



Cambridge Police Department BridgeStat

May 2011



Cambridge Police BridgeStat

Cambridge Part I Crimes

CRIME INDEX: MAY - 2011



Part I Stats: Violent Crime

Crime	January 1 – May 23				4 Week Snapshot		
	2010	Avg	YTD	Change	3/29-4/25	4/26-5/23	Change
Murder	0	0	1	N/A	0	0	0%
Rape	10	11	10	-9%	2	1	-50%
Robbery	40	55	49	-11%	12	15	25%
-Commercial Robbery	8	12	8	-33%	3	4	33%
-Street Robbery	32	43	41	-5%	9	11	22%
Aggravated Assault	87	88	77	-13%	16	12	-25%



Part I Stats: Property Crime

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Crime	January 1 – May 23				4 Week Snapshot		
	2010	Avg	YTD	Change	3/29-4/25	4/26-5/23	Change
Burglary	136	172	178	3%	39	44	13%
-Housebreaks	105	136	144	6%	34	36	6%
-Commercial Breaks	31	37	34	-8%	5	8	60%
Larceny	849	906	735	-19%	155	173	12%
-Larceny from Building	135	148	170	15%	37	38	3%
-Larceny from MV	272	332	185	-44%	39	54	38%
-Larceny from Person	142	125	89	-29%	20	16	-20%
-Larceny from Residence	68	63	76	21%	13	15	15%
-Larceny of Bicycle	62	52	48	-8%	7	23	229%
-Shoplifting	145	152	124	-18%	32	19	-41%
-Miscellaneous Larceny	25	34	43	26%	7	8	14%
Auto Theft	48	72	47	-35%	12	12	0%



Part I Stats: Totals

	January 1 – May 23			
	2010	5-Year Avg	2011 YTD	Change
Violent Crime Total	137	154	137	-11%
Property Crime Total	1033	1151	960	-17%
Total Part 1 Crimes	1170	1305	1097	-16%



Crime in Cambridge: 1/1/11 to 5/23/11

- **Serious crime slipped 6% when compared with the first 20 weeks of 2010, and posted a 16% decline when measured against the 5-year weighted average for this same time period.** The majority of the decrease can be attributed to the overall decline in the index crime of Larceny, with 114 fewer thefts reported so far in 2011.
- A thorough analysis of all statistics indicates that there were 73 fewer **property crimes recorded so far in 2011** to register a **7% decrease** when compared with the first 4 and $\frac{3}{4}$ months of last year. The total number of **Violent incidents in 2011 is** identical when counted against 2010 figures.
- **Both violent and property crime** registered significant declines (**-11% and -17 %, respectively**) when measured against the 5-year weighted average for the period 1/1/11 to 5/23/11.
- The decline of **larceny from motor vehicles, at 44%** below the 5-year weighted average for this target crime between 1/1/11 and 5/23/11, continues to be the most positive indicator to report so far this year. There were **87 fewer thefts** from vehicles during the first 20 weeks of 2011 than last year. **Larcenies from persons** were also **down 37%** when compared with 2010 figures. As the weather improves, **we expect the first solid patterns for these 2 crime types to emerge.**



MURDER

Change from 2010

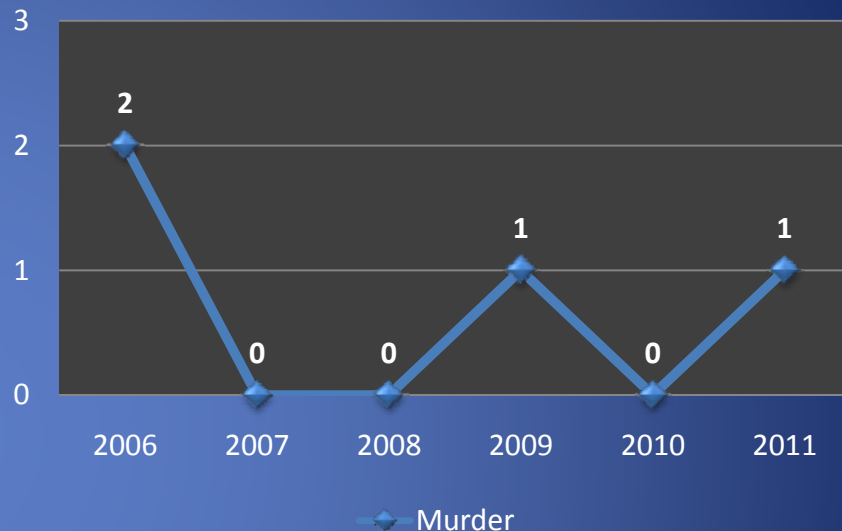
N/A

Change from 5 yr Average

N/A

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- On the night of 3/12/11, Cambridge Police responded to a double shooting that occurred in Cambridgeport. 2 victims were transported to area hospitals where one of the victims was pronounced dead. The other victim survived.
 - While no arrests have been made, authorities do not believe the shooting was a random incident. This investigation remains ongoing.
- Preliminary statistics released this week by the FBI reveal that Murder decreased by 4.4% in the United States in 2010.
- In the last 5 years, 6 people have been shot to death in Cambridge. Victims in 2/3 of these homicides had prior arrests for marijuana distribution.
- 4 of the 14 murders in Cambridge since 2002 have occurred during the month of June.





RAPE

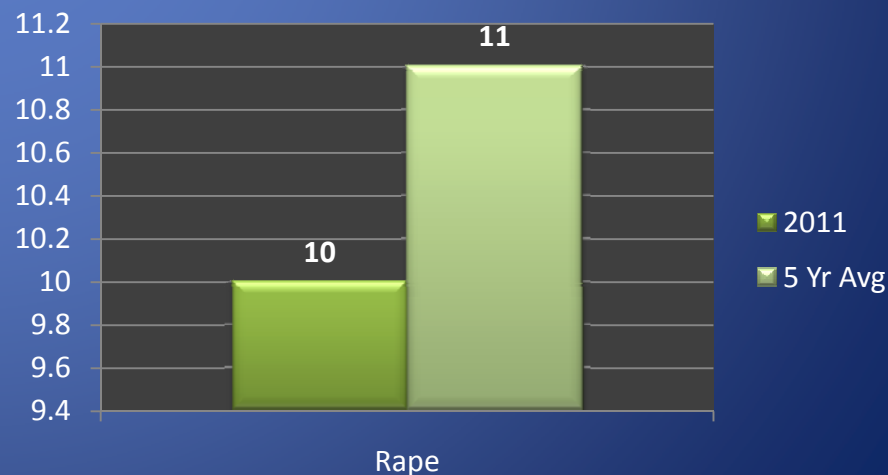
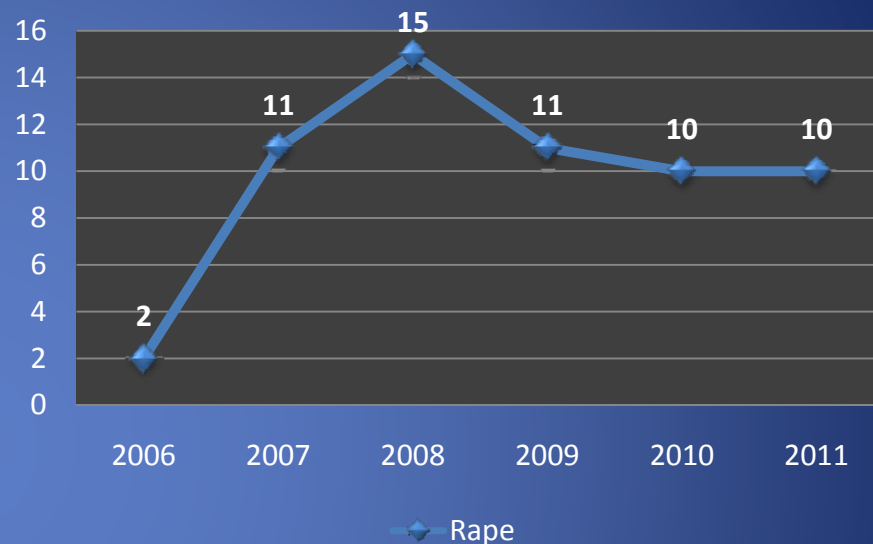
Change from 2010

0%

Change from 5 yr Average

-9%

- There have been 10 sexual assaults reported between 1/1/11 and 5/23/11. 6 of these incidents (including the 3 most recent reports) occurred prior to this year. 1 of the rapes is a past incident from the mid 1990s.
- There have been 0 stranger-to-stranger rapes registered in 2011.
 - 7 of the incidents involved acquaintances, 2 were domestic situations, and the other involved a contact scenario with the offender being someone the victim had met in a public place.
- Preliminary statistics released this week by the Federal Bureau of Investigation reveals that Rape decreased by 4.2% in the United States in 2010.





ROBBERY

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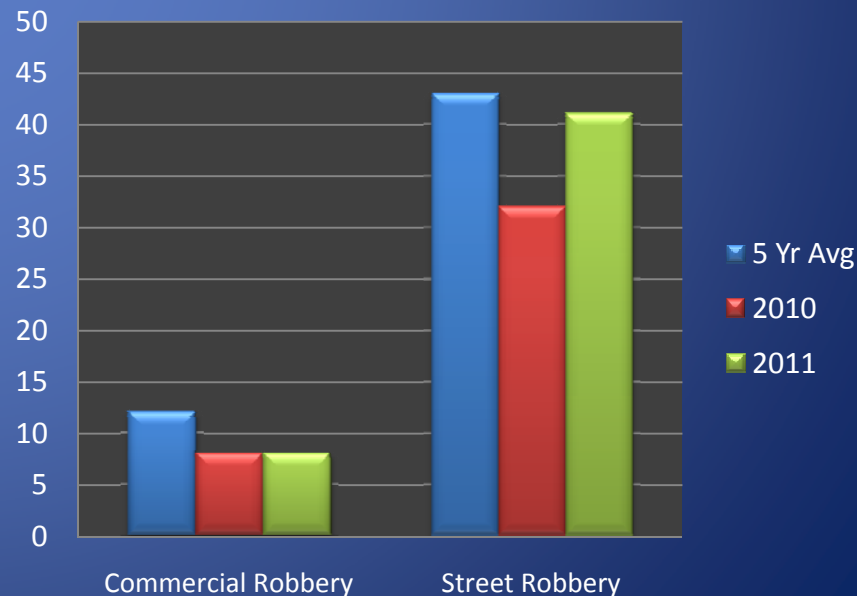
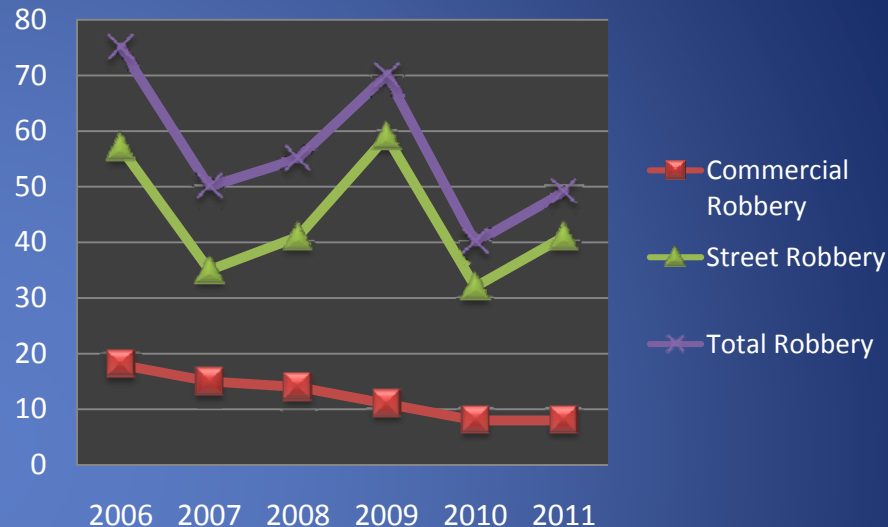
Change from 2010

+23%

Change from 5 yr Average

-11%

- **Total Robbery dropped from a 5-year average of 55 incidents YTD to 49 incidents through 5/23/11, which translates to a 11% decrease.**
 - A slight spurt over the past 4 weeks of **11 street robberies and 4 commercial robberies has driven a 25% increase** in this crime when compared with the previous 4 weeks of 2011.
- After recording only 1 commercial robbery in the first 3 months of 2011, there have been 7 recorded since the first week of April. The first 2 bank robberies of the year occurred on the same day, 5/19/11, 1 in Harvard Square, the other in Central Square.
 - When compared with the 5-year average, this violent crime type is down 33%
- Street Robbery has recorded a **5% decline** from the 5-year average.
 - The past 7 weeks, 24 of the 40 robberies YTD have taken place. There are no identifiable patterns at the present time.





Cambridge Police Seek Help Identifying Bank Robbery Suspects

Bank Robbery at 6 JFK St, Citizen's Bank:

On May 19, 2011, at approximately 14:16, RP states that she was on the phone at the time the suspect approached her window. The suspect fled out the door with approximately \$3500. The suspect is described as a white male in his early 30s, 5'6" – 5'8", wearing a dark colored fleece jacket with a zipper on the front, black t-shirt with white lettering (which he used to cover his face), a dark colored baseball cap possibly with a B on it.



Bank Robbery at 675 Mass Ave, Leader Bank:

A reporting person stated that at approximately 7:13 PM, shortly before closing) on May 19, 2011, a white male approached the only open window at the bank and handed the teller a note. The suspect made off with approximately \$800 and possibly fled into MBTA Central Sq Station (Inbound).

The suspect is described as a white male in his 50's wearing a black wool winter hat, long black military coat with lapel, and white tape on his right thumb.



*Anyone with information about these incidents is asking to call
Cambridge Police at 617-349-3300*



Review of Street Robbery Hotspots

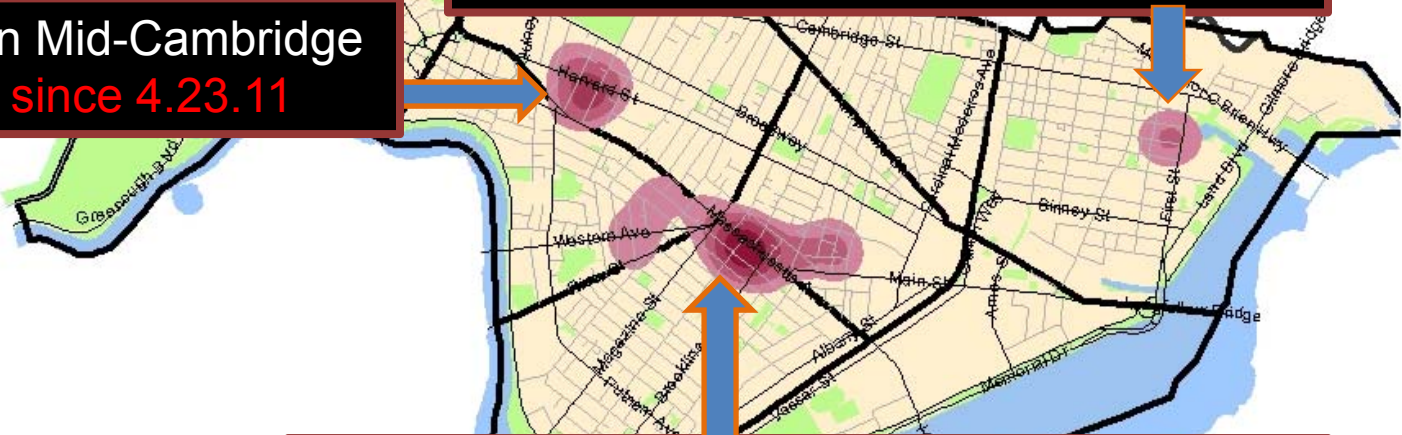
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6 recent street robberies – 2 were part of trend of homeless robbing homeless in Central Square. 2 unrelated female victims of phone snatches.



Robberies on 5/20/11 & 5/22/11 possibly related - 11PM & 1AM, 2 black male suspects – No weapons shown – Male victims walking on lower Cambridge Street.

5 robberies in Mid-Cambridge
Nothing new since 4.23.11



12 incidents in Central Square, 9 involving homeless vs. homeless. Majority are between 8PM & 11PM. 6 arrests made.



Street Robberies

What can we do?

Police Response Strategy:

- Cambridge Police have not identified any discernable patterns for these crimes at this time.
 - Extra patrols have been deployed to current hot-spot areas to help prevent any increase in activity.
 - Street robberies are a major focus for our bike patrol officers who were deployed beginning on 4/30.
- CPD is continually reviewing prior seasonal robbery trends to determine proper allocation resources.

Citizen Response Strategy:

- In order to help protect residents from becoming a victim of street robberies Cambridge Police would like to remind students and citizens to take the following precautions when walking at night:
 - **Be aware of your surroundings at all times and trust your instincts.**
 - **Always walk with a friend or in a group when possible.**
 - **Do not wear earbuds**, headphones, or listen to music while walking alone.
 - If you feel you are being followed, show you are suspicious – Turn to look at the person. This sends a clear message that you will not be taken by surprise.
 - If approached, **DO NOT RESIST**, especially if you know or believe the robber to be armed. The best course of action is to hand over money and whatever other belongings are demanded as quickly as possible and try to disengage from this confrontational and potentially dangerous situation as soon as possible.
Remember, things can always be replaced.
- For more safety tips, visit http://www.cambridgema.gov/CityOfCambridge_Content/documents/street%20safety.pdf



AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

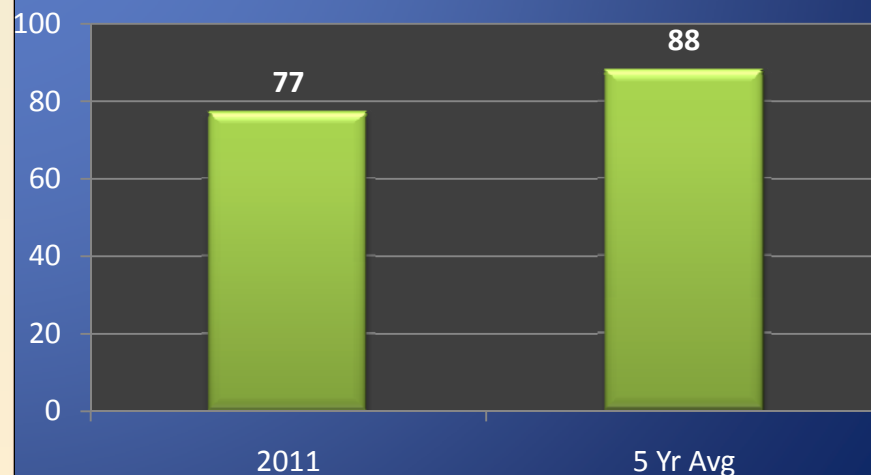
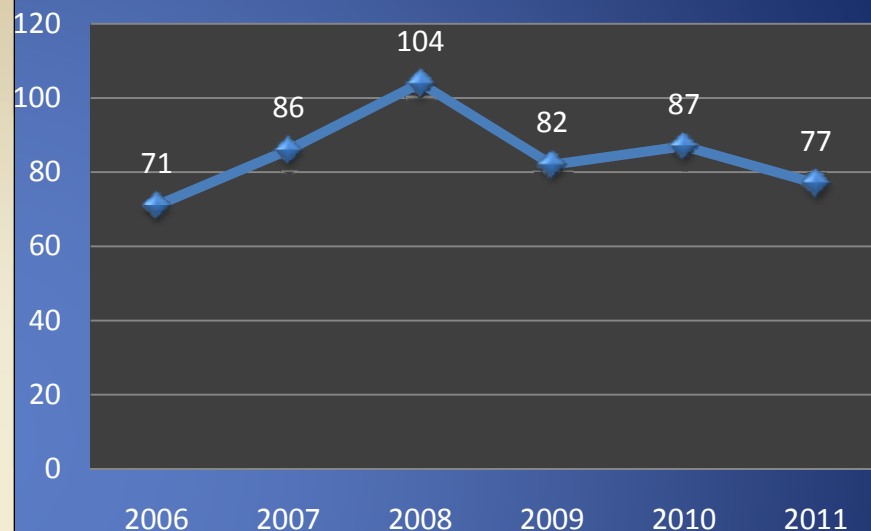
Change from 2010

-11%

Change from 5 yr Average

-13%

- When measuring this violent index crime against the 5-year average for the first 20 weeks, **a 13% decrease has been registered.** There have been 10 fewer aggravated assaults than in 2010.
- First shooting with a victim recorded since the homicide on 3/12.
 - During the late night hours of May 30th, CPD responded to the area of Clement Morgan Park for reports of gunshots. Officers arrived on scene within minutes of the call to find 1 victim who had sustained a gunshot wound. The victim was transported to a Boston area hospital with non-life threatening injuries.
- There have been 3 stabbings, all resulting in arrests, and a total of 15 aggravated assaults in Harvard Square in 2011, including 2 additional incidents on the weekend of the 5/21.
 - The majority of these incidents have occurred on weekend nights after the bars close.
- Preliminary statistics released this week by the FBI reveal that Aggravated Assault decreased by 3.6% in the United States in 2010.





Aggravated Assault

What can we do?

Police Response Strategy:

- In response to citizen concerns after the recent shooting in Area 4 and other reports of gunshots, Cambridge Police:
 - Sent out a Citizen Alert on 6/1 to the Area 4 neighborhood containing information that could be shared with the public.
 - Posted the alert to the Cambridge Police website (www.cambridgepolice.org) as well as Twitter (www.twitter.com/CambridgePolice) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/CambridgePolice)
 - Increased Directed Patrol activity in the area.
 - Developed a deployment plan that includes bicycle patrols, uniformed personnel and plain clothes officers in the affected areas.

Citizen Response Strategy:

- Most crimes of this nature that occur in Cambridge are not random.
 - Typically occur between people known to each other.
- To prevent and solve these crimes, the most helpful thing you can do is provide the police with any information you may have:
 - Call our Anonymous Crime/Drug Tip Hotline at **617-349-3359**.
 - Send an Anonymous Text-A-Tip 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 911. If you witness an emergency situation, please call 911 immediately.*
 - Send an Anonymous Crime Tip E-Mail by filling out the form and submitting it at http://www2.cambridgema.gov/cpd/contact/mailform.cfm?email_id=101.



BURGLARY

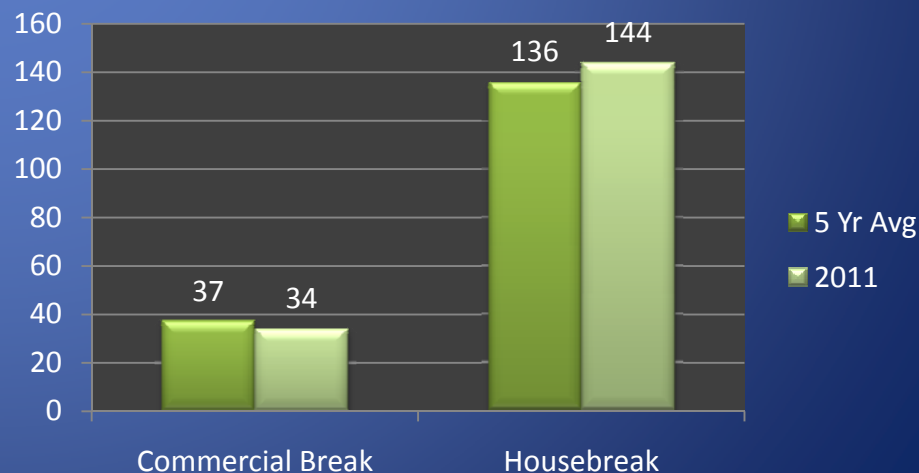
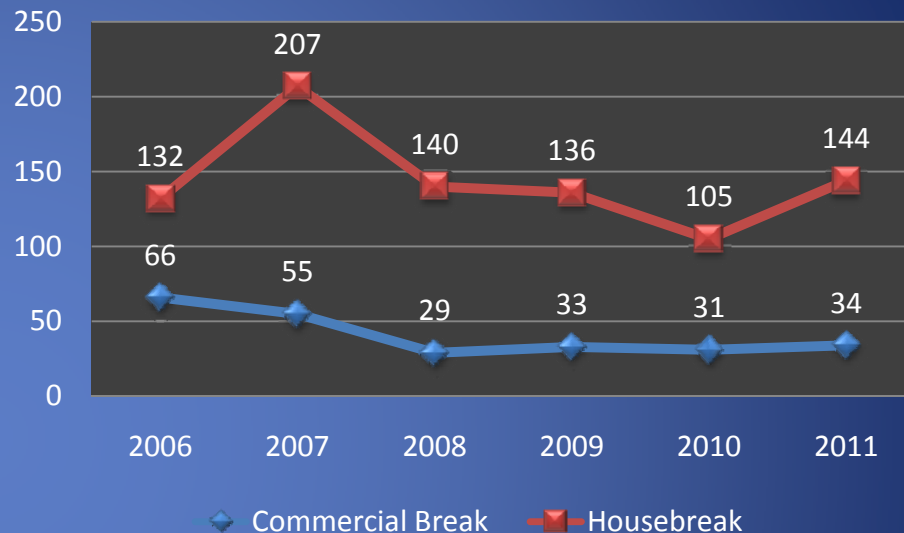
Change from 2010

+31%

Change from 5 yr Average

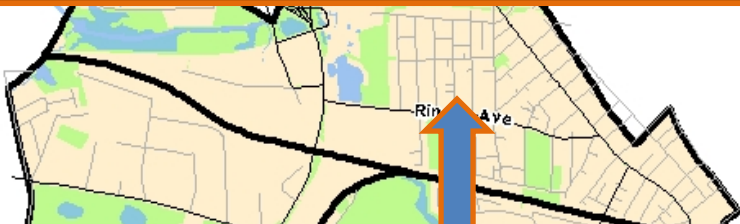
+3%

- **Total Burglary**, the combination of residential and commercial burglary, is **up 3%** when compared to the 5-year average.
- **Housebreaks have recorded a noteworthy increase of 37%** for the first 20 weeks of 2011 when compared with the same time period for 2010.
 - Further analysis reveals that last year's total was unusually low (from 50 to 100 fewer breaks than the prior 3 years). These breaks are clustered in 4 distinct areas in close proximity to Central Square and are predominantly committed on weekday afternoons.
- There have been 3 additional commercial breaks in 2011 when compared with the first 20 weeks of 2010.
 - There were 5 unrelated breaks in May.





Review of Housebreak Hotspots

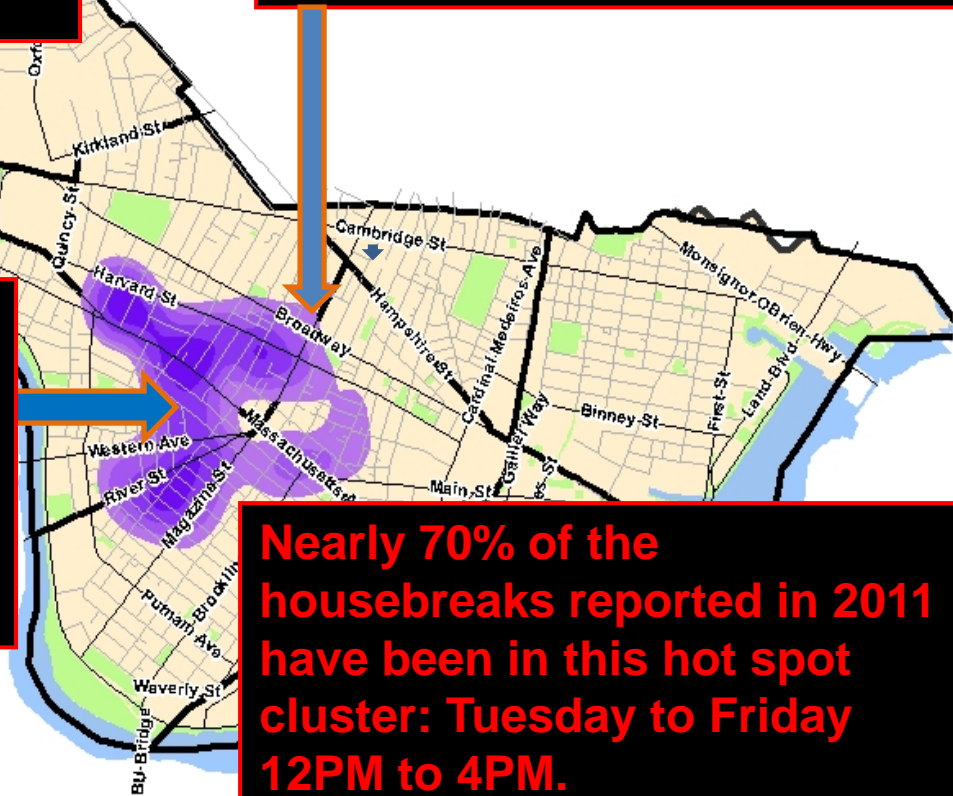


2 breaks at end of last week: Regent & Cedar – 6PM to 7PM with a possibly homeless suspect.

5 daytime breaks since last BridgeStat. Best time frame between 12PM and 3PM, forced front doors on weekdays, with laptops as targets



4 additional breaks since last BridgeStat on the border of Cambridgeport and Riverside. 40 housebreaks in this area so far in 2011. Best time frame are weekdays from 1PM to 4PM.



Nearly 70% of the housebreaks reported in 2011 have been in this hot spot cluster: Tuesday to Friday 12PM to 4PM.



Housebreaks

What can we do?

Police Response Strategy:

- Cambridge Police deployed extra patrols to the affected areas in order to combat the recent increase in housebreaks.
 - CPD is also utilizing plainclothes officers and will be saturating affected areas through directed patrols & traffic enforcement utilizing patrol units, traffic units, and bicycle officers.
- A Citizen Advisory was sent in April via Citizen Observer to those subscribed to receive information from the Cambridge CITYWIDE group with important housebreak prevention information.
 - To sign up to receive these and other alerts from CPD, visit <http://www.citizenobserver.com/cov6/app/group.html?id=2595>

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 http://www2.cambridgema.gov/CityOfCambridge_Content/documents/Flyer_Housbreaks_FINAL2.pdf



LARCENY

Change from 2010

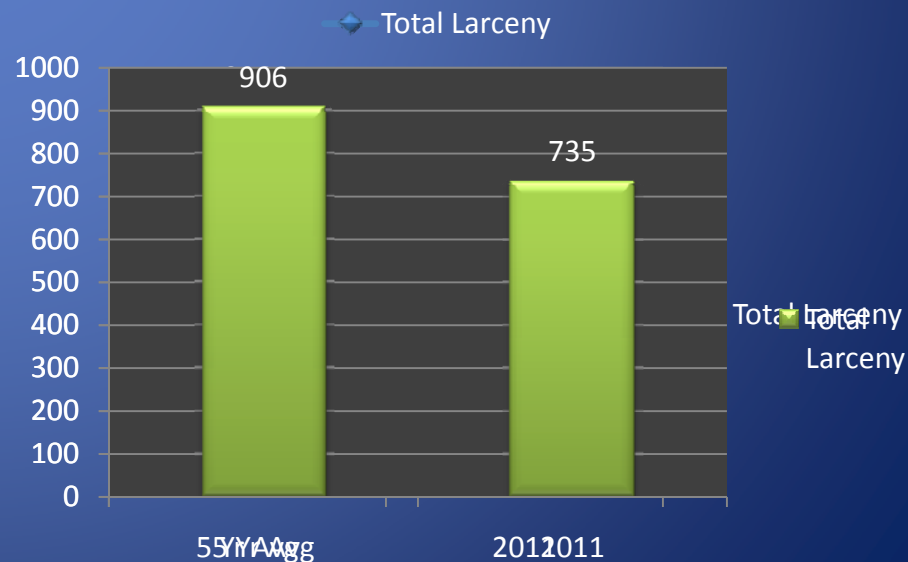
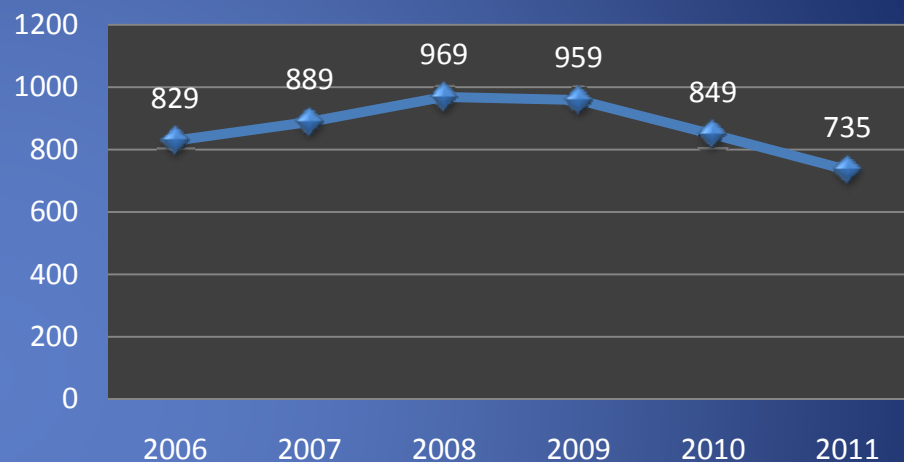
-13%

Change from 5 yr Average

-19%

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- Overall, larceny decreased by 13% when compared with the first 20 weeks of 2010 and 19% when measured against the 5-year weighted average.
- The decline in larceny from motor vehicles remains consistent with a **44% decrease** recorded versus the 5-year weighted average for this target crime year-to-date.
- **Larcenies from persons were also down 37%** when compared with 2010 totals.
 - When comparing the most recent 4 weeks to the previous 4 weeks, **larcenies from the person dropped by more than 50% (from 27 to 12)**.
 - This crime type tends to see a notable increase in the Harvard Sq area during late May and throughout June, due to an influx of visitors (and easier targets) to the city for graduations and festivals.
- So far this year, there have been 48 reported bike thefts in Cambridge, while there were 62 reported through this time frame in 2010.





LARCENY: *from MV*

Change from 2010

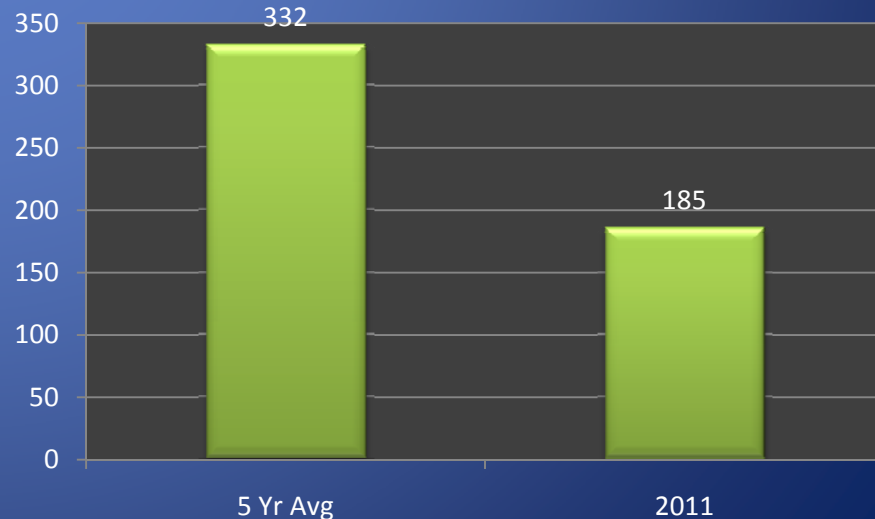
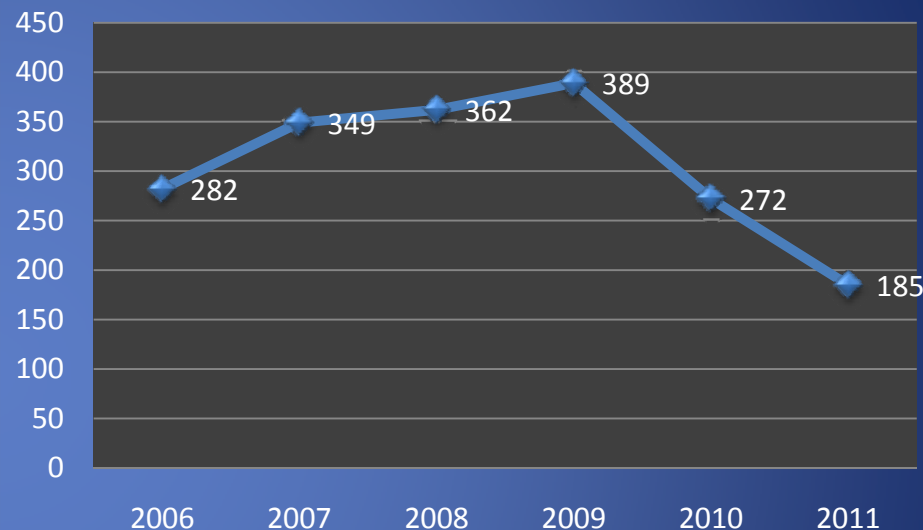
-31%

Change from 5 yr Average

-44%

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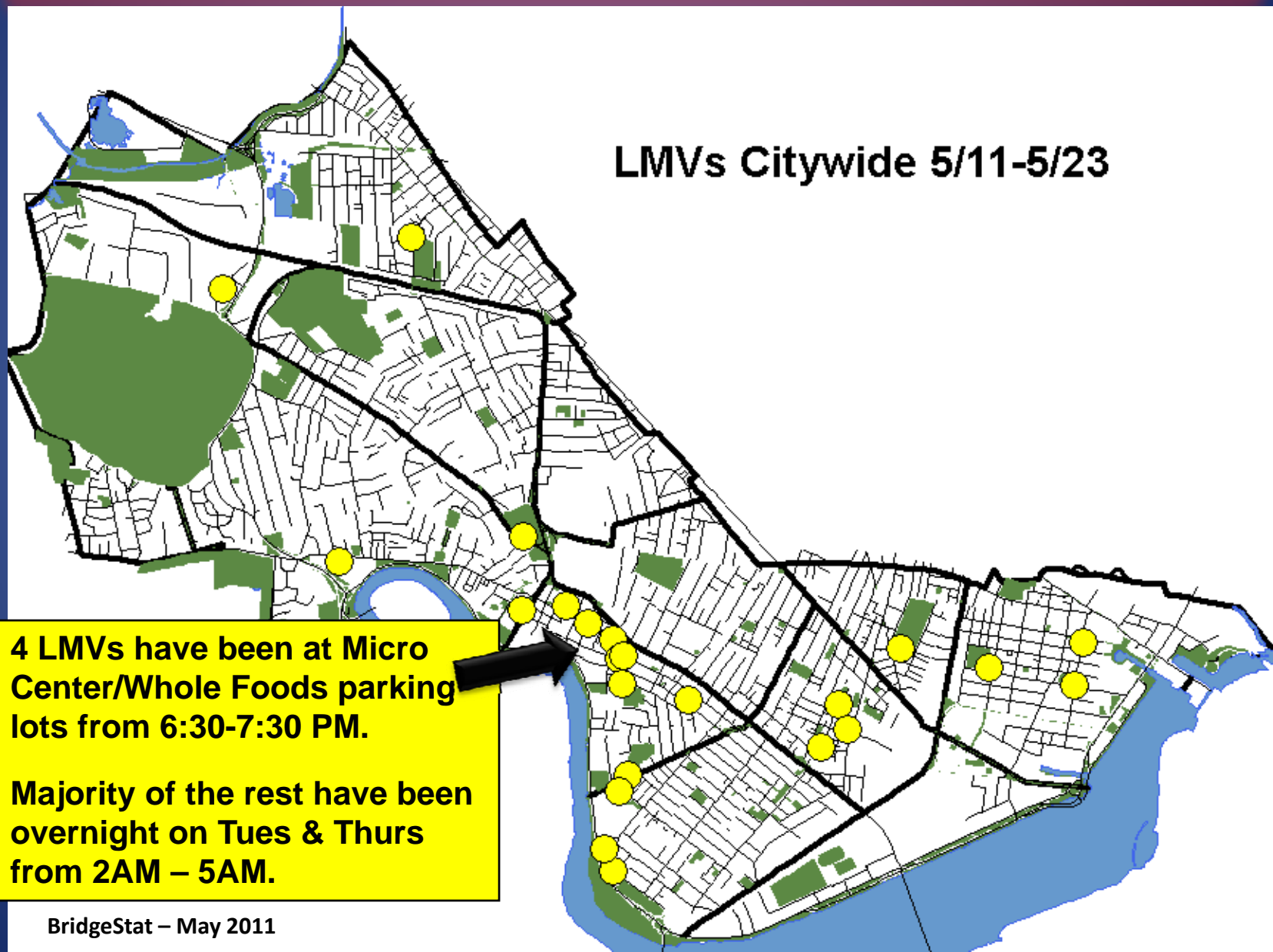
- Larceny from MVs are **down 44%** when compared with the 5-year average, with **147 fewer incidents** than the norm for this time period and 204 incidents under the 2009 total for the first 4.5 months of the year.
- In the past 2 weeks there have been 25 LMVs reported, 13 of which occurred along Memorial Drive.
 - Hardest hit areas have been River St, Memorial Dr, and Putnam Ave.
- Although LMVs are at a low in comparison to previous years, these areas should be watched from 12AM to 5AM on Tuesday and Thursday.
 - Recent part thefts from MVs took place over the weekend of 5/9-5/10 (tires).**





LARCENY: FROM MOTOR VEHICLE

LMVs Citywide 5/11-5/23



4 LMVs have been at Micro Center/Whole Foods parking lots from 6:30-7:30 PM.

Majority of the rest have been overnight on Tues & Thurs from 2AM – 5AM.



Larceny from Motor Vehicle

What can we do?

Police Response:

- Cambridge Police have not identified any clear patterns, but hotspots of activity identified on the previous slide are being monitored by patrol units for any uptick in activity.
- Cambridge Police encourage residents and commuters to take action by following the tips listed to the right in order to protect their vehicles and their belongings.

Citizen Response:

- Below are some tips on how to protect yourself and your belongings from falling victim to the crime of larceny from a motor vehicle:
 - Roll up windows and lock all doors.
 - Even if you are parking in your own driveway!
 - **Park in well-lit areas.**
 - Always be aware of the area where you park.
 - **Hide all valuables out of view.** If you can see them from outside the vehicle, so can thieves.
 - **Don't leave valuables in your car.** If you must, lock them out of view in your trunk.
 - **Take GPS units and clips out of the car.**
 - For more safety tips, visit http://www.cambridgema.gov/CityOfCambridge_Content/documents/LMV%20Flyer.pdf



LARCENY: *from Person*

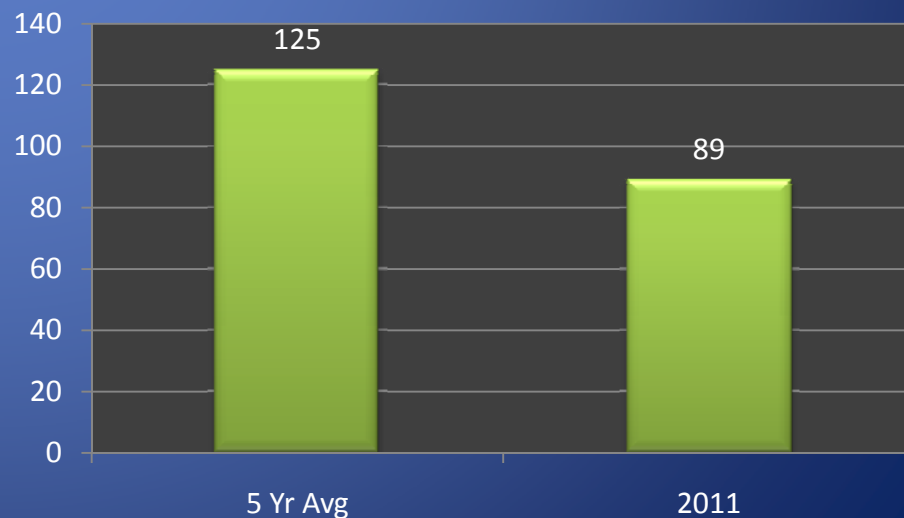
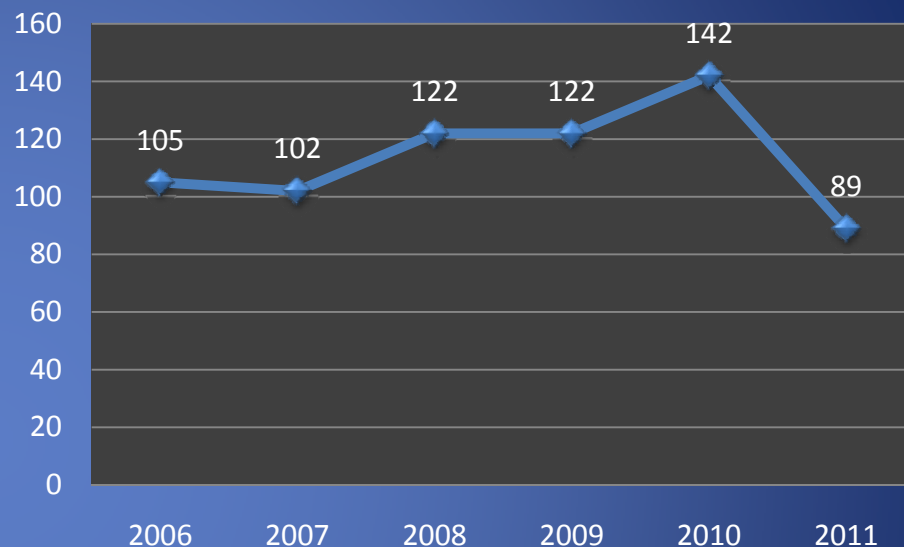
Change from 2010

-37%

Change from 5 yr Average

-29%

- So far in 2011, the results of the enforcement strategies enacted during BridgeStat last summer continue to be effective in combating this target crime.
 - **Larceny from persons are down 37% from the first 20 weeks of 2010, 29% below the 5-year average, and 56% below the previous 4 week total.**
- Larceny from person heats up every year around commencement time in Harvard Square.
 - Patterns were identified in the Square at the end of May last year. Before the end of June 2010, there were more than 30 incidents in the Square.





AUTO THEFT

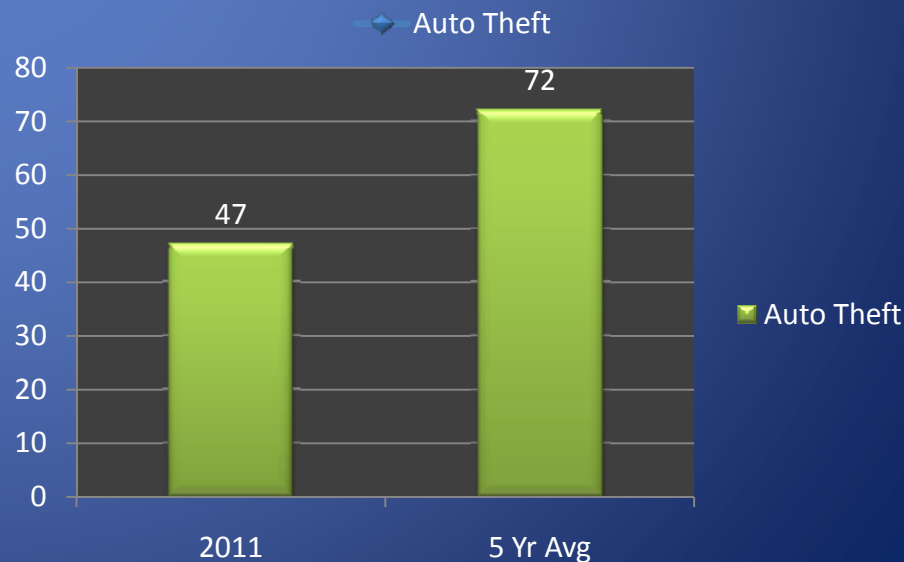
Change from 2010

-2%

Change from 5 yr Average

-35%

- The 5-year weighted average for auto theft for the first 20 weeks of the year is 72 incidents. There were only 47 reported in Cambridge for this time period in 2011, which translates to a **35% decline**.
- There has been 1 car stolen in Agassiz, 1 in Strawberry Hill, 2 in Peabody, and 2 in Cambridge Highlands so far in 2011.
- A slight trend has emerged of the theft of Honda vehicles between 1:00 AM and 5:00 AM on weekend nights in the area of Cambridgeport and Inman.
 - When recovered, the vehicles are found stripped of parts.





Help Prevent Crime

And keep yourself informed!

Police Response Strategy:

To receive information from the CPD

- Sign up to receive Citizen Alerts of notable events & crimes by visiting <http://www.citizenobserver.com/cov6/app/group.html?id=2595> and following the simple instructions.
- “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.

Citizen Response Strategy:

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 http://www2.cambridgema.gov/cpd/contact/mailform.cfm?email_id=101



Questions?

- BridgeStat is a work in progress and will evolve over time to include more detailed information.
- We welcome all questions, comments, and suggestions.
- Please direct your feedback to:
BridgeStat@CambridgePolice.org
- For more detailed analytical reports, please refer to the Publications page on our website:
http://www.cambridgema.gov/CPD/publications/crime_2010.cfm