



Cambridge Police Department BridgeStat

September 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 4% when compared with the first 3 quarters of 2011, when measured against the 5-year weighted average for this time frame, a 2% decline (**68 fewer crimes than avg**) has been recorded. The majority of the increase from 2011 to 2012 can be attributed to the overall increase in larceny (**+8%**), with 147 more thefts reported when compared with the first nine months of 2011.
- A detailed analysis of all statistics indicates that there were **100 additional property crimes recorded in the first 3 quarters** of 2012, which translates to a **4% incline** when placed against the 2011 statistics. **Violent crime has fallen 3%** over the first 9 months of the year.

	<u>4 Week Snapshot</u>			<u>Year to Date</u>			<u>Five Year</u>	
	8/7 - 9/3	9/4 - 10/1	Change	2011	2012	Change	Avg	Change
Total Violent Crime	28	35	25%	318	309	-3%	331	-7%
Total Property Crime	278	253	-9%	2272	2372	4%	2418	-2%
Total Part I Crime	306	288	-6%	2590	2681	4%	2749	-2%



Part I Property Crime

Larceny from motor vehicles **(+17%)** with 76 additional incidents, and larceny from persons **(+28%)** with 59 thefts above last year, account for the vast majority of the increase **(4%)** in property crimes so far this year. Housebreaks, which had increased by **43%** when compared to the First Quarter of 2011, have cooled off considerably over the past 5 months and are now **4% under last year's total**.

	4 Week Snapshot				Year to Date				Five Year	
	8/7 - 9/3	9/4 - 10/1	Change		2011	2012	Change		Avg	Change
Burglary	46	39	-15%		412	387	-6%		371	4%
Commercial Break	5	9	80%		70	57	-19%		68	-16%
Housebreak	41	30	-27%		342	330	-4%		303	9%
Larceny	224	205	-8%		1738	1885	8%		1903	-1%
Larceny (Misc)	3	3	0%		26	35	35%		23	52%
Larceny from Building	38	23	-39%		299	285	-5%		287	-1%
Larceny from MV	57	67	18%		441	517	17%		611	-15%
Larceny from Person	21	19	-10%		211	270	28%		235	15%
Larceny from Residence	13	21	62%		150	171	14%		144	19%
Larceny of Bicycle	65	40	-38%		297	307	3%		274	12%
Larceny of Plate	2	5	150%		35	30	-14%		34	-12%
Larceny of Services	0	1	IN-CALC		20	9	-55%		21	-57%
Shoplifting	25	26	4%		259	261	1%		273	-4%
Auto Theft	8	9	13%		122	100	-18%		145	-31%
Total Property Crime	278	253	-9%		2272	2372	4%		2418	-2%



Part I Violent Crime

- Between January and the end of September of 2011, there were 318 violent crimes reported. For that same time period in 2012, **there were 309 violent crimes registered in Cambridge, 9 incidents below last year (-3%) and 22 incidents under the 5-year average for the first 8 months of the year (-7%).**
- 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. **This case remains under investigation.**
- Rape is up 10% (2 incidents) and aggravated assault has fallen 4% when compared with the first 3 quarters of 2011.
- There have been 3 fewer robberies (-3%) in Cambridge over the first 3 quarters when compared to 2011. It has been over 5 months since a predatory street robbery has been identified in the City.

	4 Week Snapshot			Year to Date			Five Year	
	8/7 - 9/3	9/4 - 10/1	Change	2011	2012	Change	Avg	Change
Homicide	0	0	IN-CALC	1	1	0%	1	0%
Rape	2	4	100%	20	22	10%	23	-4%
Robbery	8	11	38%	96	93	-3%	107	-13%
Commercial Robbery	2	0	-100%	22	14	-36%	19	-26%
Street Robbery	6	11	83%	74	79	7%	88	-10%
Aggravated Assault	18	20	11%	201	193	-4%	199	-3%
Total Violent Crime	28	35	25%	318	309	-3%	331	-7%



MURDER

No Patterns

- The first and only homicide to be recorded in Cambridge during the first 3 quarters of 2012 occurred on Sunday, June 13th, 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 and the 17-year-old victim was critically injured. The investigation is ongoing.
- On September 13th, of 2012, the SJC of Massachusetts affirmed the conviction of Ahmad Bright for the 2006 murder of Corey Davis. On March 18, 2006, Davis was shot multiple times in a vehicle, which was parked on Hamilton Street in the Cambridgeport. The victim died from his wounds. After an exhaustive investigation, Ahmad Bright was arrested. A jury later convicted Bright of murder in the second degree.
- 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. Nationally, the clearance rate for homicides in 2010 was 65%.

Change*

Last 4 Weeks

*IN -CAL

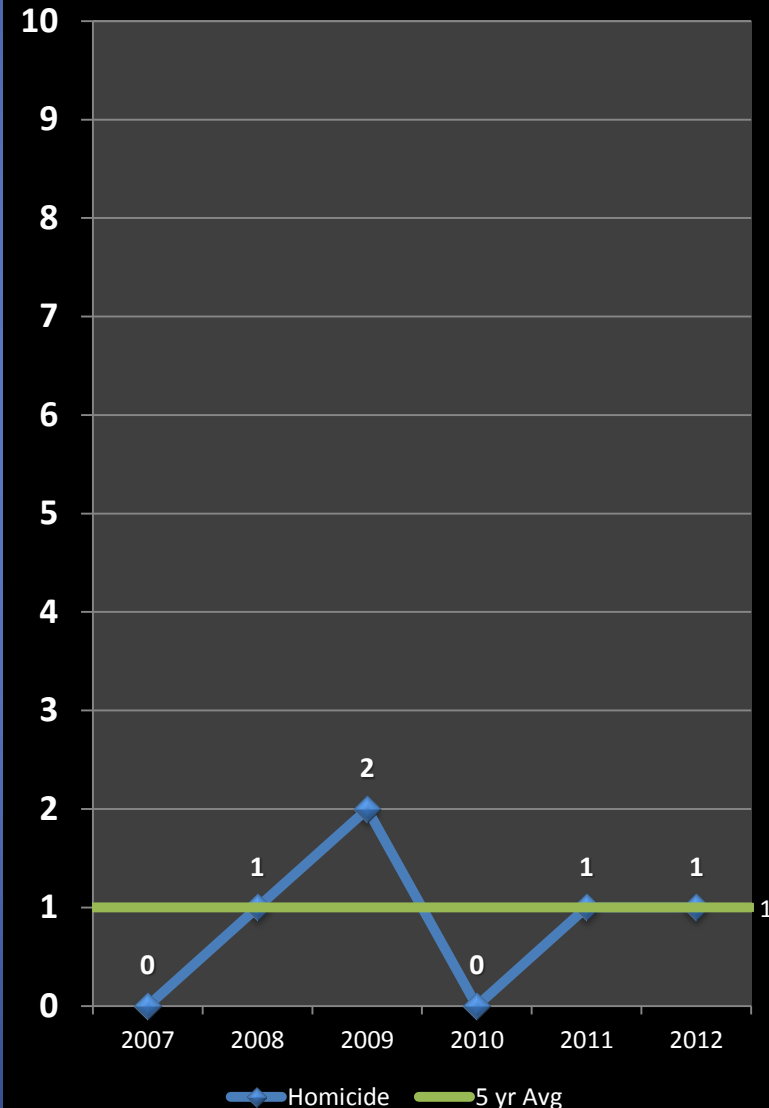
Previous Year

*IN -CAL

5 Year Average

*IN -CAL

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





RAPE

No Patterns

- Over the first 3 quarters of 2012, there have been 22 rapes reported in Cambridge, 2 incidents above the 20 crimes recorded during the same time frame last year. There were 4 rapes reported in Cambridge in September. 21 of the 22 rapes in Cambridge for the first 9 months of 2012 were categorized as non-stranger incidents. A blitz scenario rape in late April remains under investigation at the present time.
- On Friday, August 17, 2012, the Harvard University Police Department issued the following alert: a female was the victim of a rape in the area of Oxford and Kirkland Streets near Harvard University on Tuesday, August 14, 2012, sometime after 11:00 PM. Harvard University Police Department detectives are working with Cambridge Police Department detectives to investigate this incident. The description in this incident does not match that of a suspect involved in a rape the occurred inside Harvard Yard on August 10th, 2012. The assaults of August 10th and 14th are still under investigation. They were the first stranger rapes at Harvard University in over 12 years. On average, Harvard reports 4 acquaintance rapes per year.
- All 4 of the rapes that were committed in Cambridge during September were categorized as acquaintance scenarios. The victim either knew or had a prior relationship with the assailant in each of these cases. Although not related in any way, all the incidents were geographically located on the periphery of Central Square.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

In -Cal

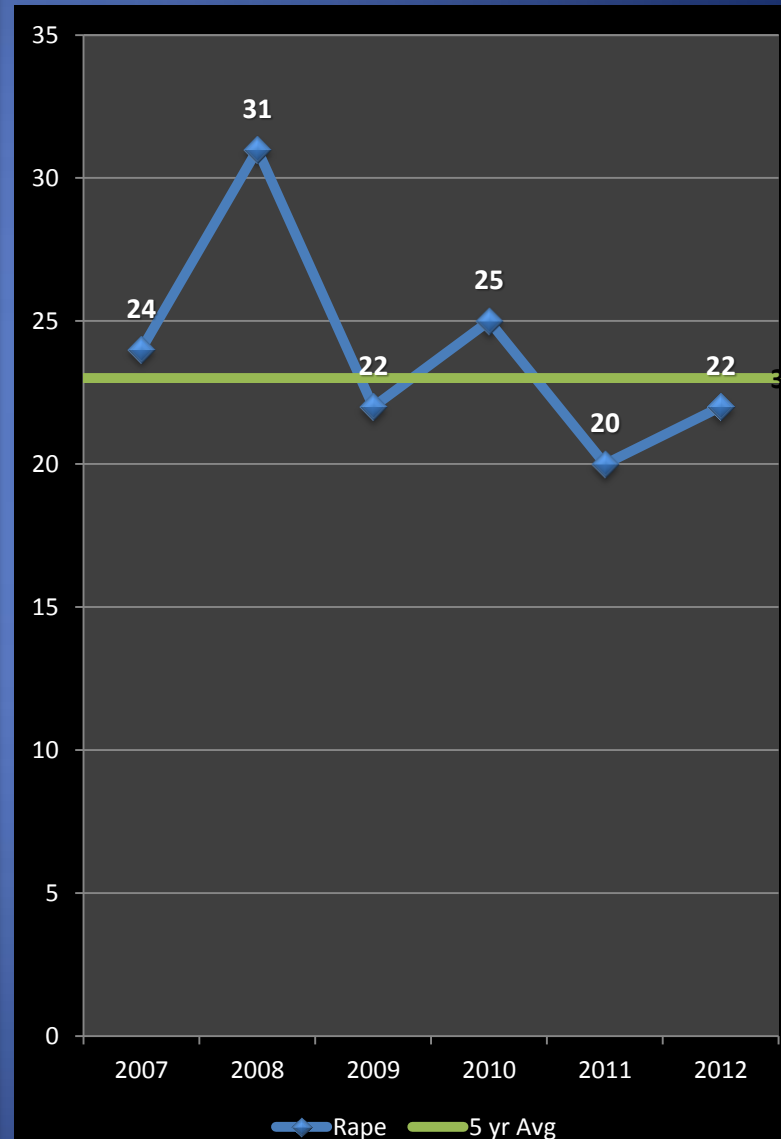
Previous Year

+10%

5 Year Average

-4%

*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 3 quarters of 2011, aggravated assaults have decreased by 4%, with 8 fewer incidents counted in 2012. When measuring this violent index crime against the 5-year average for the first 9 months of this year, there has been a slight dip of 3%, with 6 fewer incident below the projected average of 199 assaults. Over the past 4 weeks, there was a increase of 2 assaults from the total of 18 incidents registered in August.
- 63 of the 193 aggravated assaults (33%, a number that is consistent with past averages in Cambridge) that were reported so far in 2012 were categorized as domestic in nature.
- Assaults between homeless individuals accounted for 7% of the incidents for this violent crime over the first 9 months of 2012. This number represents a slight increase from previous years. As in the past, nearly all of these type of assaults occurred in Central and Harvard Squares on the periphery of the Riverside, Peabody, and West Cambridge neighborhoods.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

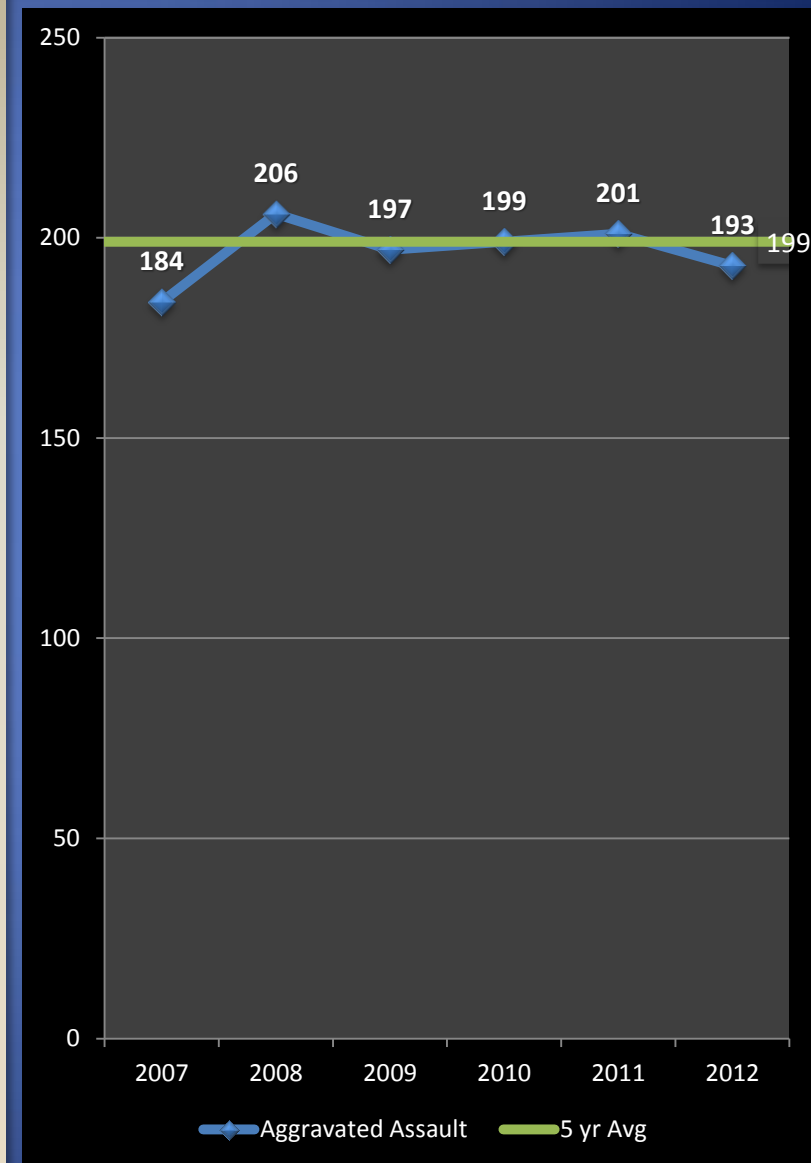
+11%

Previous Year

-4%

5 Year Average

-3%





Aggravated Assault Breakdown by Neighborhood: Third Quarter of 2012

Neighborhood	Total	% Citywide	Synopsis
Area 4	6	9%	2 of these assaults involved bar fights in Central Square. There was 1 domestic incident and a fight among juvenile females in September on Columbia Street.
Cambridgeport	6	9%	A disturbed person was arrested twice, once in July and again in September. There was a domestic and a juvenile fight near Hastings Park.
Mid - Cambridge	9	14%	66% of these incidents were among acquaintances or were domestic in nature.
East Cambridge	6	9%	3 were domestics and 2 involved fights in apartment buildings.
North Cambridge	11	17%	4 of the fights were among acquaintances and 2 were domestic. There were 2 bar fights and a road rage incident in North Cambridge in the third quarter.
Riverside	10	14%	There were 4 domestics and 4 fights related to alcohol or bars on the periphery of Harvard Square.
West Cambridge /Peabody	18 WC -11 Peabody -7	26%	There were 5 domestics in these 2o areas. The majority of the incidents were near the borders of Harvard Square and involved bars and the homeless.



ROBBERY

No Patterns

- The 5-year average for overall robbery in Cambridge for the first 3 quarters of the year is 107 incidents. From January 1st to September 30th of 2012, 93 robberies have been recorded to post a 13% decrease below the projected total. The 93 robberies reported in Cambridge in the first 9 months of 2012 represents 3 fewer robberies than during the same time period in 2011, which translates to an 3% decrease.
- Street robberies have fallen 10% when measured against the five-year average and increased 7% when compared to the 2011 total for the first 3 quarters, with 5 additional incidents reported.
- After only registering 14 street robberies in Cambridge during the warm weather months of July and August, this violent index type jumped from 6 incidents during the previous 4 weeks to 11 crimes in September to post a 83% increase.
- Over the first 9 months of 2012, there have been 14 commercial robberies reported. This list includes 6 banks and 4 drug store robberies, 3 of which were shoplifting incidents that escalated into violent confrontations at pharmacies and 2 gas stations. Arrests have been made in 5 of 6 bank robberies.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

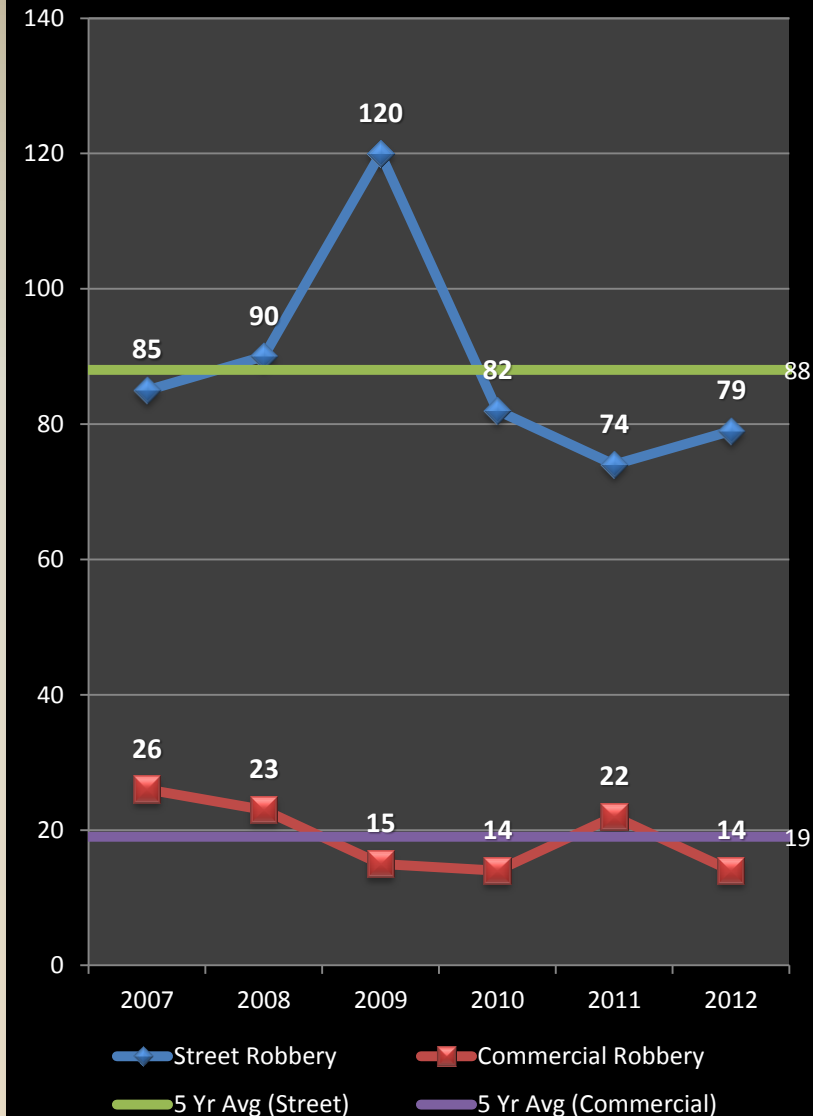
+38%

Previous Year

-3%

5 Year Average

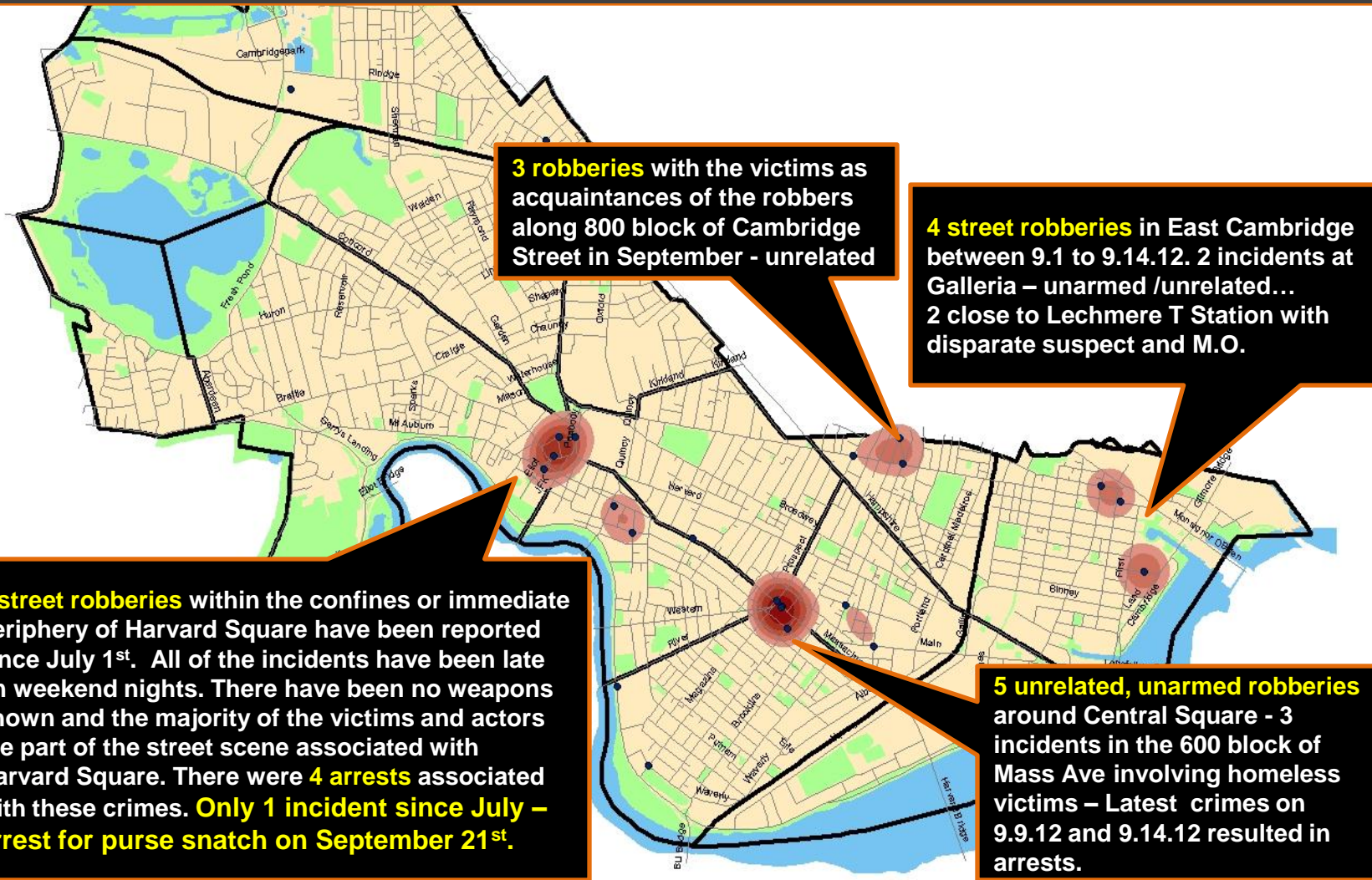
-13%





Street Robbery: Third Quarter of 2012

For the 2nd consecutive Summer, the number of street robberies in Cambridge for the third quarter have been exceptionally low. July and August combined registered 14 crimes. There were 11 robberies in September for **a total of 25 for the three month period**. There were no predatory patterns identified.





BURGLARY

Emerging Patterns

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

Previous Year

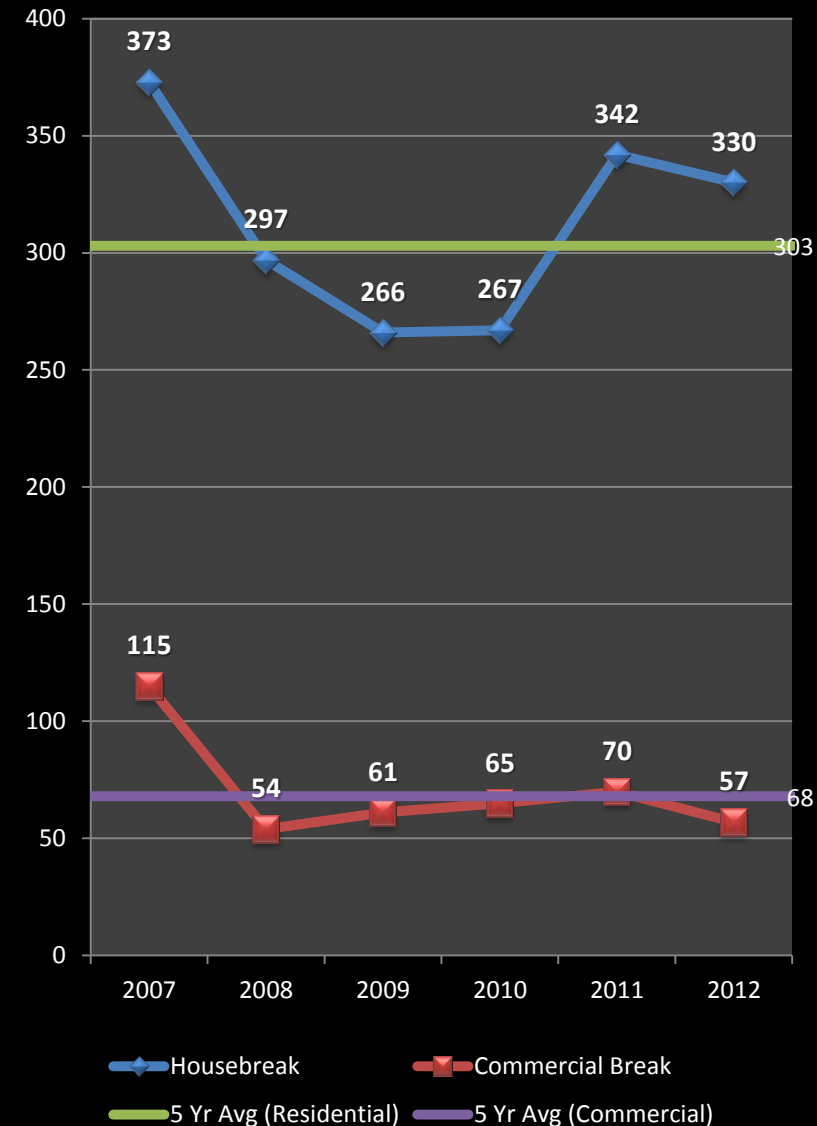
5 Year Average

-15%

-6%

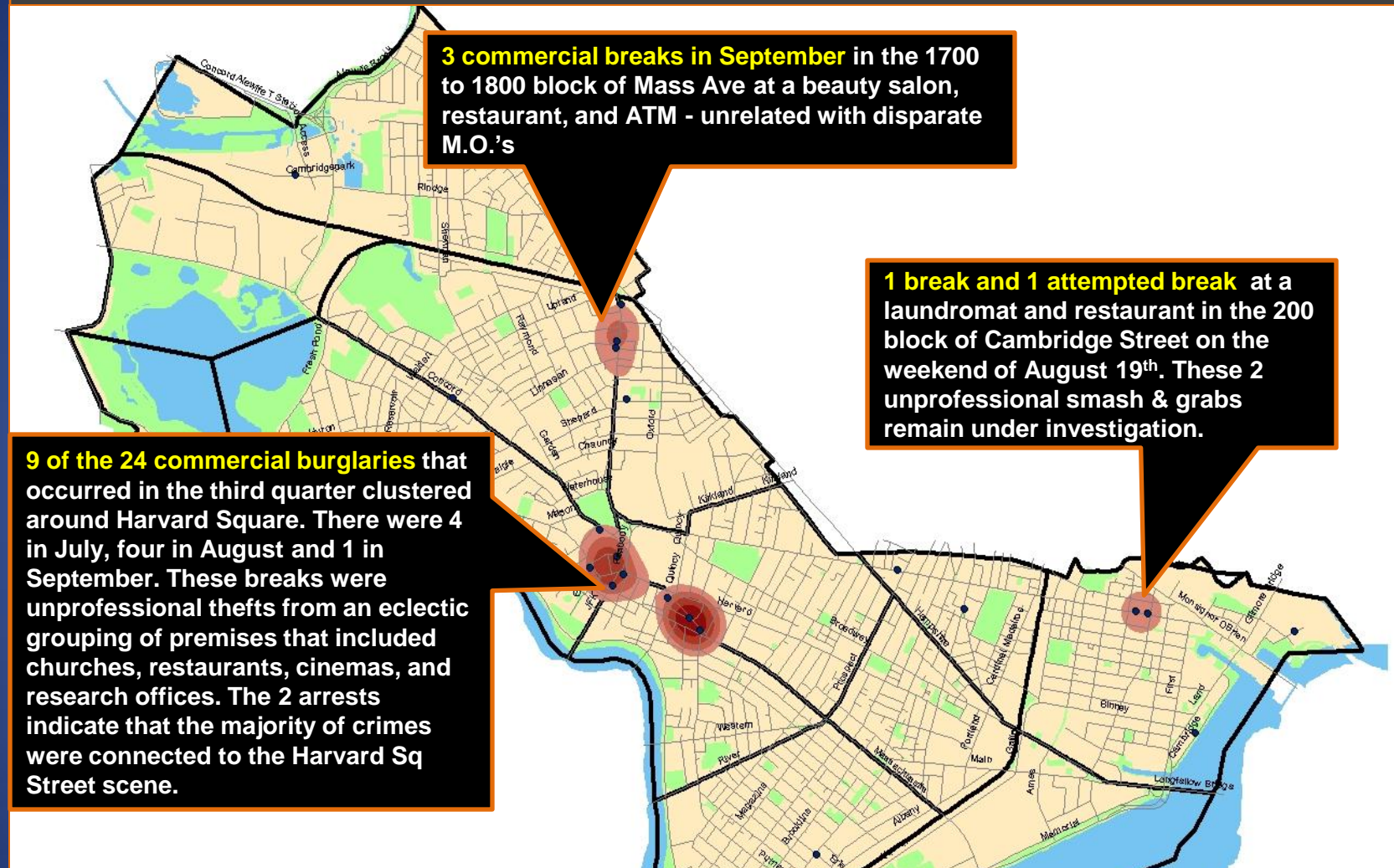
+4%

- Total burglary, the combination of residential and commercial burglary, is up 4% when compared to the 5-year average, with 16 additional incidents above the projected total of 371 crimes, and down 6% when compared with last year's total for the third quarter, with 18 fewer burglaries counted. When comparing this property crime with August of 2012, a 15% decrease has been registered (7 fewer burglaries reported).
- Commercial burglary has dropped 19% when compared with the first 9 months of 2011, with 13 fewer incidents recorded, and has dropped 16% when measured against the 5-year average. The 57 commercial burglaries in 2012 have been scattered throughout the City with no patterns identified.
- Analysis of housebreak activity in Cambridge over the first 9 months of 2012 indicates that approximately 70% of all the housebreaks in Cambridge in 2012 have been clustered in 4 pattern areas: Area 4, West Cambridge / Peabody, East Cambridge and Cambridgeport / Riverside. 3 of the 4 areas (Area 4, West Cambridge, East Cambridge) have shown marked decreases over the past 2 months. Cambridgeport was hit hard over the summer. Hopefully, the arrest of a crew of juveniles in September will abate this increase.





Commercial Breaks: Third Quarter of 2012

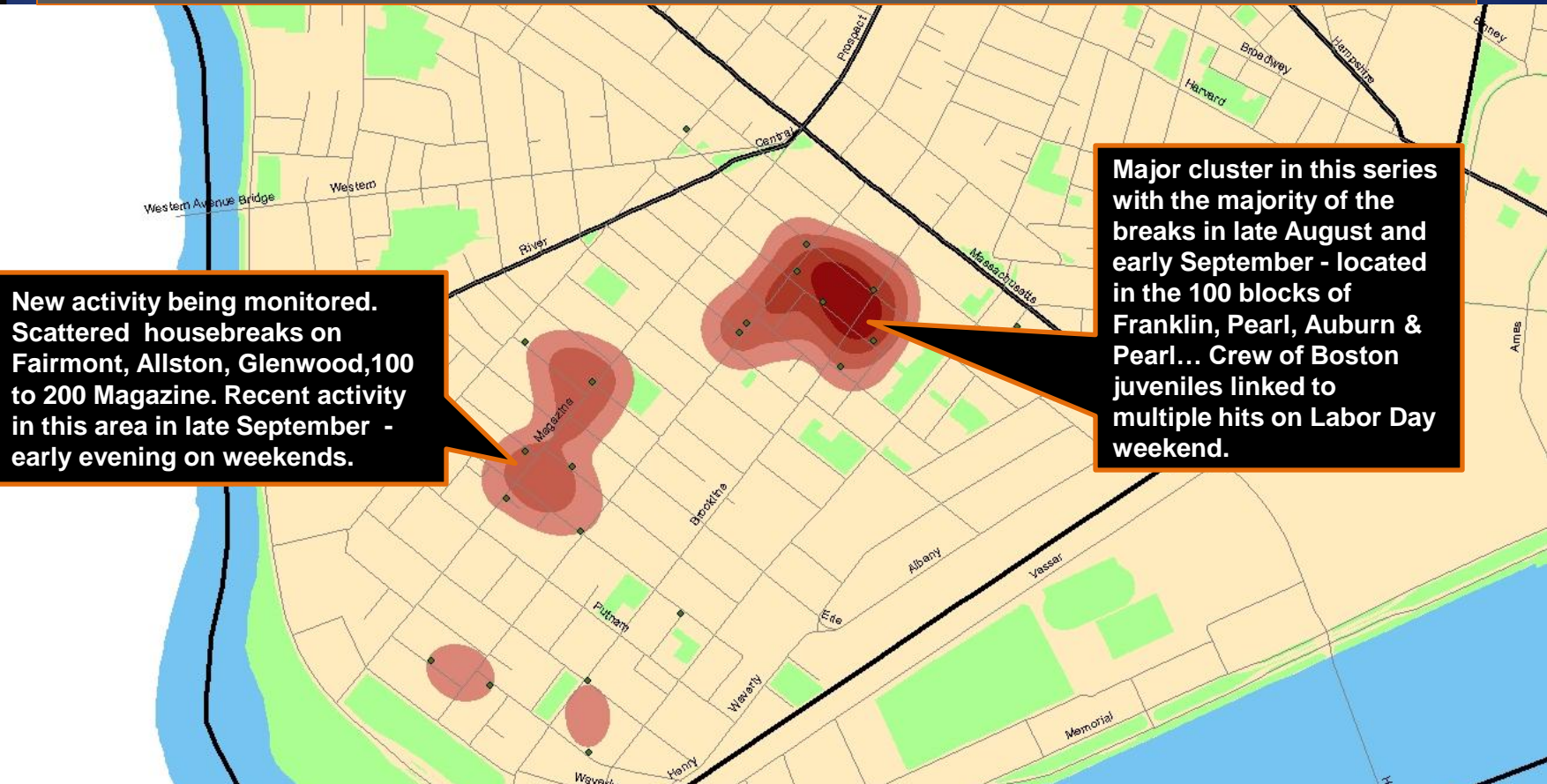


Commercial burglary has dropped 19% when compared with the first 9 months of 2011, and with 13 fewer incidents recorded, and has dropped 16% when measured against the 5-year average. **However, after recording only 5 commercial breaks in August, there were 9 in September.** The 57 commercial burglaries in 2012 have been scattered throughout the City with no discernible spatial or temporal pattern identified.



Housebreaks in Cambridgeport : Third Quarter of 2012

Cambridge Police BridgeStat



New activity being monitored. Scattered housebreaks on Fairmont, Allston, Glenwood, 100 to 200 Magazine. Recent activity in this area in late September - early evening on weekends.

Major cluster in this series with the majority of the breaks in late August and early September - located in the 100 blocks of Franklin, Pearl, Auburn & Pearl... Crew of Boston juveniles linked to multiple hits on Labor Day weekend.

There were 24 housebreaks (20% of the citywide total) reported in Cambridgeport during the third quarter of 2012. Major patterns were also identified in this area during the third quarter of last year. For the previous 3 third quarters between 2007 and 2010, this neighborhood averaged 11 housebreaks. In the middle of the past decade, housebreak patterns in this area were fairly common during the summer. What did the patterns of the past 2 years and those of the past decade have in common? Multiple breaks through unlocked windows into multi-unit dwellings with juveniles as the prime suspects. Since connection to crew of Juveniles from Boston was made in early September, this area has cooled considerably.



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 3 quarters of 2011 and dropped just slightly (1%) when measured against the 5-year weighted average.
- The increase in larceny from motor vehicles (+17%) 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. **Recent increases in this crime type have been seen in the Central Sq area, in Mid-Cambridge, and in West Cambridge, leading to an 18% rise in car breaks from August to September in 2012.**
- Despite a 10% decrease in larcenies from persons in September when compared with the previous 4 weeks, **this crime type is still up 28% when compared to last year. However, this is down from the 38% increase reported in August, so incidents may be evening out.**
- So far this year, there have been 307 reported bike thefts in Cambridge, which is 3% above the 297 reported through this time frame in 2011.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

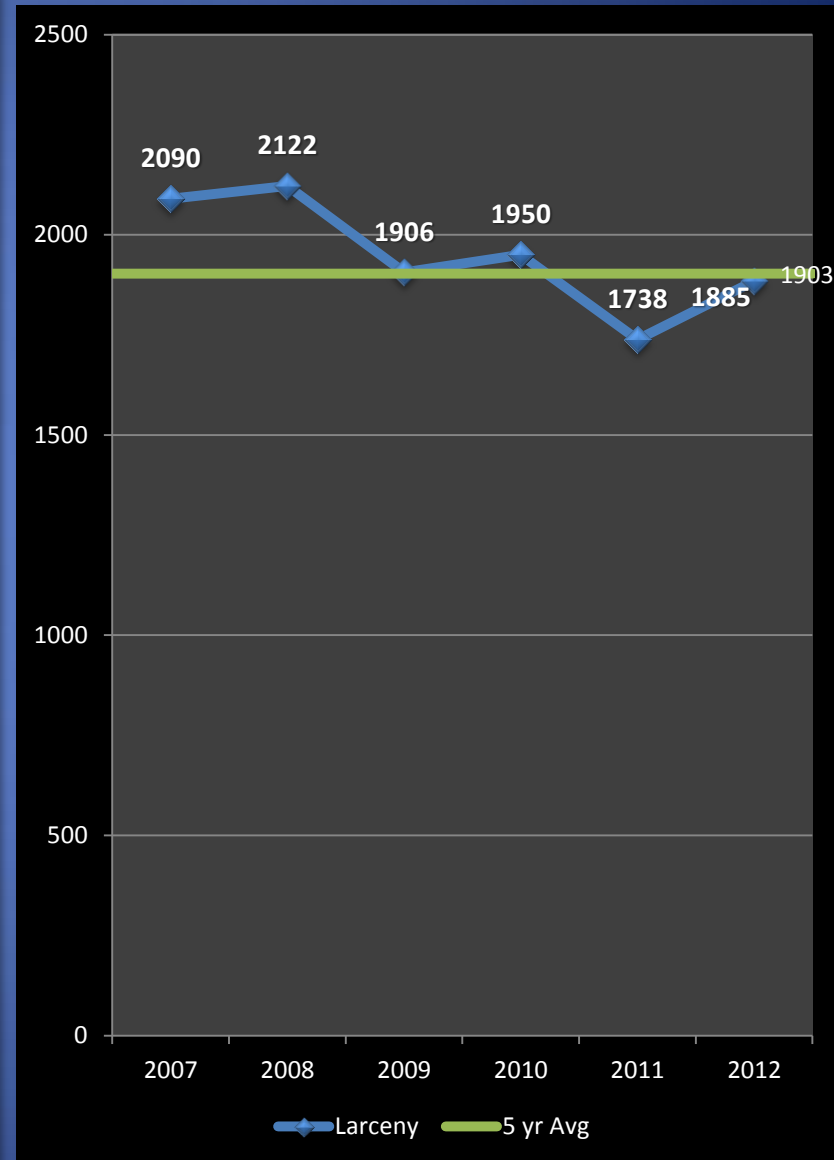
-8%

Previous Year

+8%

5 Year Average

-1%





LARCENY: *from MV*

Emerging Patterns

- Larcenies from MVs are up 17% when compared with the first 3 quarters of 2011, with **76 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 have declined **15%** when compared with the five-year average, with **94 incidents below** the norm for the first 9 months of the year. When measured against the previous 4 weeks, thefts from MVs jumped up by 18% with 10 incidents more than in August of 2012.
- There has been a sharp increase in larceny from motor vehicles over the past 6 weeks with over 115 thefts reported. The area of West Cambridge in close proximity to the 200 block of Mt Auburn, along with the neighborhoods that border Central Square (Area 4, Mid-Cambridge, Cambridgeport, and Riverside), have accounted for nearly 70% of thefts from cars during the third quarter in Cambridge.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

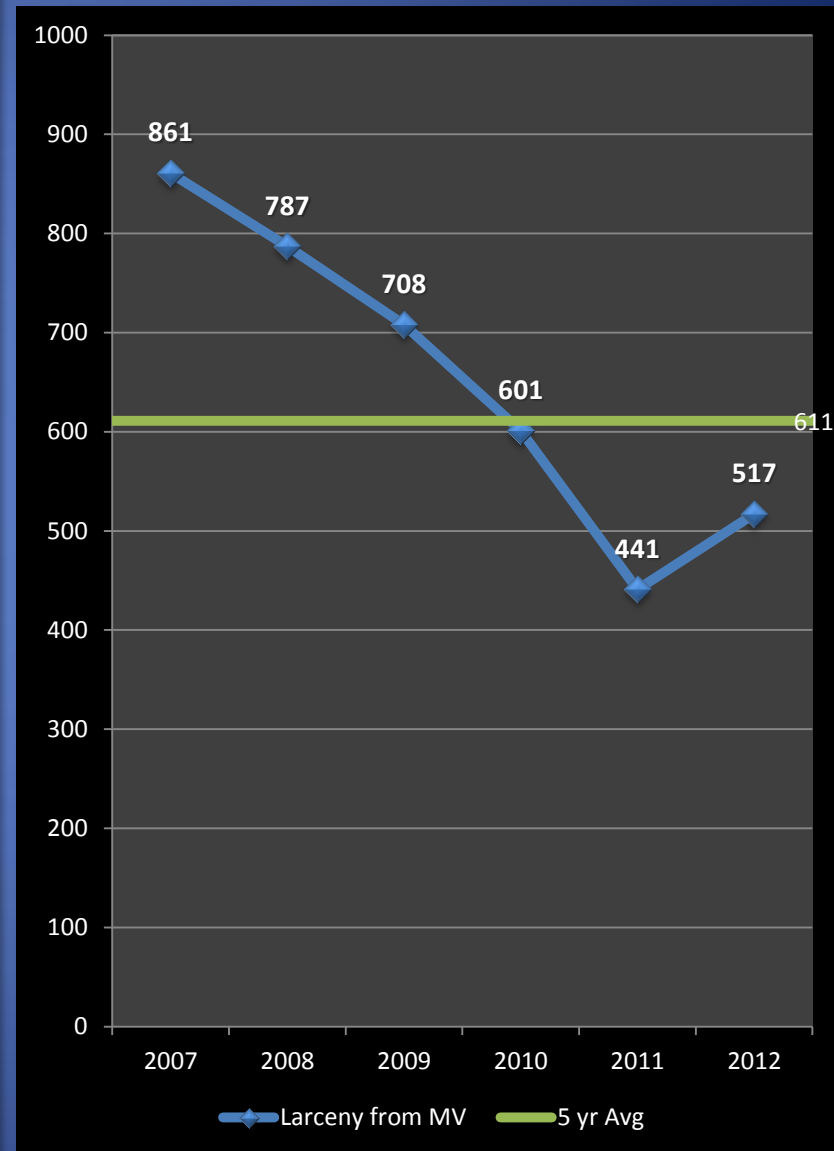
+18%

Previous Year

+17%

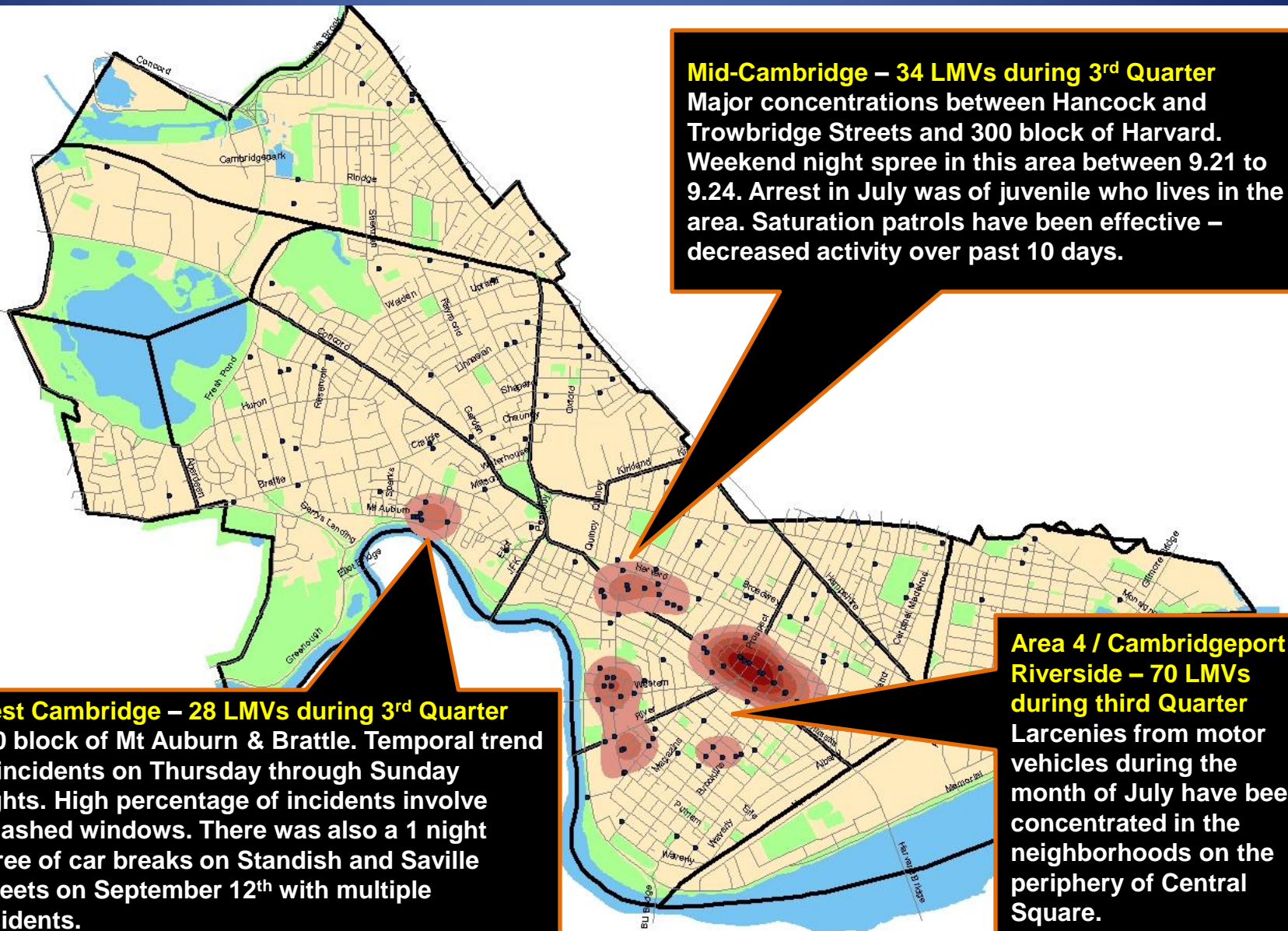
5 Year Average

-15%





Larceny from Motor Vehicle: Third Quarter of 2012





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*

No pattern

- When compared to the 3 quarters of 2011, larcenies from persons are up 28%. Over the last 4 weeks, there has been a decrease of 10%, with 2 fewer incident reported. The 5-year average for this larceny type averages around 235 thefts, and with 270 recorded incidents over the first 9 months of 2012, a 15% increase has been reported.
- The majority of these thefts, 37%, have taken place in Central Sq. The scenario for the majority of these thefts were the theft of cell phones, and wallets from victims who were out at bars between the hours of 8 p.m. to midnight. The often leave their belonging unattended while dancing or socializing and return at the end of the night to find them stolen.
- There were also 4 thefts at the Galleria Mall during the past 4 weeks. 3 happened while people were distracted by shopping and one in the food court. They inadvertently put something down to browse and then realized their phone or purse was no longer beside them.
- There was an arrest made on 9/16/12 in Central Sq after a female from Boston stole a purse at a restaurant.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

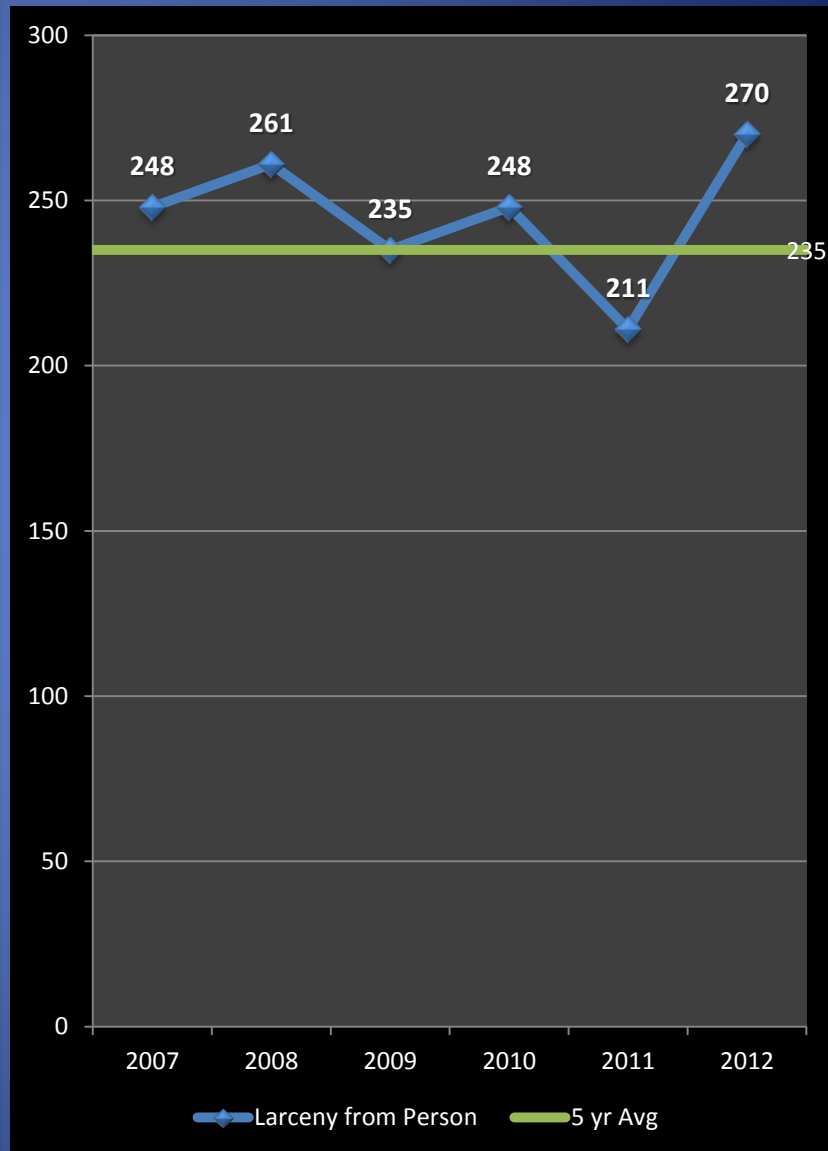
-10%

Previous Year

+28%

5 Year Average

+15%





LARCENY: of Bicycle

No Patterns

- The 5-year weighted average of bicycle thefts for the first 3 quarters of the year is 274 incidents. Through October 1, 2012, there have been 307 bikes reported stolen, which is 12% above the norm. The 307 thefts reported this year is also 3% above last year's total at this time, which was 297.
- Bike thefts decreased considerably in September when compared to the previous 4 weeks, dropping 38% from 65 thefts to 40. This may be due to the arrival of slightly cooler, wetter weather over the past month.
- The majority of thefts have involved bikes that were locked but left out in the open (locked to public bike racks or sign poles, for example).

Top Neighborhoods For Third Qtr Thefts:

Neighborhood	Total	% Citywide
Cambridgeport	27	16%
East Cambridge	23	14%
Riverside	20	12%
North Cambridge	19	11%
W. Camb & Area 4	18 (each)	11% (each)

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

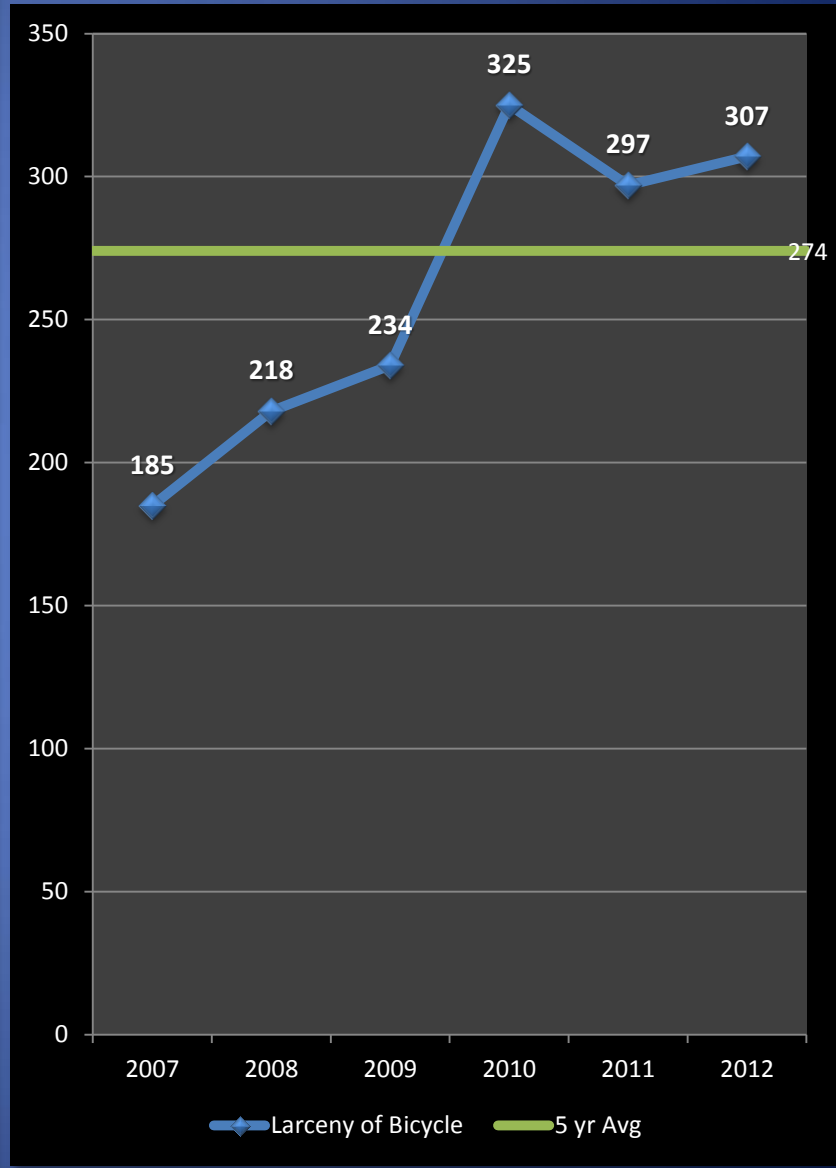
-38%

Previous Year

+3%

5 Year Average

+12%

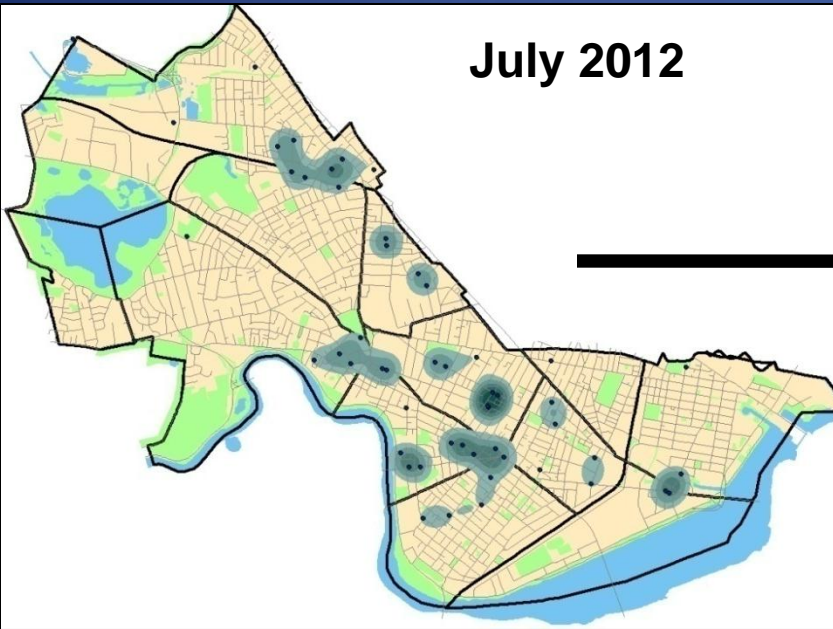




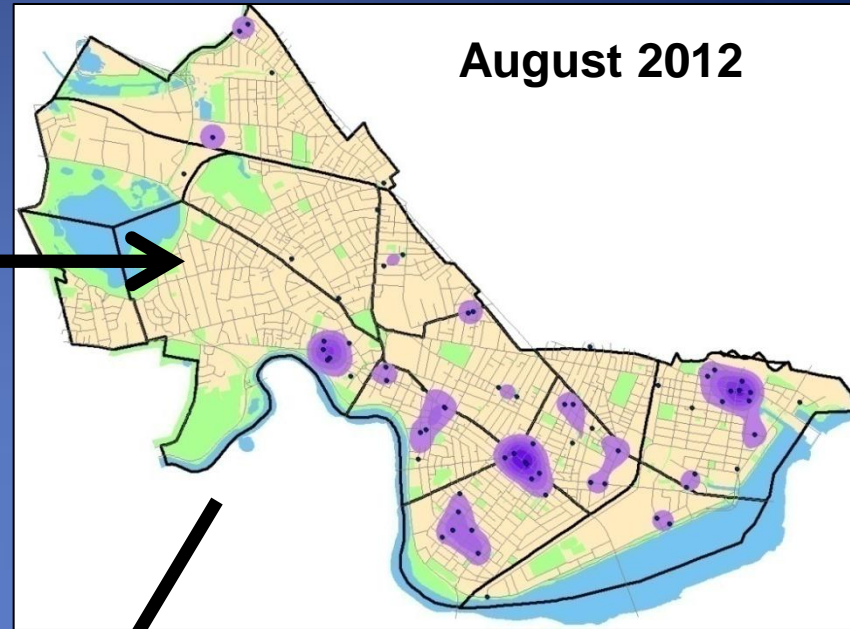
Bicycle Theft Hotspots in Cambridge: July, August, Sept. 2012

Cambridge Police BridgeStat

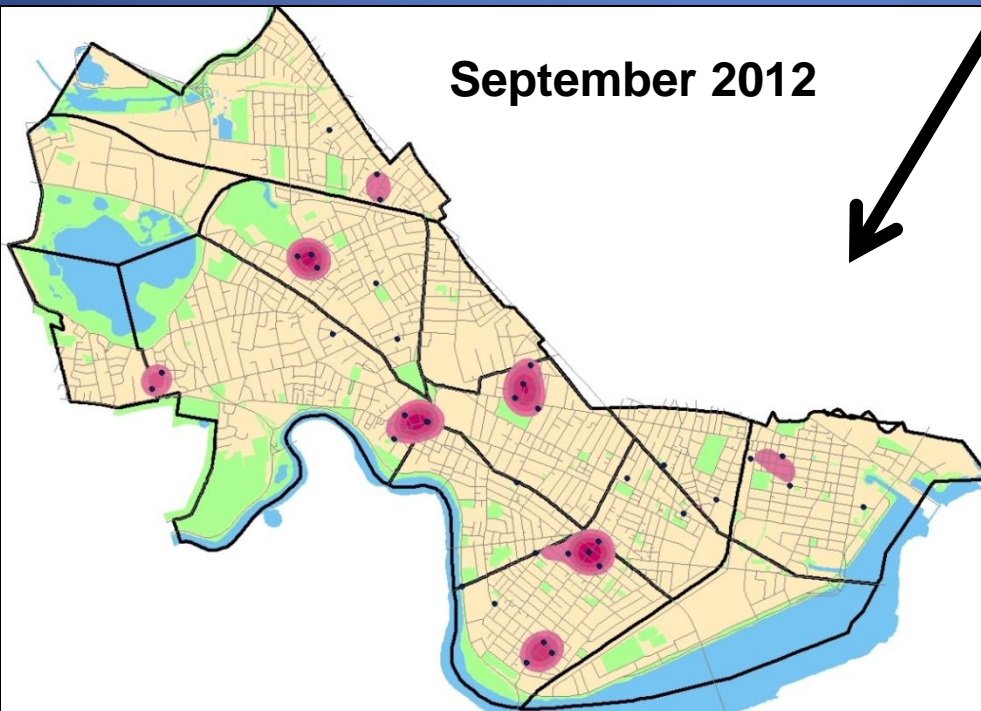
July 2012



August 2012



September 2012



The drop in bike thefts in September can also be seen in the reduction in hotspots across the city. Despite the recent drop, hotspots in Central & Harvard Squares and in Cambridgeport have remained relatively consistent across the 3 months.

The most recent incidents in Central & Harvard Squares have had no favored time frame, while those in Cambridgeport have been mainly overnight on weekdays, often from porches or yards.

September
2012



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/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 pattern

- The projected 5–year weighted average assigned to auto theft for the first 8 months of the year is 145 incidents; there were 100 vehicles stolen in the first 3 quarters, translating to a substantive 31% decline. When measured versus the same time period in 2011, there were 22 fewer auto thefts counted and a 18% decline posted.
- In the June and July BridgeStats, there was a regional trend of the theft of scooters and motorcycles. These incidents have since slowed down with only 1 reported in the past 4 weeks. Boston Police made a number of arrests of scooter and motorcycle thieves. There is a possibility that a substantial number of the stolen motorcycles were being chopped and sold for parts.
- **Year to date, 44% of stolen motor vehicles have been recovered.**

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

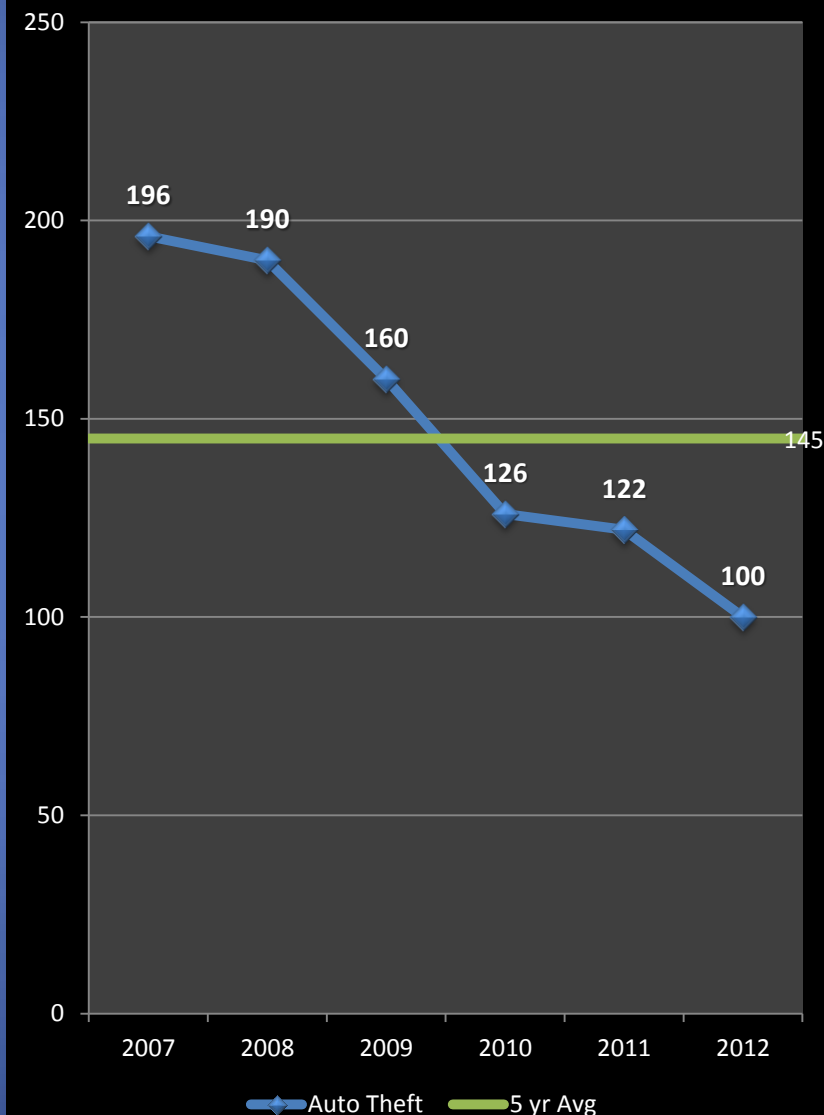
+13%

Previous Year

-18%

5 Year Average

-31%





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](https://twitter.com/CambridgePolice) 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 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?

- Our detailed 2011 Annual Crime Report is now available on our [website](#). *The 2011 Annual Crime Report was recently awarded first place in the statistical report category by the International Association of Crime Analysts.*
- 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.