

## Cambridge Police Department BridgeStat

July 2012

Produced by the Crime Analysis Unit

\*BridgeStat was recognized by the International Association of Crime Analysts in the Statistical Bulletin Category at 2011 IACA Training Conference.

## Part I Total Crime

While serious crime in Cambridge has risen 5% when compared with the first 7 months of 2011, when measured against the 5-year weighted average for this time frame, a slight 1% drop (15 fewer crimes counted) has been recorded. The majority of the increase from 2011 to 2012 can be attributed to the overall increase in larceny (8%), with 108 more thefts reported when compared with the first 210 days of 2011.

A detailed analysis of all statistics indicates that there were 99 additional property crimes recorded in the first 7 months of 2012 to register a 6% incline when placed against the 2011 statistics.

	<u> 4 Week Snapshot</u>			<u>Y</u>	Year to Date			<u>Five Year</u>	
	6/5 - 7/2	7/3 - 7/30	Change	2011	2012	Change	Avg	Change	
Total Violent Crime	33	29	-12%	241	238	-1%	244	-2%	
Total Property Crime	250	271	8%	1660	1759		1768	-1%	
Total Part I Crime	283	300	6%	1901	1997	5%	2012	-1%	

## Part I Property Crime

Larceny from motor vehicles (+24%) with 72 additional incidents, and larceny from persons (+43%) with 67 thefts above last year, account for the vast majority of the rise in property crimes so far this year. Housebreaks, which had increased by 43% when compared to the First Quarter of 2011, have leveled off over the past 3 months (+9%YTD) and are now 21 incidents above last year's total.

	<u>4 Week Snapshot</u>		Year to Date			<u>Five Year</u>		
	6/5 - 7/2	7/3 - 7/30	Change	2011	2012	Change	Avg	Change
Burglary	40	51	28%	290	295	2%	263	12%
Commercial Break	6	8	33%	57	41	-28%	53	-23%
Housebreak	34	43	26%	233	254	9%	210	21%
Larceny	197	210	<u>0</u>	1280	1388	8%	1397	-1%
Larceny (Misc)	2	4	100%	22	25	14%	17	47%
Larceny from Building	26	26	0%	250	215	-14%	226	-5%
Larceny from MV	59	50		305	377	24%	447	-16%
Larceny from Person	38	25		157	224	43%	178	26%
Larceny from Residence	8	17		116	130	12%	106	23%
Larceny of Bicycle	37	50		196	185	-6%	168	10%
Larceny of Plate	5	3		29	21	-28%	28	-25%
Larceny of Services	3	0	-100%	15	7	-53%	16	-56%
Shoplifting	19	35		190	204	7%	210	-3%
Auto Theft	13	10	-23%	90	76	-16%	108	-30%
Total Property Crime	250	271	8%	1660	1759	6%	1768	-1%

## Part I Violent Crime

- The projected 5-year weighted average for violent crime in Cambridge for the first 7 months of the year is 244 incidents. Between January and the end of July of 2011, there were 241 violent crimes reported. For that same time period in 2012, there were 238 violent crimes recorded in Cambridge, three incidents below last year (-1%) and 6 under (-2%) the projected total for the first two quarters of the year.
- There has been 1 murder In Cambridge in 2012. The crime occurred on the night of June 3rd on Willow Street. A 16-year old female was the victim of a drive-by shooting.
- Rape is down 17% and robbery has fallen 11% when compared with the first 7 months of 2011.
- Aggravated assaults have risen 6%, with 9 more incidents than 2011. The majority of the upward spiral of this violent crime can be attributed to a rise in domestic and acquaintance-related assaults over the first 7 months of 2012.

	4 Week Snapshot			Year to Date			Five Year	
	6/5 - 7/2	7/3 - 7/30	Change	2011	2012	Change	Avg	Change
Homicide	0	0	IN-CALC	1	1	0% -17%	1	0%
Rape	2	1	-50%	18	15	-17%	18	-17%
Robbery	16	8	-50%	82	73	-11%	83	-12%
Commercial Robbery	4	0	-100%	17	12	-29%	15	-20%
Street Robbery	12	8	-33%	65	61	-6%	68	-10%
Aggravated Assault	15	20	33%	140	149	6%	142	5%
Total Violent Crime	33	29	-12%	241	238	-1%	244	-2%

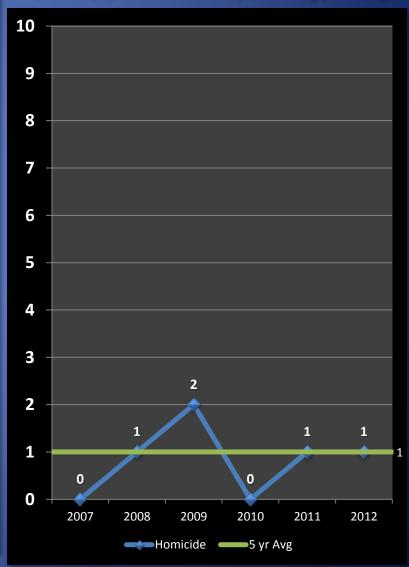
## MURDER

#### No Patterns

- On Sunday, 6/3/12, at approximately 8pm, 2 female victims ages 16 and 17 were in the area of 34 Willow St when they were shot by unknown suspects who drove by in a motor vehicle. Both victims were transported to the hospital where the 16-year-old victim, Charlene Holmes, was pronounced dead. The 17-year-old victim was critically injured and is now recuperating at home.
- The investigation is ongoing and anyone with information is asked to contact Cambridge Police at 617-349-3370.
- This was the first homicide recorded in Cambridge in 2012.
- 27 of the 34 murders in Cambridge since 1995 have been cleared by arrest or by the suicide of the perpetrator, which translates to an 79% clearance rate over that 17-year period. For comparison, the clearance rate for homicides was 65% nationally and 50% in New England in 2010.



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



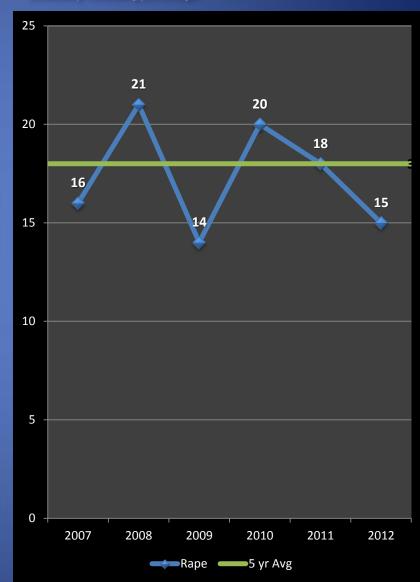


#### No Patterns

- Over the first 7 months of 2012, there were 15 rapes reported in Cambridge, 3 fewer incidents than during the same time frame last year. The 1 rape recorded in July was classified as domestic in nature. All but 1 of the rapes in Cambridge so far in 2012 were categorized as non-stranger incidents. A blitz scenario rape in late April remains under investigation at the present time.
- 8 of the 23 sexual assaults reported in 2011 occurred on a calendar date prior to that year. This is a trend that we have been observing over the past few years with 25% to 33% of the incidents involving domestic or supervisory positioned assailants as suspects being reported long after the original date of the incident. 2 of the rapes reported in 2012 fit this scenario.

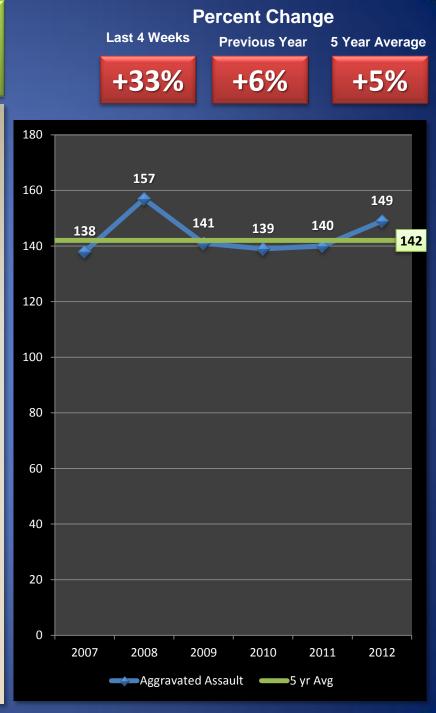


\*IN -CAL: Percentages are not calculated for numbers so small as to present a statistically misleading percentage.



#### AGGRAVATED ASSAULT No Patterns

- When compared to the first 7 months of 2011, aggravated assaults have increased 6%, with nine more incidents counted in 2012. When measuring this violent index crime against the 5year average for the first 6 months of this year, there has been a small increase of 5%, with 7 additional incidents above the projected average of 142 assaults. Over the past 4 weeks, there was a increase of 5 assaults from the total of the previous month.
- 51 of the 149 aggravated assaults (34% slightly higher average than normal for domestic assaults) that were reported so far in 2012 were categorized as domestic in nature. Assaults between homeless individuals in Harvard and Central Squares have been on the increase since the warm weather began in May.
- There have been 6 aggravated assaults on police officers in Cambridge in 2012. Taxi drivers have been involved in 6 road rage assaults in 2012.

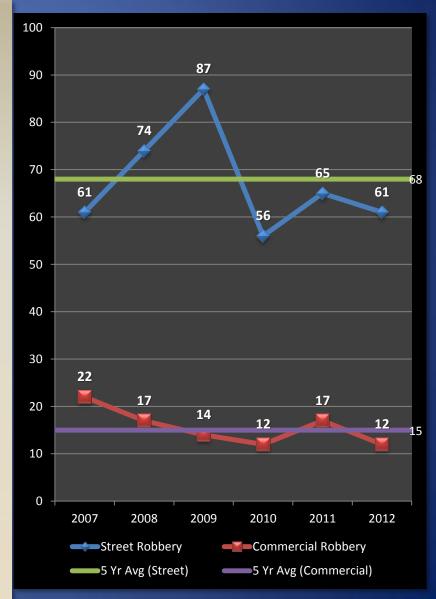


## ROBBERY

#### No Patterns

- The 5-year average for overall robbery in Cambridge for the first 7 months of the year is 83 incidents. From January 1<sup>st</sup> to July 30<sup>th</sup>, 73 robberies were reported to register a 12% decrease below the projected total. The 73 robberies reported in Cambridge in the first 7 months of 2012 represents nine fewer robberies than during the same time period in 2011, which translates to an 11% reduction.
- Street robberies have fallen 10% when measured against the 5-year average and 6% when compared to the 2011 total for the first 7 months of the year, with 4 fewer incidents recorded. Over the first 7 months of 2012, there have been only 12 commercial robberies reported, including 5 banks and 4 drug store robberies, 3 of which were shoplifting incidents that escalated into violent confrontations with clerks at pharmacies. Arrests have been made in 4 of the 5 bank robberies.
- Since June 29<sup>th</sup> of 2012, 6 of the 10 street robberies reported in the City have been within the confines of Harvard Square. These incidents are occurring very late on weekend nights. Homeless individuals have either been the victim or the perpetrator in the majority of these robberies. There have been 3 arrests in this series.

# Percent Change Last 4 Weeks Previous Year 5 Year Average -50% -11% -12%



**Street Robbery Hot Spots in 2012** - When compared with the first 7 months of 2011, there has been a 6% decline in street robberies from 65 incidents to 61 incidents in 2012. The 5–year weighted average for this crime type is 68 incidents. *The major pattern to be identified is the late night smart phone robbery series between March 16<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>.* 

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6 Robberies in the vicinity of the Porter Square Mall and of pedestrians walking from T toward Davis Square. Arrest of Dorchester resident for Rindge Ave incident on 5/13/12 was the last incident this area.

X

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★ Denotes locations of Late night Cell phone robbery pattern (8 incidents) – nothing similar in past 2 months.

5 street robberies between June 11<sup>th</sup> and June 21<sup>St</sup> along the border of Inman and Area 4. 2 local juveniles were linked to these incidents. Since that arrest, this series has concluded.

16 incidents within the confines or immediate periphery of Harvard Square. Ten of these robberies have been reported since the last week in May. 8 of the 10 crimes have been late on weekend nights. There have been no weapons shown and the majority of the victims and actors are part of the street scene associated with Harvard Square.

**17 street robberies** associated with the Central Square Business District in 2012. 7 of these incidents were classified as homeless scenarios resulting in 5 arrests.

#### Street Robbery in Cambridge: 6.1.12 to 7.30.12

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Late Night Pack Robberies: Inman and Area 4 -

There were 5 street robberies between June 11<sup>th</sup> and June 19<sup>th</sup> in which a group of teens were the suspects. This group has not been seen together at every incident but were known to associate with each other. All of the incidents were between midnight and 3AM and no weapons were shown. On June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2 local juveniles were linked to these incidents from fingerprints from a cell phone recovered at one of the robberies. *They were subsequently arrested and this series has ended.* 

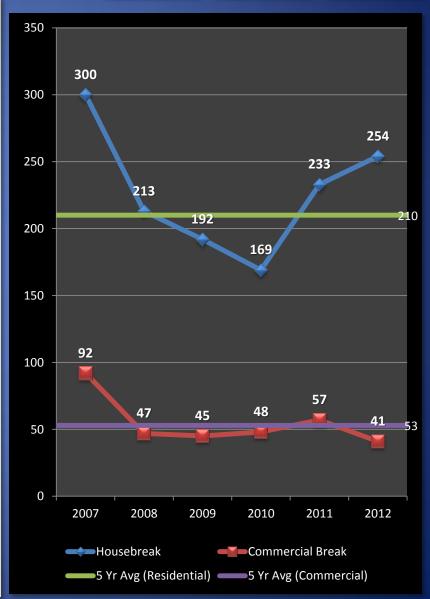
**10 street robberies** within the confines or immediate periphery of Harvard Square have been reported since the last week in May. 8 of the 10 crimes have been late on weekend nights. There have been no weapons shown and the majority of the victims and actors are part of the street scene associated with Harvard Square.

2 unrelated , unarmed robberies in the 600 block of Mass Ave in Central Square on 6.25.12 and 7.18.12 2 unrelated , unarmed robberies in East Cambridge. A local juvenile was arrested for the robbery at Sixth & Spring on 6.26.12.

#### **BURGLARY** *Emerging Patterns*

- Total burglary, the combination of residential and commercial burglary, is up 12% when compared to the 5-year average, with 32 additional incidents above the projected total of 263 crimes and up 2% when compared with last year's total for the first 7 months of the year, with 5 additional burglaries counted.
  When comparing this property crime with the previous 4 weeks of 2012, a 28% rise has been registered (11 additional burglaries counted).
- Commercial burglary has dropped 28% when compared with the first 7 months of 2011, and with 12 fewer incidents recorded (-23%) when measured against the 5-year average. The 41 commercial burglaries in 2012 have been scattered throughout the City with no discernible spatial or temporal pattern identified.
- Approximately 70% of all the housebreaks in Cambridge in 2012 have been clustered in 4 pattern areas: Area 4 / Inman, West Cambridge, Peabody, and Cambridgeport / Riverside. The Cambridgeport pattern has been interdicted. However, the other 3 areas continue to be plagued with sporadic incidents.

# Percent ChangeLast 4 WeeksPrevious Year5 Year Average+28%+2%+12%



#### Housebreaks in Cambridge: 6.1.12 to 7.30.12

Peabody – Multiple unit apartment buildings near Cambridge Common have been involved in sporadic series since early in 2012. After a 2-month hiatus, this pattern surfaced again in the second week in June. Occasional daytime breaks in the southern portion of the Avon Hill District. Side window entries with laptops is the target of the thieves.

West Cambridge - This pattern heated up in the middle of July. There has been a series of weekday, daytime housebreaks through unlocked rear doors and side windows in single family residences bordered by Brattle and Mt Auburn Streets. Both of these patterns are now considered active - Extra Patrols in place. <u>Area 4 / Inman</u> – After a 2-month hiatus between late April and the middle of June, this series has reemerged. Mostly late afternoon breaks through rear doors between Thursdays and Saturdays. Majority of apartments had multiple roommates with laptops as targets. 5 housebreaks in July with similarities to previous pattern n this area. Extra patrols remain in place.

> East Cambridge – Sporadic, but very tight cluster of daytime housebreaks around Gore Street Park. All the breaks have been in the middle of the day on weekdays through unlocked side windows with jewelry as the target. Extra patrols remain in place.

<u>Cambridgeport / Riverside -</u> From the middle of June to early in July, there was a series of late night housebreaks in close proximity in these neighborhoods. The majority of the incidents were between midnight and 5AM. A male suspect in early teens was observed on 2 occasions. 2 juveniles who are residents of these neighborhoods were linked to this series via fingerprints. This pattern has been downgraded and there was very little activity in July.

## Housebreaks What can we do?

#### Police Response Strategy:

- Cambridge Police have deployed extra patrols to the affected areas in order to combat the recent increase in housebreaks.
- CPD is also utilizing plainclothes officers and detectives in the affected areas.
- Several arrests have been made.



#### Citizen Response Strategy:

• Citizens are asked to take the following precautions to protect themselves, their homes, and their belongings from burglaries:

Try "casing" your own home.
ALWAYS lock your doors and windows.
Many housebreaks have occurred through open windows or unlocked doors.
Leave a light on when you leave.
Install motion sensor lights.
NEVER prop open the door or let someone in behind you.
Be vigilant. If you suspect suspicious activity, please report it to the police immediately by calling 617-349-3300.

•Document serial numbers of all

electronics and take pictures of all valuables.

•Request a Residential Security Survey from the Cambridge Police Department. For more info, please call 617-349-3236.

• For more info on how to protect yourself from housebreaks, visit

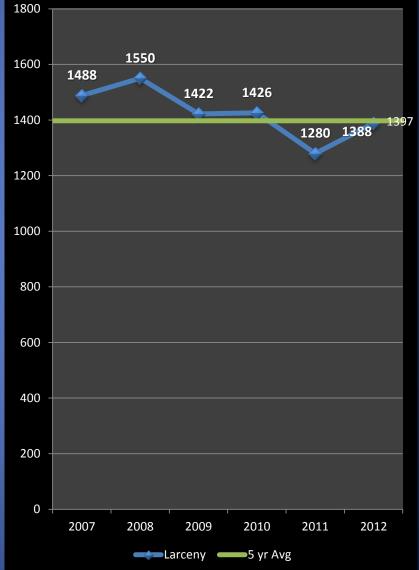
www.CambridgePolice.org/SafetyTips.

## LARCENY

#### **Emerging Patterns**

- Overall, larceny increased by 8% when compared with the first 7 months of 2011 and dropped 1% when measured against the 5-year weighted average.
- The increase in larceny from motor vehicles (+24%) can be attributed to a surge in thefts during the snowless First Quarter of this year when compared with the first 3 months of 2011 when there were 70 inches of snow on the ground. Despite reporting a 15% decline when measured versus the previous 4 weeks, a marked increase in and around the neighborhoods of Central Square (Area 4, Cambridgeport, and Riverside) has been identified.
- Larcenies from persons took a dramatic downward turn in July with a 34% reduction recorded when compared with the previous 4 weeks. However, this crime type is still up 43% when compared to last year.
- So far this year, there have been 185 reported bike thefts in Cambridge, which is 6% under the 196 thefts reported through this time frame in 2011.

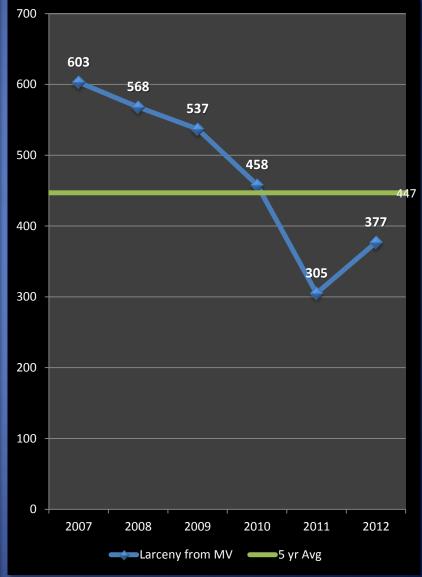




### LARCENY: from MV Emerging Patterns

- Larcenies from MVs have jumped 24% when compared with the first 7 months of 2011, with 72 additional incidents counted. The majority of this incline can be attributed to a 75% surge when compared to the first 93 days of last year when the streets of Cambridge were under 70 inches of snow cover.
- Larcenies from Motor Vehicles are down 16% when compared with the 5-year average, with 70 incidents below the norm for the first 7 months of the year. When measured against the previous 4 weeks, thefts from MVs fell by 15% with 9 fewer incidents than in June of 2012.
- The majority of car breaks during July of 2012 took place in the lower half of the City among the neighborhoods on the periphery of Central Square. These incidents are occurring between 1:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m. on weekend nights. 66% of these incidents involved either unlocked doors or unknown means of entry. Over the past 2 months, 3 juvenile residents of Cambridgeport have been arrested for thefts from vehicles in that neighborhood.





#### **Larceny from Motor Vehicle Hot Spots in 2012**

#### North Cambridge /

Peabody – The majority of the car breaks in this area were in the first 3 months of the year. Series of arrests have cooled this area off – The expected breaks into MVs on weekend nights that have been a persistent problem during warm weather months in these areas has not materialized – Area has been exceptionally quiet.

Area 4 / Cambridgeport / Riverside - Larcenies from motor vehicles during the month of July have been concentrated in the neighborhoods on the periphery of Central Square. A temporal trend of incidents occurring after midnight on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights has been identified. A high percentage of these cars are being entered via unlocked doors. <u>See next slide for further analysis.</u>

West Cambridge – 46 incidents – 200 block of Mt Auburn & Brattle. Majority of activity between middle of February to early May. Temporal trend of incidents on Sunday during daytime hours. Increased activity on side streets off of 100 to 200 block of Brattle Street during June. This area has been quiet over past 7 weeks.

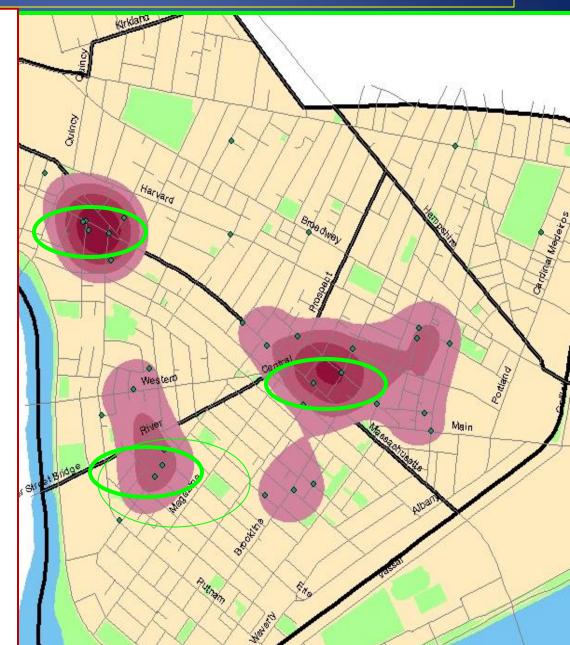
#### Larceny from Motor Vehicle: Hot Spots for July 2012

The majority of the car breaks in July have taken place in neighborhoods on the periphery of Central Square overnight on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday nights. 2/3involved either unlocked doors or unknown methods of entry (likely left unlocked). The remaining 1/3 involved smashed windows.

#### Hotspot areas:

Pleasant St near Fairmont,
Mass Ave thru Central Sq
Area bordered by Windsor St, Bishop Allen Dr, Prospect St, and Harvard St in Area 4.

• Further up Mass Ave towards Harvard Sq, area of Trowbridge St, Mt. Auburn St, and Banks St



## 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.

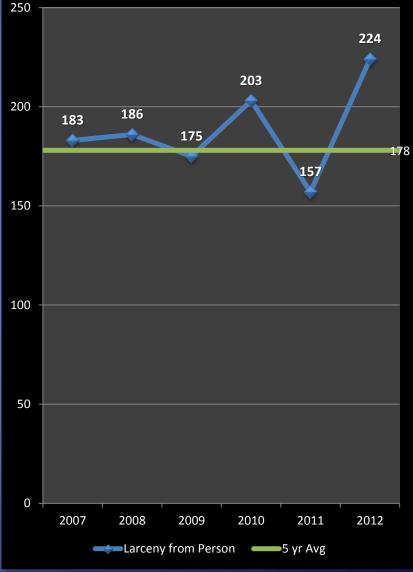
•If you must leave packages or valuables in your car, place them in the trunk of under a blanket to conceal them

• Visit our website for more tips to keep your vehicles and belongings at www.CambridgePolice.org/SafetyTips

#### LARCENY: from Person Emerging Patterns

- When compared to the first 7 months of 2011, larcenies from persons are up 43%. Over the last 4 weeks, there has been a significant decrease of 34%, with 13 fewer incidents reported. The 5-year average for this larceny type averages around 178 thefts, and with 224 recorded incidents over the first 7 months of 2012, a 26% increase has been reported
  - The overwhelming majority of these thefts, 49%, have taken place in Harvard Sq. The predominant scenario for this criminal enterprise is the theft of laptops, cell phones, and wallets from victims dining in the early afternoon between the hours of **12:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. or later in the day from 5:30 p.m. to 11p.m**.
- Since the arrest of a professional pickpocket at the end of June, this type of activity has taken a dramatic downward turn with not a single pattern identified.





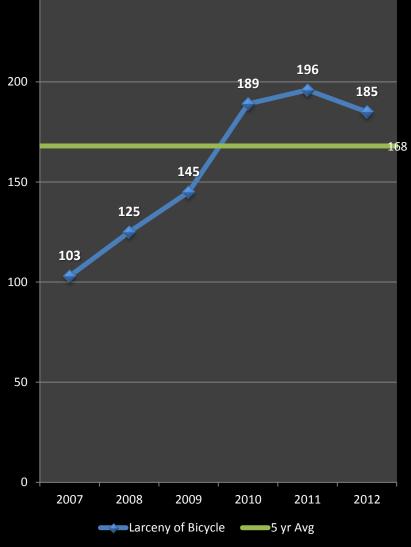
## LARCENY: of Bicycle

- The 5-year weighted average of bicycle thefts for the first 7 months of the year is 168. Through July 30<sup>th</sup> of 2012, there have been 185 bikes stolen, which is 10% above the norm. Despite the fact that larceny of bicycles spiked 35% (13 additional thefts) when compared with the previous 4 weeks, when measured against the period between January 1<sup>st</sup> and July 30<sup>th</sup> of 2011, this property crime has fallen by 6%.
- The majority of thefts involve bikes that are locked but are left out in the open (locked to public bike racks or sign poles, for example).

Neighborhood	Total	% Citywide			
Cambridgeport	32	17%			
Mid Cambridge	29	16%			
North Cambridge	26	14%			
Riverside	20	11%			
Peabody	20	11%			

# Percent ChangeLast 4 WeeksPrevious Year5 Year Average+35%-6%+10%

250



#### Bicycle Theft in Cambridge: 5.1.12 to 7.30.12

North Cambridge / Porter Square / Walden / Sherman: Majority of thefts near Porter Square were on weekend nights in May. Sherman / Walden hit on Thursday nights in June - Only 2 incidents this entire area in July.

Harvard Square & Periphery: 13 thefts over the past 3 months. 60% of the bikes have been stolen on weekend nights, particularly Sunday between the hours of 6:00PM and 10:00PM. Inman Square / Upper Hampshire & Prospect: Sporadic incidents in May and June – Only 1 in July on 7.26.12. Majority of thefts were from poles in front of residences and businesses – crimes are late at night.

> theft Hot months or reported identified incidents 200 bloc The high yards an these 2 m

Cambridgeport / Riverside; Citywide – This is the bike theft Hot Spot for the past 3 months with 27 incidents reported. Temporal trend identified of multiple incidents on Saturdays in the 200 block of Pearl, Magazine. The highest % of thefts from yards and porches occurs in these 2 neighborhoods.

## 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.



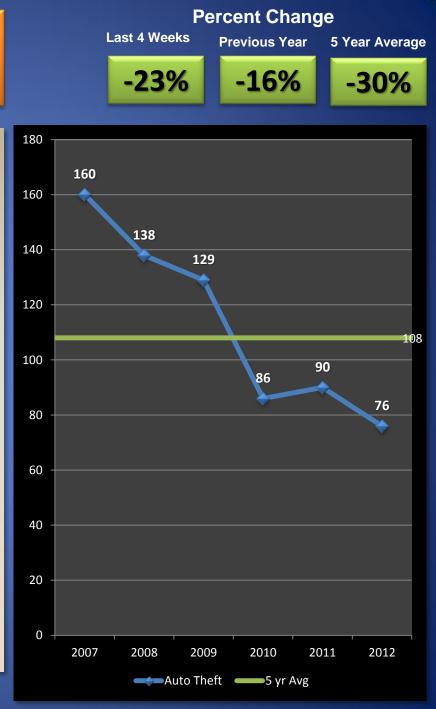
#### Citizen Response Strategy:

- Bicyclists should document serial number of bicycle in case lost/stolen.
- For more information about bicycle safety, proper locking, and what information to keep on file, visit: www.CambridgePolice.org/Commun ityRecources.
  - 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

#### Emerging Pattern

- The projected 5-year weighted average assigned to auto theft for the first 7 months of the year is 108 incidents; there were 76 cars stolen from January to July 30<sup>th</sup> of 2012, translating to a substantive 30% decline.
   When measured versus the same time period in 2011, there were 14 fewer auto thefts counted, and a 16% decline posted.
- As reported in the June BridgeStat, there is a regional trend of the theft of scooters and motorcycles. These types of thefts dropped significantly in Cambridge during July, with only 5 scooter thefts reported, after 9 were stolen in June.
- Boston Police have made a number of arrests over the past 2 weeks in Dorchester and the South End of scooter and motorcycle thieves.
- There is a possibility that a substantial number of the stolen motorcycles are being chopped and sold for parts.



## Scooter & Motorcycle Thefts

5 Scooter thefts in Cambridge during July of 2012 – 2 on Linnaean on July 27<sup>th</sup> and another on Inman Street on July 30<sup>th</sup>.

There has been a recent increase in motor scooter / motorcycle thefts regionally. Scooter and motorcycle thefts always peak during summer months. Likewise, sales have been on the rise.

Some ways in which residents can take extra measures to deter theft are:

- Always lock the motorcycle / scooter to a stationary object; if possible lock it in more than one way.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- Park it in a garage, if possible.
- Cover the motorcycle / scooter whenever possible.

#### Below are some recently targeted vehicles types:



Yamaha YZF - \$11,210

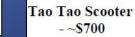


Suzuki GSXR - \$11,030



Honda CBR - \$9,645







Kymco Scooter - \$1,250

## 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 <u>www.facebook.com/CambridgePolice</u>
- Follow <u>@CambridgePolice</u> on Twitter.
- Visit our website at

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 <u>www.CambridgePolice.org/MyPD</u>.

#### 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 <u>www.CambridgePolice.org/Tips</u>

## **Questions?**

- Our detailed Annual Crime Report will contain full data for 2011 and will be released in the coming weeks.
- We welcome all questions, comments, and suggestions.
- Please direct your feedback to: <u>BridgeStat@CambridgePolice.org</u>.
- To review previous editions of BridgeStat, visit our website at <u>www.CambridgePolice.org/BridgeStat</u>.