

## Community Safety Committee Electronic Meeting

Anderson Room, City Hall 6911 No. 3 Road Tuesday, September 10, 2024 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

CS-4

Motion to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Community Safety
Committee held on July 9, 2024.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

October 8, 2024, (tentative date) at 4:00 p.m. in the Anderson Room.

COMMUNITY SAFETY DIVISION

1. BUSINESS LICENCE ACTIVITY REPORT – SECOND QUARTER 2024

(File Ref. No. 2-8375-02) (REDMS No. 7744850)

CS-9

See Page CS-9 for full report

Designated Speaker: Mark Corrado

	Commu	nity Safety Committee Agenda – Tuesday, September 10, 2024
Pg. #	ITEM	
		STAFF RECOMMENDATION
		That the staff report titled "Business Licence Activity Report – Second Quarter 2024", dated August 22, 2024, from the Director, Community Bylaws & Licencing, be received for information.
	2.	COMMUNITY BYLAWS MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT – JUNE AND JULY 2024 (File Ref. No. 12-8375-02) (REDMS No. 7779066)
CS-13		See Page CS-13 for full report
		Designated Speaker: Mark Corrado
		STAFF RECOMMENDATION
		That the staff report titled "Community Bylaws Monthly Activity Report – June and July 2024", dated August 22, 2024, from the Director, Community Bylaws & Business Licencing, be received for information.
	3.	RICHMOND FIRE-RESCUE MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT – JUNE AND JULY 2024 (File Ref. No. 09-5140-01) (REDMS No. 7754399)
<b>CS-21</b>		See Page CS-21 for full report
		Designated Speaker: Fire Chief Jim Wishlove
		STAFF RECOMMENDATION
		That the staff report titled "Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – June and July 2024", dated August 22, 2024, from the Fire Chief, be received for information.
	4.	FIRE CHIEF BRIEFING (Verbal Report)

Items for discussion: None.

Designated Speaker: Fire Chief Jim Wishlove

	Commu	nity Safety Committee Agenda – Tuesday, September 10, 2024
Pg. #	ITEM	
	5.	RCMP MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT – JUNE AND JULY 2024 (File Ref. No. 09-5000-01/) (REDMS No. 7739858)
<b>CS-37</b>		See Page CS-37 for full report
		Designated Speaker: Chief Supt. Dave Chauhan
		STAFF RECOMMENDATION
		That the report titled "RCMP Monthly Activity Report – May 2024", dated June 13, 2024, from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment, be received for information.
	6.	RCMP/OIC BRIEFING (Verbal Report)
		Designated Speaker: Chief Supt. Dave Chauhan
		Items for discussion: None.
	7.	MANAGER'S REPORT

**ADJOURNMENT** 

## **Minutes**



## **Community Safety Committee**

Date: Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Place: Anderson Room

Richmond City Hall

Present: Councillor Alexa Loo, Chair

Councillor Laura Gillanders

Councillor Kash Heed Councillor Bill McNulty

Absent: Councillor Andy Hobbs

Also Present: Councillor Michael Wolfe (by teleconference)

Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

#### AGENDA ADDITIONS

It was moved and seconded

That Richmond Poverty Reduction Coalition's report, "Improving Pedestrian Safety with Vision Zero Strategies In Richmond" be added to the

agenda as Item No. 6A.

**CARRIED** 

## **MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Safety Committee held

on June 11, 2024, be adopted.

**CARRIED** 

### **COMMUNITY SAFETY DIVISION**

## 1. COMMUNITY BYLAWS MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT – MAY 2024

(File Ref. No. 12-8375-02) (REDMS No. 7712615)

In reply to queries from Committee, staff advised that (i) recycling offences are down due to enforcement drive and residents support, (ii) zoning bylaw related offences can be enforced in part by ticketing, (iii) staff will research other municipality's policies related to truck parking on agricultural land and report back with a memorandum, and (iv) the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) and the city work together on issues/investigations on farm land.

Discussion ensued with respect to signage offences noting (i) sandwich board offences tend to be seasonal, however new businesses are permitted to place sandwich boards outside their businesses for a set number of days, (ii) businesses must obtain a sign licence to display a sign, highlighting that Council guidelines encourage businesses to advertise in one official language, and (iii) staff will respond to sign offences on a complaint basis.

That the staff report titled "Community Bylaws Monthly Activity Report – May 2024", dated June 18, 2024, from the Director, Community Bylaws & Business Licencing, be received for information.

**CARRIED** 

# 2. TOUCHSTONE FAMILY ASSOCIATION RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE OUTCOME EVALUATION REPORT FOR 2023

(File Ref. No. 09-5375-01) (REDMS No. 7697223)

In reply to queries from Committee, Judy Valsonis, Executive Director, Touchstone Family Association (Touchstone), advised that Touchstone will follow up with the RCMP on how to better categorize crime offences, noting that the RCMP does not send serious offences through the Restorative Justice Program (RJ Program), and in addition to the RJ Program, Touchstone offers counselling services and youth summer recreation programs as extra support measures.

A brief discussion ensued with respect to increasing City funding to support Touchstone's restorative justice services in Richmond.

That the staff report titled "Touchstone Family Association Restorative Justice Annual Performance Outcome Evaluation Report for 2023" dated June 4, 2024 from the General Manager, Community Safety, be received for information.

**CARRIED** 

## 3. RICHMOND FIRE-RESCUE MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT – MAY 2024

(File Ref. No. 09-5140-01) (REDMS No. 7699243)

In reply to queries from Committee, Fire Chief Jim Wishlove noted that incidents categorized as public service can include wellness checks as well as helping citizens that have fallen. Also, Chief Wishlove noted that staff are supportive of a province wide cessation of the sale of lockable lighters in British Columbia to anyone other than for industrial/commercial usages.

A brief discussion ensued with respect to the rail bridge trestle fire acknowledging Richmond Fire Rescue's (RFR) efforts in extinguishing the fire and saving surrounding infrastructure. It was further noted that investigation into the cause is on-going and a demolition order has been issued to the structure following an engineering assessment.

That the staff report titled "Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – May 2024", dated June 10, 2024, from the Fire Chief, be received for information.

**CARRIED** 

#### 4. FIRE CHIEF BRIEFING

(Verbal Report)

None.

## 5. RCMP MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT - MAY 2024 (File Ref. No. 09-5140-01) (REDMS No. 7699243)

In reply to queries from Committee, Chief Supt. Chauhan noted that (i) incidents of auto thefts have increased due in part to reports of vehicles that are taken without owner's consent and overdue rental vehicles, with most vehicles recovered locally, (ii) there have been a significant number of drug seizure incidents at Vancouver International Airport and decriminalization of drug offenses has not been a significant factor in the statistics, and (iii) commercial break and enter incidents have increased but are down for the year.

Discussion ensued with respect to crime patterns and trends in other jurisdictions, noting that Richmond can use other jurisdictions statistics for comparison data but it can be difficult to use as an accurate assessment because factors such as population, demographic, hub cities, quoting/scoring systems, policies and procedures used in compiling their statistics differ per jurisdiction. Additionally, the RCMP are active on several committees with other jurisdictions that discuss patterns, trends, sharing intelligence, and exploring funding initiatives.

That the report titled "RCMP Monthly Activity Report – May 2024", dated June 13, 2024, from the Officer in Charge, Richmond RCMP Detachment, be received for information.

**CARRIED** 

#### 6. RCMP/OIC BRIEFING

(Verbal Report)

#### (i) Steveston Salmon Festival

Chief Supt. Chauhan spoke to the 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Steveston Salmon Festival with over 100,000 people in attendance. Chief Supt. Chauhan noted the success of the event noting the presence of the Richmond RCMP, RFR, City staff and bylaw officers providing security and safety during the celebrations and that staff responded to incidents in a timely manner.

#### **6A. PEDESTRIAN SAFETY**

Discussion ensued with respect to Richmond Poverty Reduction Coalition's report (copy on file, City Clerk's Office), "Improving Pedestrian Safety with Vision Zero Strategies in Richmond", and how the City can increase pedestrian safety in Richmond.

Staff advised that the City responds to community concerns and has several initiatives to improve pedestrian and vehicle safety that align with the Vision Zero report, including the following:

- identifying high incident intersections;
- installation of channelized right turns;
- reducing speed limits in neighbourhoods;
- ongoing social media campaigns that are available in several languages;
- partnering with ICBC;
- continuing Road Safety Unit programs;
- engaging with youth, seniors, and new residents; and
- distributing reflectors depending on the change of season.

A brief discussion ensued with respect to (i) youth utilizing crosswalks properly, (ii) lowering speed limits, (iii) distracted driver incidents, and (iv) how the City can reduce pedestrian incidents.

As a result of the discussion, the following **referral motion** was introduced:

It was moved and seconded

- (1) That the recommendation "Set a Target in Richmond's Official City Plan that Envisions Zero Pedestrian Deaths in the Future"; and
- (2) That the Recommendation "Model After (Or Expand) The Distracted Driver's Program To Enforce The Pedestrian's Right Of Way" be referred to staff and report back.

**CARRIED** 

#### 7. MANAGER'S REPORT

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved and seconded That the meeting adjourn (5:11 p.m.).

**CARRIED** 

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, July 9, 2024.

Councillor Alexa Loo Chair Andrea Mizuguchi Legislative Services Associate



## **Report to Committee**

To:

Community Safety Committee

**Date:** August 22, 2024

From:

Mark Corrado

File:

12-8375-02/2024-Vol

Director, Community Bylaws & Licencing

01

Re:

**Business Licence Activity Report – Second Quarter 2024** 

#### **Staff Recommendation**

That the staff report titled "Business Licence Activity Report – Second Quarter 2024", dated August 22, 2024, from the Director, Community Bylaws & Licencing, be received for information.

Mark Corrado

Director, Community Bylaws & Licencing

(604-204-8673)

REPORT CONCURRENCE						
ROUTED TO:	CONCURR	RENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER			
Economic Development Finance Department	<u>v</u>	_	Out Genells			
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	11	NITIALS:	APPROVED BY CAO			

#### Staff Report

#### Origin

This report provides an update of business licence activity in the second quarter of 2024.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #2 Strategic and Sustainable Community Growth:

2.5 Work collaboratively and proactively to attract and retain businesses to support a diversified economic base.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #4 Responsible Financial Management and Governance:

4.2 Seek improvements and efficiencies in all aspects of City business.

#### **Analysis**

#### Business Licence Revenue

The total revenue earned in the first and second quarters of 2024 was \$3,498,828 which represented an 11 percent increase when compared to the same quarters in 2023. Total revenue increased due to an increase in business licence issuances as well as enforcement related revenue. Business licence revenue is one of multiple indicators of economic health in Richmond. Table 1 shows total business licence revenue from 2021 to 2024.

Table 1: Business Licence Revenue Q1 and Q2 for 2021 to 2024

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Revenue	\$ 2,929,589	\$ 2,917,328	\$ 3,147,579	\$ 3,498,828

#### **Business Licence Enforcement**

Staff issued a total of 248 tickets in Q2 of 2024. These tickets include offences relating to the Sign Regulation Bylaw 9700 and violation notices for operating contrary to licence conditions. In general, businesses operating without a valid licence are initially given a warning and provided with steps to achieve compliance. If a follow-up inspection reveals continued non-compliance, a bylaw violation notice is issued.

The increase in fine revenue is the result of staff investigating businesses that continue to operate while non-compliant or licence holders operating contrary to their licence.

Table 2: Business Licence Enforcement Revenue Second Quarter 2022 to 2024

	2022	2023	2024
Revenue from Tickets	\$ 8,550	\$ 19,450	\$ 26,750

#### Application Processing

The licencing application process is a crucial step since it confirms whether the businesses have the required approvals from agencies that regulate health, safety and other municipal, provincial or federal requirements. Staff oversee this process with thoroughness and efficiency. Staff use the following measures of performance:

- "Valid Licences" are the number of businesses with valid licences.
- "Expired Licences" are the number of businesses that have not paid to renew their licence within 60 days of being sent an invoice. Staff follow up with these businesses regarding the outstanding licencing fees and confirm whether they are permanently closed.
- "Pending/Change Applications" are businesses that have applied for a new licence or a change request of an existing licence, but are waiting for their applications to be processed. Staff work to keep this number low by prioritizing these applications.
- "Total Licences" are the total number of business licences that are valid, expired (and being checked) and under application review.

Table 3 shows the total number of business licences and their status from 2023 and 2024. These statistics are measured quarterly, as opposed to annually, as the numbers fluctuate throughout the year due to a variety of factors, including shifting numbers of daily application submissions, premise alteration requisitions, change requests or businesses permanently closing. The figures listed in Table 3 do not include licences deemed inactive.

Table 3: Number and Status of Business Licences in 2023 and 2024

	2023 Q1	2023 Q2	2024 Q1	2024 Q2
Valid Licences	13,164	13,212	13,982	14,007
Expired Licences	2,340	2,687	2,137	2,708
Pending/Change Applications	1,040	950	803	765
Total Licences	16,544	16,849	16,922	17,480

In the second quarter of 2024, total licences increased by four percent (631) when contrasted with the same quarter last year. In the same period, there was a six percent (795) increase in valid licences and a 19 percent decrease (185) in pending/change applications licences.

Table 4 highlights the number of new business licences issued in Q2 of each respective year. There was a 28 percent increase in the number of new business licences issued in the second quarter of 2024 compared to the same period last year. This increase is a positive indicator of economic health, especially as businesses continue to face inflationary pressures and other challenges.

Table 4: New Business Licences Issued in the Second Quarters 2022 to 2024

	2022	2023	2024
Total Issued	471	489	630

Staff continue to work diligently to address pending and change applications as they are received by the City, either in-person or via the MyBusiness portal. Steady progress has been made in reducing these numbers and re-categorizing licences to their appropriate status. A continued focus for the remaining quarters of 2024 will be addressing the number of expired licences that require follow-up on their operating status.

Inactive licences encompass various conditions, including businesses in invoiced status that, upon verification, have ceased operations. This category also includes home occupation businesses that may have stopped operating or have moved out of Richmond. Inactive licences are not included in any of the licences categories listed in Table 3. The total number of inactive licences in Q2 of 2024 increased slightly by 5 from the same quarter last year.

While fluctuations in the total number of inactive licences can be caused by a variety of factors, the change can be attributed to the increased resource that was dedicated to reconciling inactive licences. It should be noted that this licences status represents less then one percent of total licences.

Table 5: Inactive Licences in the Second Quarters for 2022 to 2024

	2022	2023	2024
Inactive Licences	2	12	17

#### **Financial Impact**

None.

#### Conclusion

This report provides an update to the Community Safety Committee on the number of business licences and revenue collected by the Business Licencing Department in the second quarter of 2024. Revenues this quarter have shown a positive trend compared the same time frame last year. A primary focus of staff for 2024 is to concentrate on processing applications and investigating expired licences to determine their appropriate status.

Mark Corrado

Director, Community Bylaws & Licencing

(604-204-8673)



## **Report to Committee**

To:

Community Safety Committee

Date:

August 22, 2024

From:

Mark Corrado

File:

12-8375-02/2024-Vol

Director, Community Bylaws & Licencing

01

Re:

Community Bylaws Monthly Activity Report - June and July 2024

#### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "Community Bylaws Monthly Activity Report – June and July 2024", dated August 22, 2024, from the Director, Community Bylaws & Business 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	V	Out Genelle			
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS:	APPROVED BY CAO			

#### **Staff Report**

#### Origin

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 June and July 2024, a total of 435 calls for service were opened for investigation, which represented a decrease 11 percent from the same period last year (489). Depending on the nature of the investigation, staff often liaise with multiple departments and other government agencies to conduct a thorough 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.

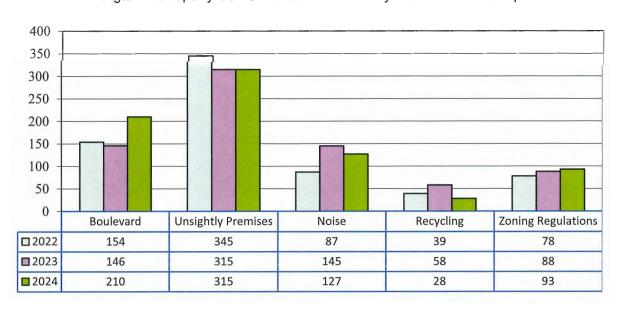


Figure 1: Property Use Calls For Service - July Year-To-Date Comparison

For June and July, there were 127 service calls for unsightly premises, mainly due to long grass and 74 service calls for sidewalk obstruction related to overgrowth of trees and hedges. Staff collaborate with property owners to establish a timeline and expectations for cleanup to ensure compliance. In most cases, voluntary compliance is achieved. When this is not the case, bylaw staff coordinate with public works to take remedial action and bill the costs to the property owner.

#### Other Community Bylaws Calls for Service

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

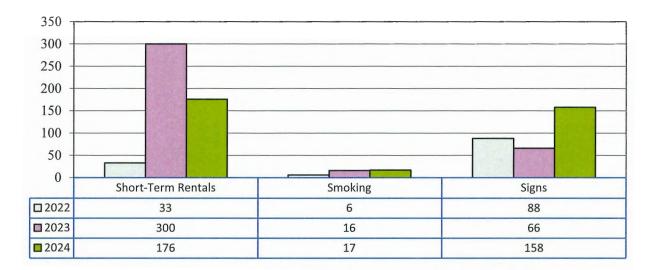


Figure 2: Property Use Calls For Service - July Year-To-Date Comparison

In June and July, there were 38 calls for service related to short-term rental violations. Dedicated temporary full time officers monitor complaints submitted by the community as well as proactively generating files. In many cases, complaints are resolved by: voluntary removal of the short-term rental listing; obtaining a business licence depending on eligibility; and 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, a rental operator engaging in illegal practice will receive multiple violation notices upon inspection. Staff continue to monitor properties found to be 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 encompass a variety of issues. The Sign Inspector attended to 79 calls for June and July combined, most of which involved large window signage without permits, prohibited signage on City lampposts, and portable signage on City property. Staff collaborate

with advertisers or agencies to ensure the removal of the signage. If no responsible party is identified, City staff are dispatched for removal.

#### 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 102 site inspections over the months of June and July.

Stop Work and/or Removal Orders issued for the following properties:

- 6320 No. 4 Road
- 6440 No. 5 Road
- 6560 No. 4 Road
- 7260 Parry Street
- 7351 No. 5 Road
- 8451 No. 5 Road

- 10133 Francis Road
- 10351 No. 4 Road
- 11251 Blundell Road
- 13140 Westminster Highway
- 13231 Steveston Highway
- 17480 River Road

The following properties are now in compliance:

- 6280 No. 4 Road
- 8360 No. 4 Road
- 9211 No. 6 Road
- 9851 Finn Road
- 10220 Blundell Road
- 10951 Granville Avenue
- 11660 No. 2 Road

- 11660 Granville Avenue
- 11800 Blundell Road
- 12060 No. 2 Road
- 14400 Burrows Road
- 14540 Westminster Highway
- 21340 River Road

There are approximately 21 soil deposit proposals under various stages of the application process and staff continue to monitor 18 approved sites. Staff are currently addressing approximately 35 properties that are considered to be in non-compliance.

#### **Bylaw Prosecutions**

No new bylaw charges were sworn in June or July.

#### Parking Enforcement

In June and July, staff responded to 860 service calls, which represented a 36 percent increase from the same period last year (633 calls). Parking enforcement revenue decreased by 1.4 percent, accompanied by a 34 percent drop in parking violations. This reduction is primarily attributed to the increased public demand for parking enforcement, which has limited the capacity for proactive patrols. To address the rising demand for service calls and enhance outreach capacity, two additional full-time officers and four auxiliary officers were hired in July.

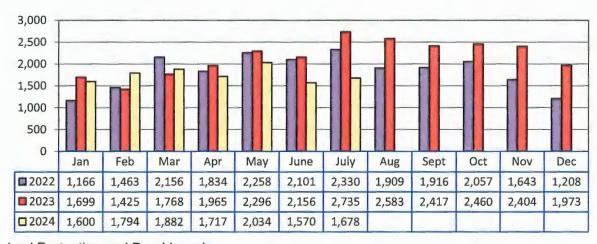
These hires are essential to effectively managing the growing workload while maintaining service to the community.

Monthly parking enforcement revenue is highlighted in Figure 3. Figure 4 highlights the monthly parking violation issuance



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





#### Animal Protection and Dog Licencing

As of July 30, 2024, approximately 6,865 valid dog licences were issued, representing 92 percent of the 7,500 licences on file as of last year. A total of 53 dog licences were issued this month. BC SPCA Officers responded to 186 calls for service related to animal control and dog licencing violations in July, bringing the total number of year-to-date calls to 1092. Officers conducted 34 park patrols across various parks, dikes, and school grounds. The top patrolled parks in July were Garry Point Park, McDonald Beach and Imperial Landing Waterfront.

In addition to enforcement actions, these patrols serve an educational purpose by increasing awareness and compliance. In collaboration with the Parks Department, staff are reviewing hotspot parks and school grounds to assess options for improving signage.

#### **Ticketing**

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

Table 1: Community Bylaw Offences

Ticket Issuance (BVN's & MTI's)		July	YTD
Short-Term Rental Offences		47	290
Soil Deposit and Removal Offences		15	41
Watercourse Protection Offences		6	7
Unsightly Premises Offences		4	32
Noise Offences		2	13
Building Regulation Offences		10	25
Solid Waste and Recycling Offences		0	0
Parks Offences		0	0
Sign Offences		18	66
Watering Offences		0	1
	Totals	102	475

#### **Bylaw Adjudication**

An adjudication hearing was held on July 17, 2024 with 11 disputed violations. There were nine cases upheld and two cases dismissed. The next adjudication session will be held on September 18, 2024.

#### 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 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. 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 property use, parking enforcement and animal protection services.

Table 2: Property Use Revenue by Source

Program Revenue	Budget July 2024	Actual July 2024	YTD Budget July 2024	YTD Actual July 2024
Towing Permits	2,131	1,425	10,758	13,056
Newspaper Box Permits	0	0	0	1,024
Soil Permit Application and Volume Fees	15,711	1,066	79,302	77,270
Other Bylaw Fines	37,391	10,183	198,216	95,456
Total Revenue	55,233	12,674	288,276	186,806

Table 3: Parking Revenue by Source

Program Revenue	Budget July 2024	Actual July 2024	YTD Budget July 2024	YTD Actual July 2024
Contract Revenue <sup>1</sup>	5,000	10,250	35,000	40,250
Filming Revenue	0	4,760	0	16,857
Parking Revenue <sup>2</sup>	174,767	162,627	1,223,367	1,142,684
Receivable Income <sup>3</sup>	16,666	27,636	50,000	40,133
Total Revenue	196,433	205,273	1,308,367	1,239,924

Table 4: Animal Protection Services Revenue by Source

Program Revenue	Budget July 2024	Actual July 2024	YTD Budget July 2024	YTD Actual July 2024
Dog Licences	9,404	4,178	241,764	258,382
Fines	1,230	700	4,630	10,550
Total Revenue	10,634	4,878	246,394	268,932

 $<sup>^1</sup>$  City Towing Contract with Rusty's Towing  $^2$  Parking Revenue consists of Parking Meters, Monthly Parking Permits, and Parking Enforcement

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Receivable Income consists of Night Market Recoveries

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

		YTD Budget July 2024	YTD Actual July 2024
Property Use	Revenue	288,276	186,806
	Expenses	1,145,012	819,430
	Net Revenue (Expense)	(856,736)	(632,624)
Parking	Revenue	1,308,367	1,239,924
	Expenses	1,117,558	979,154
	Net Revenue (Expense)	190,809	260,770
<b>Animal Protection</b>	Revenue	246,394	268,932
	Expenses	873,308	776,273
	Net Revenue (Expense)	(626,914)	(507,341)

#### **Financial Impact**

None.

#### Conclusion

Staff and contracted service providers administer and enforce 41 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 June and July, 2024.

Mark Corrado

Director, Community Bylaws and Licencing

(604-204-8673)



## **Report to Committee**

To: Community Safety Committee

**Date:** August 22, 2024

From:

Jim Wishlove Fire Chief

File: 09-5140-01/2024-Vol

01

Re:

Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – June and July 2024

#### **Staff Recommendation**

That the staff report titled "Richmond Fire-Rescue Monthly Activity Report – June and July 2024", dated August 22, 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 months of June and July, staff engaged in the following activities:

- Delivered a presentation to the Regional Engineers Advisory Committee on possible impacts during a disaster to regional transportation and recommendations for remediation and future prevention.
- Participated in Doors Open Richmond at Brighouse Fire Hall No. 1. More than 5,000 members of the public attended and staff were able to hand out swag and provide pamphlets with information on emergency preparedness and how to sign up for Richmond Alert Ready.
- Met with the leadership team of the South Fraser Search and Rescue group to plan interoperability, and facilitate their access to areas within Richmond to support search and rescue operations.
- Hosted a seminar for City Public Works staff on the Incident Command System (ICS) and how it can be used for routine and emergency response operations, therefore increasing the City's ability to coordinate across multiple business units.
- Delivered an orientation presentation to the City's Library staff in preparation for the summer heat season and possible activations. In support of the City's current extreme heat and poor air quality operations plan.
- Planned with members of BC Wildfire Service and the emergency response team for a local mining facility to practice approaches to emergency management and operational and strategic planning theories.
- Staff worked in the City's Emergency Command Centre during the annual Steveston Salmon Festival. Coordinating with event management in supporting First Aid, RCMP, RFR and operations to ensure the safety of all attendees.
- Coordinated with staff from the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) from Australia and Public Safety Canada for an overview of the two Government's Crisis Appreciation and Strategic Planning methodology.

 Hosted and presented a two day in-person training for ICS-200, Basic Incident Command System, where attendees learned about managing single resources at an incident and how to establish and work within a command structure. Attendees included personnel from: YVR, Health Emergency Management BC, South Fraser Search and Rescue, RCMP, BC Housing, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, BC Emergency Health Services, and City's Public Works.

#### Public Outreach & Education

During the months of June and July 2024, staff engaged in the following activities:

- Facilitated outreach events to provide educational opportunities to the community, including fire hall and vehicle tours for 26 organizations, with over 900 total participants.
- Participated in multiple community events, with over 7,000 participants, including the Salmon Festival.
- Hosted the City's Doors Open event at Brighouse Fire Hall No. 1. This successful event
  attracted over 5,000 residents/attendees. Interactive displays and actives included an
  education booth, Turn-Out gear dress-up and photo station, fire truck displays, auto
  extrication demonstrations, water target games, emergency preparedness resources, a
  preparedness kit display, various giveaways. This event was also attended by partner
  agencies including the Vancouver Airport (YVR) Fire Department.
- Additionally, staff continued with multiple public life safety educational social media videos and posts.

#### Internal Staff Training

In June and July 2024, staff organized in-house training events including: Vehicle Rescue Auto Extrication Instructor, Technical Water Rescue, Emergency Scene Management, Wildland Fire 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 June 2024, there were 1,036 reported incidents of all types, representing an overall decrease of 4 per cent in incidents from June 2023 to June 2024 (Table 1).

Table 1: Total Incidents - June 2024							
	Incident Totals June (2024)	Incident Totals June (2023)	Number Change from June 2023 to 2024	Percentage Change from June 2023 to 2024	5 Year Average for June		
Alarm Active - No Fire	166	173	-7	-4	153		
Explosion	0	0	0	0	0		
Fire	47	65	-18	-28	46		
Hazardous Materials	4	12	-8	-67	8		
Medical	566	566	0	0	427		
Motor Vehicle Incident	78	86	-8	-9	75		
Public Hazard	5	8	-3	-38	7		
Public Service	90	86	+4	+5	85		
Response Cancelled/Unfounded	75	80	-5	-6	61		
Specialized Transport	4	4	0	0	2		
Technical Rescue	1	0	+1	+1	0		
Total	1,036	1,80	-44	-4	865		

The average time on scene in June 2024 for emergency response crews was 31 minutes, which is the same number (31) minutes in 2023.

In June 2024, there were 47 fire incidents reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner, representing a 28 per cent decrease from June 2023. The average number of fires reported each June over the last five years is 46.

In July 2024, there were 1,220 reported incidents of all types, representing an overall increase of 14 per cent in incidents from July 2023 to July 2024 (Table 2).

Table 2: Total Incidents - July 2024						
	Incident Totals July (2024)	Incident Totals July (2023)	Number Change from July 2023 to 2024	Percentage Change from July 2023 to 2024	5 Year Average for July	
Alarm Active - No Fire	199	173	+26	+15	157	
Explosion	0	0	0	0	0	
Fire	58	87	-29	-33	63	
Hazardous Materials	7	3	+4	+133	5	
Medical	645	522	+123	+24	425	
Motor Vehicle Incident	95	98	-3	-3	80	
Public Hazard	9	9	0	0	11	
Public Service	123	93	+30	+32	102	
Response Cancelled/Unfounded	81	77	+4	+5	63	
Specialized Transport	3	3	0	0	2	
Technical Rescue	0	1	-1	-100	0	
Total	1,220	1,066	+154	+14	908	

The average time on scene in July 2024 for emergency response crews was 32 minutes, compared to 36 minutes in 2023.

In July 2024, there were 58 fire incidents reported to the Office of the Fire Commissioner, representing a 33 per cent decrease from July 2023. The average number of fires reported each July over the last five years is 63.

Fire damage and property losses during June 2024 is estimated at \$927,125. The total building/asset and content value at risk is estimated to be \$17,449,350 and the total value preserved from damage was \$16,522,225. These numbers translate to 95 per cent of value protected (Table 3), which is less than the value observed in 2023: 99 per cent.

Fire damage and property losses during July 2024 is estimated at \$992,660. The total building/asset and content value at risk is estimated to be \$55,128,361 and the total value preserved from damage was \$54,135,701. These numbers translate to 98 per cent of value protected (Table 3), which is less than the value observed in 2023: 99 per cent.

The dollar losses 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).

Table 3: Fire Incidents Volumes By Type - June and July 2024					
Incident Type Breakdown	June 2024	July 2024			
Residential: Single family	2	4			
Residential: Multi family	3	5			
Commercial/Industrial	7	6			
Outdoor	32	42			
Vehicle/Vessel	3	1			
Totals	47	58			

#### 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 June and July 2024 incidents:

• June 20, 2024 – Structure Fire on River Road. Emergency crews responded to reports of a commercial structure and wooden elevated trestle fire burning on River Road. On arrival RFR crews began their attack on the warehouse fire on the east side of the property. The Oak Street Bridge was temporarily closed and nearby transit areas were alerted to the issue. There were multiple crews deployed to the incident. Metro Vancouver were notified to advise residents and occupants along the Fraser River corridor about the smoke from the burning trestle. The Coast Guard was notified regarding debris and potential marine vessel safety impacts. The Vancouver Fire Boat and RCMP attended. Due to the inaccessibility of the trestle bridge, crews continued to monitor the fire until it was extinguished. This was a coordinated response with RFR crews, the Vancouver Marine Unit, and a coordinated support from agencies throughout the event. A Fire Investigator attended. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel.

- June 24, 2024 Structure Fire on Moffatt Road. Emergency crews responded to reports of a structure fire on Moffatt Road. On arrival crews began to attack the fire at the property, which also included some nearby trees and vegetation. Once the fire was extinguished crews checked for hot spots and began their overhaul processes. Fire Prevention staff worked with the property owner to have the scene secured overnight. A Fire Investigator attended. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel.
- July 4, 2024 Persons trapped on Dyke Road. Emergency crews responded to a report of a person trapped under a tractor off of No. 4 Road. The first in crews found the person in a ditch with a tractor on top of their foot and were unable to free themselves. RFR crews stabilized the tractor and then worked to release the patient's foot. The patient was freed and taken to hospital. WorkSafe BC and RCMP attended the scene. There were no other reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel.
- July 11, 2024 Technical Rescue on Gilley Road. Emergency crews responded to a scene
  to assist the BC Coroner. A decomposed body was located in a ditch. Once the corner had
  completed their examination, RFR crews extricated the body from the ditch. Once completed
  crews cleared the scene and began their decontamination processes.
- July 21, 2024 Structure Fire on Twigg Place. Emergency crews responded to a report of a fire in a commercial property on Twigg Place. On arrival, first in crews discovered a fire in a pile of scrap metal. Crews took a defensive position and proceeded to attack and extinguish the fire. The metal debris pile required dismantling to allow for effective water application. An equipment operator from the business was called to assist the crews. The fire was extinguished and crews checked for hot spots. A Fire Investigator attended. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel.
- July 22, 2024 Structure Fire on Williams Road. Emergency crews responded to a report of a large fire on Williams Road. First in crews reported heavy smoke and flames as they approached. A working fire was declared and the crews quickly deployed hand lines under difficult conditions with limited visibility due to the smoke and ash in the air. Once the crews made their way to the rear of the property they discovered a tall cedar hedge and fence also on fire. The crews quickly extinguished the fire and a rescue crew was deployed to ensure the safety of all residents in the home. A Fire Investigator attended. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel.
- July 21, 2024 Technical Rescue MacKenzie Road. Emergency crews responded to a request for assistance for a horse in a barn that was unable to effectively right itself. RFR Technical (High Angle) Rescue crews responded, met with the owner and vet in attendance, to assess the scene and developed a safety and mitigation plan. After some attempts, the crews, using an innovative application of technical rescue techniques were able to assist the horse to its feet, after which time the owner was able to take the horse under control with the aid of the attending vet. There were no reports of injury to the public or RFR personnel. RFR considers this unique service event a success, and a real-life practice for the on-duty technical team which continues to create very useful outcomes and references for future rescue needs.

### **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 June and July 2024.

#### **Emergency Response Activity for June and July 2024**

#### Incident Volumes

The following chart provides a month-to-month comparison regarding incidents occurring in June 2023/2024 and July 2023/2024.

- In June 2024, there were 1,036 incidents, compared to 1,080 in June 2023. This represents an overall decrease of 4 per cent.
- In July 2024, there were 1,220 incidents, compared to 1,066 in July 2023. This represents an overall increase of 14 per cent.

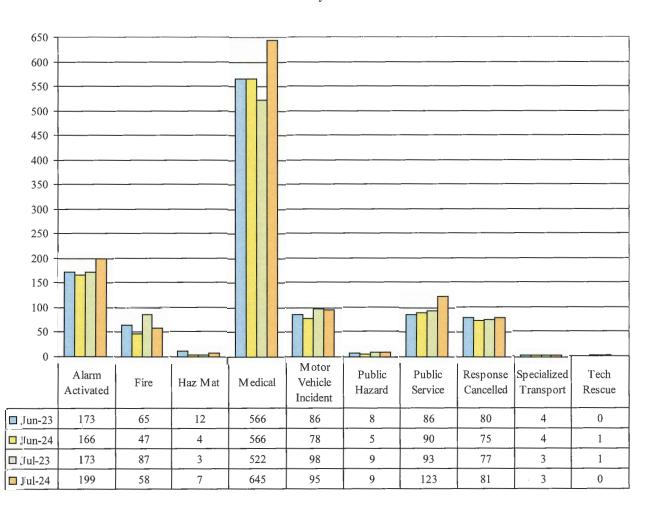


Table 4: June 2023 / 2024 & July 2023 / 2024 Incident Volumes

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, bomb removal standby, 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

A detailed breakdown of the medical incidents for June 2023 / 2024 and July 2023 / 2024 is set out in the following table by sub-types (Tables 5a and 5b).

- In June 2024, Medical first responder incidents comprised 55 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR. There were 566 medical incidents in June 2024, which is the same as June 2022: 566.
- In July 2024, Medical first responder incidents comprised 53 per cent of the total emergency responses for RFR. There were 645 medical incidents in July 2024 compared to 522 in July 2023, an increase of 24 per cent.

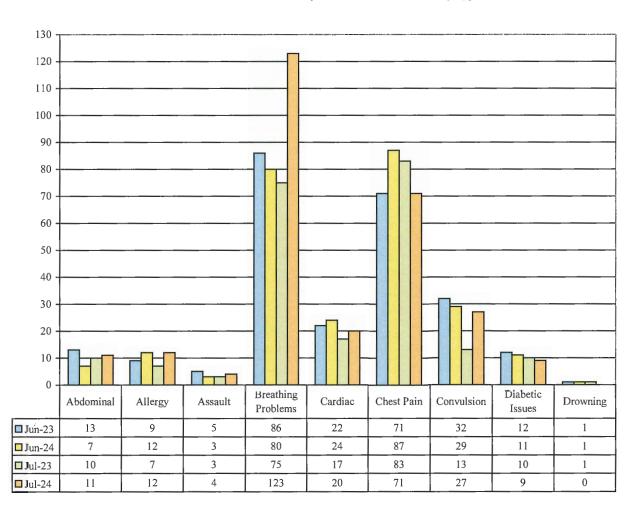


Table 5a: June 2023 / 2024 and July 2023 / 2024 Medical Calls by Type

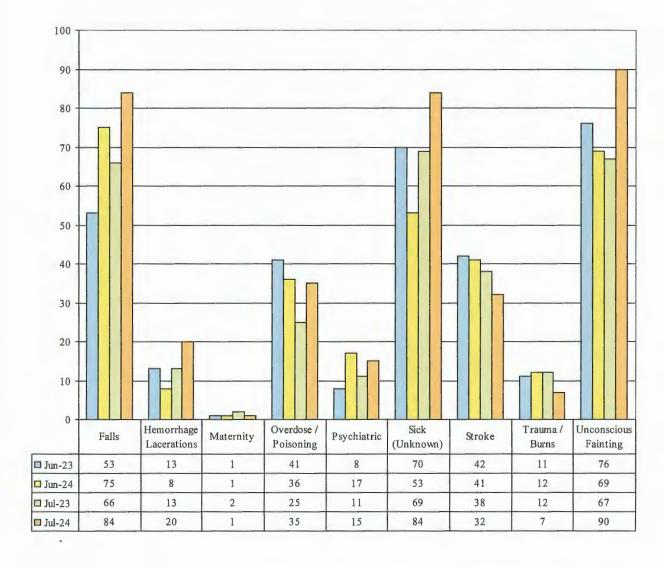


Table 5b: June 2023 / 2024 & July 2023 / 2024 Medical Calls by Type

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The following chart provides the overdose/poisoning incident volume breakdown for June and July 2024. During June 2024, Naloxone was administered once by RFR staff. During July 2024, Naloxone was administered four times by RFR staff.

Table 6: Overdose / Poisoning Incidents By Type – June and July 2024	June 2024	July 2024
Opioid overdose incidents RFR attended located in an OUTDOOR environment.	3	9
Opioid overdose incidents RFR attended located in an INDOOR environment.	5	4
All other OD / Poisoning Incidents	28	22
Totals	36	35
Naloxone administered by RFR staff.	1	4

#### Fire Investigations

The fire investigation statistics for June and July 2024 are listed below:

Table 7: Total Fire Investigation Statistics – June and July 2024						
	June 2024			July 2024		
	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined	Suspicious	Accidental	Undetermined
Single-family Residence	1	1	_	1	1	2
Multi-family Residence	1	2	-	-	5	-
Commercial/Industrial	-	6	1	-	4	2
Outdoor	16	11	5	14	22	6
Vehicle	-	3	-	-	1	-
Totals	18	23	6	15	33	10

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

#### **Hazardous Materials**

Table 8: Hazardous Materials Incidents By Type – June and July 2024					
	June 2024	July 2024			
Flammable / Combustible Liquids	1	1			
Gasses (Natural / Propane)	2	4			
Standby/Support for other Agency	0	1			
Unclassified	1	1			
Totals	4	7			

The following charts provide total incident volumes on a year-to-year comparison in June and July from 2015 to 2024.

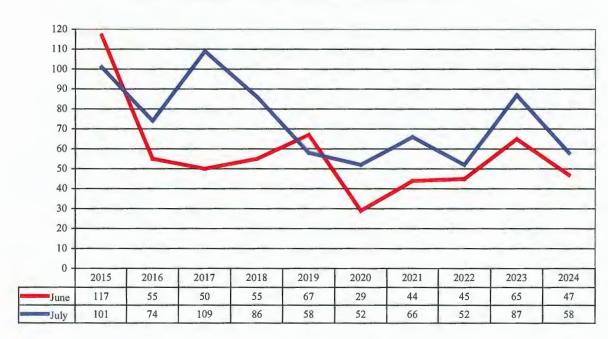


Table 9a: Total Fire Calls for Service in June and July from 2015 to 2024



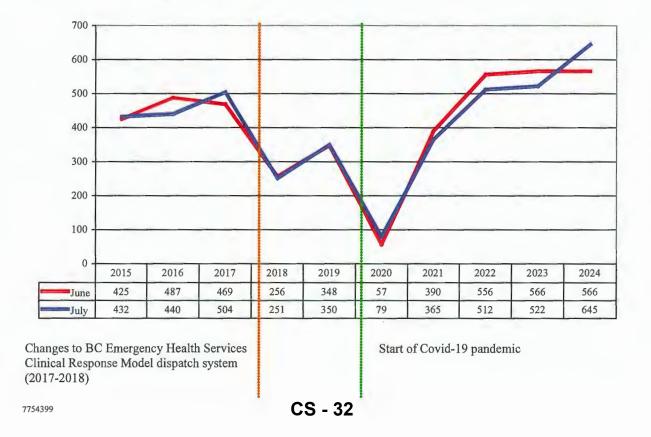




Figure 1: Location of reportable fires incidents attended in June to July 2024 (Combined total 105)

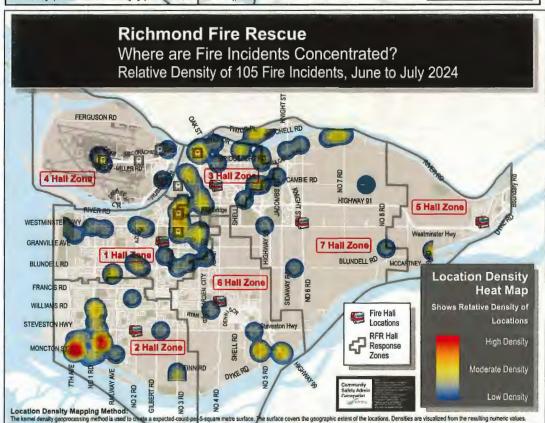


Figure 2: Location of reportable medical incidents attended in June to July 2024 (Combined total 1,211)



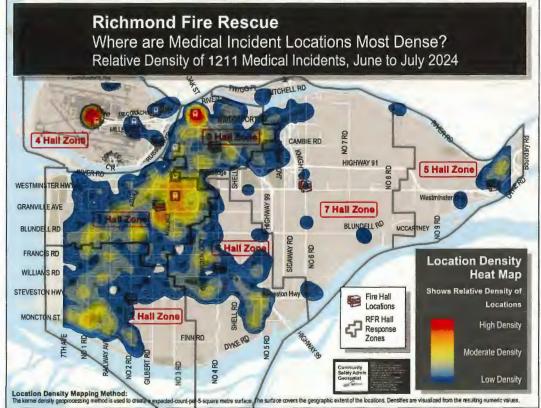
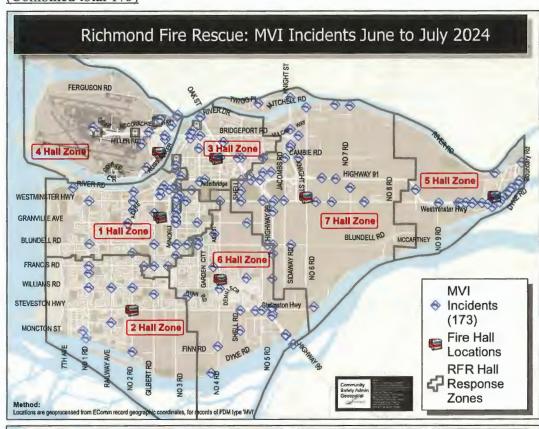


Figure 3: Location of reportable motor vehicles incidents (MVIs) attended in June to July 2024 (Combined total 173)



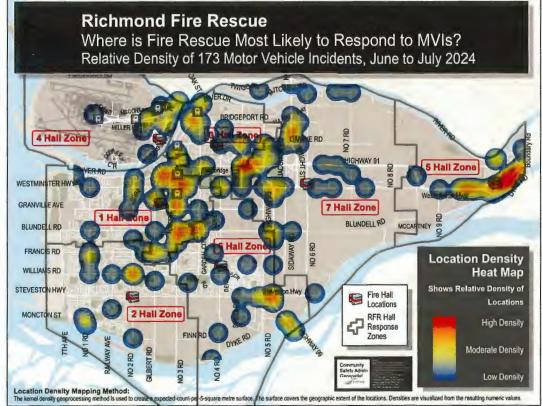
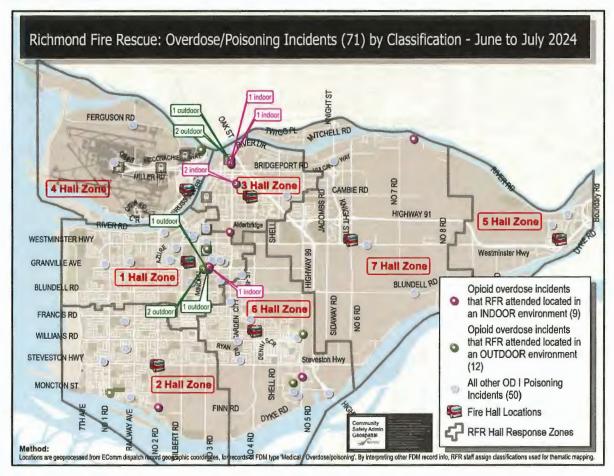


Figure 4: Location of reportable overdose / poisoning incidents attended in June to July 2024 (combined total 71)





## **Report to Committee**

To:

Community Safety Committee

Chief Superintendent, Officer in Charge

Date:

August 22, 2024

From:

Dave Chauhan

File:

e: 09-5000-01/2024-Vol

01

Re:

RCMP Monthly Activity Report – June and July 2024

#### Staff Recommendation

That the report titled "RCMP Monthly Activity Report – June and July 2024", dated August 22, 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  Wy Grandin					
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS:				
APPROVED BY CAO					

#### **Staff Report**

#### Origin

At the request of the Community Safety Committee, the Officer in Charge will keep Council informed on matters of 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 #3 A Safe and Prepared Community:

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

#### **Analysis**

#### Activities and Noteworthy Files

#### E-scooter Safety

On June 1, 2024, the Richmond RCMP hosted the first annual E-scooter Skills Challenge. The event featured activities that tested riders' abilities to balance, stop, and control speed. Safety and regulatory information was provided, in addition to free trials for beginners interested in learning more about e-scooters.



Figure 1. E resoter Skille Challenge

#### Robbery

On June 1, 2024, the Richmond RCMP responded to a robbery in the 10000 block of No. 3 Road. A male was attacked by eight masked individuals who stole his backpack. The victim was struck in the head with a weapon in the attack but did not sustain serious injuries. The Richmond RCMP subsequently issued a media release asking for witnesses to come forward.

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#### Doors Open Richmond

On June 8, 2024, the Richmond RCMP hosted a Doors Open Richmond event at the City Centre Community Police Office. Approximately 1,600 people attended the event, which showcased new crime prevention programs and police vehicles and featured opportunities to engage with police and volunteers.

# with police and volunteers. Unlicensed Ride-Hailing



Figure 2: Doors Open

On June 13, 2024, the Richmond RCMP, in partnership with the Passenger Transportation Branch, conducted a targeted enforcement operation to identify and apprehend unlicensed ridehailing operators. The operation intercepted six drivers and resulted in \$18,458 in fines and 25 charges for various infractions, including operating without a valid license. An additional two-day operation on July 15 and 16, 2024, yielded \$14,641 in fines.

#### Collision

On June 22, 2024, Richmond RCMP officers attended the intersection of No 4 Road and Williams Road for a vehicle collision, which resulted in two pedestrians being struck. The pedestrians suffered significant injuries and were transported to hospital for treatment. Both drivers remained at the scene. The collision remains under investigation.

#### Canada Day

On July 1, 2024, the Richmond RCMP participated in Canada Day celebrations at the Steveston Salmon Festival. In addition to conducting proactive patrols at the event, police officers participated in the parade and provided photo opportunities while dressed in Red Serge. The event also featured crime prevention and diversity and inclusion resources.



Figure 3: Canada Day Parade

#### Road Rage Incident

On July 4, 2024, the Richmond RCMP issued a media release seeking witnesses or dash cam footage of a road rage on June 28, 2024. Richmond RCMP officers attended the 5500 block of Hollybridge Way for a report of shots fired. The incident followed a verbal altercation between the occupants of two vehicles. The incident remains under investigation.

#### Assault

On July 2, 2024, Richmond RCMP officers responded to the 6000 block of No. 3 Road for a stranger assault. The victim reported being randomly punched in the face by an unknown male. A media release with an image of the suspect was subsequently issued. On July 17, 2024, the Richmond RCMP announced that a suspect had been arrested in connection with the incident.

#### Break and Enter Arrest

On July 20, 2024, Richmond RCMP officers responded to a report of a break-in in progress at the 7300 block of McMath Road. They observed two men running from the scene. The suspects were apprehended with the assistance of the Integrated Police Dog Section. Both men have been charged with the offence.

#### Fraud

On July 24, 2024, the Richmond RCMP issued a public warning following a fraud involving individuals posing as Chinese police officers. One victim was defrauded over \$1.5 million after being falsely informed about an outstanding arrest warrant in Hong Kong. The media release also featured fraud prevention information.

#### **Analysis of Police Statistics**

#### Arson

There were 11 reported arsons in June 2024, which is an increase of two incidents from the previous month. No patterns or trends have been identified.<sup>1</sup>

There were four reported arsons in July 2024, which is a decrease of seven incidents from the previous month. No patterns or trends have been identified.

Assault Serious (Assault with a Weapon)

There were 15 serious assault events in June 2024, which represents a 25 per cent decrease from the previous month. Year to date, in June, serious assaults were down 18 per cent compared to the same period in 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of serious assaults in June 2024 was within the average range.

Approximately half of the incidents reported in June 2024 were domestic assaults.

There were 20 serious assault events in July 2024, which represents a 33 per cent increase from the previous month. Year to date, serious assaults are down 16 per cent compared to the same period in 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of serious assaults this month is within the average range.

Sixty-five per cent of assaults in July 2024 were domestic incidents.

#### Auto Theft

There were 24 auto thefts in June 2024, which is a 38 per cent decrease from the previous month. Year to date, June auto thefts were up 12 per cent compared to the same period in 2023. No

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 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 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.

patterns or trends have been identified. The number of auto thefts in June 2024 was above the average range.

In July 2024, there were 14 auto theft incidents, which is a 42 per cent decrease from the previous month. Year to date, auto thefts are up two per cent compared to the same period in 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of auto thefts this month is below the average range.

#### Drugs

In June 2024, there were 19 drug offences, which is a 54 per cent decrease the previous month. Year to date, in June, drug offences were down 51 per cent compared to the same period in 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of drug incidents in June 2024 was below the average range.

In July 2024, there were 22 drug offences, which is a 16 per cent increase from the previous month. Year to date, drug offences are down 55 per cent compared to the same period in 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of drug incidents this month is below the average range.

Approximately 63 per cent of the files in June 2024 and 73 per cent of the files in July 2024 occurred near the Vancouver International Airport.

#### Mental Health

There were 263 mental health-related incidents in June 2024, which is an eight per cent increase from the previous month. Year to date, in June, mental health-related files were up two per cent compared to the same period in 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of mental health-related incidents in June 2024 was within the average range.

There were 220 mental health-related incidents in July 2024, which is a 16 per cent decrease from the previous month. Year to date, mental health-related files are down one per cent compared to the same period in 2023. The number of mental health-related incidents in July 2024 is below the average range.

In June 2024, there were 75 police apprehensions, and the average hospital wait time was 100 minutes; these statistics were within the average ranges. Thirty individuals had two or more calls.

There were 60 police apprehensions in July 2024, which is below the average. The average hospital wait time increased to 124 minutes, attributed to 10 files with exceptionally long wait times. Seventeen individuals had two or more calls, with one caller generating 19 incidents.

#### Residential Break and Enter

There were 12 break and enters to residences in June 2024, which is a 37 per cent decrease from the previous month. Year to date in June, residential break and enters were down one per cent

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compared to the same period in 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of residential break and enters in June 2024 was below the average range.

There were eight break and enters to residences in July 2024, which is a 33 per cent decrease from the previous month. Year to date, residential break and enters are down 18 per cent compared to the same period in 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of residential break and enters this month is below the average range.

#### Commercial Break and Enter

In June 2024, there were 19 break and enters to businesses, representing a 39 per cent decrease from the previous month. Year to date, in June, commercial break and enters were down 25 per cent compared to the same period in 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of commercial break and enters in June 2024 was within the average range.

In July 2024, there were 23 break and enters to businesses, representing a 21 per cent increase from the previous month. Year to date, commercial break and enters are down 23 per cent compared to the same period in 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of commercial break and enters this month is below the average range.

#### Robbery

There were three robberies in June 2024, which represents no change from the previous month. Year to date, in June, robberies were up 45 per cent compared to the same period in 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of robberies in June 2024 was within the average range.

One robbery occurred in July 2024, which is a decrease of two incidents from the previous month. Year to date, robberies are up 21 per cent compared to the same period in 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of robberies in July 2024 is within the average range.

Suspects have been identified in half of the incidents reported in June and July.

#### Sexual Offences

In June 2024, there were 22 sexual offence files, which represents no change from the previous month. Year to date, in June, sexual offences were up four per cent compared to the same period in 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of sexual offences in June 2024 was within the average range.

In July 2024, there were 20 sexual offence files, which is a nine per cent decrease from the previous month. Year to date, sexual offences are down one per cent compared to the same period in 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of sexual offences in July 2024 is within the average range.

Sixty-four per cent of sexual offences in June 2024 were sexual assaults, and 23 per cent were indecent acts/exposure. In July 2024, half of the sexual offences were sexual assaults.

#### Shoplifting

There were 110 reported shoplifting thefts in June 2024, which is a 24 per cent decrease from the previous month. Year to date, in June, shoplifting offences were up 50 per cent compared to the same period in 2023. No patterns or trends were identified. The number of shoplifting thefts in June 2023 was within the average range.

There were 97 reported shoplifting thefts in July 2024, which is a 12 per cent decrease from the previous month. Year to date, shoplifting thefts are up 39 per cent compared to the same period in 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. The number of shoplifting thefts this month is within the average range.

#### Theft from Automobile

There were 75 thefts from automobile incidents in June 2024, which is a 35 per cent decrease from the previous month. Year to date, in June, thefts from automobiles were down 44 per cent compared to the same period in 2023. No patterns or trends were identified. The number of thefts from automobiles in June 2023 was below the average range.

There were 67 thefts from automobile incidents in July 2024, which is an 11 per cent decrease from the previous month. Year to date, thefts from automobiles are down 43 per cent compared to the same period in 2023. No patterns or trends have been identified. 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 July 31, 2024.<sup>2</sup> 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. One hate incident was reported in June 2024, and one in July 2024. One incident involved a report of a Swastika carved on school property, and the other involved threats on social media.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The BC Hate Crimes Unit uses the terms hate-motivated crime and hate-motivated incident.

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 (YTD)	0	5	5		

#### Crime Trends Across Jurisdictions

Figure 3 presents data on crime rates for the four largest municipalities policed by the RCMP in the Lower Mainland District (LMD) for July 2024.<sup>3</sup> The property and violent crime rates in Richmond were below the LMD average.

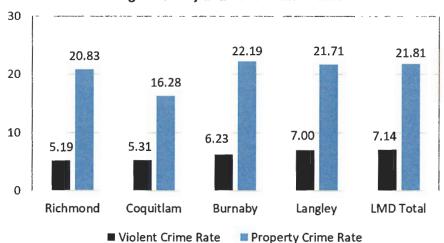


Figure 4: July 2024 YTD Crime Rates

#### **Block Watch**

At the end of June 2024, the Block Watch program had 306 groups, totalling 7,067 participants. The program included 433 captains and co-captains.

At the end of July 2024, the Block Watch program had 307 groups, totalling 7,091 participants. Currently, the program includes 430 captains and co-captains. The Third Quarter Crime Prevention Newsletter, issued in July, featured summer theft prevention tips.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Based on PRIME query by Richmond Crime Analysis Unit on August 6, 2024

#### Community Police Office Programs

Community police offices 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 June, volunteer highlights included:

- The deployment of one bike patrol, totalling 42 hours.
- A total of four Fail to Stop deployments took place, resulting in 139 information letters issued.
- There were 16 Lock Out Auto Crime deployments, resulting in 790 information letters issued.
- Speed Watch was conducted on 313 vehicles, resulting in five information letters issued.
- June 1—In collaboration with ICBC, volunteers assisted RCMP officers with the Escooter Skills Challenge. Over 70 participants participated in the event, which featured a helmet check and safety quiz.
- June 3 Volunteers assisted ICBC with a road safety presentation to over 300 students at Mitchell Elementary School.
- June 8—The Richmond RCMP hosted its Doors Open event at the City Centre Community Police Office, which included 23 volunteers. Five stations featured community outreach and engagement activities, including crime prevention resources and police vehicles.
- June 9—Volunteers participated in the Island City by Bike event, providing rider support along the 25-kilometre route and promoting the Project 529 bike theft prevention program.
- June 13 Speed Watch was conducted at Shell and Williams Road to educate drivers about the new rules to protect vulnerable road users.<sup>4</sup>
- June 20—Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with the South Arm Block party, which featured Safety Bear and the Spot the Target initiative. Over 500 people attended the event.
- June 22 Volunteers and RCMP officers participated in the Capstan Alliance Church Community Day and promoted crime prevention programs and the Community Safety app.
- June 23—Volunteers and RCMP officers participated in the annual Burkeville Daze event, which featured photo opportunities with police vehicles and Mountie cut-outs. Crime prevention programs were also promoted, including Block Watch and the Project 529 Bike Registry.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Effective June3, 2024, a minimum of one-metre distance from people walking and riding on roads in BC is required; which increases to 1.5 metres on roadways with a speed limit above 50 km/h.

#### During July, volunteer highlights included:

- The deployment of five bike patrols totalled 83 hours, and the one-foot patrol totalled five hours.
- A total of 16 Fail to Stop deployments took place, resulting in 943 information letters issued
- There were 20 Lock Out Auto Crime deployments, resulting in 526 information letters issued.
- Speed Watch was conducted on 3,819 vehicles, resulting in 196 information letters issued.
- July 1 A total of 27 volunteers participated in the 77th anniversary of the Steveston Salmon Festival. In addition to conducting foot and bike patrols, volunteers assisted at the crime prevention booth and promoted various RCMP prevention programs.
- July 13 –Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with a Block Watch Block Party in central
  - Richmond. They promoted the Community Safety App and assisted with tours of police vehicles.
- July 13 Volunteers assisted RCMP officers with community outreach at the Richmond Night Market.
- July 16 Volunteers attended the Children's First Responder Camp at the Armenian Apostolic Church, which included many newcomer youth.
- July 20 and 21 Volunteers provided foot patrols at the Nations Cup Soccer tournament.



• July 27 and 28 – Volunteers attended the Dolphin Classic annual basketball tournament and distributed crime prevention resources.

#### Lock Out Auto Crime

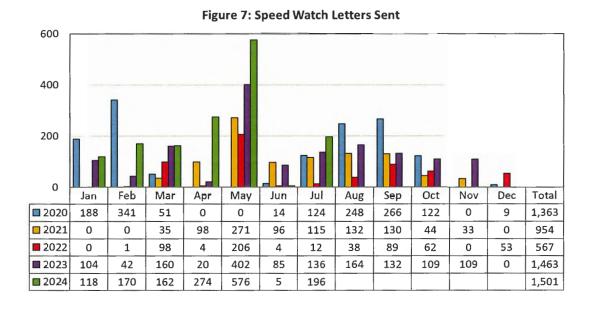
Figure 5 provides a yearly comparison of the number of vehicle notices issued.<sup>5</sup>

4,000 2,000 Total Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec 4,050 4,116 1,134 9,383 2,897 022 5,006 ■ 2023 6,392 ■ 2024 3,828

Figure 6: Lock Out Auto Crime Vehicles Issued a Notice

#### Speed Watch

Figure 6 compares the number of letters sent to registered vehicle owners yearly.



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

#### Crime Prevention Unit

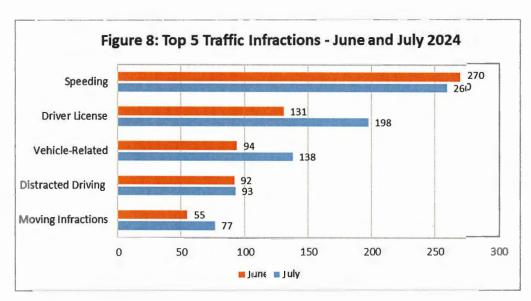
The Crime Prevention Unit reduces crime and enhances community engagement through public awareness and education initiatives. During June and July, the Crime Prevention Unit participated in the following events/activities:

- Business Outreach
- Canada Day
- Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives
- Dolphin Classic

- Nations Cup
- Pathways Clubhouse BBQ
- Place of Worship Patrols
- Speed Watch

#### Road Safety Unit

The Road Safety Unit makes Richmond's roads safer through evidence-based traffic enforcement, investigation of serious vehicle collisions and public education programs. A total of 723 violation tickets were issued in June 2024, and 898 were issued in July 2024. Figure 8 provides statistics for the top five infractions for which violation tickets were issued in June and July:



#### Victim Services

In June 2024, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 71 new clients and attended ten crime/trauma scenes after hours. The unit maintained an active caseload of 98 files. In June, Victim Services responded to several cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, assaults and mental health-related issues.

In July 2024, Richmond RCMP Victim Services met with 72 new clients and attended six crime/trauma scenes after hours. The unit currently maintains an active caseload of 109 files. In July, Victim Services responded to several cases involving medical-related sudden deaths, drug overdoses and fraud.

#### 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 June and July, Youth Section highlights included:

- RCMP officers in the Youth Section conducted 67 proactive school visits at secondary schools and 109 visits at elementary schools. Police officers engaged with students during recess, lunch and morning and afternoon supervision.
- RCMP officers attended seven DARE graduations, recognizing over 460 students who completed the program.
- RCMP officers in the Youth Section attended multiple summer camps throughout the city
  and engaged with youth attendees. This included the First Responder Youth Camp at
  Richmond Pentecostal Church on July 23, 2024, where police officers provided tours of
  police vehicles and police dog demonstrations.

#### **Financial Impact**

None.

#### Conclusion

In June and July 2024, the Richmond RCMP conducted several noteworthy investigations, including a robbery, a road rage incident, and illegal ride-hailing operations. Police statistics for June indicate that most crime types were within the average ranges, except for auto thefts, which were elevated, while drug offences, thefts from vehicles, and residential break and enters were below the average ranges. In July, several crime types were below average, including robberies, commercial break and enters and auto thefts.

In June and July, the Community Engagement Team and volunteers continued promoting crime prevention and road safety initiatives, including Doors Open Richmond and Canada Day events. The Officer in Charge of the Richmond RCMP Detachment will continue to ensure that Richmond remains a safe and desirable community.

Edward Warzel

Director, Police Services

E. Wazel

(604-207-4767)

EW:

Att. 1: Community Policing Programs

- 2: Crime Statistics
- 3: Crime Maps
- 4: Crime Prevention Newsletter

#### 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

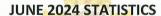
 This initiative consists of frequently stolen items being placed in the volunteer van for participants to identify in order to enhance awareness of thefts from automobiles.

#### 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.



#### RICHMOND RCMP

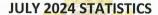
The following information is a limited list of select crime-type samples, which does not comprise the entirety or assortment of all crimes captured by the RCMP. The statistics in this chart should be considered independently of the analysis provided as the data is unrelated to the research provided earlier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

This chart identifies the monthly totals for founded Criminal Code incidents, excluding traffic-related Criminal Code incidents. Based on Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) scoring, there are three categories: (1) Violent Crime, (2) Property Crime, and (3) Other Criminal Code. Within each category, particular offence types are highlighted in this chart. In addition, monthly totals for Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) incidents and MHA-related calls for service are included. Individual UCR codes are indicated below the specific crime type.

The 5 year average is based on activity within a single month over the past 5 years. If the current monthly total for an offence falls outside the the 5 year range (using one standard deviation) due to crime trends, patterns, or spikes, it will be noted in red if higher and blue if below. If the current monthly total for an offence is above the 5 year range due to primarily non-operational reasons such as the new UCR

	Month	5-Yr Avg	5-Yr Range		Year t	ear to Date Totals		
	Jun - 24	William Co.	June	2023	2024	% Change	# Change	
VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	175	150.2	133-167	935	956	2%	21	
Robbery	3	4.6	2-7	22	32	45%	10	
Assault Common	62	49.8	41-59	299	313	5%	14	
Assault Serious	15	15.6	11-24	125	102	-18%	-23	
Sexual Offences	22	19.4	15-24	117	122	4%	5	
PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	592	560.2	500-621	3867	3810	-1%	-57	
Business B&E	19	25.4	19-32	155	116	-25%	-39	
Residential B&E	12	23.6	18-29	136	134	-1%	-2	
Auto Theft	24	18.8	15-23	129	144	12%	15	
Theft from Auto	75	123.6	114-134	823	458	-44%	-365	
Theft	104	84.0	67-101	669	664	-1%	-5	
Shoplifting	110	81.8	47-116	582	879	51%	297	
Fraud	85	68.2	60-76	490	584	19%	94	
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	306	230.8	188-274	1568	1754	12%	186	
Arson	11	n/c	n/c	n/c	40	n/c	n/c	
SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	1089	969.8	897-1043	6370	6584	3%	214	
DRUGS (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	19	49.8	39-61	261	128	-51%	-133	
MHA RELATED CALLS (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	263	259.4	230-288	1441	1464	2%	23	

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#### RICHMOND RCMP

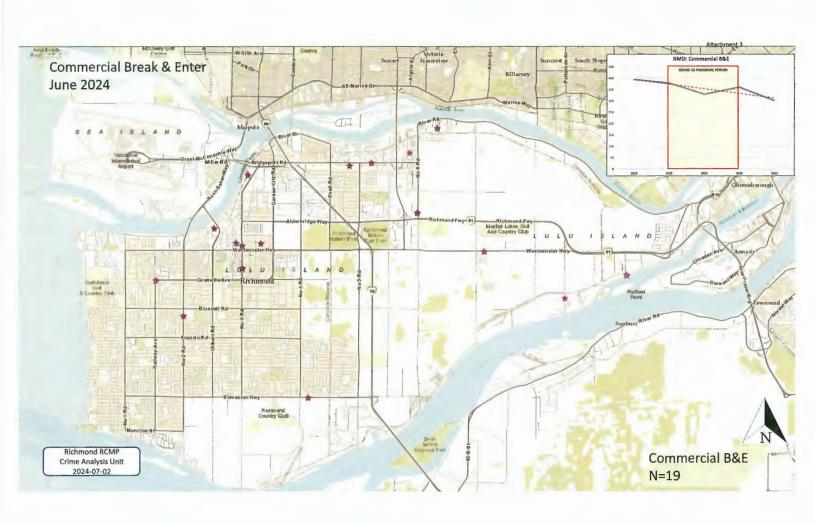
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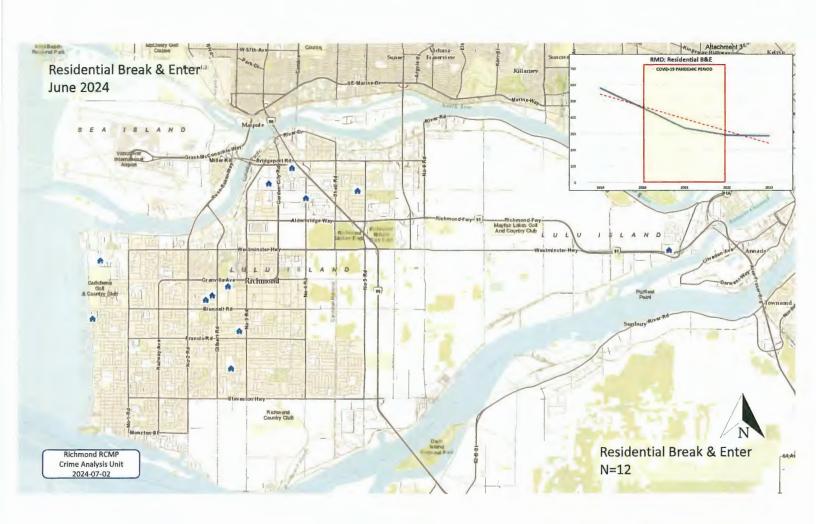
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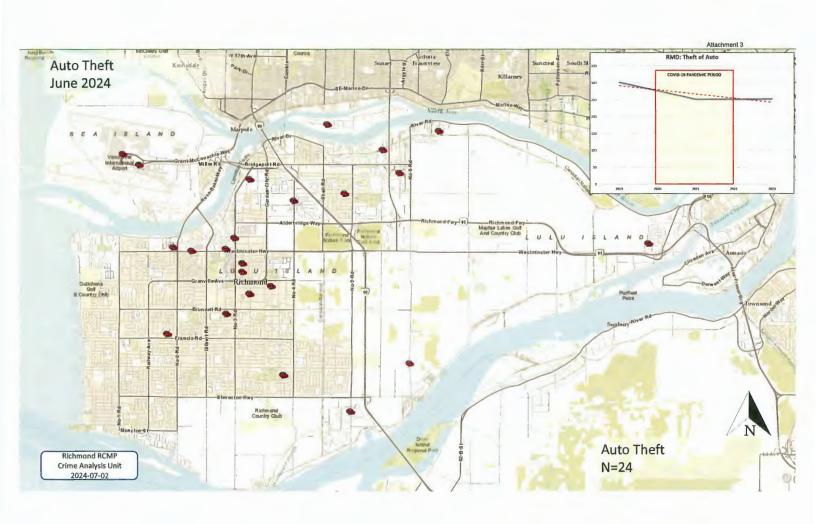
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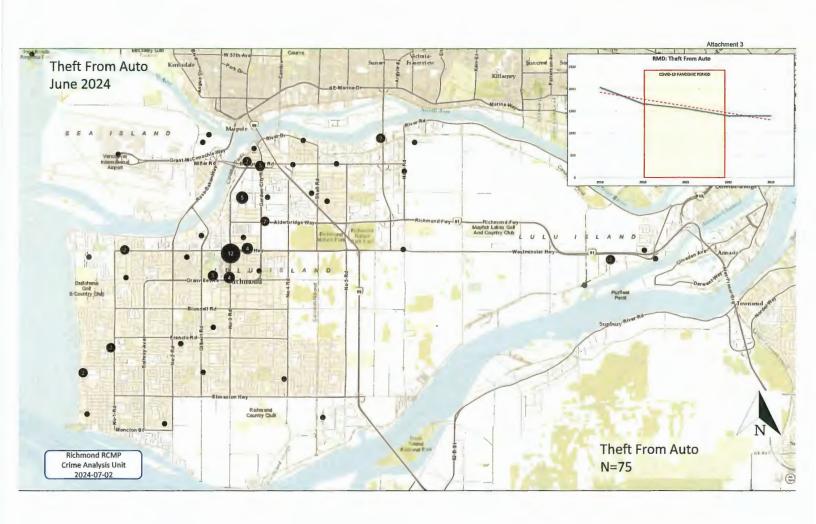
	Month	Month 5-Yr Avg 5-Yr Range		Н	Year to Date Totals				
	Jul - 24		July	Ш	2023	2024	% Change	# Change	
VIOLENT CRIME (UCR 1000-Series Offences)	154	154.4	146-162	Ш	1092	1109	2%	17	
Robbery	1	7.2	4-10	11	28	34	21%	6	
Assault Common	52	50.8	48-54	11	348	367	5%	19	
Assault Serious	20	20.6	15-26	11	146	122	-16%	-24	
Sexual Offences	20	21.4	16-27	11	142	141	-1%	-1	
PROPERTY CRIME (UCR 2000-Series Offences)	564	597.2	528-666		4566	4374	-4%	-192	
Business B&E	23	29.0	26-32	$\ $	179	138	-23%	-41	
Residential B&E	8	27.2	19-35	11	174	142	-18%	-32	
Auto Theft	14	23.0	18-28	11	157	160	2%	3	
Theft from Auto	67	108.6	84-133	11	916	519	-43%	-397	
Theft	98	94.2	60-128	11	803	763	-5%	-40	
Shoplifting	97	77.8	52-104	11	704	978	39%	274	
Fraud	95	77.8	73-83	11	569	681	20%	112	
OTHER CRIMINAL CODE (UCR 3000-Series Offences)	281	260.8	230-291	$\ $	1841	2030	10%	189	
Arson	4	n/c	n/c		n/c	44	n/c	n/c	
SUBTOTAL CC OFFENCES (UCR 1000 to 3000 Series)	999	1013.6	935-1092		7503	7581	1%	78	
<b>DRUGS</b> (UCR 4000-Series Offences)	22	41.8	26-57		330	147	-55%	-183	
MHA RELATED CALLS (MHA files or Mental Health flag)	220	255.2	237-273		1674	1665	-1%	-9	

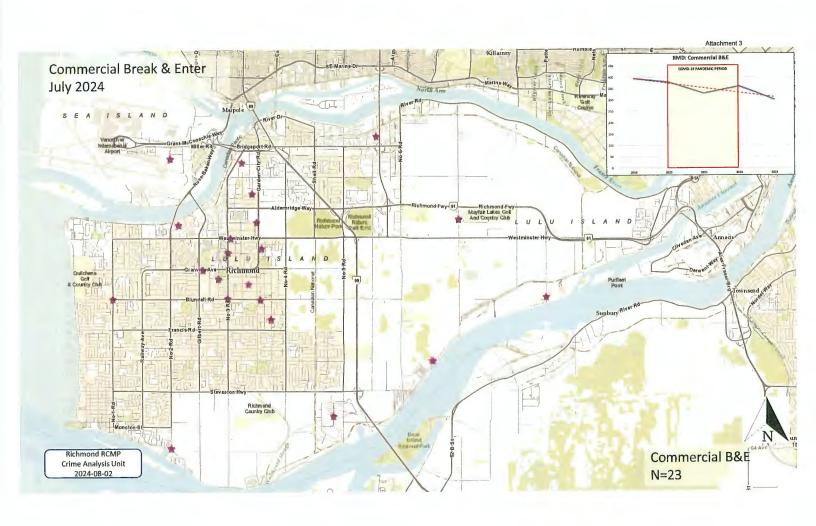
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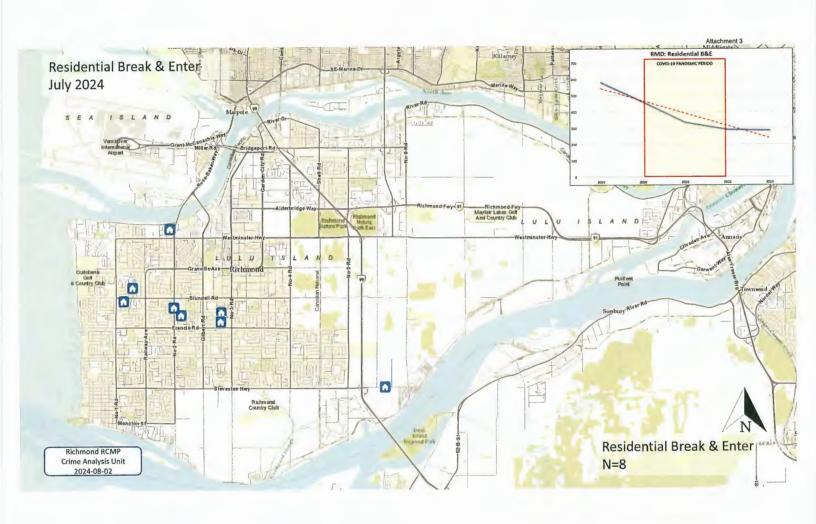


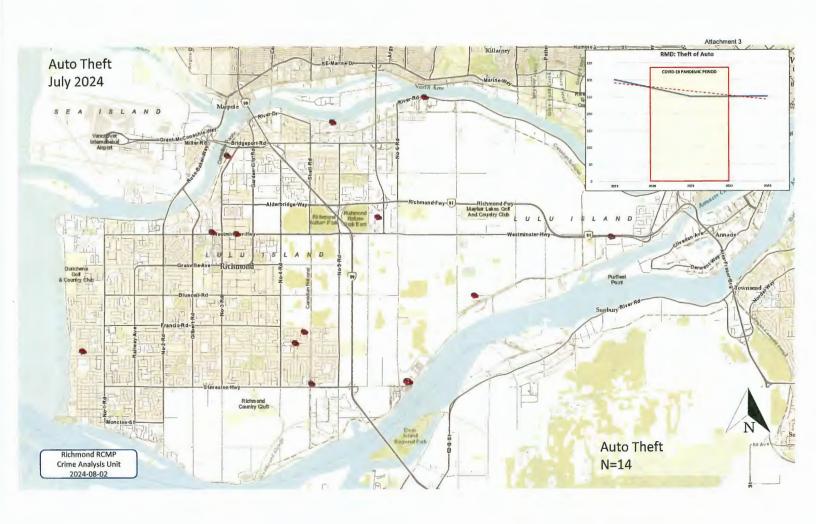


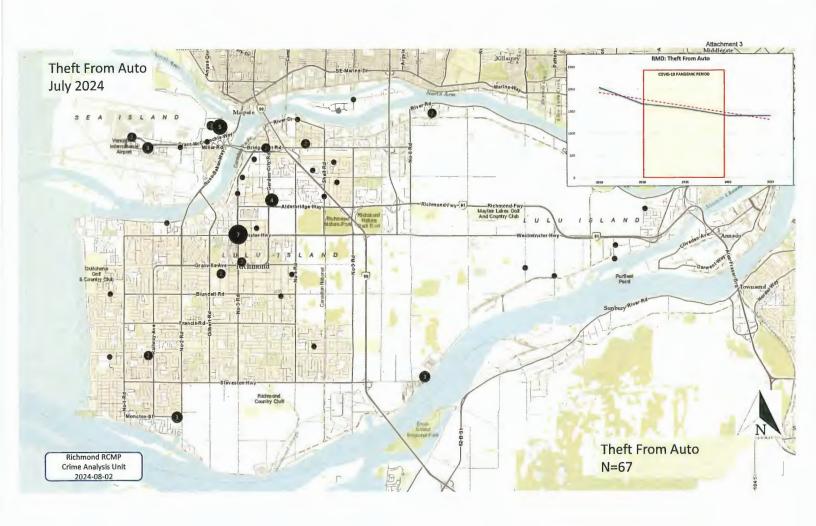












# **CRIME PREVENTION**

## **WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME**

**NEWSLETTER** 

#### **Scooting Off With Crime Prevention**

The term micromobility is used to describe the range of small, lightweight vehicles such as bikes, e-scooters, and e-bikes. Summer weather and the increasing popularity for e-scooters entice people to use their micromobility devices to travel around the city. Whether you are going to the park or a local coffee shop, it is important to never leave your scooter or bike unlocked. Although the design of bikes and an e-scooters are different, these locks are universal for securing them.



Below is a comparison of the most commonly used locks.

LOCKS	PROS	CONS
D OR U LOCK	<ul> <li>Tough, not as easily defeated by bolt cutters</li> <li>Visual deterrent</li> <li>A proven design</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Not flexible, shorter designs may be difficult to loop through bike racks</li> <li>Heavy</li> </ul>
CHAIN LOCK OR CABLE LOCK	<ul> <li>Malleable, goes around different objects</li> <li>Visual deterrent</li> <li>Versatile</li> <li>Can be used as a secondary lock</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Lighter chains are easier to beat compared to heavier ones</li> <li>Bulky and heavy</li> <li>Cannot be your primary lock</li> </ul>
FOLDING LOCK	<ul> <li>Malleable, goes around different objects</li> <li>Visual deterrent</li> <li>Lightweight design</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Thin and moving parts make it vulnerable to attacks</li> <li>Not as secure as D locks</li> </ul>

Learning how to lock your micromobility device is a crucial skill. The general rule of thumb is to lock your bike/ scooter frame and the bike rack together with your primary lock. If locking all these features are not possible, make sure the lock is tightly secured around components that cannot be easily removed. Some e-scooter designs have built in slots specifically for locking. Ensure your lock is not touching the ground as thieves can use the ground as leverage to smash the lock.

#### E-Scooter Skills Challenge

This past month, Richmond RCMP hosted an e-scooter skills challenge. Riders were able to test their riding skills and learn the rules for riding an e-scooter. Here are the rules for e-scooters:

- Must wear a helmet
- Operate on designated cycling lanes and ride on roadways where permitted
- Must not operate on sidewalks or unpaved trails, and yield to pedestrians
- Maximum 20km/h on roadways and 15km/h on shared paved pathways
- Only one person can ride/operate the e-scooter and must be 16 years old or older



## CITY OF RICHMOND CRIME PREVENTION NEWSLETTER

## **Preparing for Summer**

Summer is time for vacation and relaxation. Unfortunately, thieves are never on vacation as they are always looking for opportunities to steal. It is important to take time to remind ourselves to stay vigilant and renew our crime prevention habits for the summer. Whether you are going on a day trip, going on a long vacation, or staying at home, there are details you need to look at through the lens of crime prevention.

Below are elements to pay extra attention to when preparing for summer activities:

#### **Vacation Plans**

Whether it is a short or long trip, it is important to know how fraudsters can trick you with the convenience of booking vacations online. Always use a well known website or a reputable travel agent. Unknown third party sites could have hidden fees, inaccurate information, or fraudulent deals. Do not get tricked by websites with sales that are too good to be true. Scammers prey on people looking for the next cheap deal by using high pressure sales tactics. They do not want you to take your time to research their "deal" as it is a lie. Thus, do your research and always choose a well-known, reputable company or website.

Once you have booked your online reservation, call the company afterwards to confirm they have a record of your trip. If there is a complication with your reservation, you will have time to find a solution before you travel. Another crime prevention aspect to pay attention to is social media. Do not announce your vacation plans online because it tells thieves that you are going away.

#### Your Vehicle

Roll up the windows and lock your vehicle to prevent theft from auto. Thieves will steal anything. Commonly stolen items include bags, light jackets, personal electronics, sunglasses, tools, shoes, and wallets. Remove the chance of being victimized by crime by removing all items from plain sight in your vehicle.

#### **Your Home**

Are you opening the window to let fresh air into your home? Are you preparing to leave for vacation? Before you leave the house, make sure all windows and doors are closed and locked, including those on the second floor. Remove any items that can be used by thieves to climb onto the second floor. Next, take some time to work on the exterior of your home. Unkept bushes or trees conceal thieves and offer limited vision for neighbours and yourself for surveillance. Trim the shrubbery and trees so others can see your points of entry from the street.



#### **Monitor Your Home**

Some crime prevention tools have benefitted from recent significant upgrades as technology continues to improve. For example, some cameras and alarms can connect to your mobile phone and alert you in real time. Furthermore, you can save the footage from the camera in high definition and receive live notifications to monitor your home while you are away. However, a common issue is not learning how to download the footage. Learning how to utilize your camera is an effective way to monitor your home while you are away, and can help with evidence. Go through the settings and download test footage to verify the camera is working properly.

In the event of a break-in or suspicious activity, a camera can alert you and provide police with footage of the incident. Furthermore, lights are an important addition to compliment your camera. Bright lights uncover hidden spots and allow your camera to capture more details. Periodically check that all your crime prevention tools are updated and working correctly before leaving the home.



## To Start a Block Watch Group

Interested in starting a Block Watch group? Let us tell you a little about Block Watch! Block Watch is a program that brings the police and the community together. This program helps you build connections and relationships with people in your neighbourhood and the police while striving for the common goal of crime prevention.

#### Select a Captain/Co-Captain

♦ Each Captain/Co-Captain has to submit an application and will be contacted for a suitability interview. Candidates will then need to complete a free Police Information Check.

#### Recruit and build your group

Upon confirmation from the Block Watch office on completing and passing all required steps in becoming a Captain/Co-Captain, you may begin to recruit homes that are near to you with the provided recruiting materials from the Block Watch office. To build an effective Block Watch, try to involve 50-75% of households in your area.

#### Complete activation of your team

- 1. **Complete** Block Watch Captain/Participant training invite everyone in your group to participate in a virtual/in-person training session.
- 2. Submit your participating household list.
- 3. Qualify for Block Watch street signs once the above steps are completed.

If you are interested in creating a Block Watch group in your area, email us your name and address at blockwatch@richmond.ca or call 604-207-4829.

## **BUSINESS LINK**

## **WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME**

**NEWSLETTER** 

## **Enhancing Window Security for Commercial Buildings**

The windows to your commercial building are not only an architectural design, but are also a security feature. Common ways to gain entry include smashing the window with a tool or object found on the exterior of the business, using a tool to pry open a window, or finding an unlocked window. Therefore, it is important to invest in the security of your windows to save on the inconvenience and costly repairs from a break-in.



#### Enhance your windows with these recommended measures:

- 1. **Lock your windows** Ensure windows and doors are closed and locked before leaving the business. Install auxiliary locks to strengthen your window from prying.
- 2. Increase visibility to the exterior of your business— Lighting increases visibility and discourages criminal activity as it uncovers hidden spots. Bright lighting paired with a working security camera will help monitor your business effectively and the lights will help the camera capture more details.
- 3. **Install security film** The film can make your glass stronger. If hit by force, the glass may shatter but the security film should hold the glass together.
- 4. **Clean up the exterior** Thieves will use anything available to them to break a window or gain access to an open window. Remove any rocks, tools, ladders, or furniture that can facilitate a break-in.
- 5. Install contact sensor or glass break alarms— These two additions work best when paired together because they address each others' weakness. A contact sensor detects movement of the window. When it is disturbed, the alarm will sound. However, its weakness is it does not sense glass breaking. Thus, a glass break alarm is beneficial when paired with a contact sensor. The glass break alarm will sense the vibrations that occur when glass breaks. Hence, the pairing of sensors and alarms will greatly benefit the monitoring systems for your business.

#### Please report all suspicious or criminal activity to the police.

Richmond RCMP Non-Emergency line 604-278-1212. If you witness a crime in progress, dial 9-1-1.

Online reporting available at bc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/richmond/report for the following:

- Damage/mischief to property under \$5,000
- Damage/mischief to a vehicle under \$5,000
- Hit and run to an unoccupied vehicle or property
- Theft of bicycle under \$5,000
- Theft under \$5,000
- Theft from vehicle under \$5,000
- Lost property



