One of the City’s emergency response goals is to arrive on-scene, in time and with enough resources to contain a fire to the room of origin. The room of origin standard is especially important in terms of preventing further fire loss and damage, which can be reduced when a fire is contained to the room of origin. Meeting this standard also assists in mitigating loss of life, reduction of property damage and protection of the environment.

In February 2024, there were 1,017 reported incidents of all types, representing an overall increase of 13 per cent in incidents between February 2023 and February 2024 (Table 1).

Table 1: Total Incidents - February 2024					
	Incident Totals February (2024)	Incident Totals February (2023)	Number Change from February 2023 to 2024	Percentage Change from February 2023 to 2024	5 Year Average for February
Active Alarm	168	159	+9	+6	134
Explosion	1	0	+1	+100	0
Fire	37	37	0	0	29
Hazardous Materials	9	9	0	0	10
Medical	544	490	+54	+11	392
Motor Vehicle Incident	87	57	+30	+53	66
Public Hazard	6	15	-9	-60	8
Public Service	99	86	+13	+15	84
Response Cancelled/Unfounded	59	48	+11	+23	47
Specialized Transport	7	3	+4	+133	3
Technical Rescue	0	0	0	0	1
Total	1,017	904	+113	+13	774

The average time on scene in February 2024 for emergency response crews was 30 minutes per event, which is lower than the number recorded in February 2023: 31 minutes. The time spent on scene can vary due to the nature and severity of each incident.

In February 2024, there were 37 fire incidents reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner, this is the same number reported in February 2023. The average number of fires reported each February over the last five years is 29.

Fire damage and property losses during February 2024 are estimated at \$180,941. This total includes \$145,810 for building/asset loss and \$35,131 for content loss. The total building/asset and content value at risk is estimated to be \$15,575,252 and the total value preserved from damage was \$15,394,311. These numbers translate to 99 per cent of value protected (Table 3), which is the same as the value observed in 2023: 99 per cent.

Table 2: Fire Incidents By Type and Loss Estimates - February 2024						
Incident Type Breakdown	Incident Volume	Estimated Building/ Asset Value (\$)	Estimated Building/ Asset Loss (\$)	Estimated Content Value (\$)	Estimated Content Loss (\$)	Estimated Total Value Preserved (\$)
Residential: Single family	0	-	-	-	-	-
Residential: Multi family	5	1,217,750	4,000	515,261	2,900	1,726,111
Commercial / Industrial	6	11,426,000	10,000	858,250	1,550	12,272,700
Outdoor	25	1,307,310	101,810	681	681	1,205,500
Vehicle/Vessel	1	220,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	190,000
Totals*	37	14,171,060	145,810	1,404,192	35,131	15,394,311

* The dollar losses shown in this table are preliminary estimates. They are derived from RFR’s record management system and are subject to change due to delays in reporting and confirmation of actual losses from private insurance agencies (as available).

Significant Events

Emergency response crews minimized harm, limited damage and stopped fire spread from the place of origin and performed life-saving interventions in these notable February 2024 incidents:

- **February 6, 2024 – Medical event on Saba Road.** RFR Emergency crews responded to reports of a person who had fallen from a high floor of a building. On arrival crew assisted BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) with patient intervention. There were multiple RCMP and BCEHS crews on scene. The patient was pronounced deceased by BCEHS crews. All attending crews were provided with Critical Incident Stress Debriefing. There were no further reports of injury to the public or staff.
- **February 7, 2024 – Hazardous materials on Westminster Highway.** RFR emergency crews responded to a Hazmat incident on Westminster Highway where a four litre jug of hydrochloric acid had spilled out onto the road. Following guidelines and best practices, crews used water to dilute the spill and mitigate the hazard. There were no reports of injury to the public or staff.
- **February 9, 2024 – Structure fire on Vanguard Way.** RFR emergency crews responded to a tent fire on Vanguard Way. First on scene crews found a homeless encampment beside the Highway 99 overpass. Crews extinguished the burning debris and cooled nearby exposed propane tanks. No persons were found in the area or in the tent. RCMP were on scene in support of RFR emergency crews. Once extinguished, RFR crews proceeded to examine the area’s debris for any further hazards. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel.

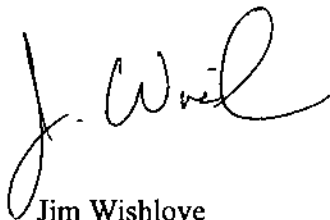
- **February 23, 2024 – Technical Rescue on No.9 Road.** RFR Emergency crews responded to a technical rescue incident on No. 9 Road for a person having a diabetic issue in a confined space. The first in crews were able to remove the patient from the confined space safely. The patient was handed over to onsite BCEHS crews for treatment. There were no other reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

Richmond Fire-Rescue continues to monitor activities to identify and create public outreach programs to respond to emerging trends and to regularly promote effective prevention behaviours.



Jim Wishlove
Fire Chief
(604-303-2715)

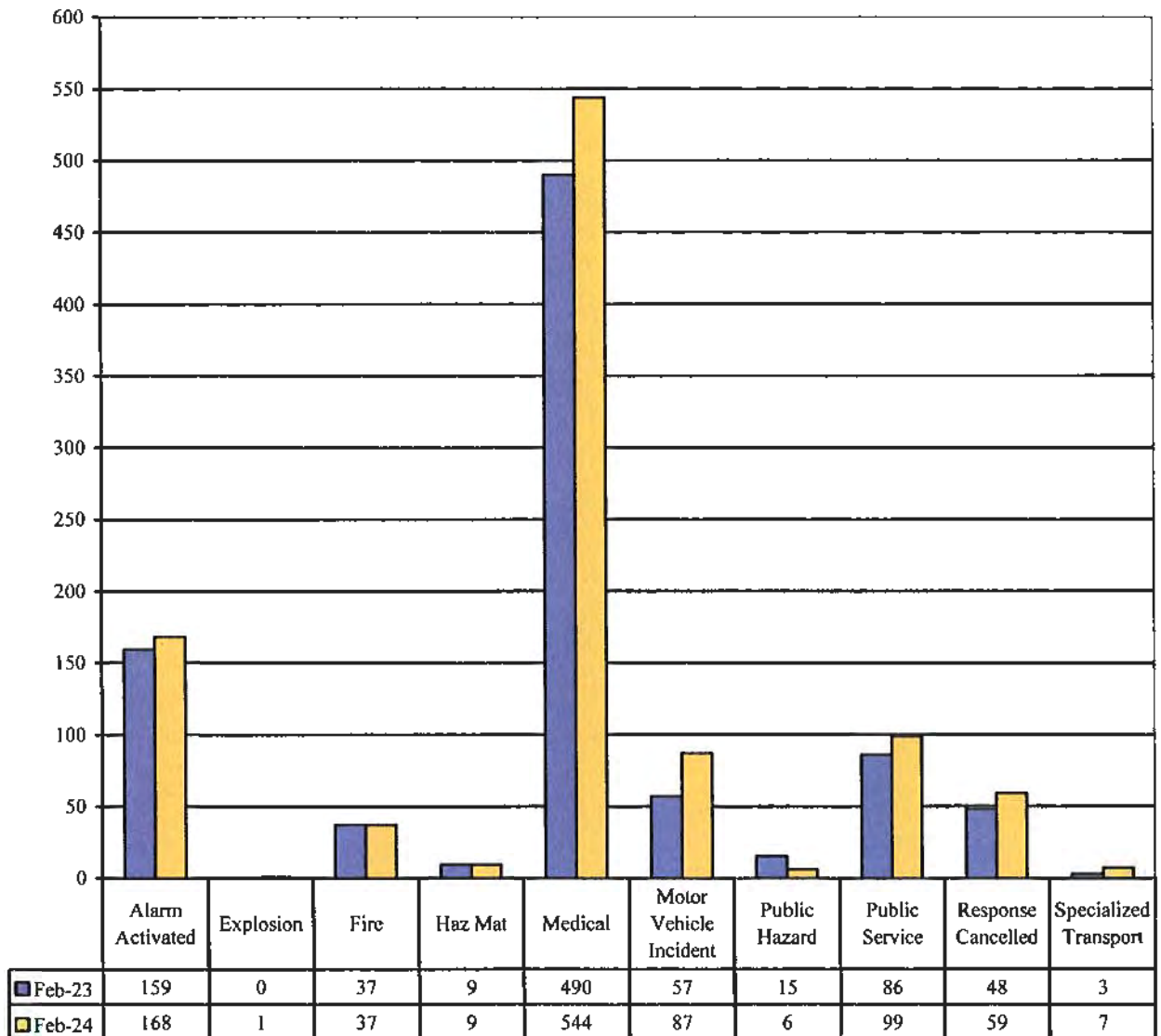
Att. 1: Emergency Response Activity for February 2024.

Emergency Response Activity for February 2024

Incident Volumes

The following chart provides a month-to-month comparison regarding incidents occurring in February 2023 and 2024. In February 2024, there were 1,017 total incidents, compared to 904 in February 2023. This represents an overall increase of 13 per cent between last year and 2024.

Table 3: February 2023 & February 2024 Incident Volumes



Incident Type Legend:

HazMat: includes fuel or vapour, spills, leaks, or containment

Medical includes: cardiac arrest, emergency response, home or industrial accidents

Public Hazard includes: aircraft emergency, object removal, or power lines down

Public Service includes: assisting public, ambulance or police, locked in/out, special events, trapped in elevator, water removal

First Responder Totals

Medical first responder incidents comprised 53 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR during the month of February 2024. A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for February 2023 and 2024 is set out in the following table by sub-type. There were 544 medical incidents in February 2024 compared to 490 in February 2023, an increase of 11 per cent.

Table 4a: February 2023 & February 2024 Medical Calls by Type

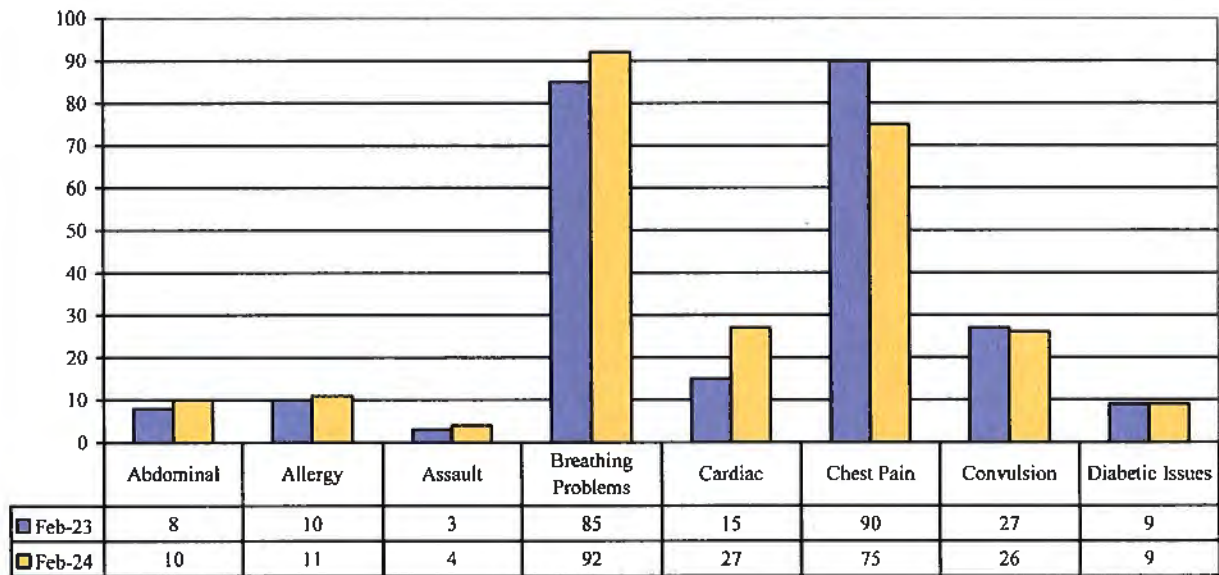
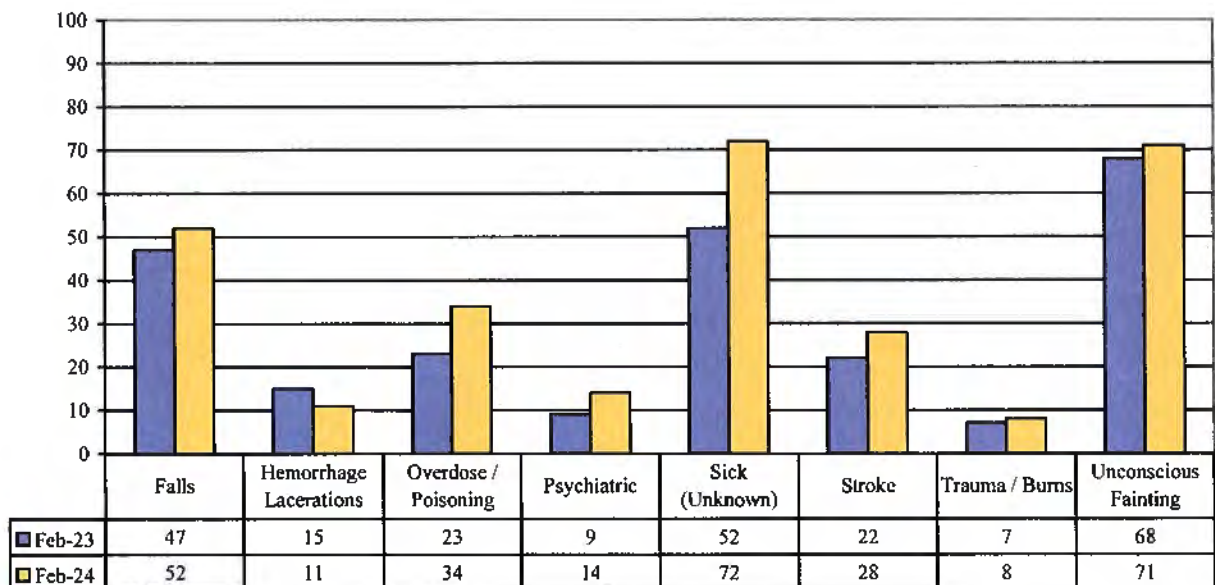


Table 4b: February 2023 & February 2024 Medical Calls by Type



The following chart provides the overdose/poisoning incident volume breakdown for February 2024.

Table 4c: Overdose / Poisoning Incidents By Type – February 2024	
Opioid overdose incidents that RFR attended located in an OUTDOOR environment.	4
Opioid overdose incidents that RFR attended located in an INDOOR environment.	5
All other OD / Poisoning Incidents	25
Totals	34

Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for February 2024 are listed below:

Table 5: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – February 2024			
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Residential - Single-family	0	0	0
Residential - Multi-family	0	4	1
Commercial/Industrial	2	3	1
Outdoor	15	6	4
Vehicle	0	1	0
Totals	17	14	6

Richmond Fire-Rescue investigators report all suspicious fires to the RCMP, while working alongside RCMP staff to address potential risks to the community and coordinate appropriate fire investigations.

Hazardous Materials

Table 6: Hazardous Materials Incidents By Type – February 2024	
	Details
Gasses (Natural / Propane)	6
Corrosive	1
Flammable/Combustible Liquids	2
Totals	9

The following charts provide total incident volumes for fires and medical incidents on a year-to-year comparison in February from 2015 to 2024.

Table 7a: Total Fire Calls for Service in February from 2015 to 2024

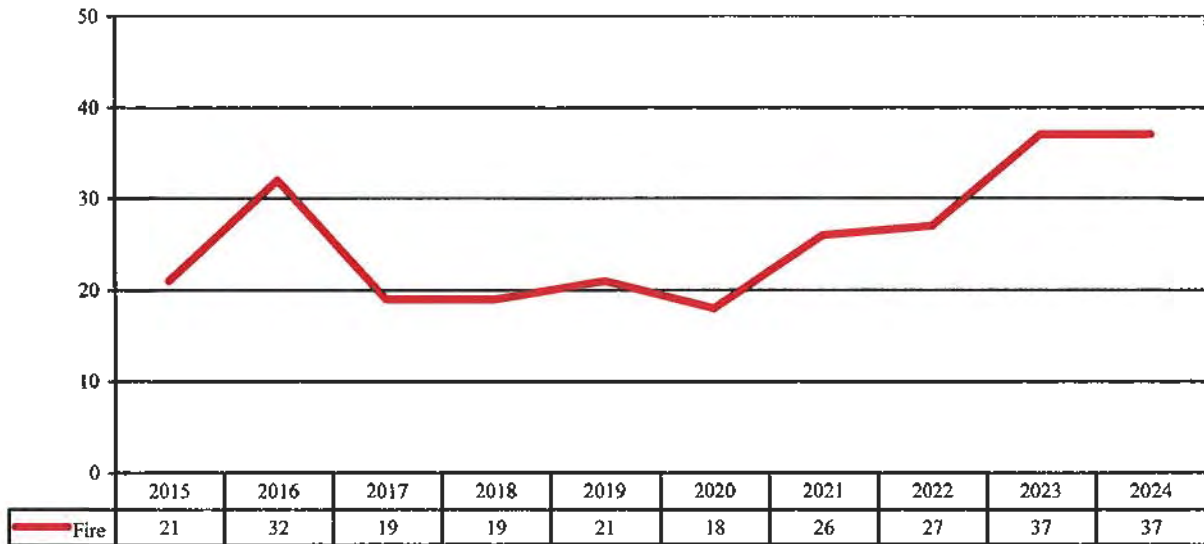
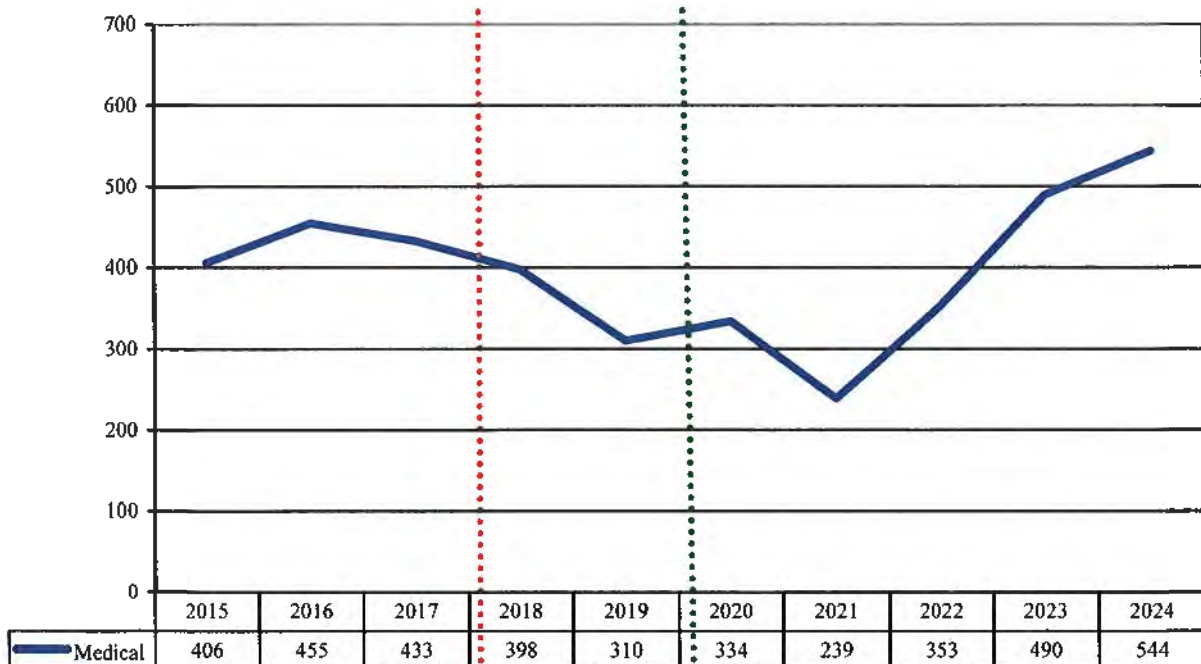


Table 7b: Total Medical Calls for Service in February from 2015 to 2024



Changes to BC Emergency Health Services
Clinical Response Model dispatch system
(2017-2018)

Start of Covid-19 pandemic

Figure 1: Location of reportable fire incidents attended in February 2024 (total 37)

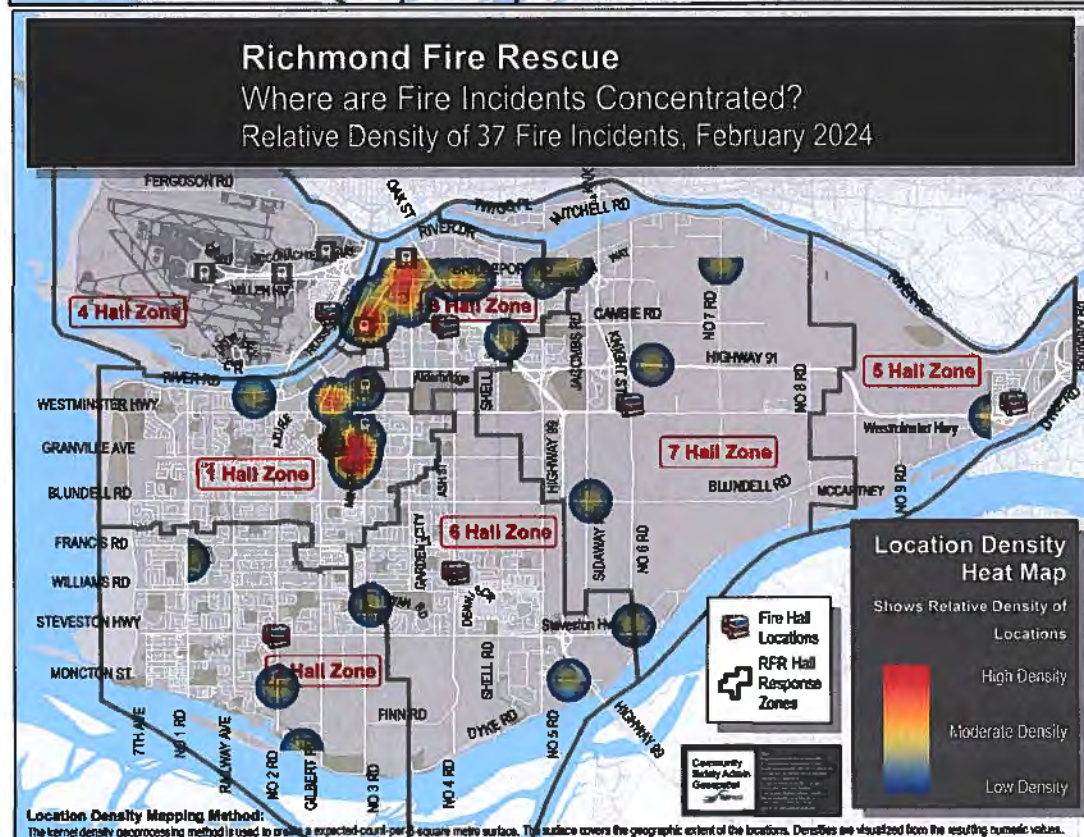
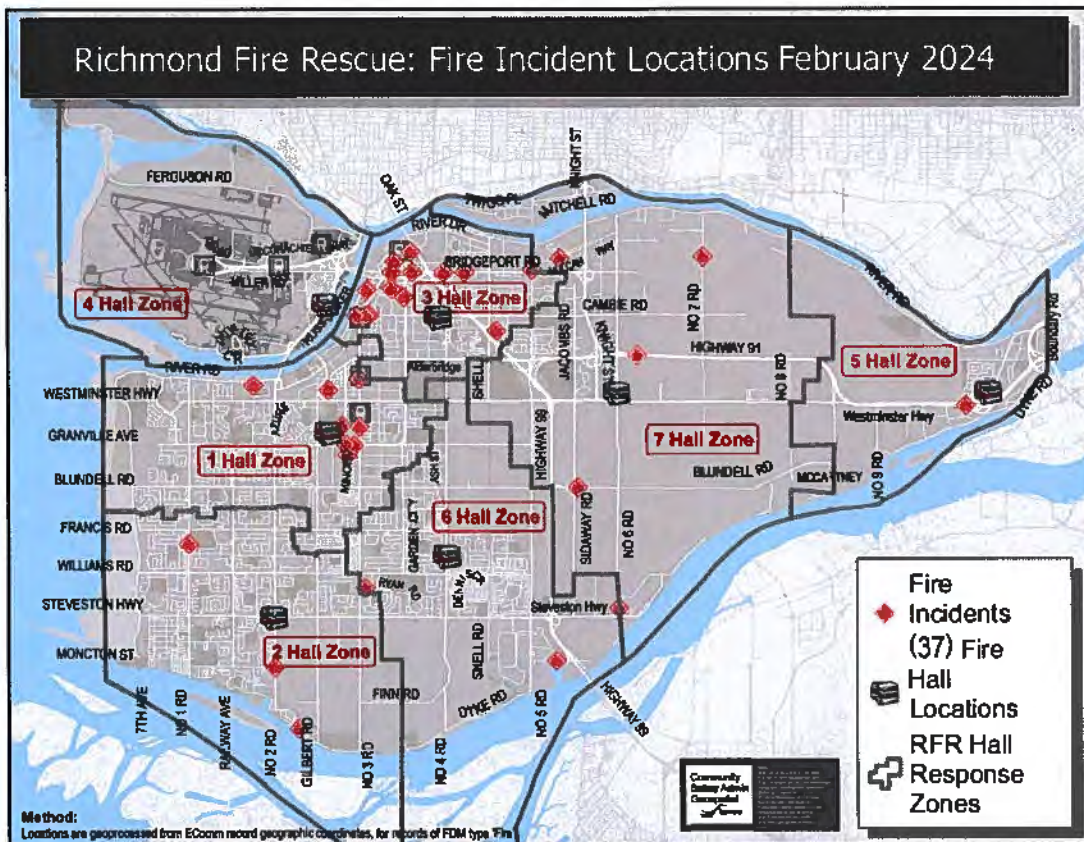


Figure 2: Location of reportable medical incidents attended in February 2024 (total 544)

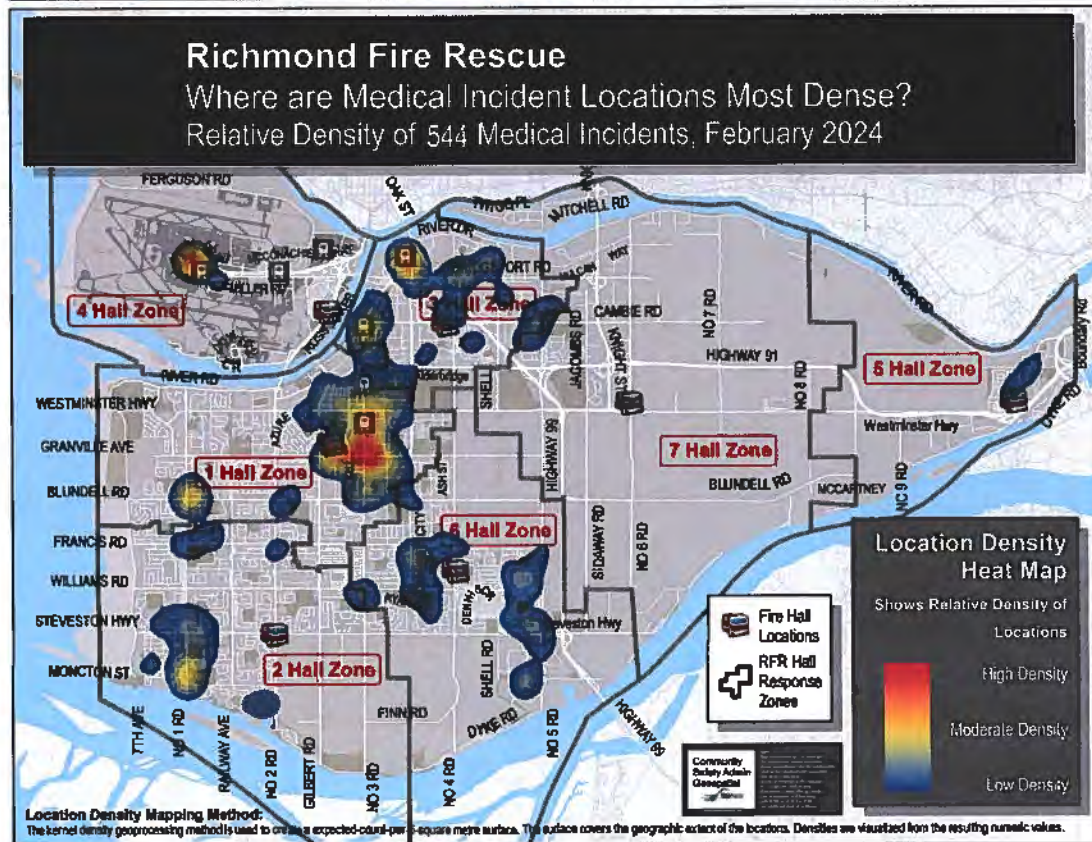
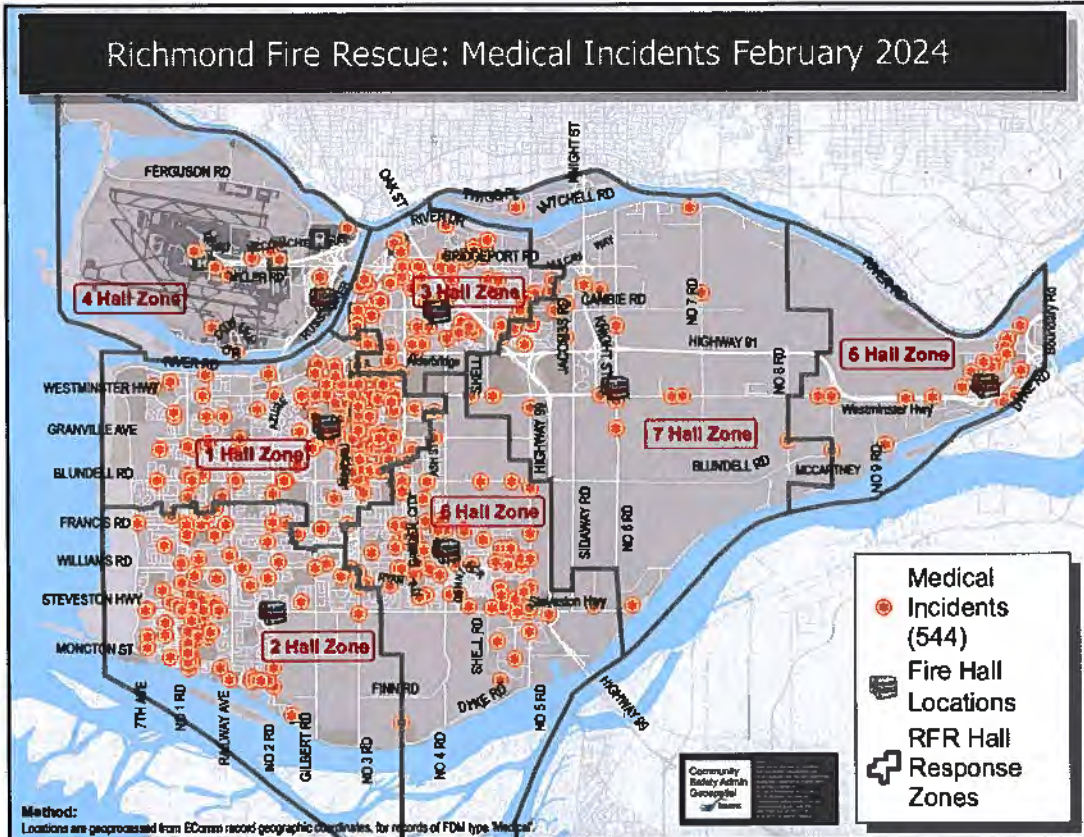


Figure 3: Location of reportable motor vehicle incidents (MVIs) attended in February 2024 (total 87)

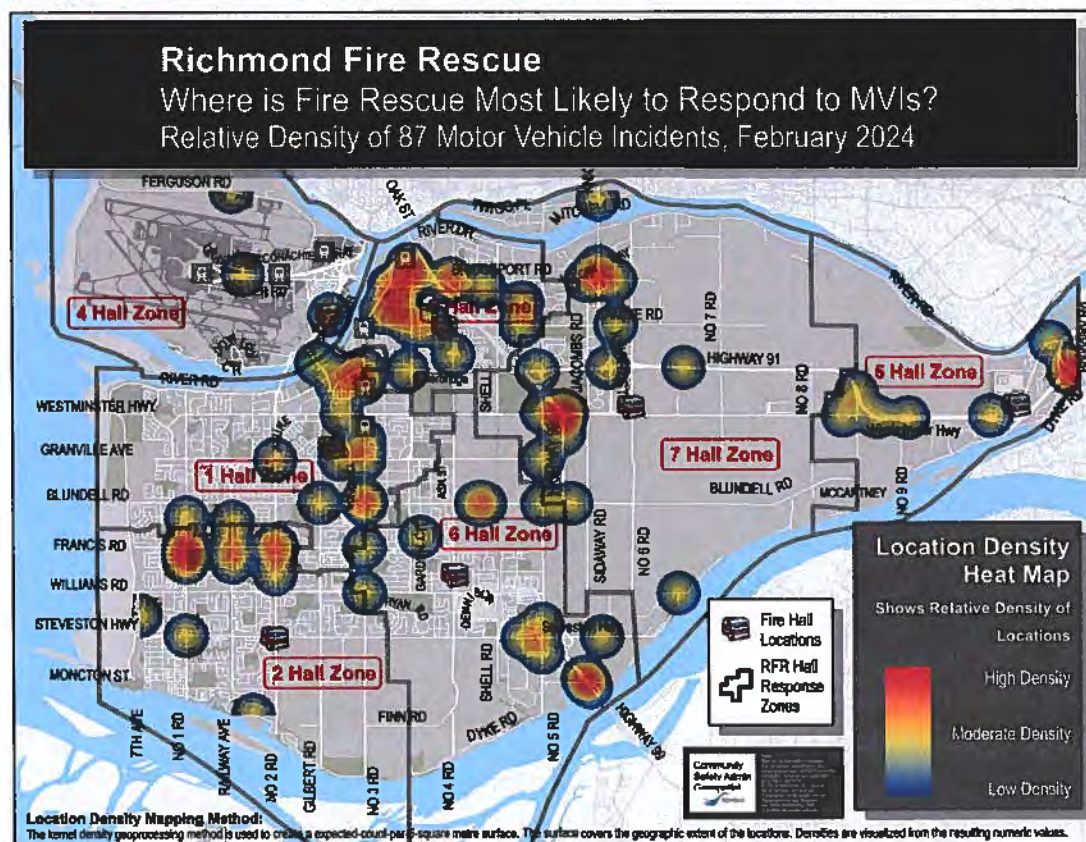
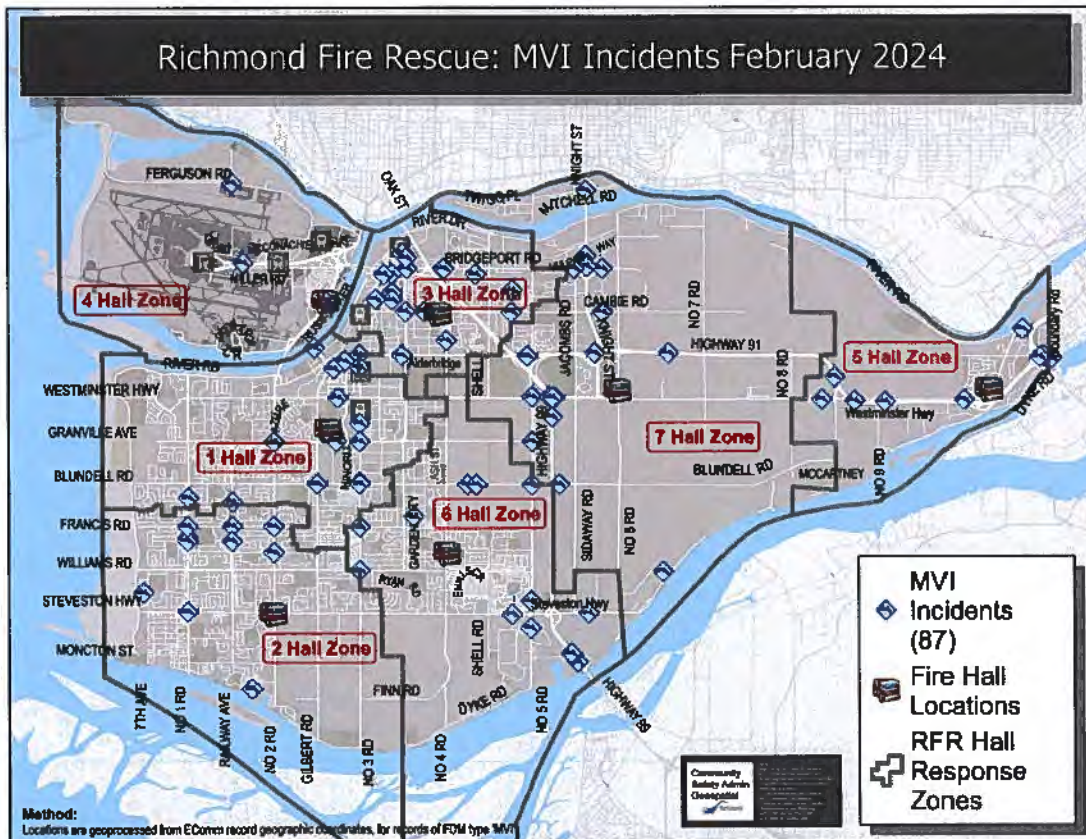
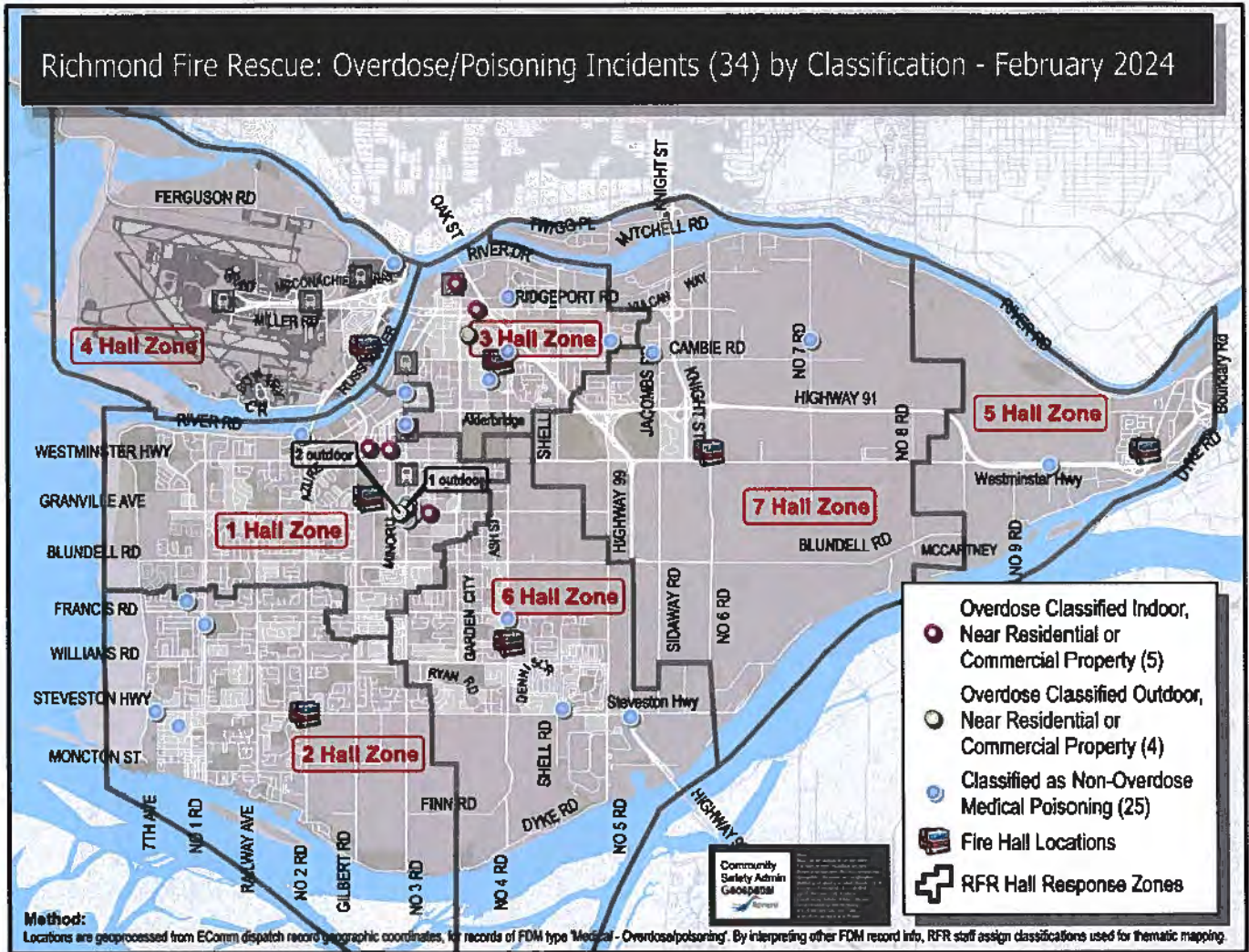


Figure 4: Location of reportable overdose / poisoning incidents attended in February 2024 (Total 34)





City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** March 13, 2024

From: Dave Chauhan **File:** 09-5000-01/2024-Vol
Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge 01

Re: Richmond RCMP Monthly Activity Report – February 2024




Recommendation from the OIC

That the report titled “RCMP Monthly Activity Report – February 2024”, dated March 13, 2024, from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment, be received for information.



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

Att. 4

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 2022-2026 Focus Area #1 Proactive in Stakeholder and Civic Engagement:

Proactive stakeholder and civic engagement to foster understanding and involvement and advance Richmond's interests.

Analysis

Activities and Noteworthy Files

Pedestrian Fatality

On February 1, 2024, Richmond RCMP officers responded to the Cambie Road and Barga Drive area after receiving reports of a pedestrian being struck by a vehicle. The pedestrian, an 80-year-old Richmond resident, was transported to the hospital but later succumbed to his injuries. The vehicle's driver remained at the scene and cooperated with police. The collision is under investigation.

Safe Exchange Zone

On February 9, 2024, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release announcing the launch of the Safe Exchange initiative to help prevent criminal offences associated with online sales. This new program is designed to provide a secure environment within the main Richmond RCMP Detachment for community members to conduct online marketplace transactions.

Arrest

On February 13, 2024, a Richmond RCMP officer was conducting routine patrols in the 3000 block of Great Canadian Way when he observed a stolen vehicle out of Vancouver. The vehicle was stopped, and a woman wanted on a Canada-wide warrant was arrested.

Child Luring

On February 21, 2024, Richmond RCMP officers responded to the 4000 block of Moncton Street after a complainant advised that a man had been communicating with her child online and had asked the child to meet him at a local park. Police arrested the man and have identified additional youths with whom this man may have been in communication. The investigation is ongoing.

Theft Prevention

On February 28, 2024, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release promoting the new “You Etch It. We Catch It” program to combat catalytic converter thefts. In partnership with participating Richmond automotive shops, the initiative invites vehicle owners to have part of their VIN etched onto their catalytic converters during routine maintenance at no extra cost. This etching assists police in tracking stolen property and deterring potential thefts.

Analysis of Police Statistics

Arson

In February 2024, there were 11 reported arsons, which is an increase of nine incidents from the previous month. No patterns or trends have been identified.¹

In February 2024, there were 3 incidents involving garbage bins/dumpsters being lit on fire.

Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)

There were 18 serious assault events in February 2024, which represents a 38 per cent increase from the previous month and an 18 per cent decrease from February 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of serious assaults this month is above the average range.

Of the incidents reported in February 2024, 50 per cent were domestic assaults.

Auto Theft

In February 2024, there were 17 auto thefts, which represents a 26 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 32 per cent decrease from February 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of auto thefts this month is within the average range.

¹ In January 2024, a new Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR) code was introduced related to intentionally set fires that do not meet the *Criminal Code* definition of Arson. The new UCR code, 8900-25 Fire – Not Arson, will allow for the more accurate capturing of arson incidents. The introduction of this new UCR code currently prevents comparison to prior year arson counts. Staff will resume reporting trend comparison once sufficient statistically significant data is collected under the new UCR system.

Drugs

In February 2024, there were 16 drug offences, which is a six per cent decrease from the previous month and a 48 per cent decrease from February 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of drug incidents this month is below the average range.

Mental Health

There were 215 mental health-related incidents in February 2024, representing a nine per cent decrease from the previous month and a 15 per cent decrease from February 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of mental health-related incidents this month is within the average range.

There were 66 police apprehensions this month, representing a 25 per cent decrease from the previous month, and the average hospital wait time decreased by two per cent to 129 minutes. The extended wait time has been attributed to four files with exceptionally long wait times.

Residential Break and Enter

There were 23 break and enters to residences in February 2024, which represents a 30 per cent decrease from the previous month and a 35 per cent increase from February 2023. 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 February 2024, there were 19 break and enters to businesses, which is more than three times the number reported the previous month and represents a 17 per cent decrease from February 2023.² No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of commercial break and enters this month is below the average range.

Robbery

There were eight robberies in February 2024, representing an increase of six incidents from the previous month and an increase of five incidents from February 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of robberies this month is above the average range.

Three of the robberies reported this month were connected to online marketplace sales. There were also three purse snatchings. The incidents remain under investigation.

² The number of commercial break and enters in January 2024 was the lowest number recorded in over ten years

Sexual Offences

In February 2024, there were 23 sexual offence files, representing a four per cent decrease from the previous month and a 21 per cent increase from February 2023.³ No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of sexual offences this month is above the average range.

More than half of the offences reported in February 2024 were sexual assaults, and 13 per cent were related to the distribution of child pornography.

Shoplifting

There were 149 reported shoplifting thefts in February 2024, which is a 28 per cent increase from the previous month and a 46 per cent increase from February 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of shoplifting thefts this month is above the average range.

The top targeted location remained consistent with previous months, and the most frequently stolen items were clothing and accessories. Suspects have been identified in 32 per cent of incidents reported this month.

Theft from Automobile

There were 70 thefts from automobile incidents in February 2024, which is a three per cent decrease from the previous month and a 46 per cent decrease from February 2023. The number of thefts from automobiles this month is below the average range.

Hate Crimes and Incidents

Table 1 presents the number of hate crimes and hate incidents reported between January 1, 2020 and February 29, 2024.⁴ 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. There was one hate incident reported in February 2024, which was related to racist comments stemming from a verbal altercation.

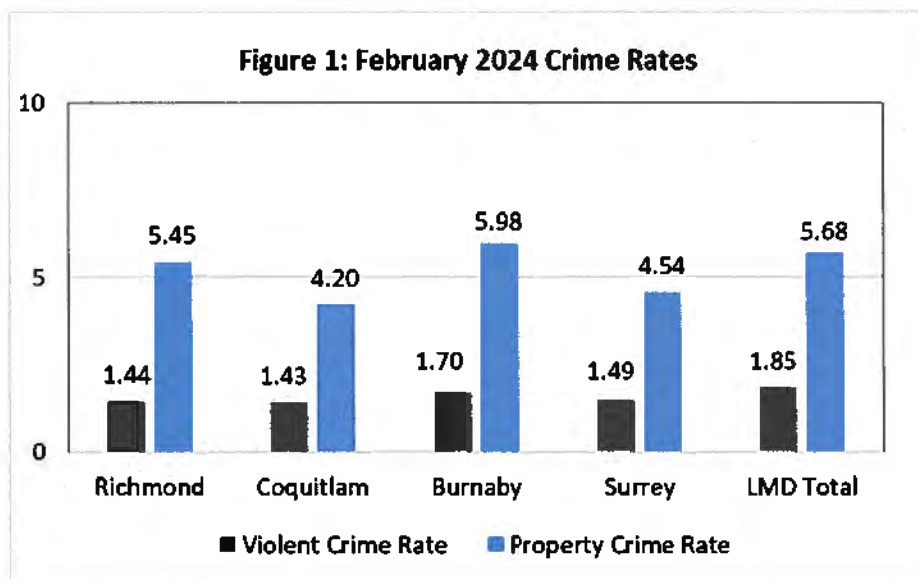
Table 1 – Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents			
Year	Hate Crime Files	Hate Incident Files	Total
2020	21	13	34
2021	21	24	45
2022	8	26	34
2023	6	19	25
2024 (TYD)	0	1	1

³ 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.

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

Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions

Figure 1 presents data on crime rates for February 2024. Of the four largest municipalities policed by the RCMP in the Lower Mainland District (LMD), Richmond had the second lowest violent crime rate, and the property crime rate was below the LMD average.



Block Watch

At the end of February 2024, the Block Watch program had 305 groups, totalling 7,104 participants. Currently, the program includes 436 captains and co-captains. Block Watch staff participated in a shoplifting awareness campaign at Richmond Centre this month.

Community Police Station Programs

Community police stations continue to enhance the Richmond Detachment’s policing services by providing various crime prevention resources and community safety initiatives. City staff and volunteers pursue safety initiatives to improve crime prevention program awareness, community engagement, and police accessibility. These initiatives help reduce anxiety and fear related to crime. The program activities vary from month to month, reflecting weather conditions, seasonal initiatives, and the availability of volunteers.

During February, volunteer highlights included:

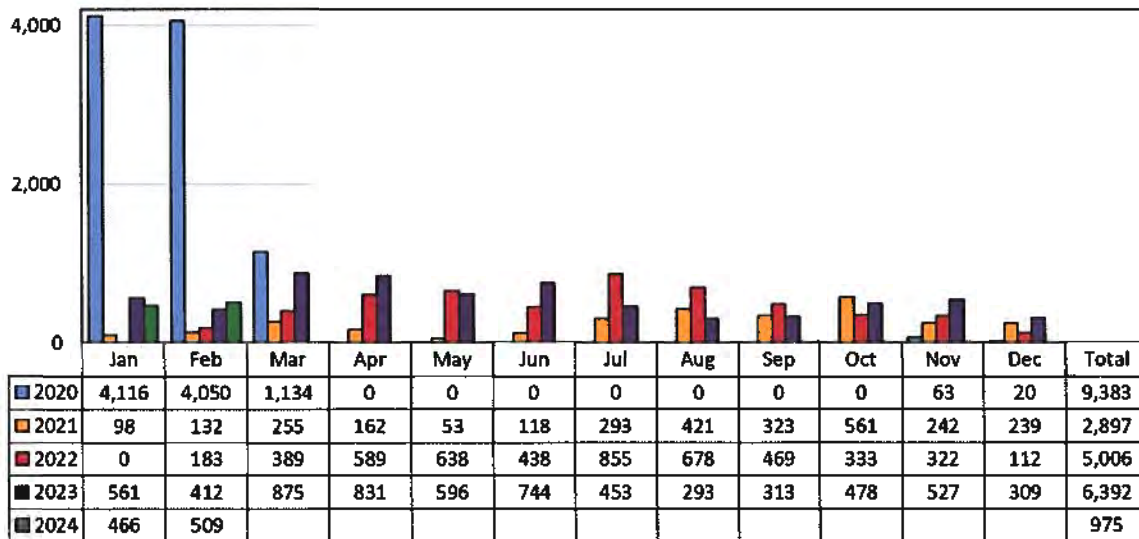
- The deployment of two volunteer foot/van patrols, totalling 10 hours and three bike patrols, totalling 34 hours.
- A total of 20 Fail to Stop deployments took place, resulting in 623 information letters issued.
- There were 36 Lock Out Auto Crime deployments, resulting in 509 information letters issued.
- Speed Watch was conducted on 3,021 vehicles, resulting in 170 information letters issued.

- February 1 – Volunteers conducted a Lock Out Auto Crime deployment at Aberdeen Centre and issued 27 information letters.
- February 6 -Volunteers participated in a Speed Watch deployment at Thomas Kidd Elementary School and issued ten information letters.
- February 7-Volunteers assisted RCMP officers and Block Watch with a Shoplifting awareness event at Richmond Centre Mall. Stores were advised of a rise in organized crime-related thefts. A “Shoplifting Bulletin” was created, which outlines theft deterrence and how to report it to the police. Additional crime prevention resources, including Community Safety App cards, were also distributed.
- February 10 – Volunteers conducted a Lock Out Auto Crime deployment at Richmond Centre and issued 68 information letters.
- February 11 – Volunteers conducted two Fail to Stop deployments in central Richmond and issued 59 information letters.
- February 22 – Volunteers participated in a Shoplifting awareness event at Richmond Centre Mall.

Lock Out Auto Crime

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

Figure 2: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice

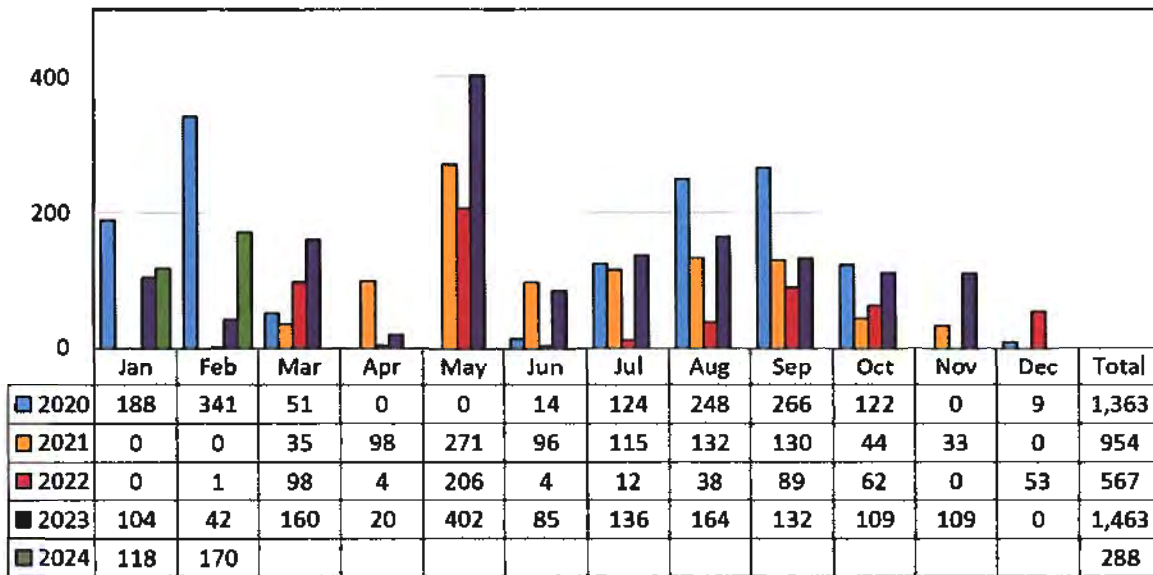


⁵ Beginning in November 2020, Lock Out Auto Crime letters were issued in place of notices. Letters are only issued to vehicles displaying security vulnerabilities; whereas previously, notices were issued to all vehicles. This has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of letters issued.

Speed Watch

Figure 3 compares the number of letters sent to registered vehicle owners yearly.

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 February, the Crime Prevention Unit participated in the following events/activities:

- Business Outreach
- Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives
- Fraud Awareness Presentations
- Place of Worship Patrols
- Shoplifting Awareness Campaign
- “You Etch It. We Catch It” Program

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 February 2024 to both January 2024 and December 2023. Violation tickets were issued for the following infractions:

Table 2: Violation Tickets Issued

Infraction	December 2023	January 2024	February 2024
Distracted Driving	84	86	64
Driver License	126	168	181
Impaired	19	15	20
Intersection Offences	22	39	39
Moving Infractions ⁶	71	89	67
Speeding	117	135	167
Seatbelts	5	12	2
Vehicle-Related ⁷	101	119	136
Other ⁸	8	12	15
Total	553	675	691

Victim Services

In February 2024, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 65 new clients and attended nine crime/trauma scenes after hours. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 85 files. In February, Victim Services responded to several cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, robberies and frauds.

Youth Section

The Richmond RCMP Detachment’s Youth Section focuses on strategies contributing to safe and healthy behaviours essential to developing productive and civic-minded adults. During February, Youth Section highlights included:

- RCMP officers in the Youth Section conducted 66 proactive school visits at secondary schools and 105 visits at elementary schools. Police officers engaged with students during recess, lunch and morning and afternoon supervision.
- DARE classes were delivered to 326 elementary school students in 11 classes.⁹

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

⁹ In 2024, the acronym for the DARE program was updated to Define Assess, Respond, Evaluate to better reflect the updated curriculum of DARE, which focuses on decision-making techniques.

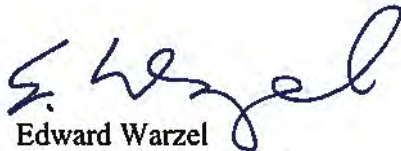
Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

In February 2024, the Richmond RCMP conducted several noteworthy investigations, including an attempted child luring and a fatal collision involving a pedestrian. Police statistics for this month indicate that some crime types were outside of the average ranges. Serious assaults, sexual assaults, robberies and shoplifting incidents were elevated, while commercial break and enters, thefts from vehicles and drug offences were below average.

In February, Richmond RCMP launched two new crime prevention programs: the Safe Exchange and the You Etch It, We Catch It program. 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)

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

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.

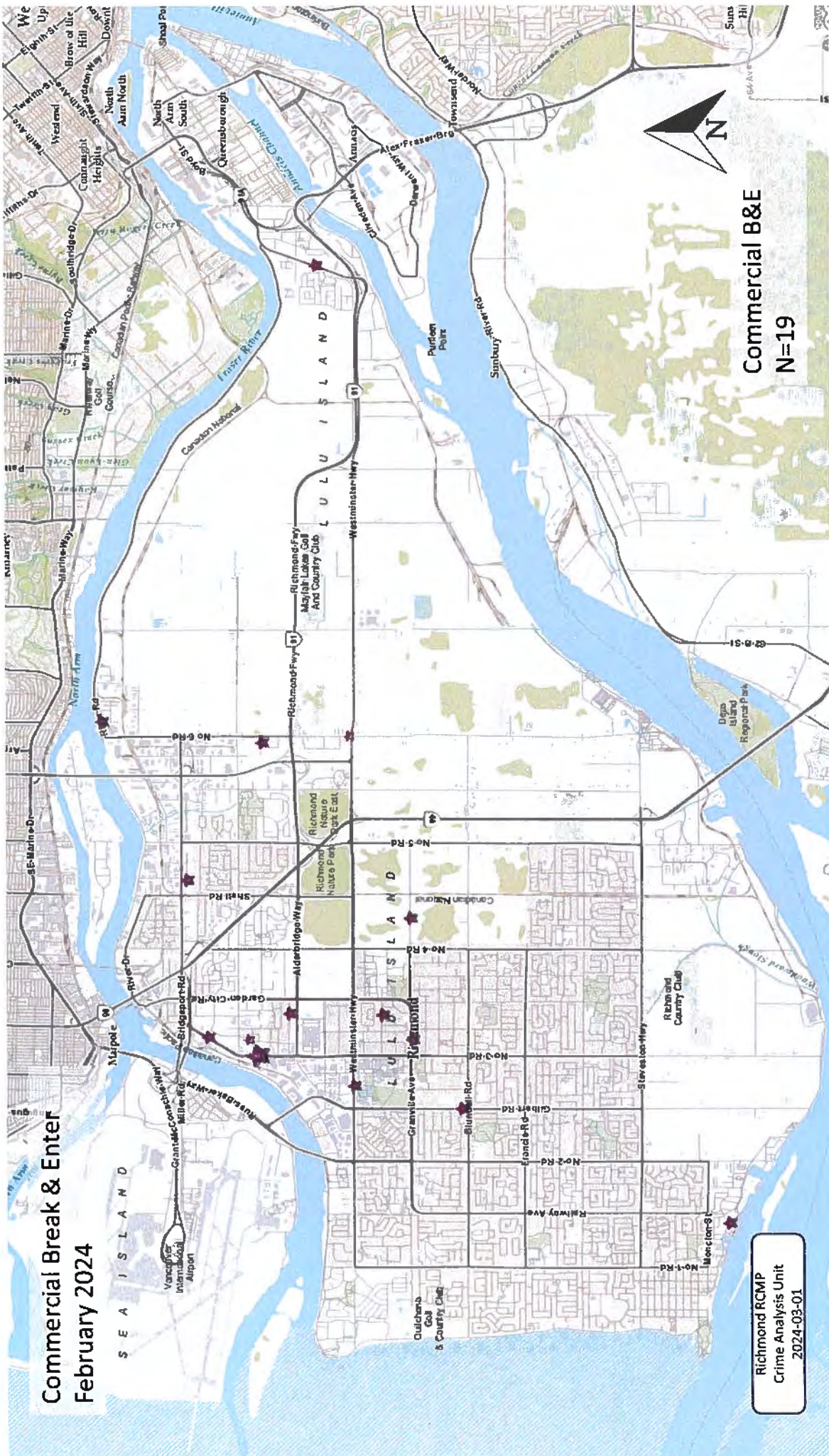
Stolen Auto Recovery

- 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

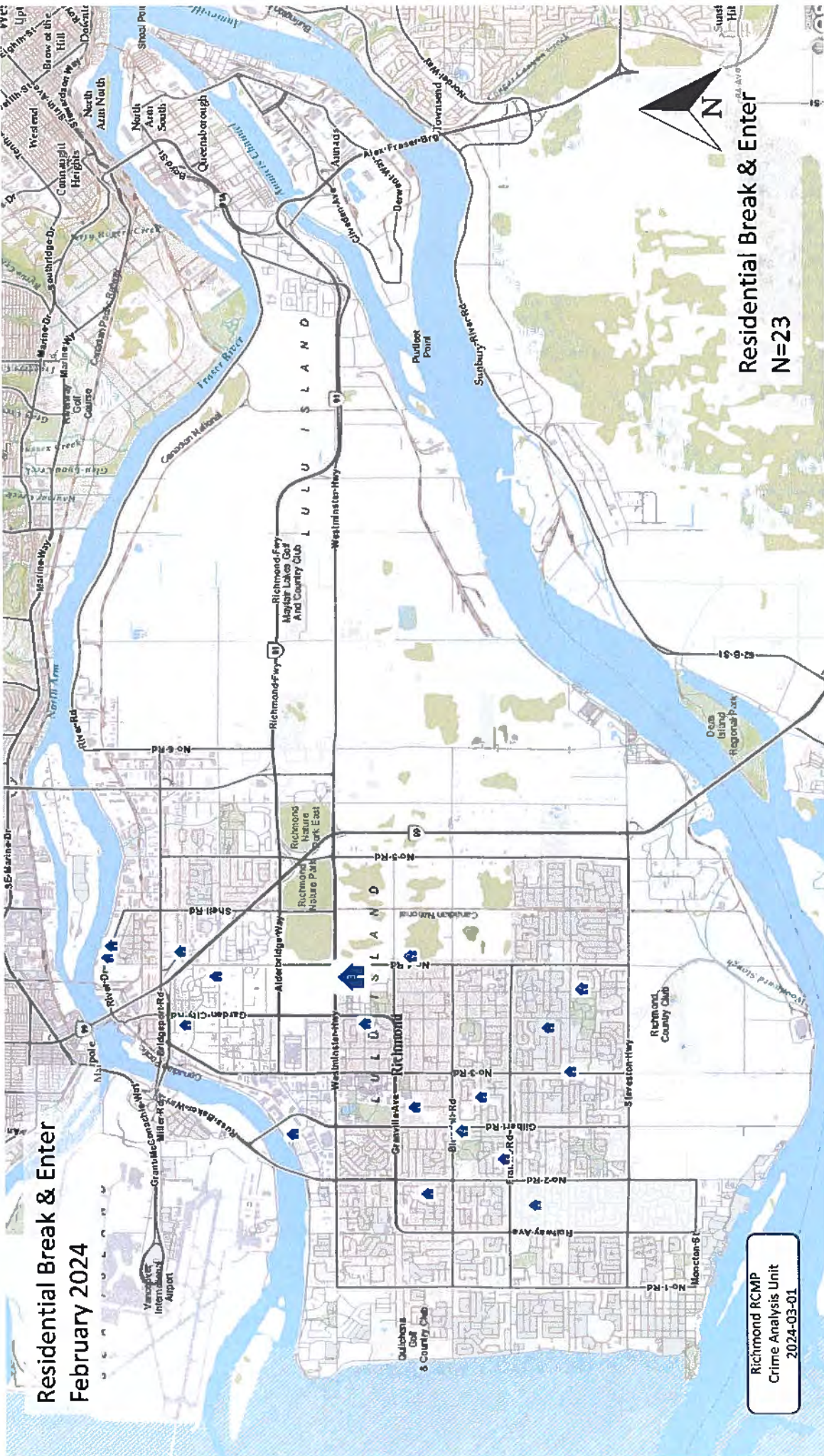
- Trained volunteers patrol Richmond neighbourhoods reporting suspicious activities and providing a visible deterrent to crime and public order issues.

Commercial Break & Enter February 2024



Commercial B&E
N=19

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2024-03-01

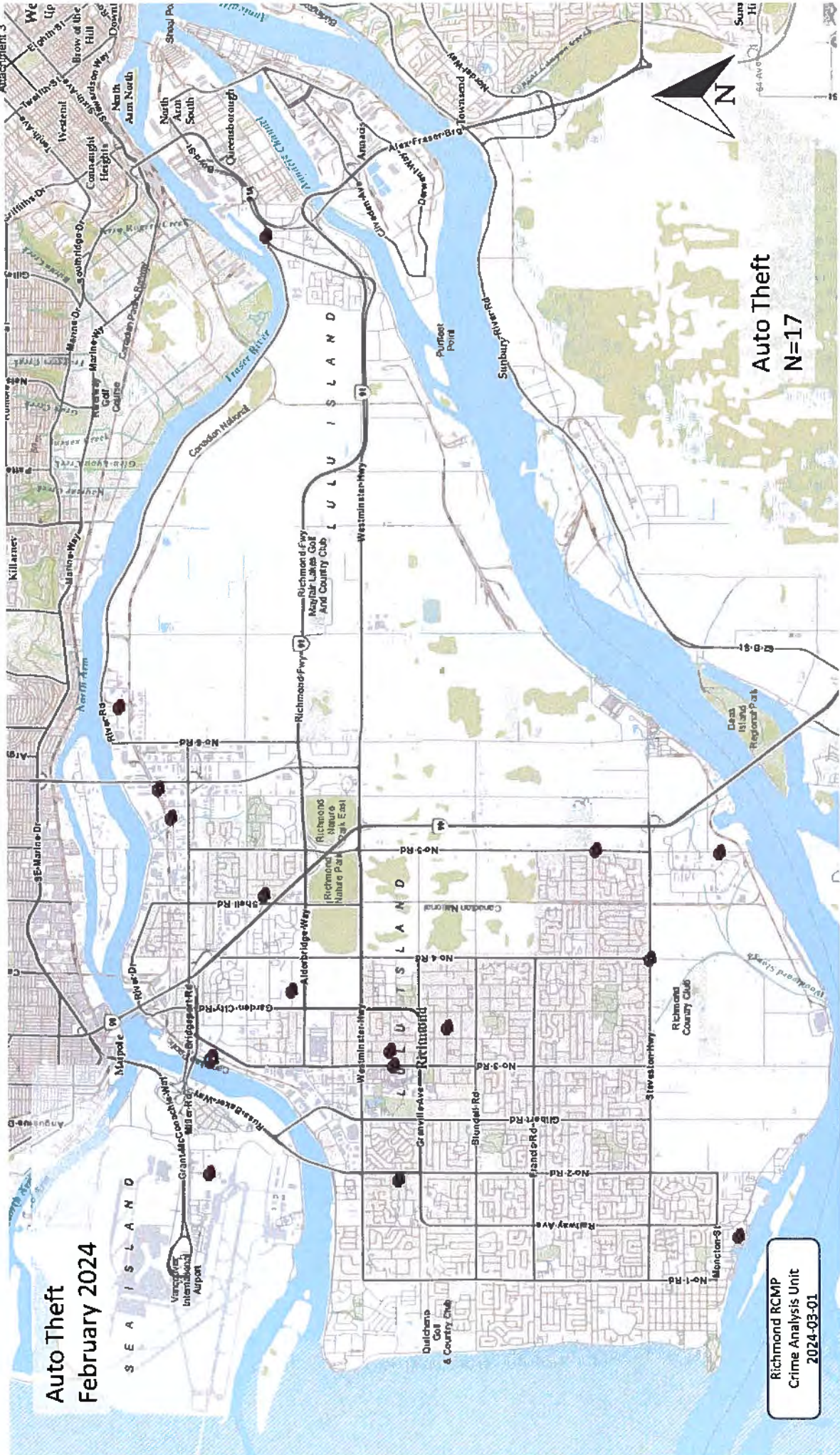


Residential Break & Enter
February 2024

Residential Break & Enter
N=23

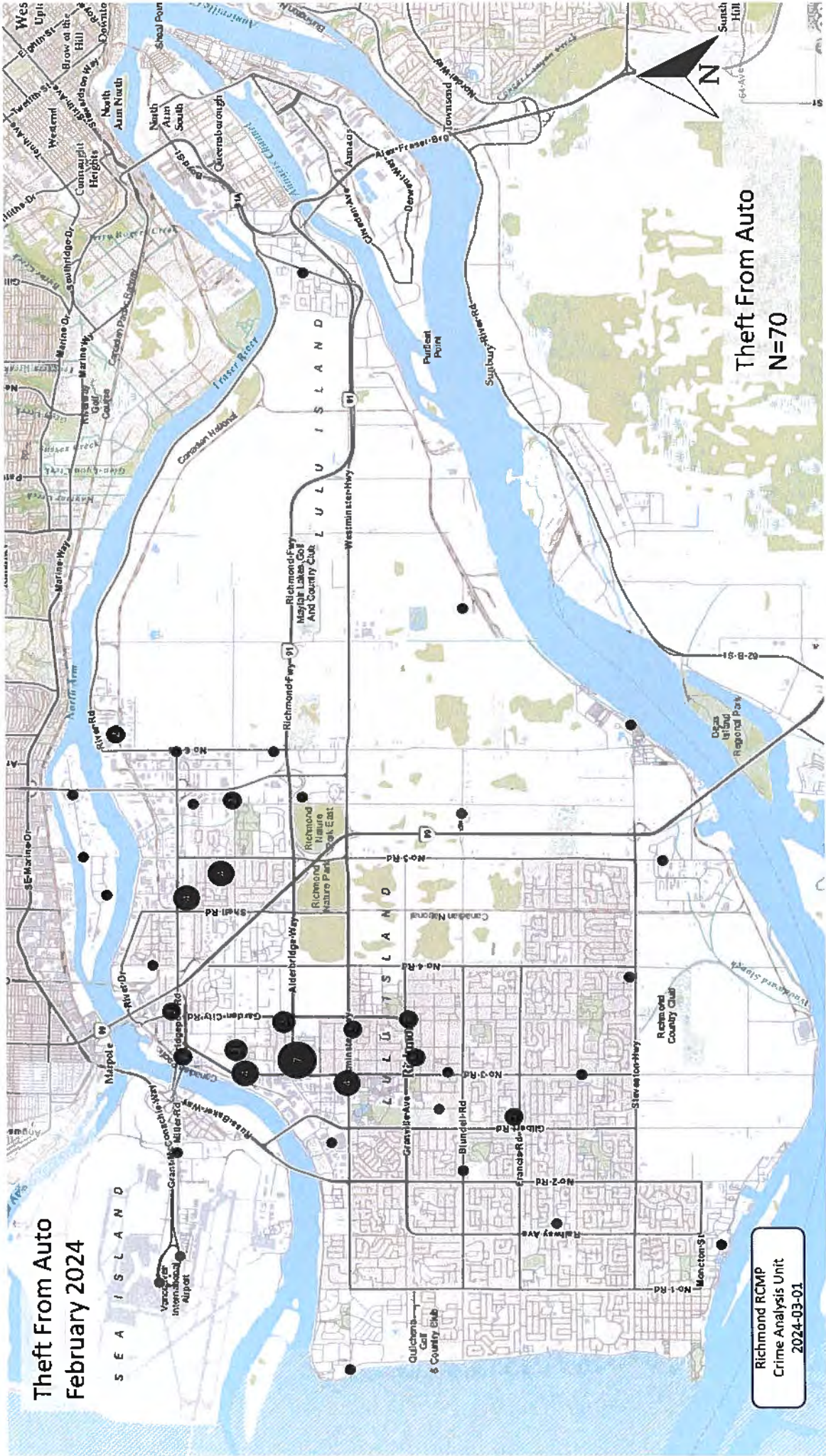
Richmond RCMP
 Crime Analysis Unit
 2024-03-01

Auto Theft
February 2024



Auto Theft
N=17

Richmond RCMP
Crime Analysis Unit
2024-03-01



**Theft From Auto
February 2024**

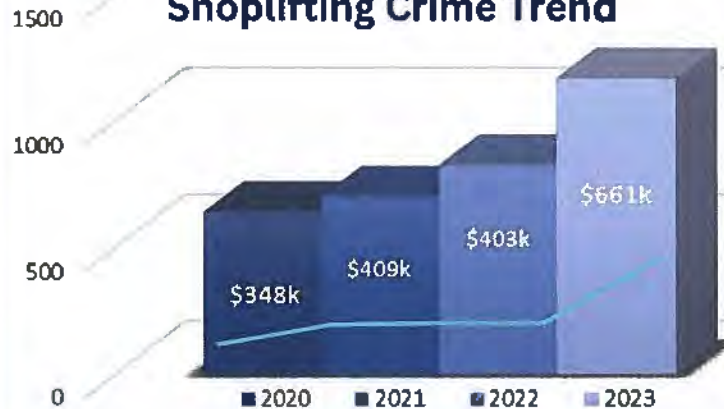
**Theft From Auto
N=70**

CRIME AWARENESS BULLETIN

Organized Retail Crime Costs Us All

Retail theft is a serious, widespread problem, that goes beyond just spontaneous individual thefts. Shoplifting today involves organized retail crime that entails careful planning, deliberate targeting of retailers and high-level coordination amongst offenders to steal merchandise. Retail crime networks use their unlawful gains to fund other criminal activities such as the illicit drug trade and fraud. Of particular concern is that offenders are not afraid to introduce violence against innocent employees and customers who stand in their way.

Shoplifting Crime Trend



How You Can Deter Thefts



Policies & Reporting Procedures

Clearly display signage and adhere to a zero tolerance policy towards shoplifting. Work closely with Richmond RCMP and ensure timely reporting to aid in the apprehension and prosecution of shoplifters.



Inventory Control

Implement highly efficient inventory management techniques that require unique logins with limited access to edit inventory data. Perform inventory audits on a regular basis.



Proper Surveillance

Install mirrors and cameras around your store to eliminate blind spots.



Staff Training

Train staff on standard anti-theft protocols and how to spot scams. Staff should be aware of common ways shoplifters use to flee, and they should be trained on how to deal with shoplifters once spotted.



Store Layout & Design

Place customer checkouts near the entrance/exit of the store. Keep product displays below eye level and secure expensive merchandise behind locked cabinets.

If You See Something, Say Something

Visit www.richmond.ca/businesslink to learn about Business Link, crime prevention strategies to protect your business, and to request a free security assessment.

Contact Us



604-207-4829



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** March 19, 2024

From: Dave Chauhan **File:** 09-5000-01/2024-Vol
Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge 01

Re: **2024-2025 Richmond RCMP Detachment Annual Performance Plan
Community Priorities**

Recommendation from the OIC

That the priorities, Property Crime, Organized Crime, Road Safety and Vulnerable Persons, listed in the report titled “2024-2025 Richmond RCMP Detachment Annual Performance Plan – Community Priorities”, dated March 19, 2024, from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP, be endorsed for inclusion in the Richmond RCMP Detachment’s fiscal year 2024-2025 (April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025) Annual Performance Plan.

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

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

Report

Origin

The Officer in Charge (OIC) of the Richmond RCMP Detachment (Richmond Detachment) is committed to aligning the Richmond Detachment's strategic goals with the City of Richmond's vision "to be the most appealing, livable and well-managed community in Canada" and the RCMP's vision to promote safe communities. As such, the Richmond Detachment requests Council's endorsement of its Annual Performance Plan (APP) for the 2024-2025 fiscal year (April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025).

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #3 A Safe and Prepared Community:

Community safety and preparedness through effective planning, strategic partnerships and proactive programs.

3.2 Leverage strategic partnerships and community-based approaches for comprehensive safety services.

Findings of Fact

Background

As part of the mandate of the Strategic Policy and Planning Directorate, all RCMP units, including the Richmond Detachment, launch a new APP every fiscal year. This process facilitates the continuous improvement of management and administrative practices across the organization and enhances strategic planning activities and performance management tracking. Local APPs are informed by organizational priorities, crime trends, and stakeholder discussions to identify areas for continued enhancement.

The priorities recommended for the APP take into consideration internal RCMP strategic directives and are in alignment with the strategic pillars identified in the 2021-2025 Richmond RCMP Detachment Strategic Plan:

- People
- Promoting Public Safety
- Targeted Enforcement

These strategic pillars provide the foundation for most operational and administrative initiatives undertaken by the Richmond Detachment, including the priorities identified in the APP. The APP is also guided by the goals and objectives of the RCMP nationwide, including those outlined in the Vision 150 Plan, which serves as a guide for the continued modernization of the RCMP.¹ The priorities recommended for the APP are not intended to serve as an exhaustive list

¹ Vision 150 and beyond is the RCMP's Strategic Plan, <https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/vision150/strategic-plan-strategique/index-eng.htm>

of the Richmond Detachment's policing objectives. Instead, they are informed explicitly by various internal RCMP guiding documents, which allow for a comprehensive, tailored and measured approach to strategic planning and performance management activities at the Richmond Detachment.

The APP ensures that policing initiatives align with the City of Richmond and RCMP strategic priorities and allows the OIC to systematically evaluate and manage police resources, programs, and operations. It also provides a valuable consultation and reporting mechanism for the City, the Commanding Officer of the RCMP "E" Division, and Richmond Detachment staff.

Planning

The OIC regularly engages with Council and City staff to identify opportunities for improved service delivery in the community. The Richmond Detachment also promotes community and stakeholder engagement in developing responses to policing priorities. This process contributes to a robust framework for strategic planning activities. It allows for the coordination of policing objectives with the City's unique needs, as well as the RCMP's national, provincial and district initiatives. Measurements, targets and integrated risk assessments for policing initiatives are also created annually to monitor performance and manage opportunities and risks.

Quarterly Performance Updates

Every quarter, Council receives an update on the status of the APP, which highlights the progress of objectives and policing initiatives. The quarterly update includes a summary of actions supporting each priority and outlines any opportunities or challenges that may have emerged.

Annual Performance Plan Features

The APP is designed to enhance planning, management and administrative practices for RCMP Units and Detachments and provides the foundation for the following five organizational initiatives:²

- Contract and Aboriginal Policing Community Plans;
- Integrated Risk Management;
- Unit Level Quality Assurance;
- Performance Management; and
- Performance Improvement.

Analysis

Community Priorities

The community priorities outlined in the APP are selected through an ongoing strategic planning process, which includes the analysis of police statistics and emerging public safety issues, the review of existing programs and initiatives, and the contributions of regular discussions with

² As per RCMP Administrative Manual Chapter 18.2 Annual Performance Plan

stakeholders. As part of the planning process for the 2021-2025 Richmond RCMP Detachment Strategic Plan, the Richmond RCMP conducted extensive community engagement. This engagement aligns with the launch of a new plan approximately every five years to ensure that the priorities are current and relevant to the community. Ongoing stakeholder discussions have also led to developing new programs and initiative implementations.

The selected priorities are reviewed to identify possible opportunities and risks. Initiatives supporting each priority are then developed through a collaborative planning process, where performance measures are determined for each priority to assist with evaluating the success and impacts of the initiatives. This process facilitates an effective response to the identified objectives and provides an opportunity to demonstrate accountability to stakeholders and the broader community.

After assessing the impacts of the previous year's APP and analyzing recent crime trends and stakeholder feedback, the OIC is recommending that Council align this year's priorities with those of the last year to maintain the Richmond Detachment's commitment to these strategic priorities while also continuing to develop the responses and initiatives promoting these objectives. As such, the OIC is recommending continuing with the following four priorities for this year's APP (April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025):

1. Property Crime;
2. Organized Crime;
3. Road Safety; and
4. Vulnerable Persons.

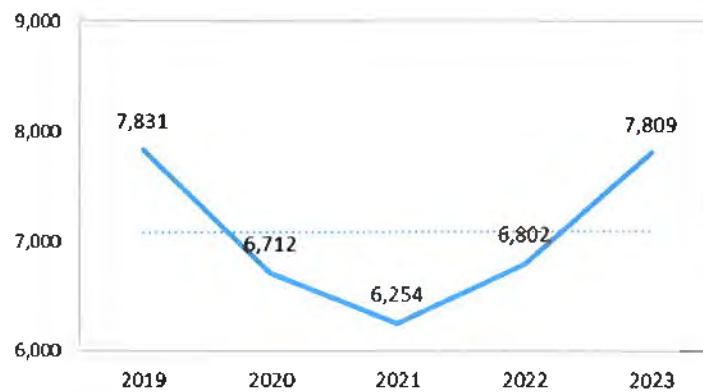
These four priorities are sufficiently broad in scope to cover emerging trends and concerns that are topical to the community.

The remainder of the report provides the rationale for continuing with the established priorities.

Property Crime

Statistical analysis of property crime incidents for the last five years has identified a stable trend, with prominent reductions between 2020 and 2022, primarily attributed to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, as public behaviours have returned to pre-pandemic patterns, property crimes have also increased and returned to previous rates. Due to this observed trend, property crime remains a community priority.

Figure 1: Property Crime Files



The Richmond Detachment has continued to deploy a robust crime reduction strategy built on intelligence-led crime analysis to target property crimes. These responsive measures include the management of prolific offenders, proactive policing initiatives, collaborations with partner agencies, targeted enforcement projects, and increased training for police officers. Police will continue to deploy these measures while also working to develop enhanced public engagement and communication strategies, including raising community awareness of crime prevention resources and programs. This approach includes ongoing public messaging regarding emerging patterns and trends, the recently launched “You Etch It. We Catch It” program to combat catalytic converter theft, and the Safe Exchange program to deter thefts from online marketplace sales.

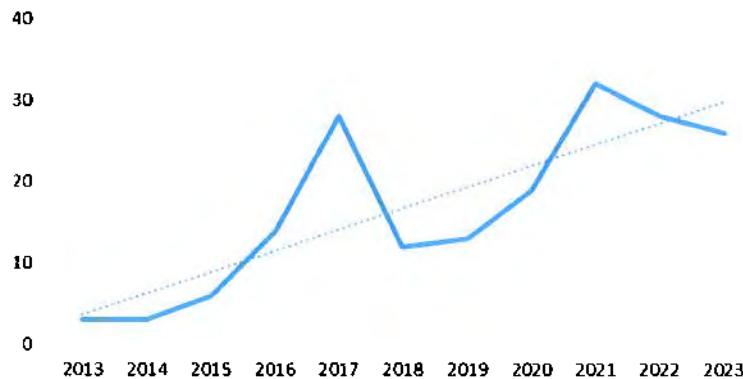
The Richmond Detachment will expand existing crime prevention initiatives by enhancing public outreach and police visibility with regular foot patrols and business outreach and by hosting and attending various events. These have recently included Shoplifting Awareness outreach to local businesses. In addition to serving as crime prevention measures, these activities and the Block Watch program also help enhance public perceptions of community safety. Presentations to different community groups, including seniors and newcomers to Canada, are an additional educational tool which will continue to be promoted. Volunteer programs such as Lock Out Auto Crime, Crime Watch and bike patrols are further measures that support crime prevention initiatives and will continue to be pursued this fiscal year.

Organized Crime

The Richmond Detachment has maintained organized crime as a community priority. While the overall violent crime rate remains low in Richmond, the OIC is committed to combatting organized criminal activities, which include drug trafficking, drug production, fraudulent activities and money laundering. These activities pose numerous public safety concerns, including the dangers of clandestine drug labs and gang violence.

While drug offences have been decreasing, the number of deaths related to illicit drug toxicity in Richmond has been trending upward over the last 10 years.³ Police recognize the danger that these illegal drugs pose to the community, and specialized investigators have worked to target drug trafficking and drug production. In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, investigators conducted several significant organized crime-related investigations, including files that led to the seizure of various quantities of drugs, cash, and weapons, resulting in notable arrests.

Figure 2: Illicit Drug Toxicity Deaths



Investigators also continue to see emerging cybercrime trends, such as cryptocurrency fraud. These crimes often have a nexus to organized crime due to their sophisticated and organized nature and the potential for significant monetary gains for criminals. The Economic Crime Unit (ECU) has developed various investigative and awareness initiatives, including enhanced internal training sessions and distribution of public information resources available in English, French and Traditional Chinese. The ECU will continue to expand these programs while exploring additional education and enforcement measures.

The Richmond Detachment continues to prioritize investigations and measures that disrupt organized crime. These initiatives include gang suppression patrols, projects targeting illicit gaming locations, fraud prevention awareness, and programs promoting youth education, intervention, and engagement. In 2023, this included the launch of the Yankee 30 Youth Partnership Car program. This joint initiative involves police officers from Richmond RCMP’s Youth Section working alongside youth probation officers and social workers to support at-risk youth and provide improved access to support services to guide them away from further criminal offences.

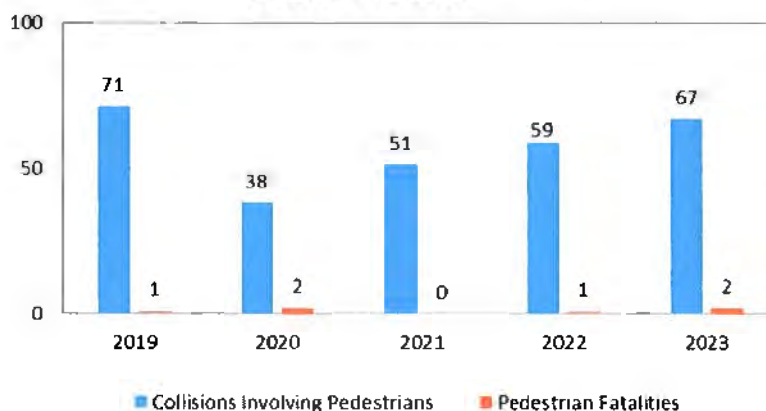
Road Safety

The Richmond Detachment continues to improve safety on Richmond’s roads as a community priority by implementing a comprehensive road safety strategy built on intelligence-led analysis, the engagement of community policing volunteers, public education campaigns and ongoing

³ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/deaths/coroners-service/statistical/illicit-drug.pdf>

proactive enforcement efforts. Vehicle collisions involving pedestrians decreased during the pandemic; however, in 2023, there was an increase in traffic incidents, with significant injuries or deaths in some incidents. The Detachment is closely monitoring this trend and continuing to prioritize road safety education and enforcement.

Figure 3: Vehicle Collisions Involving Pedestrians



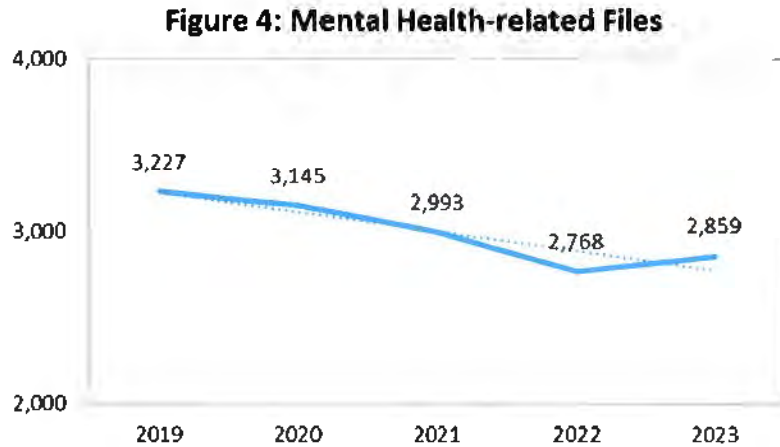
The Richmond Detachment is continuously promoting public education campaigns and leveraging social media to increase awareness of road safety topics, including distracted driving, speeding, impaired driving and pedestrian safety. In addition, the Community Engagement Team and volunteers have conducted road safety outreach and deployments targeting these concerns. These actions have included Fail to Stop and Speed Watch deployments and pedestrian safety outreach events where thousands of safety reflectors were distributed throughout Richmond.

This consistent messaging and ongoing targeted enforcement efforts will remain a priority this fiscal year. Enforcement projects continue to be based on collision data and feedback received from the community. In addition, the Youth Section continues to conduct regular enforcement projects in school zones.

The Richmond Detachment has also engaged partner agencies for a variety of joint operations, including policing agencies from other jurisdictions, City Bylaws and Passenger Transportation Enforcement Officers to target a variety of safety issues. The 2023-2024 fiscal year included projects targeting illegal ride-hailing, e-bike/e-scooter safety and commercial vehicle enforcement.

Vulnerable Persons

The Richmond Detachment has maintained vulnerable persons a community priority. After several years of increases, mental health-related calls for service in Richmond began a downward trend starting in 2020. This has been attributed to several factors, including launching the Fox 80 Mental Health Car (Fox 80) in October 2019 in partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health. This program, which consists of a mental health nurse and police officer providing a joint response to calls where mental health is a concern, offers specialized support to clients in crisis.



While the number of files has decreased, the demand for police resources remains high. The average hospital wait time increased by 15 percent in 2023 compared to the previous year. To address these challenges, the Vulnerable Persons Unit has promoted collaborative responses to complex social issues surrounding vulnerable persons, including mental health concerns, addiction and homelessness. Moreover, the Richmond Detachment has taken on a leadership role to enhance partnerships and client support services by working with stakeholders to find viable solutions to assist vulnerable clients. Fox 80 is the most prominent of these programs; however, various ongoing initiatives exist, including collaboration with the Assertive Community Treatment team.

Homelessness remains an ongoing safety concern. To address the multi-faceted needs of individuals experiencing homelessness and develop sustained solutions to these complex social issues, the VPU collaborates with partners, including the Joint Operations Team. The VPU also continues to conduct regular outreach with the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (MSDPR) and work with community partners to provide information and facilitate with connecting the unhoused with available support services.

This fiscal year, the Richmond Detachment will continue to focus on collaborative responses to issues surrounding vulnerable persons and will also work on increasing police training and awareness of these issues.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

Richmond Detachment requests that Council endorse the following as Community Priorities for inclusion in the 2024-2025 Annual Performance Plan (April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025):

1. Property Crime;
2. Organized Crime;
3. Road Safety; and
4. Vulnerable Persons.

The targeted activities, as described in the APP, will focus on intelligence-led policing, offender management, officer visibility, and crime reduction initiatives through community education, engagement, partnerships, and intervention and prevention programs.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "E. Warzel".

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