



# Cambridge Police Department BridgeStat

March 2014

Produced by the Crime Analysis Unit



# Part I Total Crime

Crime in Cambridge dropped 20% during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2014 when compared to the previous year, and 31% when compared to the five-year average. Many factors can affect crime, notably the weather. When we examine the effects of a cold and snowy winter, we find a very strong correlation between changes in temperature during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the year and the volume of crime. (See Slide 5 of this presentation)

A very high percentage of this decrease can be attributed to a 21% fall in the index crime of larceny and a 30% reduction in burglary. Housebreaks (-36%), larceny from motor vehicles (-34%), and larceny from person (-38%) were the categories of incidents fueling the declining crime numbers.

A detailed analysis of all statistics indicates that there were **115 fewer property crimes counted** for the first quarter of 2014, which translates to a **21% decline** when measured against the 2013 statistics. **Violent crime has slipped 12% over the first 90 days of 2014 with nine fewer crimes against the person reported** than in the first three months of last year.

	4 Week Snapshot				Year to Date				Five Year	
	2/4 - 3/3	3/4 - 3/31	Change		2013	2014	Change		Avg	Change
Total Violent Crime	19	20	5%		75	66	-12%		84	-21%
Total Property Crime	119	146	23%		537	422	-21%		622	-32%
Total Part I Crime	138	166	20%		612	488	-20%		706	-31%



# Part I Property Crime

**Property crime plunged 21%** when compared with the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2013 and registered a **32% drop** below the five-year average. The only property categories to register increases so far this year are minimal upticks in auto theft, larceny from residence, and shoplifting. **Ten of the fifteen indexes associated with property crime are in the green (on the decline) so far in 2013.** Larceny from MVs and larceny from person are driving the downward spiral with 34% and 38% declines, respectively.

	<u>4 Week Snapshot</u>				<u>Year to Date</u>				<u>Five Year</u>	
	2/4 - 3/3	3/4 - 3/31	Change		2013	2014	Change		Avg	Change
<b>Burglary</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>58%</b>		<b>87</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>-30%</b>		<b>102</b>	<b>-40%</b>
Commercial Break	1	5	400%		11	12	9%		15	-20%
Housebreak	11	14	27%		76	49	-36%		86	-43%
<b>Larceny</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>27%</b>		<b>434</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>-21%</b>		<b>496</b>	<b>-31%</b>
Larceny (Misc)	1	0	-100%		7	2	-71%		7	-71%
Larceny from Building	27	31	15%		101	82	-19%		99	-17%
Larceny from MV	16	30	88%		118	78	-34%		144	-46%
Larceny from Person	15	12	-20%		69	43	-38%		77	-44%
Larceny from Residence	6	14	133%		31	36	16%		45	-20%
Larceny of Bicycle	4	4	0%		24	11	-54%		26	-58%
Larceny of Plate	2	4	100%		3	8	167%		6	33%
Larceny of Services	0	1	IN-CALC		5	2	-60%		5	-60%
Shoplifting	25	26	4%		76	80	5%		87	-8%
<b>Auto Theft</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-55%</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19%</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>-24%</b>
<b>Total Property Crime</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>23%</b>		<b>537</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>-21%</b>		<b>622</b>	<b>-32%</b>



# Part I Violent Crime

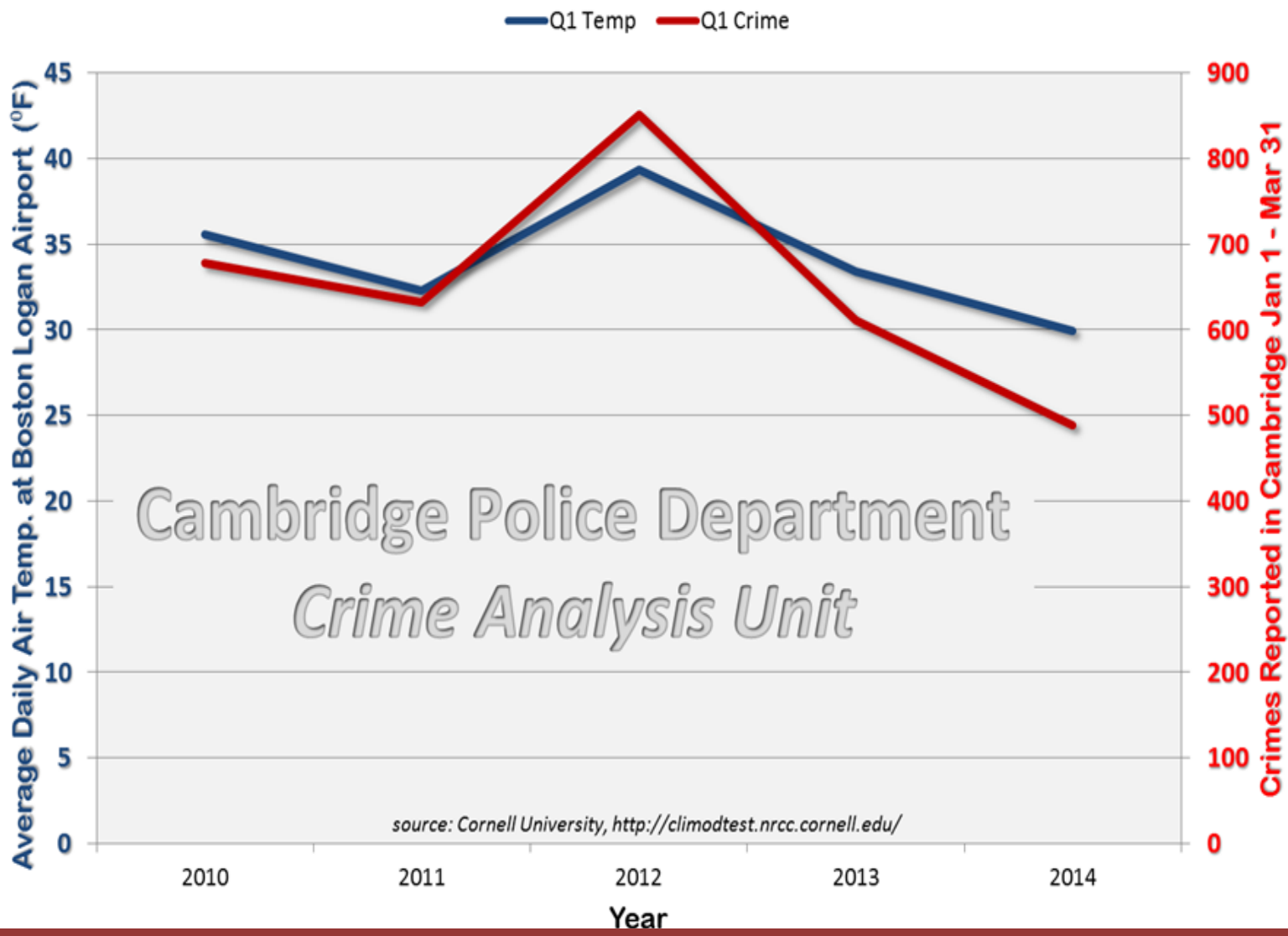
- Violent crime is down 12% in Cambridge for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2014 when compared with the same time frame in 2013. When measured against the five-year weighted average, the total for murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault for the first three months of the year was 18 incidents below (-21%) the projected total of 84 violent crimes.
- The first murder of the year occurred on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014. A complete synopsis of this incident can be found on slide 6. The rape total was unchanged from the first quarter of 2013 with six sexual assaults reported in each of the first quarters. **The increase in commercial robberies from 3 to 7 incidents should be tempered by the fact that this crime has been recording historic lows in Cambridge in recent years. Street robbery is down an astounding 31% with no spatial or temporal patterns identified so far in 2014.**

	<u>4 Week Snapshot</u>				<u>Year to Date</u>				<u>Five Year</u>	
	2/4 - 3/3	3/4 - 3/31	Change		2013	2014	Change		Avg	Change
Homicide	0	0	IN-CALC		1	1	0%		1	0%
Rape	0	3	IN-CALC		6	6	0%		6	0%
Robbery	5	5	0%		19	18	-5%		25	-28%
Commercial Robbery	2	1	-50%		3	7	133%		3	133%
Street Robbery	3	4	33%		16	11	-31%		22	-50%
Aggravated Assault	14	12	-14%		49	41	-16%		53	-23%
<b>Total Violent Crime</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5%</b>		<b>75</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>-12%</b>		<b>84</b>	<b>-21%</b>



# Correlation between temperature and crime during 1st Quarter

*colder temperature = less crime (r = 0.98)*



Crime in Cambridge dropped 20% during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2014 when compared to the previous year, and 31% when compared to the five-year average. Many factors can affect crime, including the weather. When we examine the effects of a cold and snowy winter, we find a very strong correlation between changes in temperature during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the year and the volume of crime.



# MURDER

*No Patterns*

- The first murder of 2014 involved Malia Gomez, 40, of 396 Putnam Ave, who has been charged in the death of Dana Robinson, a 46-year-old Cambridge man, who police discovered unconscious with a chest wound on Gomez' Putnam Avenue porch on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Gomez admitted to stabbing Robinson following an argument. Robinson died at Beth Israel Hospital and Gomez was charged with armed assault with the intent to murder, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon causing serious bodily injury. **On April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, Malia Gomez was indicted on First Degree Murder.**
- 30 of the 36 murders in Cambridge since 1995 have been cleared by arrest or by the suicide of the perpetrator, which translates to an 83% clearance rate.
- The trial for Aisling Brady McCarthy is scheduled to take place in Middlesex Superior Court on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014. She is charged in the January 2013 death of Rehman Sabir, who was taken to the hospital with severe head injuries on her first birthday. She died two days later.

Change\*

Last 4 Weeks

0%

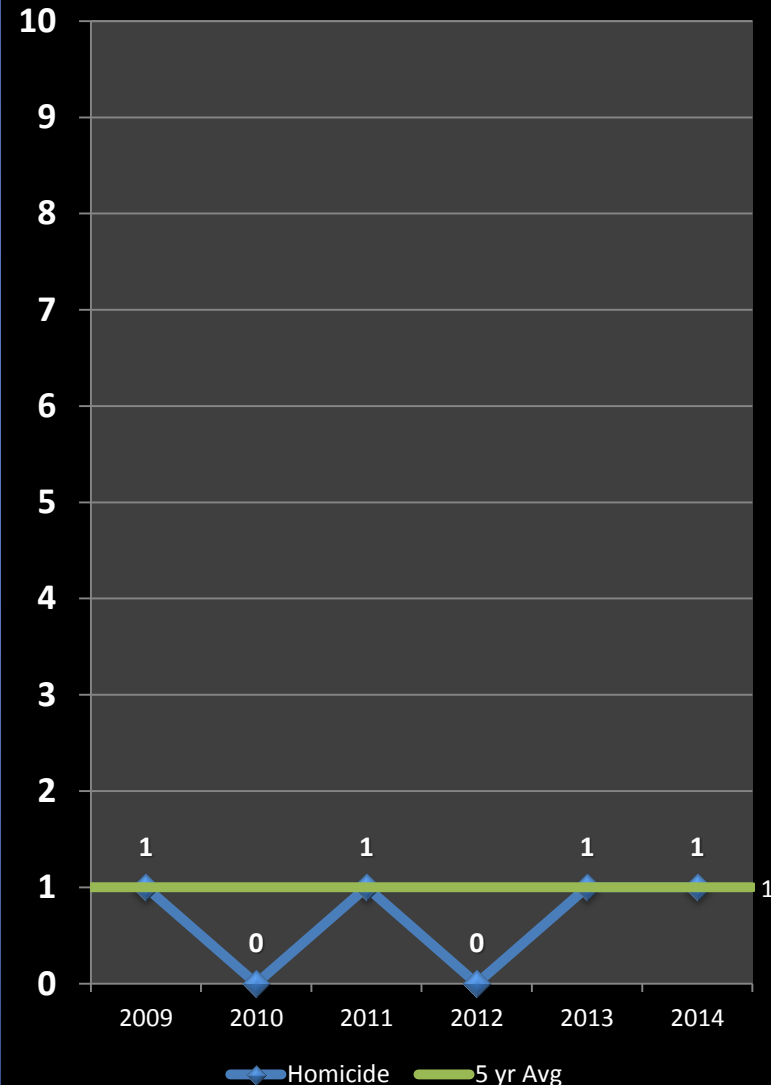
Previous Year

0%

5 Year Average

0%

\*IN -CAL: Percentages are not calculated for numbers so small as to present a statistically misleading percentage.







# Characteristics of Murder in Cambridge

For the 30-year period between 1960 and 1989, the City of Cambridge averaged slightly less than five murders per year. The annual average since 1990 has fallen to approximately two per year. Trend analysis over recent years points to two recurring murder scenarios in Cambridge: domestic murder, in which one family member is brutally killed by another in a homicidal rage, and the murder of young males by a handgun or knife in acts of retaliatory street violence.

## Cambridge Murder Statistics, 1990-2013

- 51 people murdered in 46 incidents (in 4 of the incidents, 2 or more people were killed)
- 32 victims were male (average age of 34)
- 19 victims were female (average age of 41)
- Most common weapons: handguns (23 incidents) and knives (11 incidents)
- 14 of the 46 cases are still under investigation or remain unsolved
- 20 of the 25 cases since 2000 have been cleared by arrest or by the death of the suspect, including all three murders in 2013



## Unsolved Murders: 1999 to 2014

**Colin Burton**, 30, of Dorchester, was shot and killed outside of Hi - Fi Pizza on Mass Ave in Central Square on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 1999. Burton was talking with the occupants of a Ford Explorer when the subject in the passenger seat fired through the window. Two suspects fled the scene. The case remains under active investigation.



September 18, 1999, Mass Ave



April 5, 2002, Mass Ave

**Ian Gray**, 19, of Mattapan, was in an argument outside of the Rhythm & Spice restaurant that spilled out onto Mass Ave. A suspect that had left the scene returned with a group of people and a fight ensued. A knife was produced during the altercation and four gunshots were fired, fatally wounding Gray. This case remains open.

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2002 at 7:00PM, **Ricardo Williams**, 27, of Malden, was found in the driver's seat of a motor vehicle suffering from a gunshot wound to his face. Williams was taken to CCH where he was pronounced dead. This case remains open.



June 17, 2002, Windsor St.

**\*Anyone with information about these crimes is asked to contact CPD at 617-349-3370.\***





# Unsolved Murders: 1999 to 2014

Cambridge Police BridgeStat

**Jason Ellcock**, 33, of Malden, formerly of Cambridge and father of three, was found with multiple gunshot wounds in front of the driveway to 364 Rindge Ave at 3:05 AM on the night of June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009. He was pronounced dead at the scene. This incident remains under investigation.



June 16, 2009, Rindge Ave



March 12, 2011, Brookline St.

**James Lauture**, 30, of Cambridge, was sitting in a vehicle near Brookline and Watson Streets just after midnight on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011, when an unknown gunman opened fire. The occupants in the car were able to drive to Central Square. Lauture died from multiple gunshot wounds. The other man in the vehicle survived. This case remains open.

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012, **Charlene Holmes**, 16, of Cambridge was shot while sitting on a porch on Willow Street. She later succumbed to her wounds at the hospital. The investigation into this incident remains active, but no arrests have been made to date.



June 3, 2012, Willow St

**\*Anyone with information about these crimes is asked to contact CPD at 617-349-3370.\***



# RAPE

## No Patterns

- In the month of January 2014, three rapes were recorded in Cambridge. There were no rapes registered in Cambridge in February. Three more non-stranger rapes were reported in March, bringing the total for the year to six, the same as in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2013. In all of the 2014 rapes thus far, the assailant was an acquaintance of the victim.
- The following are the final statistics for Rape in Cambridge for last year: there were 17 rapes reported in Cambridge in 2013. During the previous year, there were 23 incidents, which translates to a **26% reduction** from 2012 and a **23% decline** when compared to the five-year average of 22 sexual assaults annually.
- The only stranger-to-stranger rape in 2013 was recorded in March of last year. This incident involved a blitz type scenario late at night in Central Square. A Cambridge male has since been charged in this incident.
- Statistics released in October by the FBI reveal that rape decreased by .2% in the U.S. in 2012. The rate of forcible rapes in the U.S. in 2012 was estimated at 52.9 per 100,000 female inhabitants. The five-year average of rapes in Cambridge, a city of 106,000, is 22 incidents per year.

### Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

IN-CALC

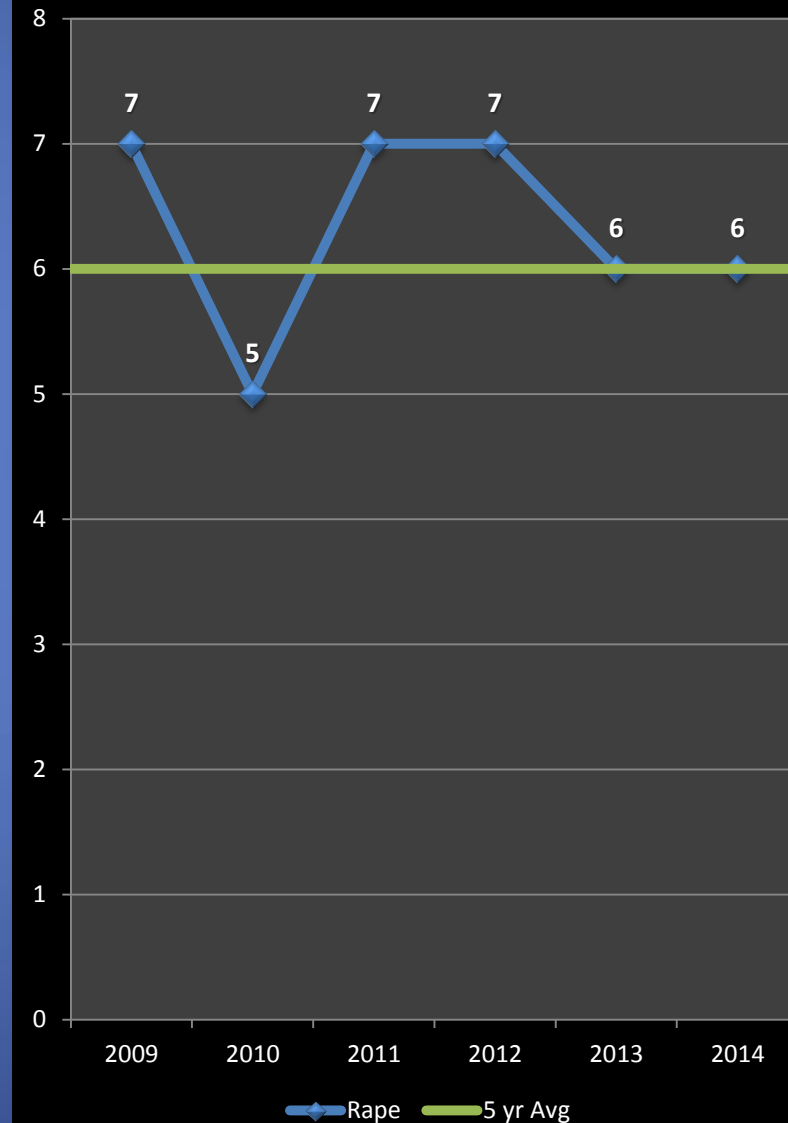
Previous Year

0%

5 Year Average

0%

\*IN -CAL: Percentages are not calculated for numbers so small as to present a statistically misleading percentage.





# ROBBERY

*No Patterns*

- The five-year average for overall robbery in Cambridge for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the year is 25 incidents. Over the first three months of 2014, 18 robberies were reported, which translates to a 28% decline below the projected total.
- There were six commercial robberies in the first five weeks of 2014. That spree stopped on February 8<sup>th</sup>, with only one incident registered over the next seven weeks. Arrests have been made in five of the seven robberies. A number of regional, serial, commercial robberies at banks and convenience stores has been identified as a major problem in Greater Boston so far in 2014. The robbery at the Eastern Bank on January 14<sup>th</sup> in Harvard Square was related to one of these patterns.
- The reduction in street robberies (-21% in 2013) continues on a **persistent decline for the first quarter of 2014 with a 31% nosedive when compared to the first three months of last year and a 50% drop when compared with the five-year average.** The total of 11 street robberies for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter is an uncharacteristically low number for Cambridge (the first three months of 2009 produced 36 street robberies). Less pedestrian traffic due to the exceptionally cold weather may be responsible for this decline.

## Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

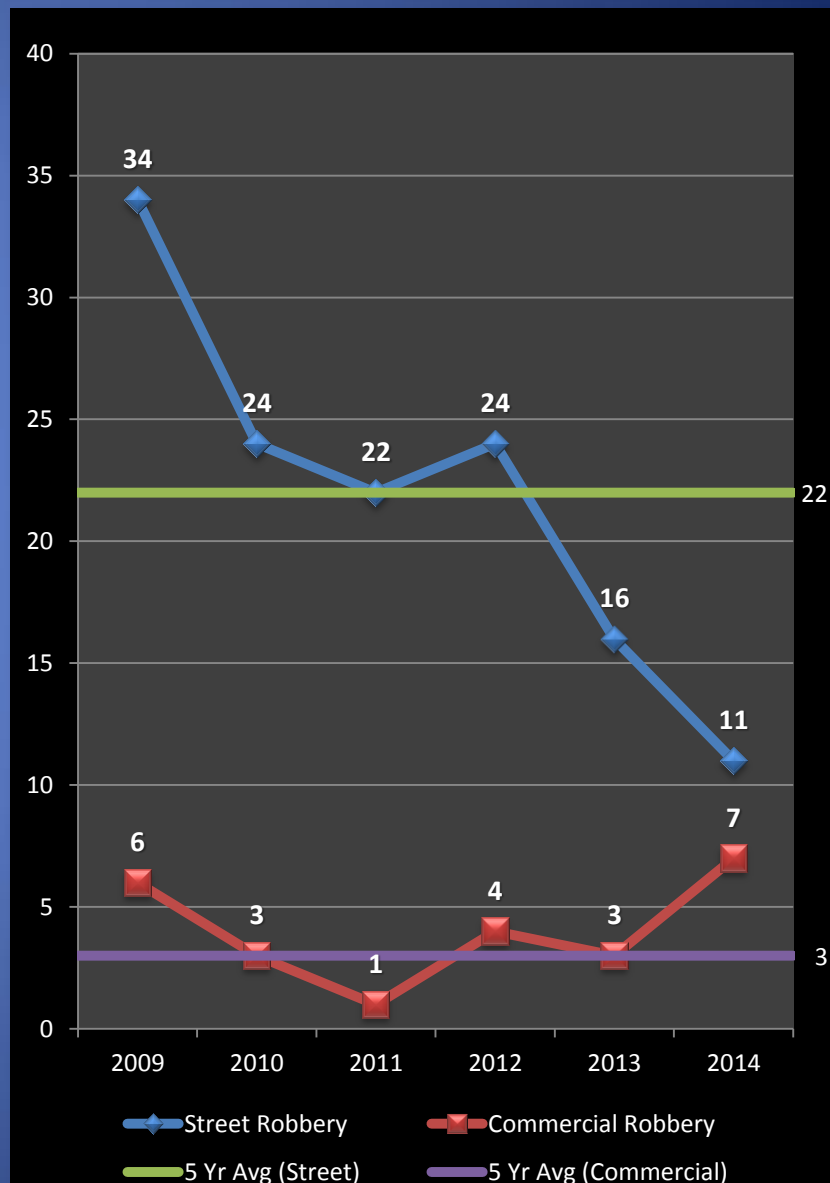
**0%**

Previous Year

**-5%**

5 Year Average

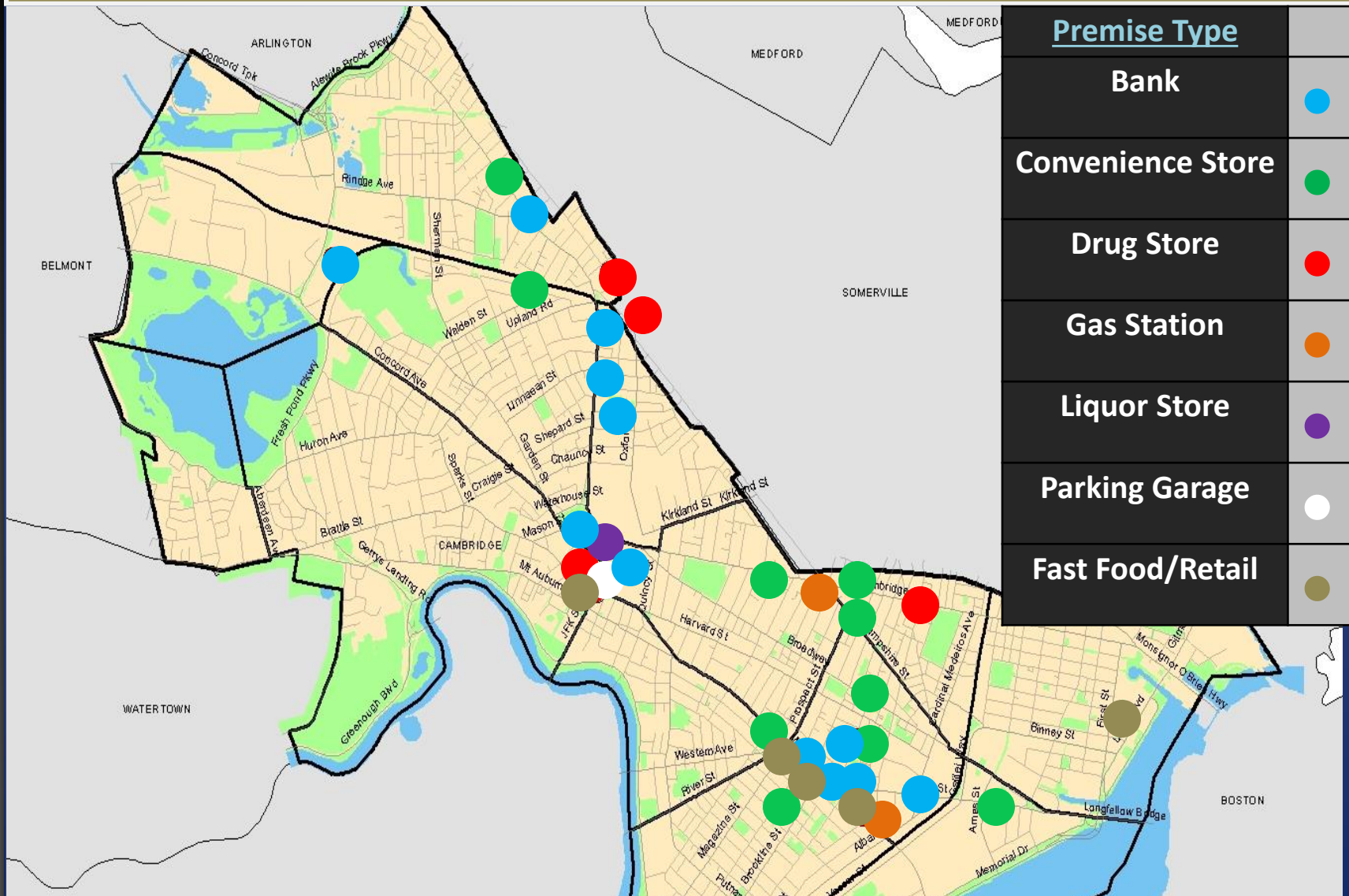
**-28%**







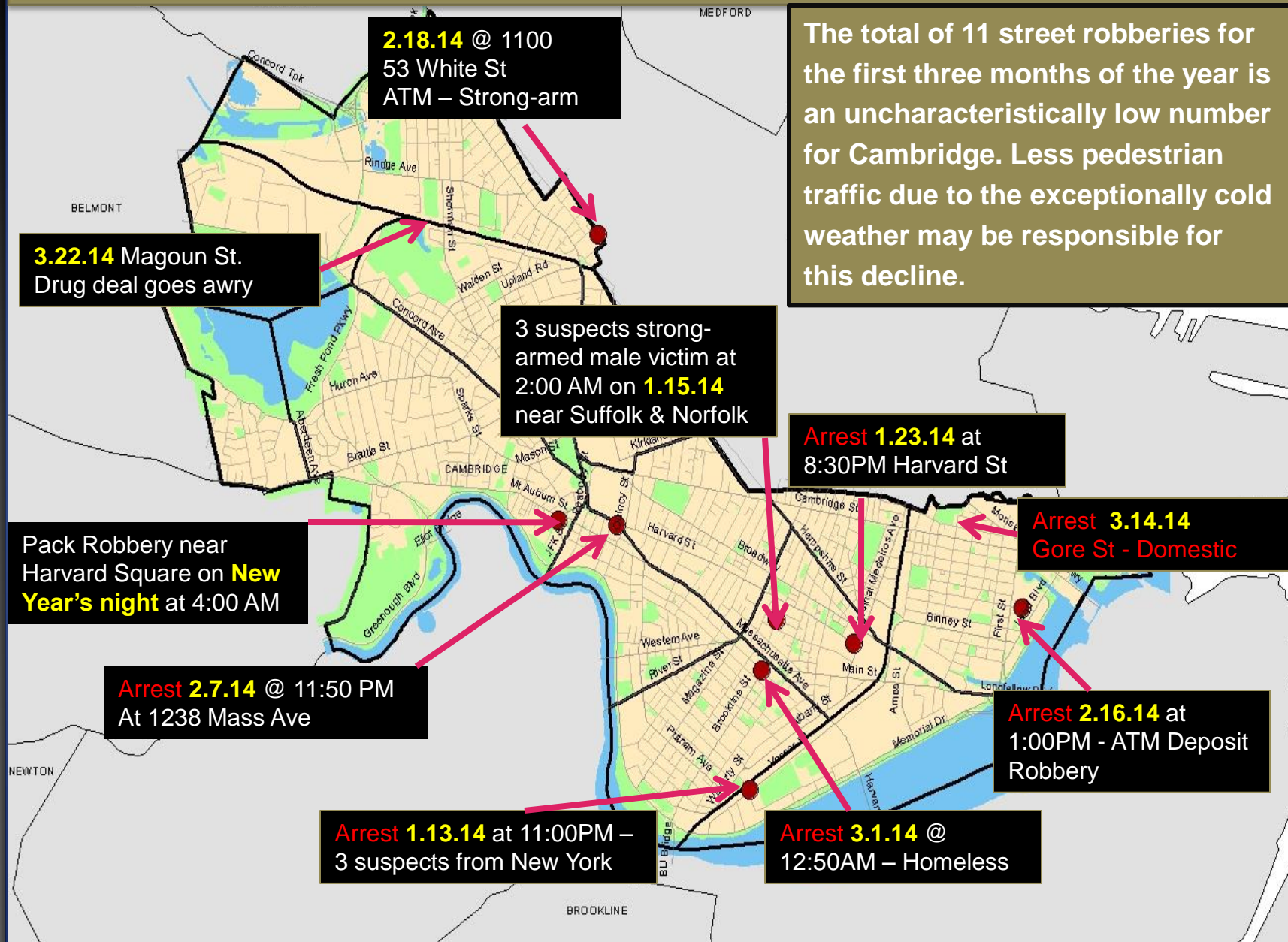
# Commercial Robberies by Premise Type: 1.1.13 to 3.31.14



There have been 37 commercial robberies at: (12) banks, (11) convenience stores, (4) drug stores, (2) gas stations, (2) fast food chains, a liquor store, a parking garage, and (4) misc. retail locations.



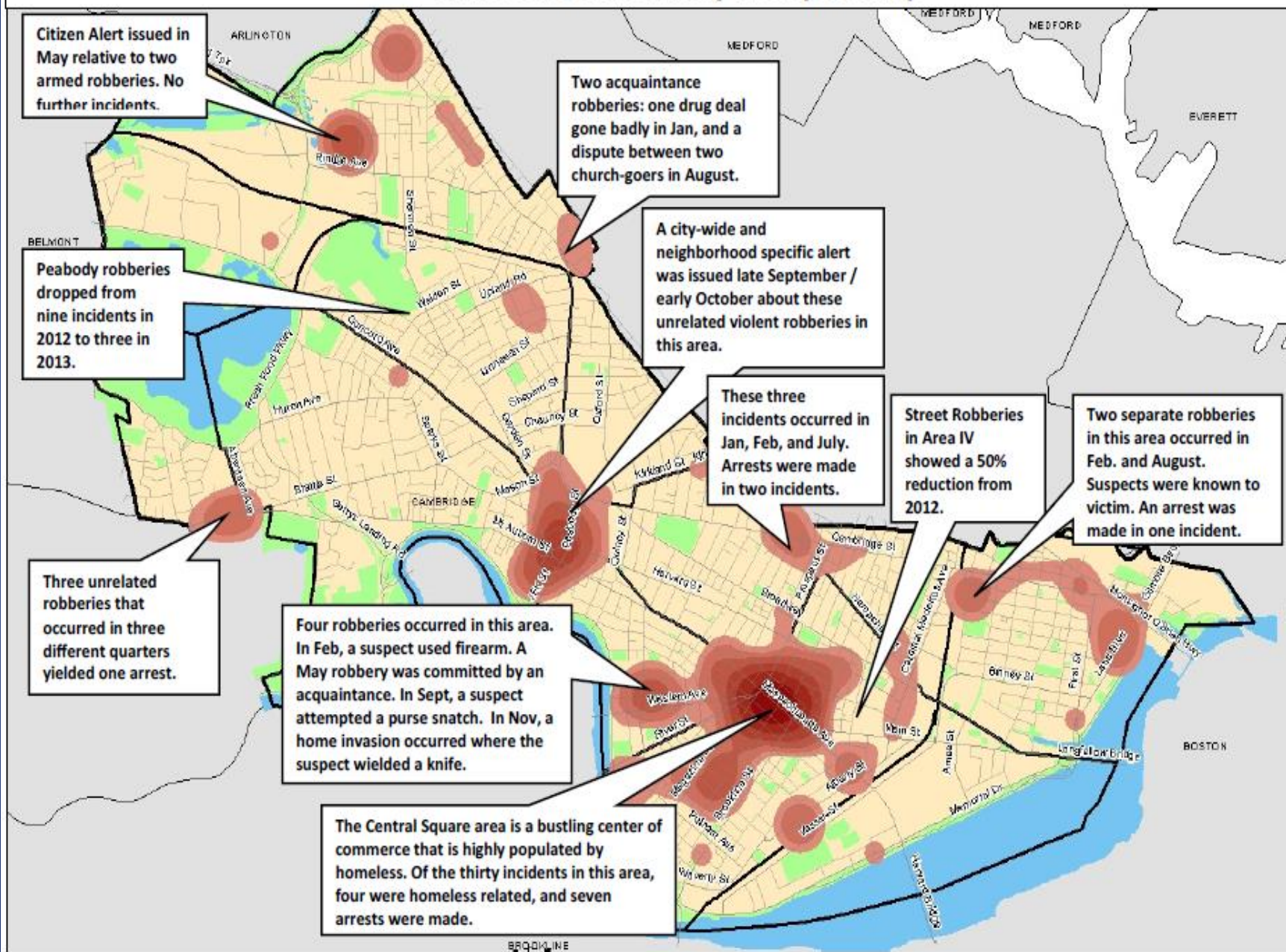
# Street Robberies: First Quarter of 2014







## 2013 Street Robbery Hotspot Map





# AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

*No Patterns*

- When compared to the first three months of 2013, aggravated assaults reported a substantial decrease of 16% with 8 fewer incidents counted for the first quarter of 2014. When measuring this violent index crime against the five-year average for the time period between January and March, there has been a decline of 23%, with 12 fewer crimes below the projected average of 53 aggravated assaults.
- One of the more significant statistics related to the final serious crime numbers in Cambridge in 2013 was the notable decline in aggravated assaults of 28% from the 2012 total and 27% below the five-year weighted average. The majority of this drop was attributable to a sharp decrease in domestic violence.

Type	Number	% of Total
Domestic	20	49%
Workplace	5	12%
Shop -Owner	4	10%
Unprovoked	4	10%

## Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

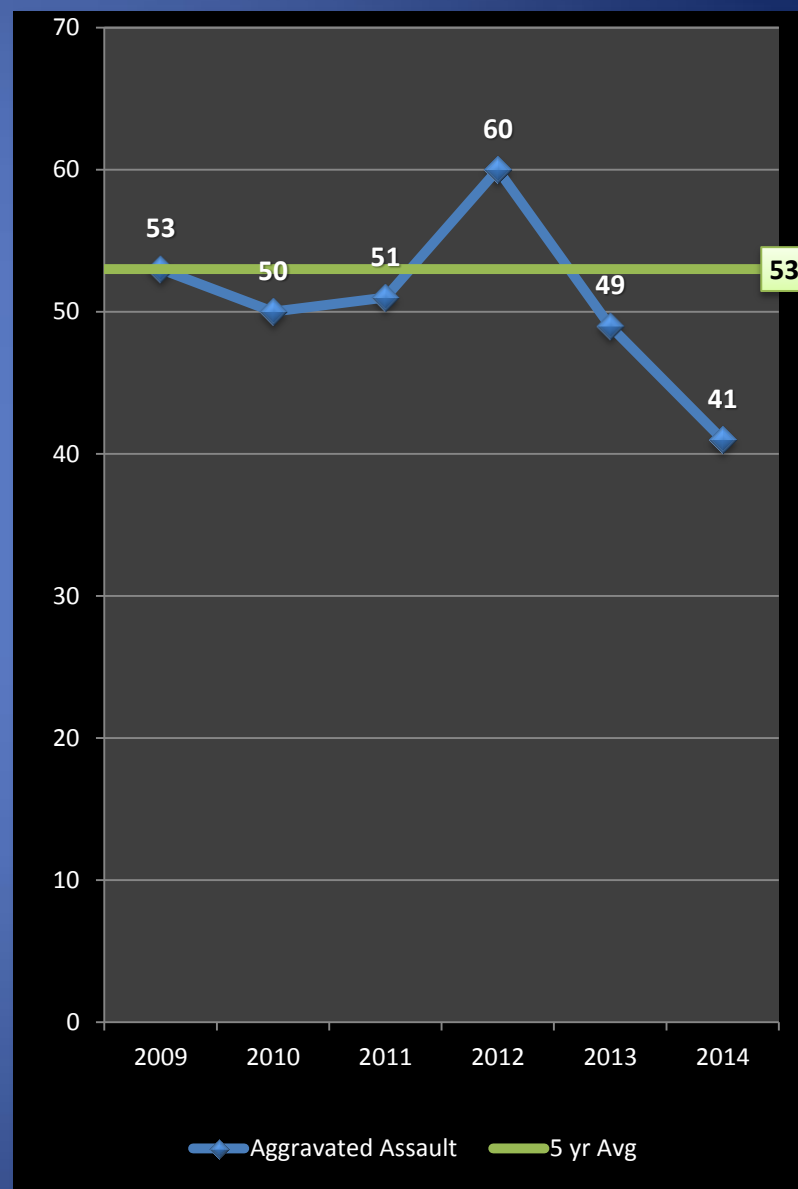
**-14%**

Previous Year

**-16%**

5 Year Average

**-23%**





## Aggravated assaults by neighborhood in 2013

All 13 neighborhoods in Cambridge recorded declines in aggravated assaults in 2013 when measured against the five-year average for this violent crime type.

Neighborhood	5-Yr. Avg.	2012	2013	% chg. from Avg.	Population	2013 Rate/ 100K
East Cambridge	26	28	18	-31%	9234	19
MIT	3	3	2	-33%	5057	4
Inman/Harrington	31	26	21	-32%	6516	32
Area 4	36	32	32	-11%	6792	47
Cambridgeport	44	47	32	-27%	12220	26
Mid-Cambridge	23	30	16	-30%	12991	12
Riverside	27	25	17	-37%	12695	13
Agassiz	5	1	1	-80%	4977	2
Peabody	10	11	9	-10%	11399	8
West Cambridge	19	20	18	-5%	8023	22
North Cambridge	27	30	21	-22%	11908	18
Cambridge Highlands	3	4	1	-67%	832	12
Strawberry Hill	5	5	1	-80%	2518	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>-27%</b>	<b>105,162</b>	<b>18</b>





# Burglary

*No Patterns*

- The property index crime of burglary, the combination of residential and commercial breaks, is down an astounding 40% when compared to the five-year average, with 41 fewer incidents than the projected total of 102 crimes, and down 30% when compared with last year's total, with 26 fewer burglaries reported.
- Commercial burglary has increased by one incident when compared with the first quarter of 2013. When measured against the five-year average, a 20% reduction is realized with three less crimes than the fifteen projected for the first quarter. There have been no commercial break patterns identified so far in 2014.
- Analysis of housebreak activity in Cambridge for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2014 indicates a 36% reduction (27 fewer breaks) than in 2013 and a 43% decline below the five-year projected average of 86 housebeaks. The one pattern identified so in 2014, a series of daytime housebreaks in the neighborhoods of Central Square, was interdicted with an arrest on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

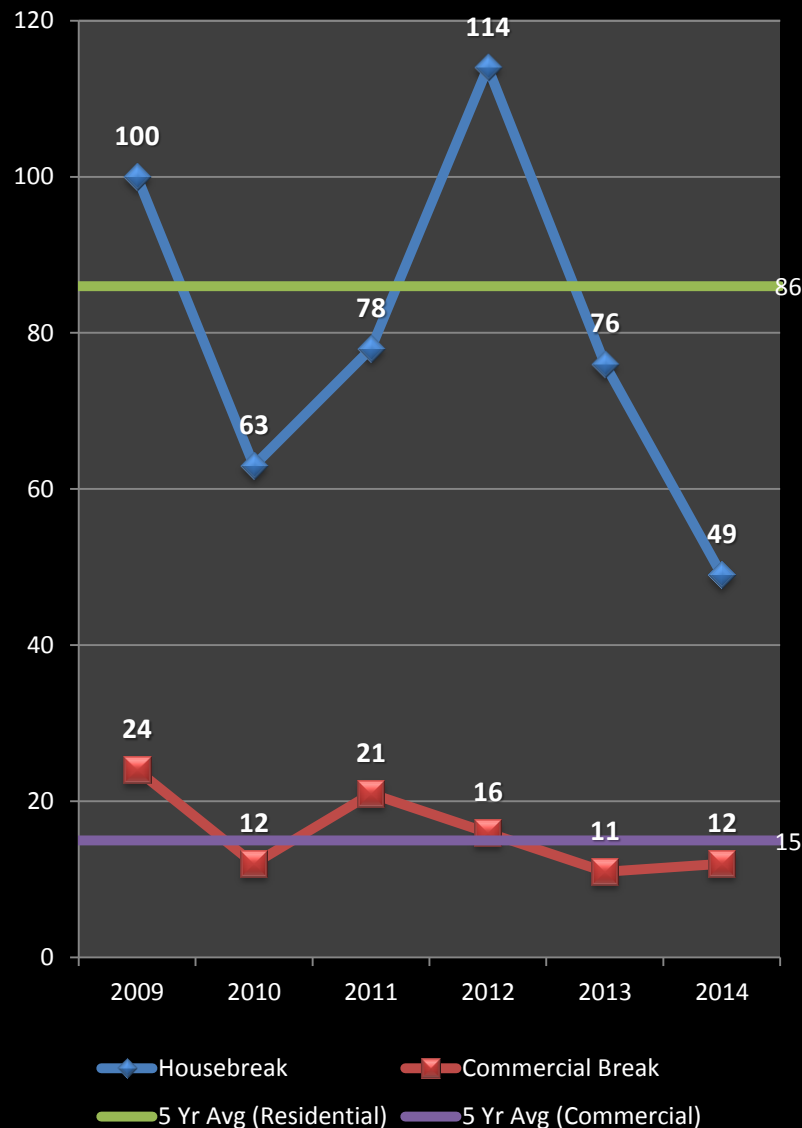
Previous Year

5 Year Average

**+58%**

**-30%**

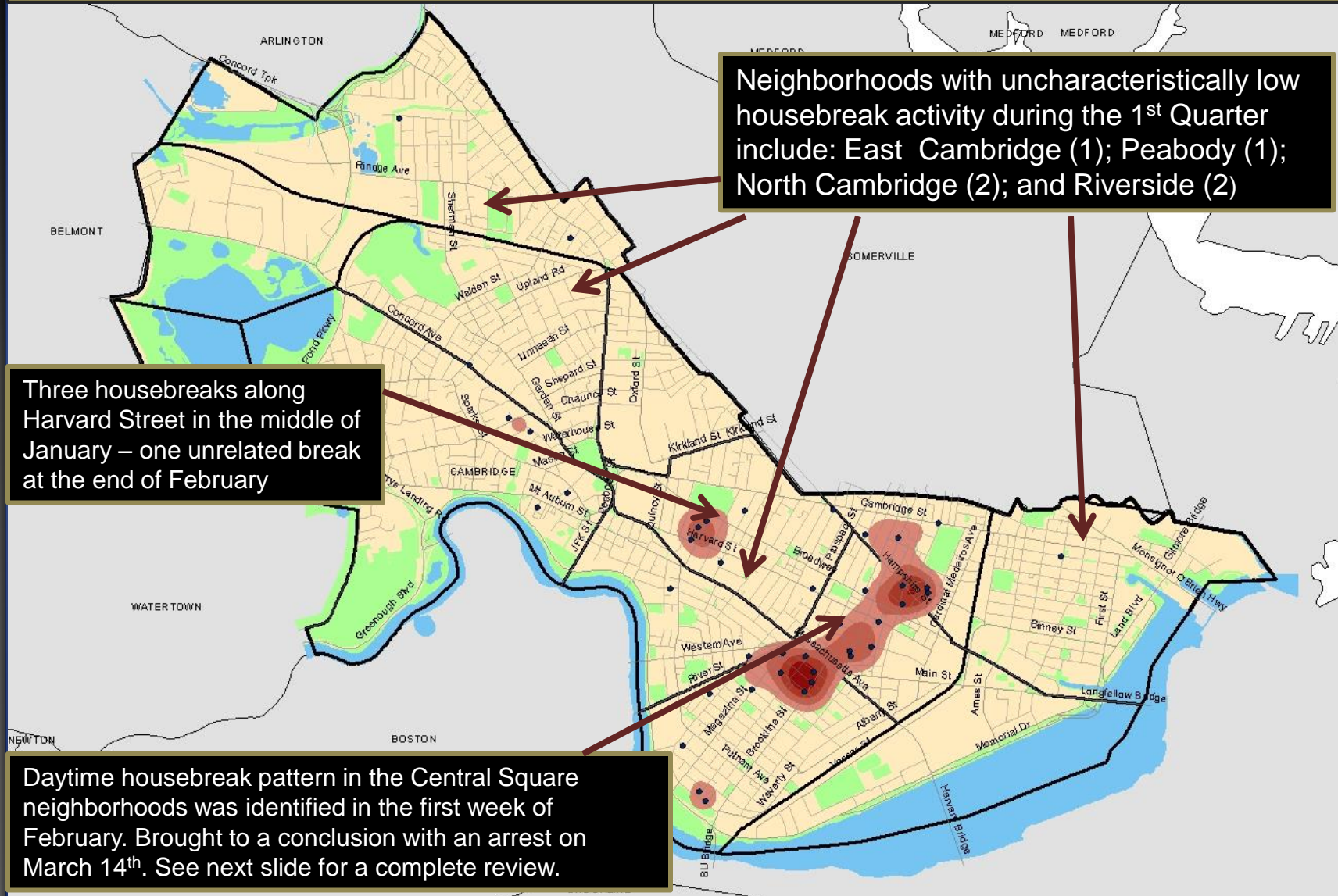
**-40%**





# Housebreaks: First Quarter - 2014

Analysis of housebreak activity in Cambridge for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2014 indicates a 36% reduction (27 fewer breaks) than in 2013 and a 43% decline below the five-year projected average.







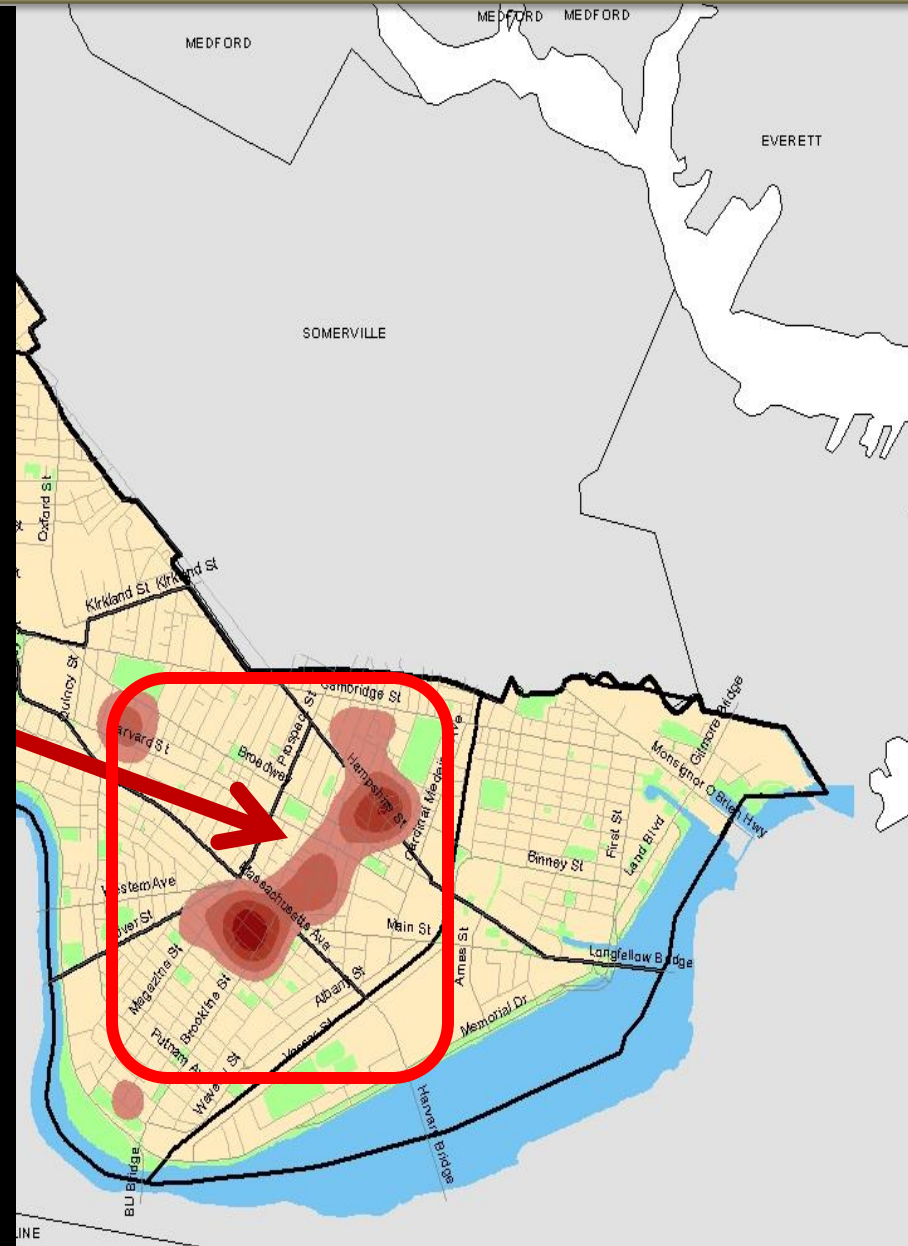
# Housebreak Pattern Arrest: Central Square Neighborhoods

This daytime housebreak pattern in the Central Square neighborhoods was identified in the first week of February. Breaks were concentrated in the Windsor / Willow Street area and along upper Magazine and Brookline Streets in Cambridgeport.

Incidents were between the hours of noon and 6:00PM with front doors being forced and laptops and jewelry were the targets. Very sporadic activity over the final three weeks of February, though the pattern was still considered active at the time. Extra patrols were allocated to this area.

On 3.12.14, an alert for a pattern of housebreaks in this area was sent to the local media. That same day, it was ascertained that Jonathan Thomson of Cambridge, who had been recently arrested in Boston for housebreaks, was a suspect in this series.

On 3.13.14, Thomson was arrested on warrants at his residence. Thomson has been linked to a number of these breaks through physical evidence. There have been no additional breaks.





# LARCENY

## Continuing Pattern

- Overall, **larceny through the first quarter of 2014 has decreased by 21%** when compared with the same time frame in 2013 and is also down 31% when measured against the five-year weighted average.
- Larcenies from motor vehicles are down 34% year-to-date** when compared with the same time frame in 2013. Part of this difference is likely due to the cold and snowy weather we have seen all winter. LMVs dropped 40 incidents from the same time frame last year. The current LMV problem spot is Mid-Cambridge and Inman.
- Larcenies from persons year-to-date in 2014 have registered 38% below the level reported during the this time in 2013**, with 26 fewer incidents compared to last year and 34 below the five-year average of 77 incidents.
- There have been 82 larcenies from buildings reported citywide through the first three months of 2014.** This total is 19 crimes (19%) below the number reported during this time frame in 2013 and 17 thefts (17%) below the five-year average. There are no patterns of this activity anywhere in Cambridge at the present time.
- Thus far in 2014, there have only been **11 bike thefts reported**, which is 13 incidents (54%) below the total reported during this time frame in 2013 and 15 below the five-year average. This decrease is likely due to the exceptionally wintry weather over the past three months. Bike thefts reported this month were reported in Mid-Cambridge (2), Agassiz, and West Cambridge.

### Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

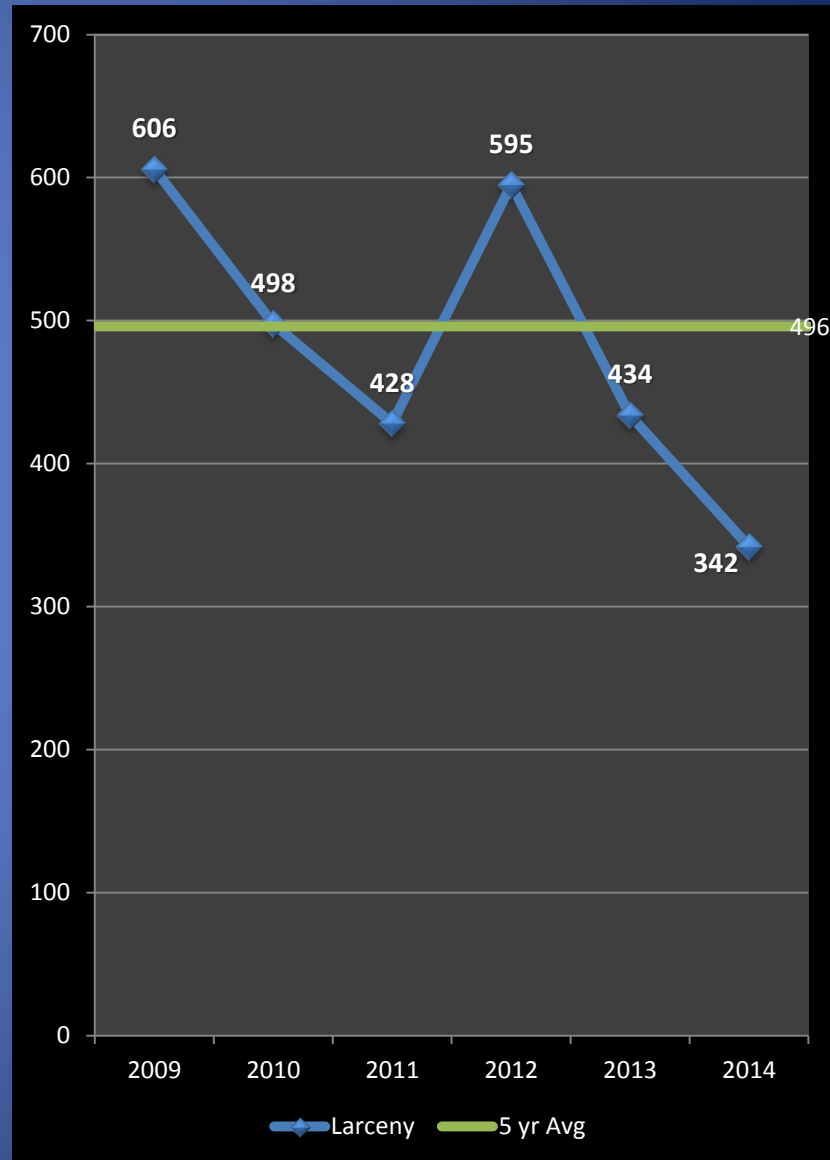
**+27%**

Previous Year

**-21%**

5 Year Average

**-31%**





# LARCENY: *From MVs*

## *Sporadic Pattern*

- Larcenies from MVs **are down 34% year-to-date through the third quarter of 2014**, when compared with the same time frame in 2013. There have been 40 fewer thefts reported so far this year. This crime has also **fallen 46%** when measured against the five-year average, with **66 fewer incidents** than the projected total of 144 thefts.
- When comparing the last four weeks to the previous four weeks, this index crime increased by 14 incidents, or 88%.
- Thefts from unlocked vehicles are still occurring in Cambridgeport / Riverside, but at a slower rate than in the fall of 2013. Incidents picked up in mid-January and continued sporadically throughout February. In March, activity shifted to Mid-Cambridge and Inman. However, the same method and targets hold true: **Two-thirds of the involved vehicles have been unlocked at the times of the breaks. Electronics and loose change are the main targets.**

March  
2014

### Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

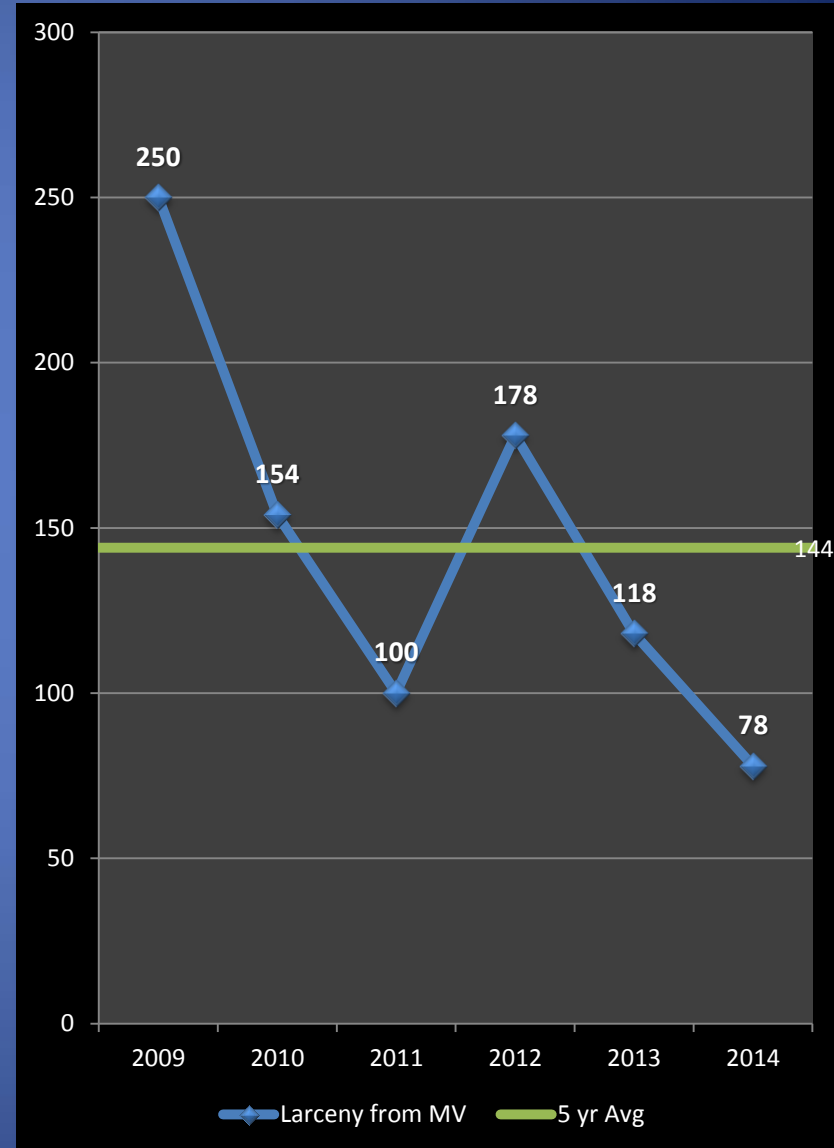
**+88%**

Previous Year

**-34%**

5 Year Average

**-46%**





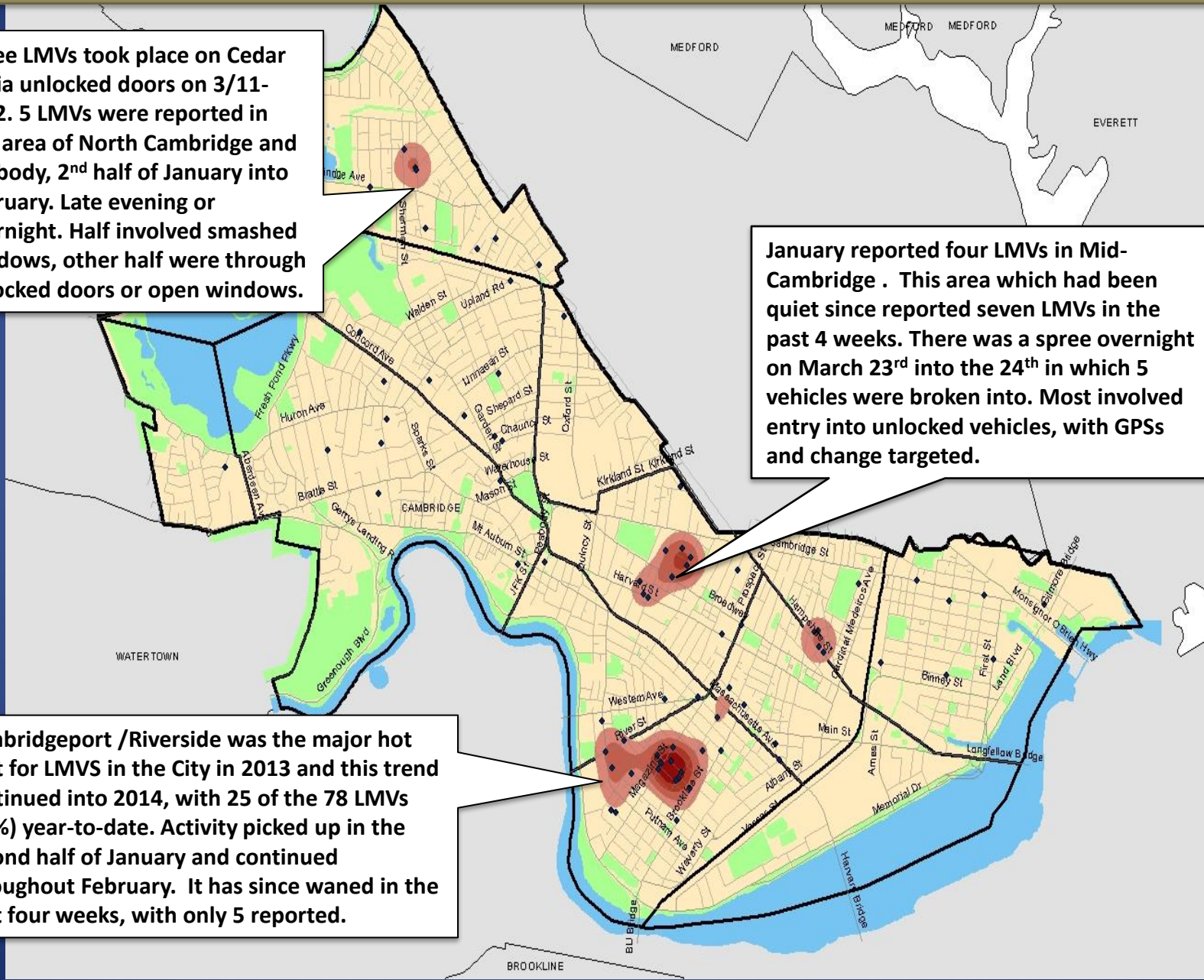


# Larceny from MVs: 1.1.14 to 3.31.14

Three LMVs took place on Cedar St via unlocked doors on 3/11-3/12. 5 LMVs were reported in this area of North Cambridge and Peabody, 2<sup>nd</sup> half of January into February. Late evening or overnight. Half involved smashed windows, other half were through unlocked doors or open windows.

January reported four LMVs in Mid-Cambridge. This area which had been quiet since reported seven LMVs in the past 4 weeks. There was a spree overnight on March 23<sup>rd</sup> into the 24<sup>th</sup> in which 5 vehicles were broken into. Most involved entry into unlocked vehicles, with GPSs and change targeted.

Cambridgeport /Riverside was the major hot spot for LMVS in the City in 2013 and this trend continued into 2014, with 25 of the 78 LMVs (32%) year-to-date. Activity picked up in the second half of January and continued throughout February. It has since waned in the past four weeks, with only 5 reported.





# Larceny from Motor Vehicles

## *What can we do?*

### Police Response Strategy:

- Cambridge Police are focused on prevention of these crimes by increasing officer visibility in targeted areas.
- Citizens are encouraged to take the proper precautions to protect their vehicles and their belongings by doing everything possible to not make their vehicles easy targets.



### Citizen Response Strategy:

- Citizens are asked to take the following precautions to protect themselves, their vehicles, and their belongings from theft:
  - Make sure all of your car doors are locked when you leave your vehicle.
  - Take extra care when out doing your shopping.
  - If you are **approached by a suspicious person** while you are in your vehicle, **sound your horn to attract attention.**
  - **NEVER LEAVE VALUABLES EXPOSED IN YOUR CAR.**
    - If you must leave packages or valuables in your car, **place them in the trunk of under a blanket to conceal them**
  - Visit our website for more tips to keep your vehicles and belongings at [www.CambridgePolice.org/SafetyTips](http://www.CambridgePolice.org/SafetyTips)





# LARCENY: *from Person*

## No Patterns

- **Larcenies from the person are down 26 incidents (38%) through the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter** when compared with the same time frame in 2013. The total of 43 incidents reported thus far in 2014 is 34 incidents (44%) below the five-year average of 77.
- Larcenies from the person citywide dropped by three incidents (-20%) from the previous four week period to the current. There are no patterns at the present time.
- Between January 23 and 26, five thefts of purses, cell phones, and a wallet were reported at late-night shows between 10pm and 2am at the Middle East in Central Square. Dormant since January 26th, one new incident was reported in the past four weeks. An arrest of three males from Boston took place after they stole a wallet from a patron.
- Often, much of the larceny from person activity is reported at the many bars and restaurants in Harvard Square (known as "dipper" activity). In March, there were six incidents of this nature reported in Harvard Square and one in Central Square. Harvard Square saw 50% of all larceny from the person activity during the past month.

### Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

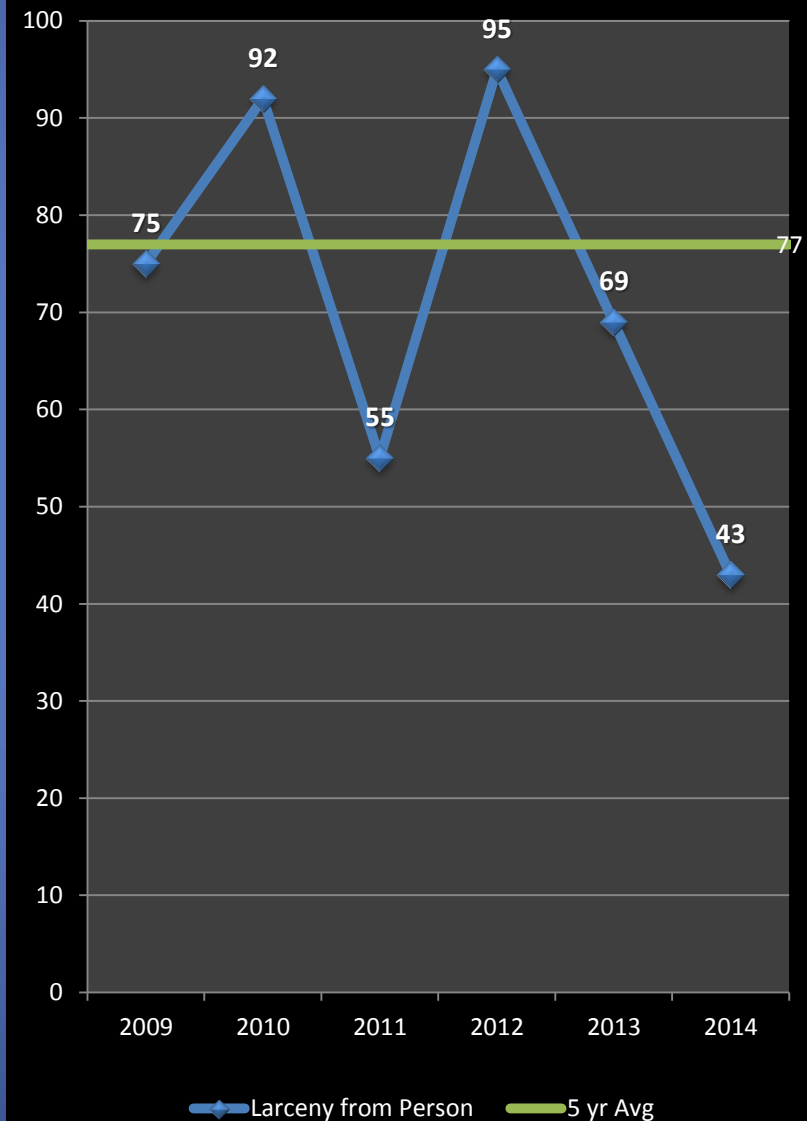
**-20%**

Previous Year

**-38%**

5 Year Average

**-44%**





# LARCENY: of Bicycle

## No Patterns

- There have only been 11 bikes reported stolen through the first three months of 2014. This total is 13 incidents below the total reported during this time frame in 2013 and 15 below the five-year average.
- As would be expected, both bike ridership and bike thefts are reduced with the cold and snowy weather. Three neighborhoods reported bike thefts this month: Mid-Cambridge (2), West Cambridge, and Agassiz.
- Ten of the eleven thefts reported this year involved bikes that were locked but left out in the open (locked to public bike racks, for example).
- **Breakdown by Neighborhood, year-to-date:**

Neighborhood	Total	% Citywide
West Cambridge	4	36%
Mid-Cambridge	3	27%
Agassiz	1	9%
Inman	1	9%
North Cambridge	1	9%
Riverside	1	9%

### Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

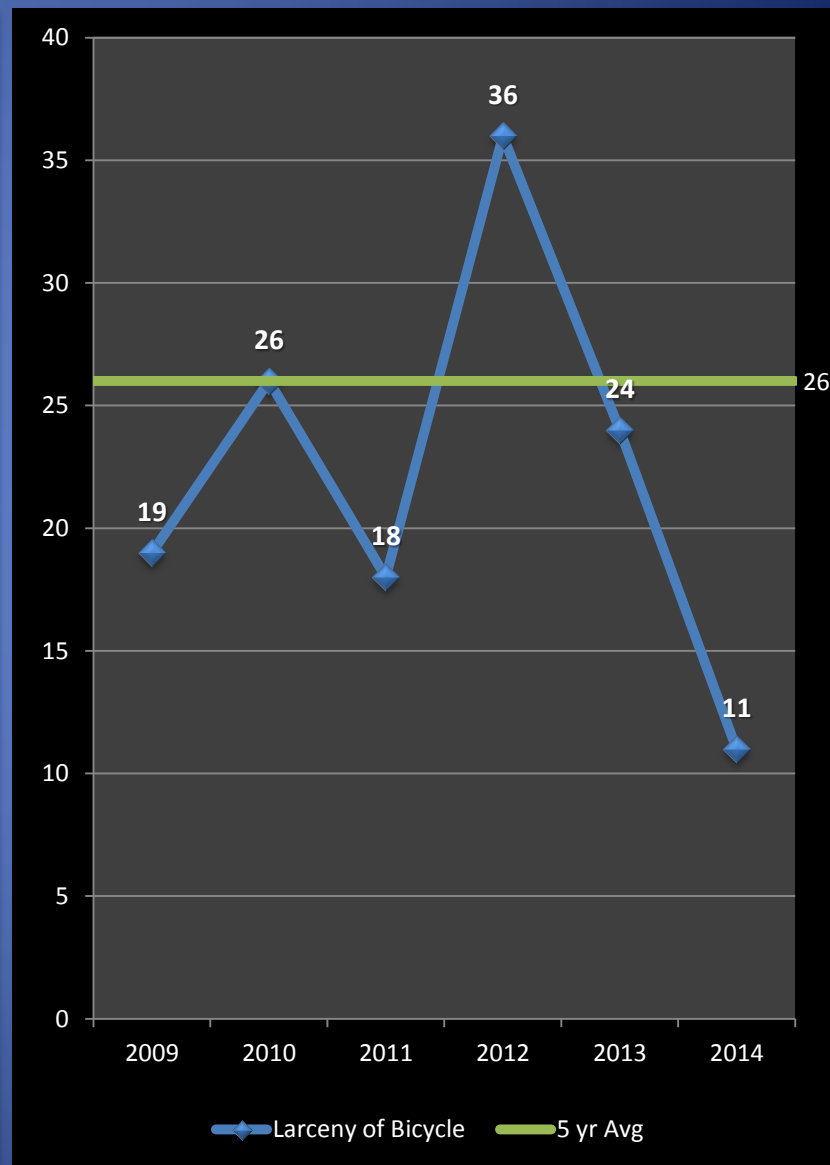
0%

Previous Year

-54%

5 Year Average

-58%





# Larceny of Bicycles:

## *What Can We Do?*

### Police Response Strategy:

- Bicyclists stopped for infractions will be reminded to use lights when biking at night, wear helmets under the age of 16, and other safety tips to promote safer biking in the city.



### Citizen Response Strategy:

- Bicyclist are encouraged to record their bike's serial number as well as take a picture of their bike to provide to police in the event that it is lost or stolen.
- For information on bicycle safety, visit: [www.CambridgePolice.org/CommunityResources](http://www.CambridgePolice.org/CommunityResources).
  - Click on the "Bicycle Safety and Registration" link.
- Stores should be vigilant in recording serial numbers and customer information on sales.
- Universities should encourage students to register their bikes and distribute information on the correct locking procedures.



# AUTO THEFT

*No Patterns*

- The projected five-year weighted average for auto thefts after the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the year is 25 and thus far we are 6 incidents below. However, in 2014, with 19 thefts year-to-date, we are seeing an increase from 2013 (+19%).
- January to February showed a large increase of 267% as auto thefts increased from 3 to 11 incidents. From February to March, there was a 55% drop with 6 fewer incidents reported.
- Since the beginning of the year, thefts have been reported in Agassiz (2), Area 4 (3), Cambridgeport, East Cambridge (2), Highlands, Inman (2), Mid Cambridge (5), Riverside, and West Cambridge (2). There are no patterns at the current time.
- Year-to-date, eight (or 42%) of the stolen motor vehicles have been recovered.
- In 2013, we ended the year with the lowest reported number of autos thefts ever recorded in Cambridge at 106.

## Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

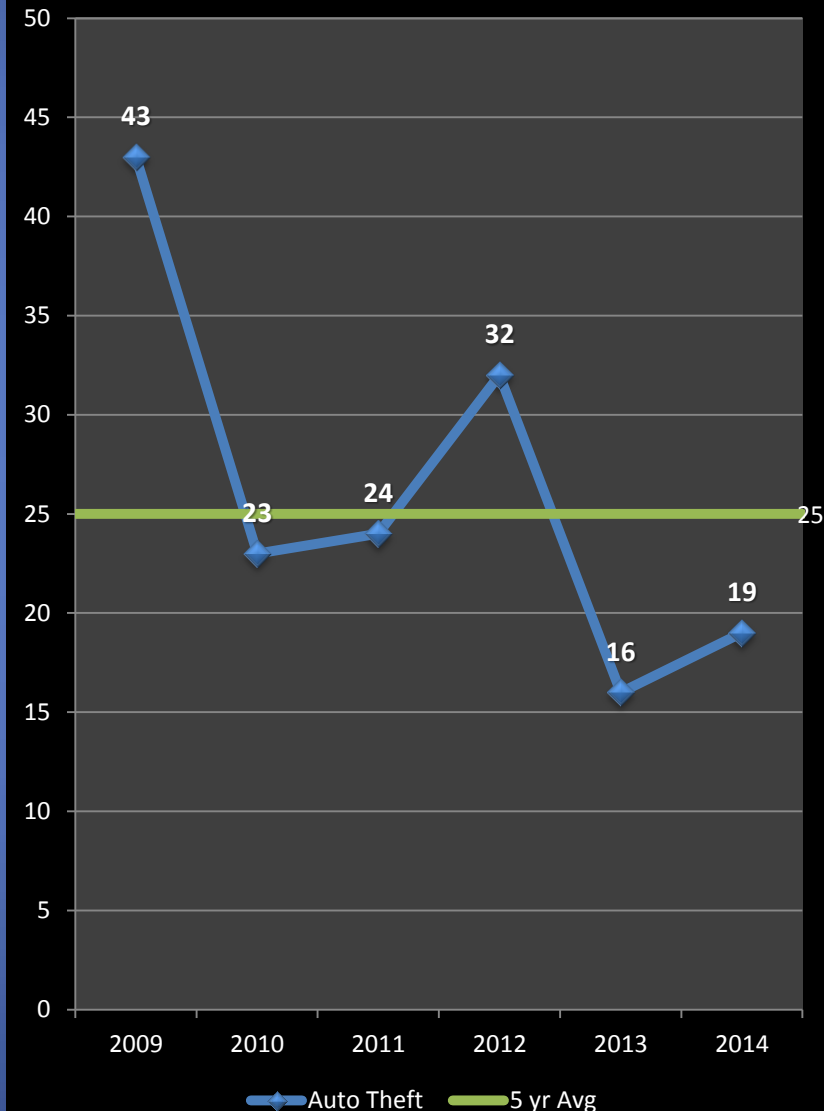
**-55%**

Previous Year

**+19%**

5 Year Average

**-24%**





# Local & Regional Increase in Heroin Overdoses Continues

Massachusetts State Police reported in early March that at least 185 people have died from heroin overdoses statewide in the previous four months. This number does not include figures from Boston, Springfield, or Worcester, as they handle their own death investigations. Similar increases have been reported in other states as well.

One possible explanation for the increase in fatal overdoses is that the heroin may be cut with Fentanyl, a synthetic drug that increases heroin's toxicity.

**Mirroring the statewide trend, Cambridge has also seen an increase in heroin overdoses and deaths this year. Through March 31, 2014, there have been 35 overdoses reported to Cambridge Police, 19 of which involved heroin. Three of those have been fatal. Through this time in 2013, only 23 overdoses had been reported, and of those, only four involved heroin and one was fatal.**





# Recent Increase in Phone Scams

On 3/21/14, the Cambridge Police issued an alert about several ongoing phone scams affecting residents and businesses in the area. Many of the scams involve victims transferring money via “Green Dot MoneyPak” cards, which are reloadable prepaid cards.

Currently, one of the most prominent scams is one involving an unknown individual calling victims and claiming to be from the IRS. Often, the caller will claim that the victim has been audited and owes money. This scam is likely to continue throughout tax season.

Other scams include callers claiming to be from utility companies such as National Grid or N-Star and demanding payment on an outstanding bill, callers who claim to have either kidnapped or been in an accident with a victim’s relative and are holding that relative for ransom, and callers who claim that the victim missed jury duty and must pay a fine to avoid arrest.

The following tips can help you avoid falling victim to one of these scams:

- Be suspicious of callers who demand immediate payment for any reason.
- Never give out personal or financial information to anyone who emails or calls you unsolicited.
- Never wire money or provide debit or credit card numbers or Green Dot MoneyPak card numbers to someone you do not know.
- Keep in mind that utility companies and government agencies will NOT contact you demanding immediate payment by MoneyPak.
- If you experience this type of activity, please report it to the Cambridge Police at 617-349-3300.



# ATM Skimming Scheme

The Cambridge Police Department wants to alert local citizens and banks of an ongoing scheme involving thieves using stolen bank account information to defraud banks. Cambridge Police are aware of at least seven instances between November 2013 and January 2014 in which thieves utilized “ATM skimmers” at a bank to capture account information. The bank was informed of this activity last week.

## What is an ATM Skimmer?

It is an illegal activity that involves the installation of a device (generally while a branch is closed), usually undetectable by ATM users, that secretly records bank account data when the user inserts an ATM card into the machine or an ATM door card reader. Criminals can then encode the stolen data onto a blank card and use it to steal from the customer’s bank account.

The Cambridge Police advises local citizens to use precaution and suggests following these tips to help you avoid falling victim to skimmers:

- Inspect ATMs, gas pumps or credit card readers before using them. Be suspicious if you see anything loose, crooked, damaged or if you notice scratches or tape residue.
- When entering your PIN, block the keypad with your other hand to prevent possible hidden cameras from recording your number.
- If possible, use an ATM at an inside location.
- Be careful of ATMs in tourist areas, as they tend to be popular targets of skimmers.
- If your ATM card is not returned after a transaction or after hitting cancel, immediately contact the financial institution that issued the card.
- If citizens are suspicious or experience this type of activity, they are encouraged to report it to the Cambridge Police Department immediately by calling 617-349-3300.



# Help Prevent Crime

*And keep yourself informed!*

## To receive information from the CPD:

- Sign up with for the **Cambridge Alert Network**, to receive alerts about emerging crime patterns, neighborhood meetings, and crime prevention tips, by visiting [www.CambridgeMa.gov/AlertNetwork](http://www.CambridgeMa.gov/AlertNetwork).
- “Like” the Cambridge Police Department on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/CambridgePolice](http://www.facebook.com/CambridgePolice)
- Follow [@CambridgePolice](https://twitter.com/CambridgePolice) on Twitter.
- Visit our website at [www.CambridgePolice.org](http://www.CambridgePolice.org) for valuable information and reports including the Daily Log and BridgeStat, which is published on the first Friday of every month.
- Download our new “MyPD” smartphone app at [www.CambridgePolice.org/MyPD](http://www.CambridgePolice.org/MyPD).

## To Share Information with the CPD:

- Call our Non-Emergency Telephone Number at **617-349-3300**.
  - Every call for service generates a police response, so help drive our resources by reporting things that seem suspicious or out of the ordinary.
- Send an Anonymous TEXT-A-TIP:
  - Send an ANONYMOUS text message to **Tip411 (847411)**. Begin your message with Tip650 and then type your message. You will receive a response from the Cambridge Police with the option to continue communicating. Please remember that this is not a replacement for 9-1-1. **If you witness an emergency situation, please call 9-1-1 immediately.**
- Send an Anonymous Crime Tip E-Mail at [www.CambridgePolice.org/Tips](http://www.CambridgePolice.org/Tips)



# Questions?

- The “2013 Crime Snapshot” has been released on our website, available at <http://www.cambridgema.gov/cpd/newsandalerts.aspx>
- The complete 2012 Cambridge Police Annual Crime Report is available on our website at [www.CambridgePolice.org](http://www.CambridgePolice.org). The 2013 Annual Crime Report will be released later this month.
- We welcome all questions, comments, and suggestions.
- Please direct your feedback to: [BridgeStat@CambridgePolice.org](mailto:BridgeStat@CambridgePolice.org).
- To review previous editions of BridgeStat, visit our website at [www.CambridgePolice.org/BridgeStat](http://www.CambridgePolice.org/BridgeStat).