

# Cambridge Police Department BridgeStat

April 2014

Produced by the Crime Analysis Unit



### Part I Total Crime

Crime in Cambridge continues to decline at a historically brisk pace. Over the first four months of 2014, Part One incidents have dropped 19% when compared to the same time period in 2013, and 28% when compared to the five-year average.

As was explained in last month's BRIDGESTAT, many factors can affect crime. A key determinant in the crime rate so far this year has been 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 in this presentation)

The property crimes of Larceny & Burglary remain as the driving forces behind the overall downward spiral of crime. The index crime of larceny has slipped 18% and a 28% reduction in burglary has been recorded. Housebreaks (-34%), larceny from motor vehicles (-24%), 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 136 fewer property crimes reported for the first four months of 2014, which indicates a 19% decline when measured against the 2013 statistics.

Violent crime has plunged 22% over the first 120 days of 2014 with 24 fewer crimes against the person reported than in the first four months of last year.

	4 Week Snapshot			Year to Date				Five Year	
	3/4 - 3/31	4/1 - 4/28	Change	2013	2014	Change	P	Avg	Change
Total Violent Crime	19	18	-5%	107	83	-22%		117	-29%
Total Property Crime	147	169	15%	730	594	-19%	<b>// 8</b>	<b>326</b>	-28%
Total Part I Crime	166	187	13%	837	677	-19%	9	942	-28%



### Part I Property Crime

Property crime has plummeted 19% when compared with the first four months of 2013 and recorded a 28% decline below the five-year average. The only property categories to register increases so far this year are small increases in auto theft, larceny from residence and commercial burglary. Ten of the fifteen indexes associated with property crime are in the green (on the decline) so far in 2014. As expected, the slightly warmer weather kick-started bicycle theft from 4 in the previous month to 17 larcenies of bikes in April.

	4 Week Snapshot		<u>Y</u>	Year to Date			<u>Five Year</u>	
	3/4 - 3/31	4/1 - 4/28	Change	2013	2014	Change	Avg	Change
Burglary	19	18	-5%	109	79	-28% 🦙	132	-40%
Commercial Break	5	4	-20%	13	16	23%	20	-20%
Housebreak	14	14	0%	96	63	-34%	113	-44%
Larceny	123	145	18%	597	490	-18%	659	-26%
Larceny (Misc)	0	3	IN-CALC	7	5	-29%	8	-38%
Larceny from Building	32	24	-25%	137	107	-22%	131	-18%
Larceny from MV	30	42	40%	160	121	-24%	187	-35%
Larceny from Person	12	17	42%	96	60	-38%	101	-41%
Larceny from Residence	14	14	0%	42	51	21%	61	-16%
Larceny of Bicycle	4	17	325%	38	28	-26%	43	-35%
Larceny of Plate	4	3	-25%		11	120%	9	22%
Larceny of Services	1	0	-100%	7	2	-71%	6	-67%
Shoplifting	26	25	-4%	105	105	0% ///	114	-8%
Auto Theft	5	6	20%	24	25	4%	34	-26%
Total Property Crime	147	169	15%	730	594	-19%	826	-28%



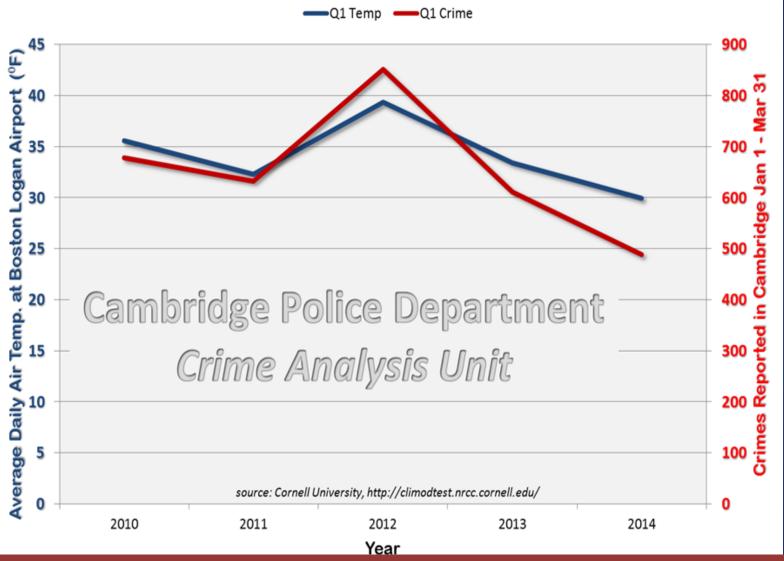
### Part I Violent Crime

- The five-year weighted average for violent crime in Cambridge for the first four months of the year is 117 incidents. For the period between January and the end of April of 2013, there were 83 violent crimes recorded in the City, 24 incidents below last year (-22%) and 34 violent crimes under the total forecasted for this period (-29%).
- 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 increase in commercial robberies from six to eight incidents should be tempered by the fact that this crime has been recording historic lows in Cambridge in recent years. Street robbery dropped a staggering 50% when compared with 2013 with no spatial or temporal patterns identified so far in 2014.

	4 Week Snapshot			Year to Date			<u>Five</u>	<u>Five Year</u>	
	3/4 - 3/31	4/1 - 4/28	Change	2013	2014	Change	Avg	Change	
Homicide	0	0	IN-CALC	2	1	-50%	1	0%	
Rape	3	4	33%	7	10	43%	8	25%	
Robbery	4	5	25%	34	22	-35%	37	-41%	
Commercial Robbery	1	1	0%	6	8	33%	6	33%	
Street Robbery	3	4	33%	28	14	-50%	31	-55%	
Aggravated Assault	12	9	-25%	64	50	-22%	71	-30%	
Total Violent Crime	19	18	-5%	107	83	-22%	117	-29%	

#### 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

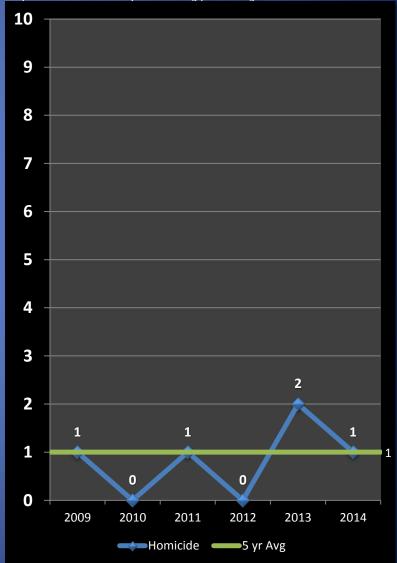
No Patterns

- The only 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.
- Aisling Brady McCarthy remains in custody awaiting trial. She is charged in the Janaury 2013 death of Rehma Sabir, who was taken to the hospital with severe head injuries on her first birthday. She died two days later.

Change\*
Last 4 Weeks Previous Year 5 Year Average

-50% 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



lan 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 retuned 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.



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



#### Unsolved Murders: 1999 to 2014

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.



April 2014



# RAPE No Patterns

- The index crime of Rape has increased from seven incidents in the first four months of 2013 to ten reported crimes over the first 120 days of 2014. In January of 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. The first attempted stranger rape of the year occurred on Richdale Ave on April 16<sup>th</sup>. The other rapes during April included two acquaintance and a domestic scenario.
- 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 fiveyear 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.

#### **Percent Change**

Last 4 Weeks Previous Year

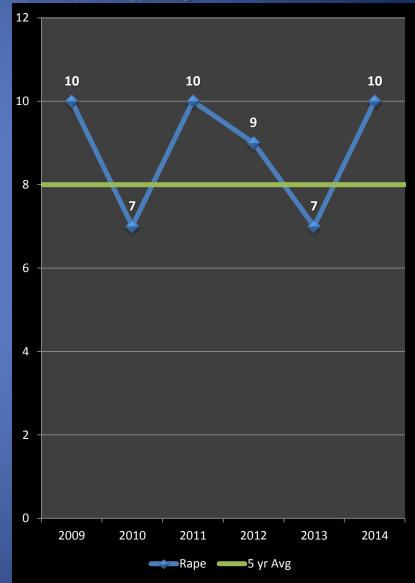
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+43%

+25%

5 Year Average

\*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 first four months of the year is 37 incidents. Over the first 120 days of 2014, 22 robberies were reported, which translates to a 41% decline below the projected total.
- There were six commercial robberies in the first five weeks of 2014. That spree stopped on February 8th, with only two incidents recorded over the next 11 weeks. Arrests have been made in five of the eight 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 second bank robbery of the year in Cambridge occurred on April 16th. An arrest was made two days later when the suspect was linked to the crime through fingerprints.
- Street robberies fell 21% in Cambridge in 2013 and that consistent drop has continued over the first four months of 2014 with a significant decline of 50% when compared with last year's total for the same time period. The total of 14 street robberies for the first 120 days of the year is an uncharacteristically low number for Cambridge. There has not been a street robbery pattern identified in Cambridge in over 18 months.

#### **Percent Change**

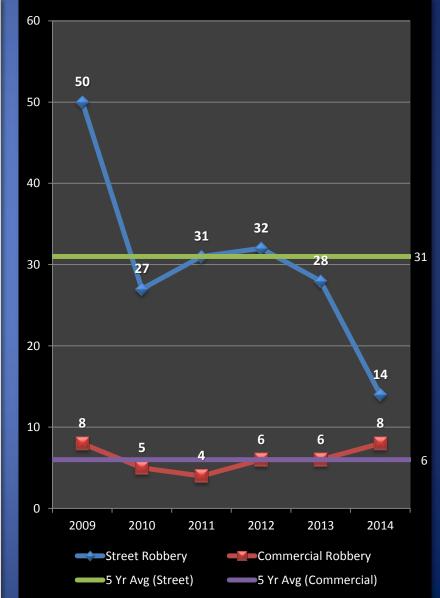
**Previous Year** Last 4 Weeks

5 Year Average



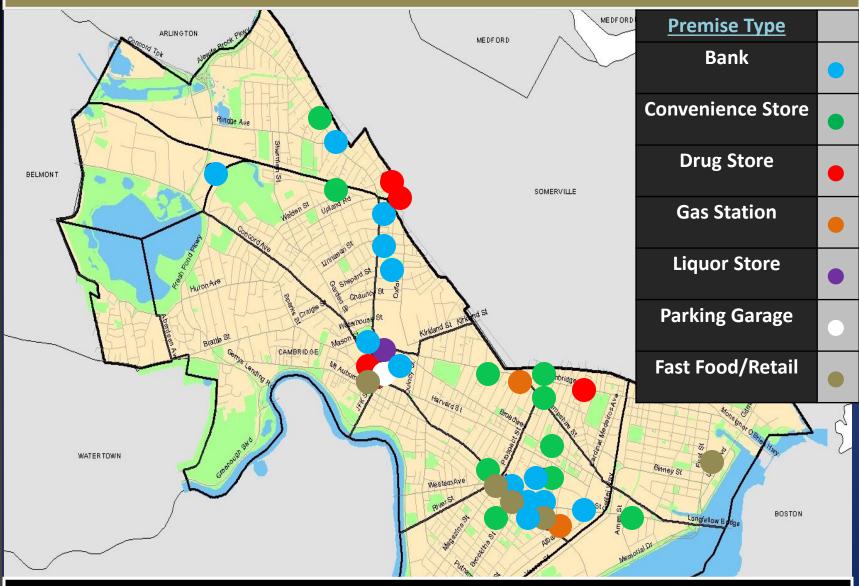








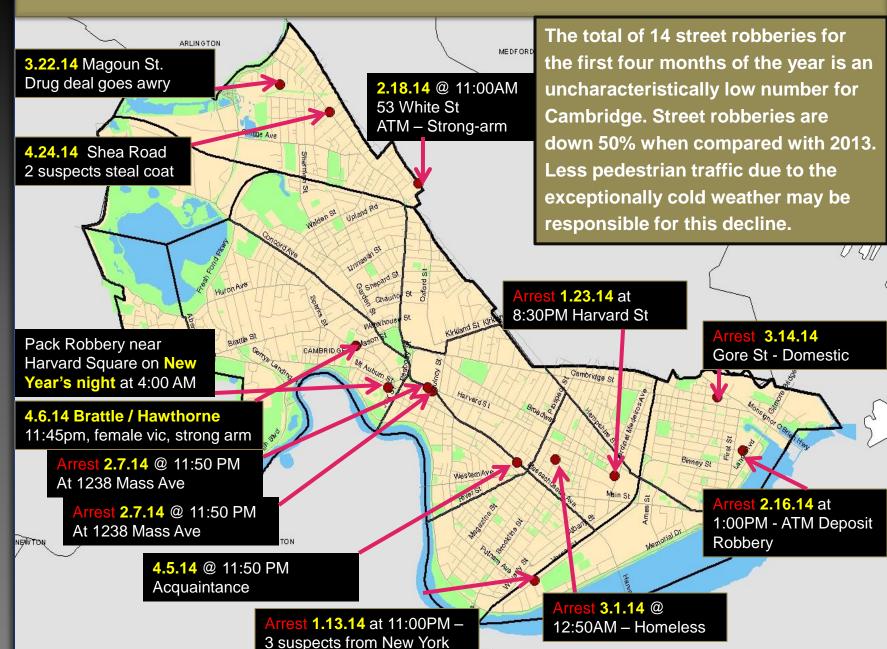
#### Commercial Robberies by Premise Type: 1.1.13 to 4.30.14



There have been 39 commercial robberies at: (13) banks, (11) convenience stores, (4) drug stores, (2) gas stations, (2) fast food chains, a liquor store, a parking garage, and (5) misc. retail locations.



#### Street Robberies: 1.1.14 to 4.30.14



April 2014





### AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

#### No Patterns

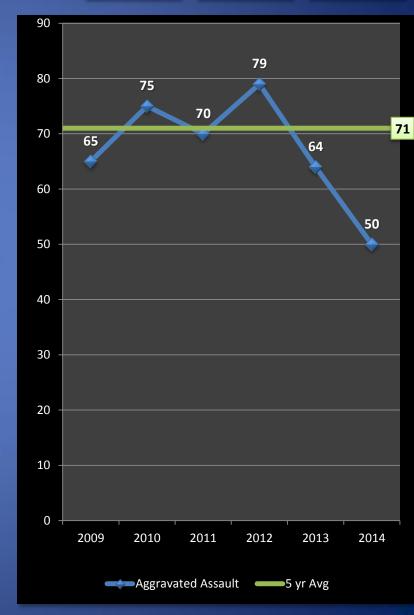
- When compared to the first four months of 2013, aggravated assaults reported a notable drop of 22% with 14 fewer incidents counted for the first 120 days of 2014. When measuring this violent index crime against the five-year average for the time period between January and April, there has been a decrease of 30%, with 21 fewer crimes below the projected average of 71 aggravated assaults.
- On March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014, two female students known to each other had a physical altercation at the high school.
   One of the students had a knife and stabbed the other student in the shoulder blade. The attacker was arrested. The victim was not seriously hurt.

#### Classification types in 2014:

Туре	Number	% of Total
Domestic	24	48%
Workplace	5	10%
Shop -Owner	4	8%
Unprovoked	4	8%
Assault on PO	4	8%
Acquaintance	4	8%

#### **Percent Change**

Last 4 Weeks Previous Year 5 Year Average
-25% -22% -30%





#### Aggravated assaults by neighborhood in 2013

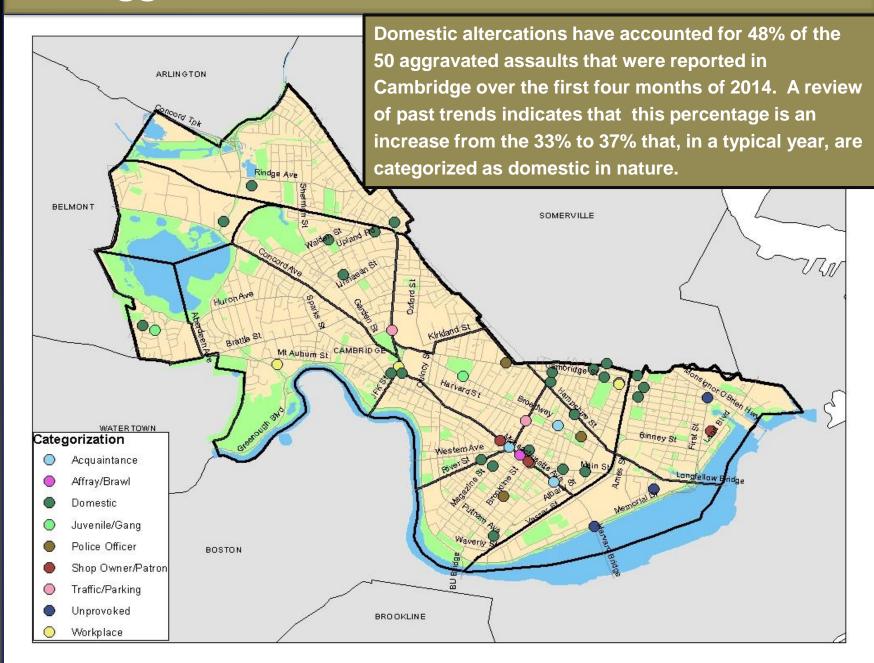
All 13 neighborhoods in Cambridge recorded declines in aggravated assaults in 2013 when measured against the five-year average for this violent crime type.

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
Total	259	262	189	-27%	105,162	18

April 2014



### Aggravated Assaults: 1.1.14 to 4.30.14





Burglary

No Patterns

• The property index crime of burglary, the combination of residential and commercial breaks, is down a remarkable 40% when compared to the five-year average, with 53 fewer incidents than the projected total of 132 crimes, and down 28% when compared with last year's total for the first four months of the year, with 30 fewer burglaries reported.

- Commercial burglary has increased by three incidents when compared with the first four months of 2013. When measured against the five-year average, a 20% reduction is indicated with 4 less crimes than the 20 projected for the first 120 days of the year. 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 34% reduction (33 fewer breaks) than in 2013 and a 44% decline below the five-year projected average of 113 housebeaks.

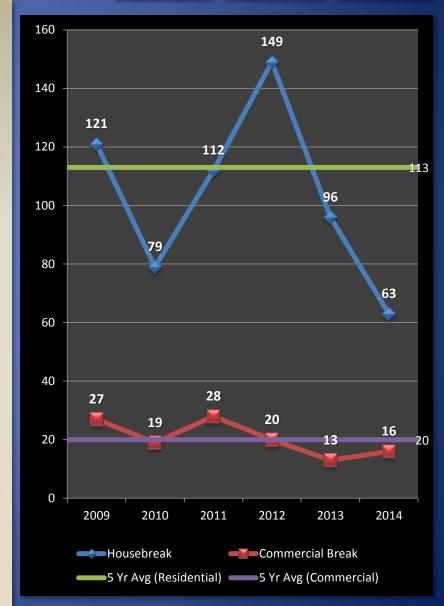


Last 4 Weeks Previous Year 5 Year Average

-5%

-28%

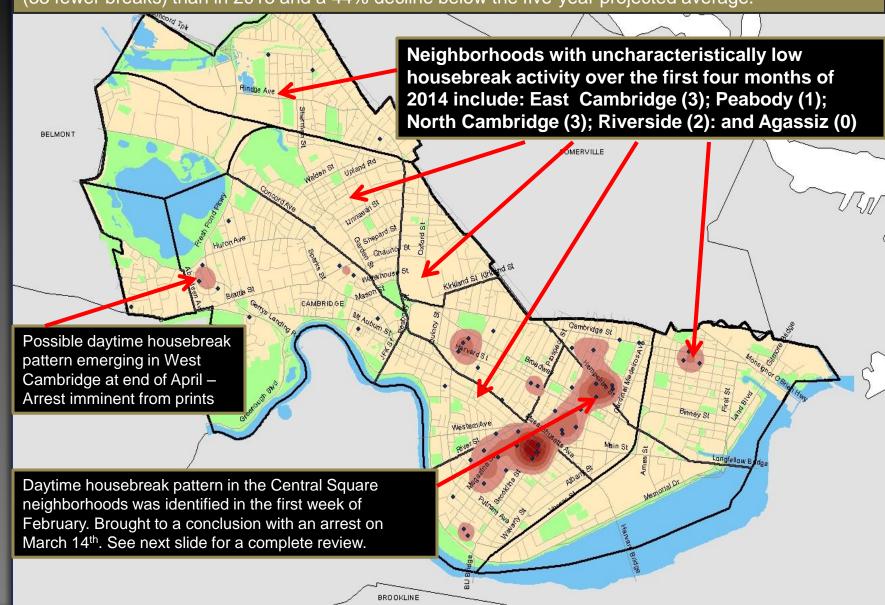
-40%





### Housebreaks: 1.1.14 to 4.30.14

Analysis of housebreak activity in Cambridge for the first four months of 2014 indicates a 34% reduction (33 fewer breaks) than in 2013 and a 44% decline below the five-year projected average.





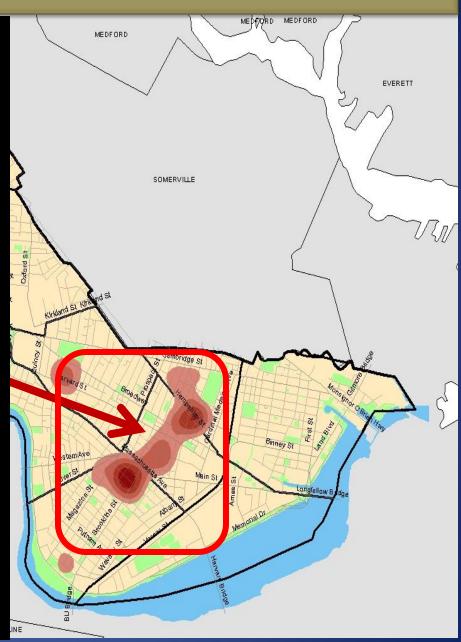
#### Major Housebreak Pattern of 2014: Central Square Neighborhoods

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 identified as 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

**Percent Change** 

Last 4 Weeks

Previous Year

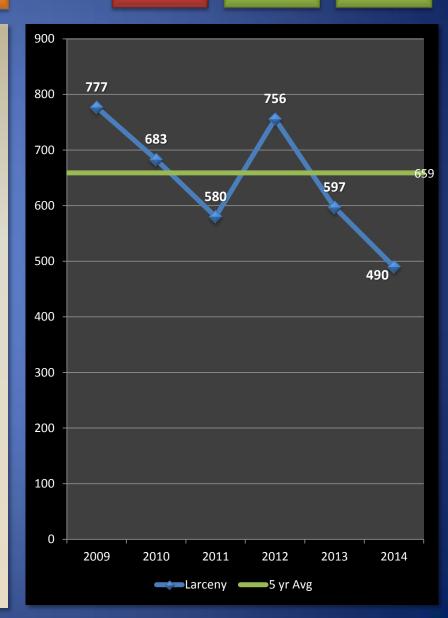
5 Year Average

+18%

-18%

-26%

- Overall, larceny through the first four months of 2014 has decreased by 18% when compared with the same time frame in 2013 and is down 26% when measured against the five-year weighted average.
- Larcenies from motor vehicles are slowly starting to show less of a difference from last year, now down 24% year-to-date through April, while they had been down 34% through March. Much of this difference can still be blamed on the rough winter weather this year. The most notable LMV problem spot currently is along the border bewteen Inman & Area 4.
- Larcenies from persons year-to-date in 2014 have registered 38% below the level reported during the this time in 2013, with 36 fewer incidents compared to last year and 41 below the five-year average of 101 incidents.
- There have been 107 larcenies from buildings reported citywide through the first four months of 2014. This total is 22% below the number reported during this time frame in 2013 and 18% below the fiveyear average. There are no patterns of this activity anywhere in Cambridge at the present time.
- Thus far in 2014, there have been **28 bike thefts** reported citywide, which is 10 incidents (26%) below the total reported during this time frame in 2013 and 15 below the five-year average. Bike thefts jumped dramatically from 4 in March to 17 in April, as might be expected with the arrival of warmer weather and increased ridership. Inman had the most bike thefts in April with four, followed by Riverside with three.





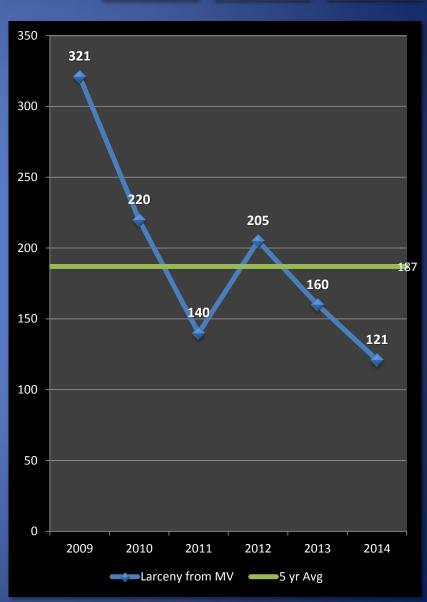
#### LARCENY: From MVs

Sporadic Pattern

+40% Previous Year 5 Year Average -35%

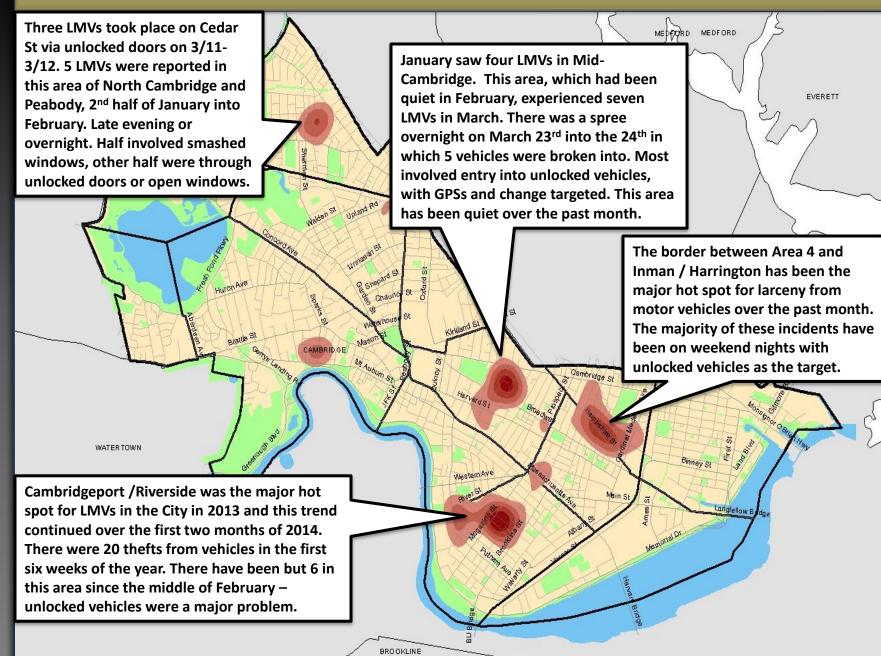
**Percent Change** 

- Larcenies from MVs are down 24% year-to-date through the first four months of 2014 when compared with the same time frame in 2013. There have been 39 fewer thefts reported so far this year. This crime has also fallen 35% when measured against the five-year average, with 66 fewer incidents than the projected total of 187 thefts.
- When comparing the last four weeks to the previous four weeks, this index crime increased by 12 incidents, or 40%.
- The majority of the LMV activity is occurring in the lower half of the city. At the beginning of the year, thefts from unlocked vehicles were occuring in Cambridgeport / Riverside. In March, activity shifted to Mid-Cambridge and Inman. Recently during the past month, the border between Area 4 and Inman has been the major hotspot for larceny from motor vehicles. The majority of all incidents have been on weekend nights with unlocked vehicles as the target. Electronics and loose change have been stolen most often.





### Larceny from MVs: 1.1.14 to 4.30.14





# 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 or under a blanket to conceal them
  - Visit our website for more tips to keep your vehicles and belongings at www.CambridgePolice.org/SafetyTips



# LARCENY: from Person No Patterns

**Percent Change** 

Last 4 Weeks P

**Previous Year** 

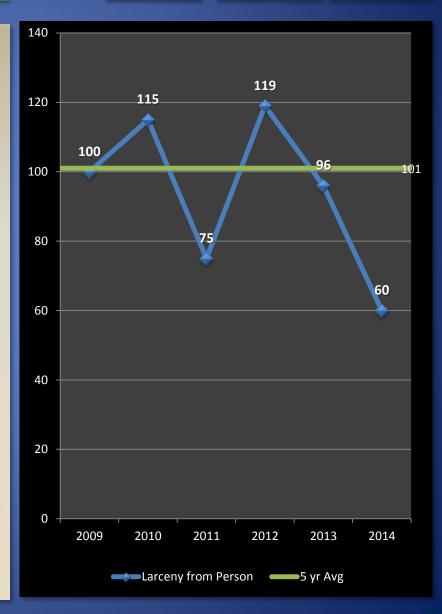
5 Year Average

+42%

-38%

-41%

- Larcenies from the person are down 36
  incidents (38%) through April when compared
  with the same time frame in 2013. The total of 60
  incidents reported thus far in 2014 is 41 incidents
  (41%) below the five-year average of 101.
- Larcenies from the person citywide rose by five incidents (42%) from the previous four week period to the current. However, there are no patterns of this crime type anywhere in the city at the present time.
- Often, much of the larceny from person activity is reported at the many bars and restaurants in Harvard Square (known as "dipper" activity). In April, there were four incidents of this nature reported in Harvard Square and two in Central Square. Harvard Square saw one-third of all larceny from the person activity during the past month. The remainder of the incidents were split primarily between Central Square, the Galleria Mall area, and Porter Square.





### LARCENY: of Bicycle

No Patterns

Last 4 Weeks Previous Year

+325%

-26%

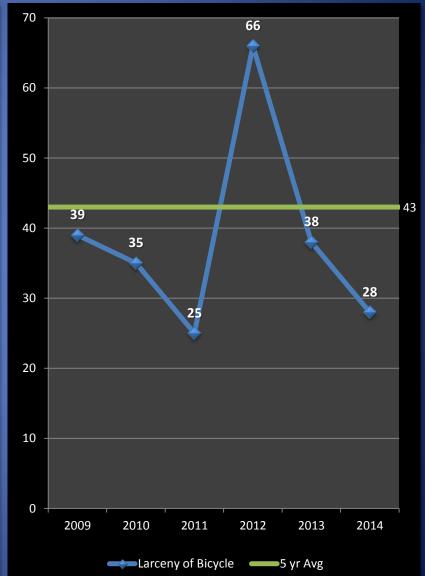
**Percent Change** 

-35%

5 Year Average

- There have been 28 bikes reported stolen through the first four months of 2014. This total is 10 incidents (26%) below the number reported during this time frame in 2013 and 15 (35%) below the five-year average.
- Bike thefts jumped dramatically from 4 in March to 17 in April, as might be expected with the arrival of warmer weather and increased ridership. Inman had the most bike thefts in April with four, followed by Riverside with three.
- The majority (61%) of the 28 thefts reported this year have involved bikes that were locked but left out in the open (locked to public bike racks, for example).
- Breakdown by Neighborhood, year-to-date:

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Neighborhood	Total	% Citywide
Inman	5	18%
Mid-Cambridge	5	18%
Riverside	4	14%
West Cambridge	4	14%
North Cambridge	3	11%





# 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: <u>www.CambridgePolice.org/CommunityRecources</u>.
  - 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

+20%

**Previous Year** 

**Percent Change** 

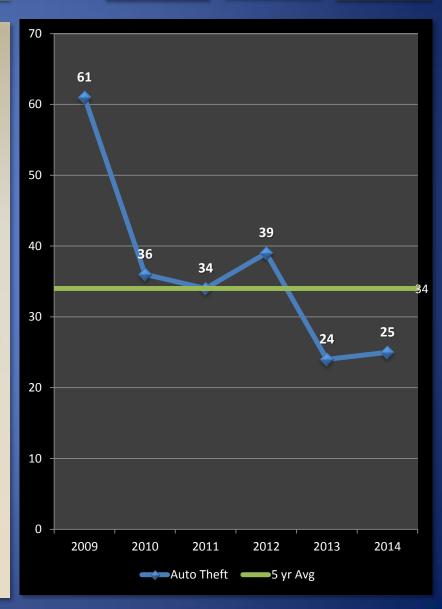
Last 4 Weeks

+4%

5 Year Average

-26%

- The projected five—year weighted average for auto thefts after the first four months of the year is 34; thus far, we are 9 incidents below the average. However, in 2014, with 25 thefts year-to-date, we are seeing an increase from 2013 (+4%).
- 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 six fewer incidents reported. April was consistent with March, only registering one more theft than the previous month to equal a 20% increase.
- Since the beginning of the year, auto thefts have been reported pretty evenly throughout the city. The breakdown is as follows: Agassiz (2), Area 4 (3), Cambridgeport (2), East Cambridge (4), Highlands, Inman (3), Mid Cambridge (5), Peabody, Riverside(2), and West Cambridge (2). There are no patterns at the present time.
- Year-to-date, 12 (or 48%) 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.





## **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.
- "Like" the Cambridge Police Department on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CambridgePolice
- Follow @CambridgePolice on Twitter.
- Visit our website at <u>www.CambridgePolice.org</u> 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.

#### 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



### **Questions?**

- The complete 2013 Cambridge Police Annual Crime Report is available on our website at www.CambridgePolice.org.
- We welcome all questions, comments, and suggestions.
- Please direct your feedback to: BridgeStat@CambridgePolice.org.
- To review previous editions of BridgeStat, visit our website at www.CambridgePolice.org/BridgeStat.