



# Cambridge Police Department **BridgeStat**

November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010



# Introduction

The Cambridge Police Department is proud to announce our new BridgeStat program. This program, released on the first Friday of every month, is designed to share information with the public and combat crime in the city.

BridgeStat, similar to the CitiStat program used in New York City, is a multilayered dynamic approach to crime reduction, quality of life improvement, and personnel and resource management. Police personnel meet to devise strategies and tactics to solve problems, reduce crime, and ultimately improve quality of life in their community. Similar systems are in use in other major cities including Washington, DC, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Austin, San Francisco, and Baltimore.

Through the new BridgeStat program, the Cambridge Police Department will produce a monthly public report to the community on current police priorities in terms of crime, traffic, and disorder issues in the city.

Beginning iterations of BridgeStat include information relating to historical trends, a breakdown of crimes by type, strategies the Cambridge Police are deploying to deal with crime patterns that have been identified, and tips for how citizens can protect themselves and help reduce crime in Cambridge. This version contains more detailed information about future patterns we expect to see so that both police personnel and members of the community can be informed and prepared in order to deal with these possible scenarios.



*Cambridge Police BridgeStat*

A Review of Current Crime Index & Target Crimes

# **CURRENT CRIME REVIEW**



# Part I Stats: Violent Crime

Crime	January 1 – October 23				4 Week Snapshot		
	2009	Avg	YTD	Change	8/29-9/25	9/26-10/23	Change
Murder	2	1	0	-100%	0	0	0%
Rape	24	24	26	+8%	1	1	0%
Robbery	145	144	111	-23%	16	14	-13%
-Commercial Robbery	15	26	17	-36%	2	3	+50%
-Street Robbery	130	117	94	-20%	14	11	-21%
Aggravated Assault	208	208	216	+4%	29	23	-21%



# Part I Stats: Property Crime

Cambridge Police BridgeStat

Crime	January 1 – October 23				4 Week Snapshot		
	2009	Avg	YTD	Change	8/29-9/25	9/26-10/23	Change
<b>Burglary</b>	350	432	<b>356</b>	<b>-18%</b>	60	<b>34</b>	<b>-43%</b>
-Housebreaks	286	343	<b>287</b>	<b>-16%</b>	53	<b>29</b>	<b>-45%</b>
-Commercial Breaks	64	89	<b>69</b>	<b>-22%</b>	7	<b>5</b>	<b>-29%</b>
<b>Larceny</b>	2068	2158	<b>2105</b>	<b>-2%</b>	230	<b>215</b>	<b>-7%</b>
-Larceny from Building	261	319	<b>311</b>	<b>-2%</b>	36	<b>40</b>	<b>+11%</b>
-Larceny from MV	767	801	<b>644</b>	<b>-20%</b>	66	<b>62</b>	<b>-6%</b>
-Larceny from Person	259	272	<b>269</b>	<b>-1%</b>	22	<b>26</b>	<b>+18%</b>
-Larceny from Residence	147	156	<b>155</b>	<b>-1%</b>	21	<b>16</b>	<b>-24%</b>
-Larceny of Bicycle	255	230	<b>346</b>	<b>+51%</b>	50	<b>34</b>	<b>-32%</b>
-Shoplifting	302	293	<b>308</b>	<b>+5%</b>	27	<b>31</b>	<b>+15%</b>
-Miscellaneous Larceny	77	87	<b>72</b>	<b>-17%</b>	8	<b>6</b>	<b>-25%</b>
<b>Auto Theft</b>	171	199	<b>142</b>	<b>-29%</b>	15	<b>19</b>	<b>+27%</b>



# Part I Stats: Totals

	January 1 – October 23		Change
	2009	2010	
<b>Violent Crime Total</b>	379	353	-7%
<b>Property Crime Total</b>	2589	2603	+1%
<b>Total Part 1 Crimes</b>	2968	2956	-0.4%



# Crime in Cambridge: 1/1/10 to 10/23/10

- Overall, the violent and property crime index for the first forty four (44) weeks of 2010 remain relatively unchanged. However, there have been 12 fewer incidents (- 0.4%) when compared with the same time frame in 2009.
- There have been 14 additional **property crimes** in 2010 to record a **1% increase** when compared with last year. **Violent incidents** are down **7%** when measured against 2009 figures.
- Robbery **(-23%)** and Auto Theft **(-17%)** are all registering **substantial declines** from 2009 totals.
- Since the September release of BridgeStat, there were 24 fewer housebreaks than the previous 4 weeks, and **burglary dropped 45%**, with the majority of the decrease traced to the **interdiction of two out of the three identified patterns.**
- Two areas of concentrations in **recent BridgeStat** meetings, the target crimes of larceny from person and larceny of bicycles, continue to level off. Larceny of bicycle was **down 31%** compared to the previous month and Larceny from the person **is now down 1% when compared with last year after recording a 17% increase for the first seven months** of the year.



# Major Crime Review: 9/25/10 to 10/23/10

## Arrest in Pearl Street Home Invasion

- On 10/6, Marcos Colono was arrested on multiple charges in connection with the home invasion and stabbing of a father and son inside their residence on Pearl St in August.
  - On 11/4, Colono was indicted by a Middlesex Grand Jury.
- Fingerprints recovered from the crime scene matched Colono's prints from an arrest by Boston Police in 1998.
  - Boston Police have also tied Colono to a 2008 assault in Brighton and will be filing charges as well.
- Citizen Alerts were sent out to notify residents of the incident & the arrest.
  - To sign up to receive Citizen Alerts from the Cambridge Police Department, please visit <http://www.citizenobserver.com/cov6/app/group.html?id=2595>
- A neighborhood meeting was also held in Cambridgeport to address the arrest and answer citizen questions.
- This arrest may not have been possible without the information sharing, and cooperation between Cambridge Police, Boston Police, and the Massachusetts State Police.





# Major Crime Review: 9/25/10 to 10/23/10

## Arrest in MIT Stabbing

- On 10/22, Gonzalo Guillen was arrested for Assault to Murder at his residence in East Boston.
- Guillen is accused of stabbing a co-worker after an argument outside the MIT Student Center.
- Citizen Alerts were sent out to residents to inform them of the incident and the arrest of the suspect.
  - To sign up to receive Citizen Alerts from the Cambridge Police Department, please visit <http://www.citizenobserver.com/cov6/app/group.html?id=2595>
- This arrest may not have been possible without the cooperation and hard work of the Cambridge, Boston, and MIT police departments.

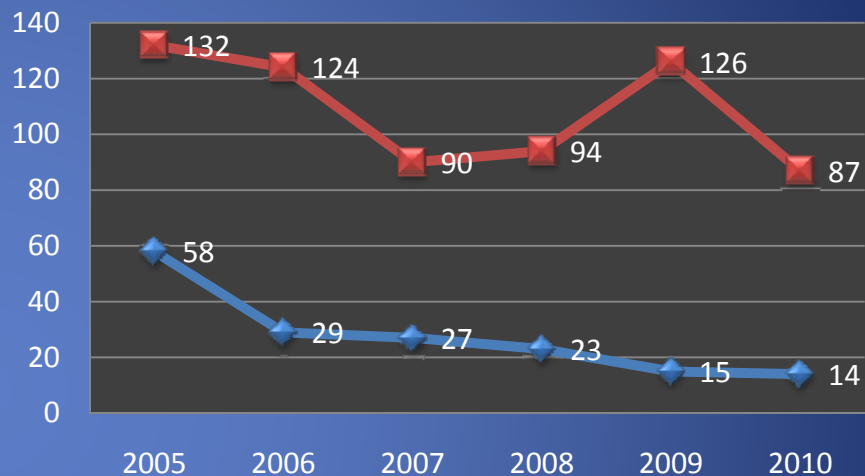


# ROBBERY

Emerging Patterns

-23%

- **Total Robbery** dropped from a 5 year average of 145 incidents YTD to 111 incidents YTD in 2010 to register a 23% decrease.
- **Commercial Robbery** is down 36% YTD in 2010, from 24 incidents to 14. There were two disparate retail robberies in Harvard Square on Sunday, 10.17.10. There was also the first bank robbery in 4 months on 10.12.10.
- **Street Robbery** has recorded a 20% decline from the 5-year average.
- Two patterns have emerged over the past ten days with suspects targeting females for purse snatches and predatory robberies around MIT and Harvard.



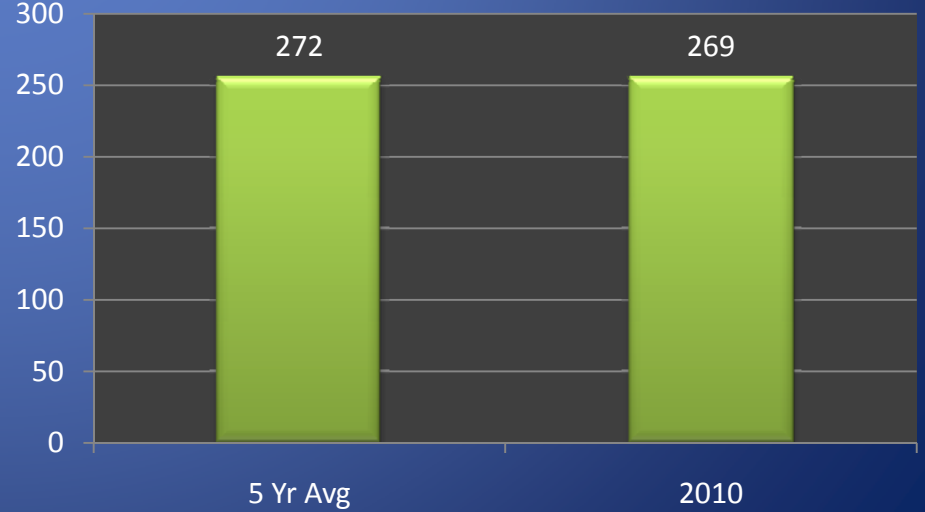
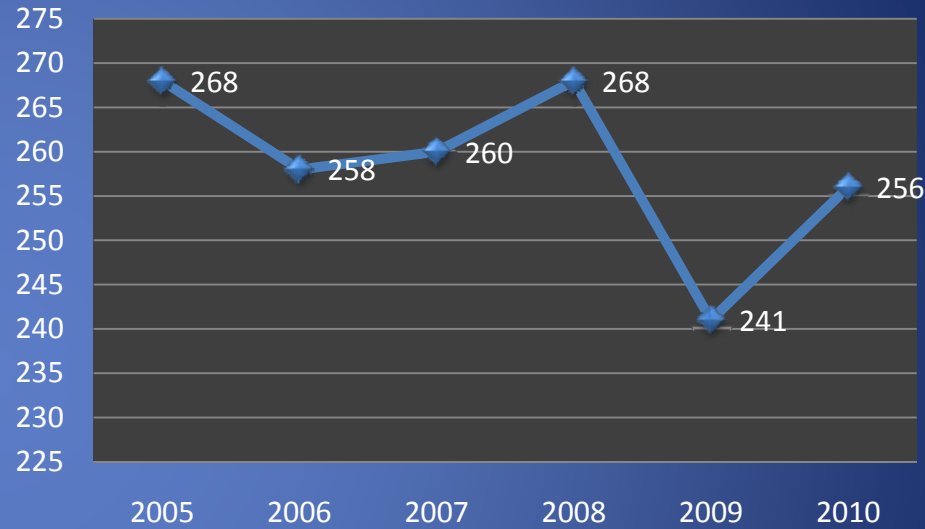


# LARCENY: *from Person*

No Patterns

-1%

- Exceptionally quiet since BridgeStat directed strategies employed at the beginning of the summer **(up 17% at that time)**.
- As was expected, with the increase in weekend festivities in Harvard Square on the first three weekends of October, there has been an increase in dipper activity in the Square.
  - 10 incidents over the past two weekends.
  - Slight uptick in thefts from unattended items in bars near closing times.





# Recent Street Robberies: *MIT & Harvard Areas*

- Between 10/22 and 10/26 there were possibly four (4) related incidents
  - 2 incidents in Area 4, 1 in Cambridgeport and another in Mid-Cambridge.
- All robberies occurred between **7:45PM and 10:15PM** with 15-30 minutes lapse between each incident.
- 3 of the 5 victims were white males between the ages of 25-30 who were walking alone. In one of the robberies there were two white male victims between 25-30 years of age.
  - **All victims were affiliated with Harvard or MIT.**
- In 3 of the 4 incidents, victims were **approached from behind by 2 black males** who immediately brandished a knife and asked for money, electronics, etc
- Suspects are described as 2 black males in their late teens to early twenties. One is described as chubby or heavy set. The other is described as being tall with a thin build and dark skin.



# Recent Street Robberies: **UPDATE**

Cambridge Police BridgeStat

- After several additional incidents across the city, **Cambridge Police convened a meeting** where members of the department met with representatives from **Somerville, Brookline, Harvard, MIT, and Boston University police departments** to discuss the recent street robberies and formulate a strategy to address these incidents.
- During the early morning hours of November 3<sup>rd</sup>, members of the Cambridge Police Department, U.S. Secret Service, Massachusetts State Police, Somerville Police, Brookline Police, Harvard University Police, MIT Police, and Boston University Police worked jointly to **arrest armed robbery suspect Santony Joseph**, 23, of 9 Earl Street in Malden.
  - Based on the description and his physical dimensions, Cambridge Police believe Santony Joseph to be the **“heavy-set”** black male described by victims of the various street robberies.”
- **Cambridge Police are seeking the public’s help in identifying Mr. Joseph’s accomplice(s)** in these robberies, and ask anyone with information to **please call the Cambridge Police Department at 617-349-3300.**



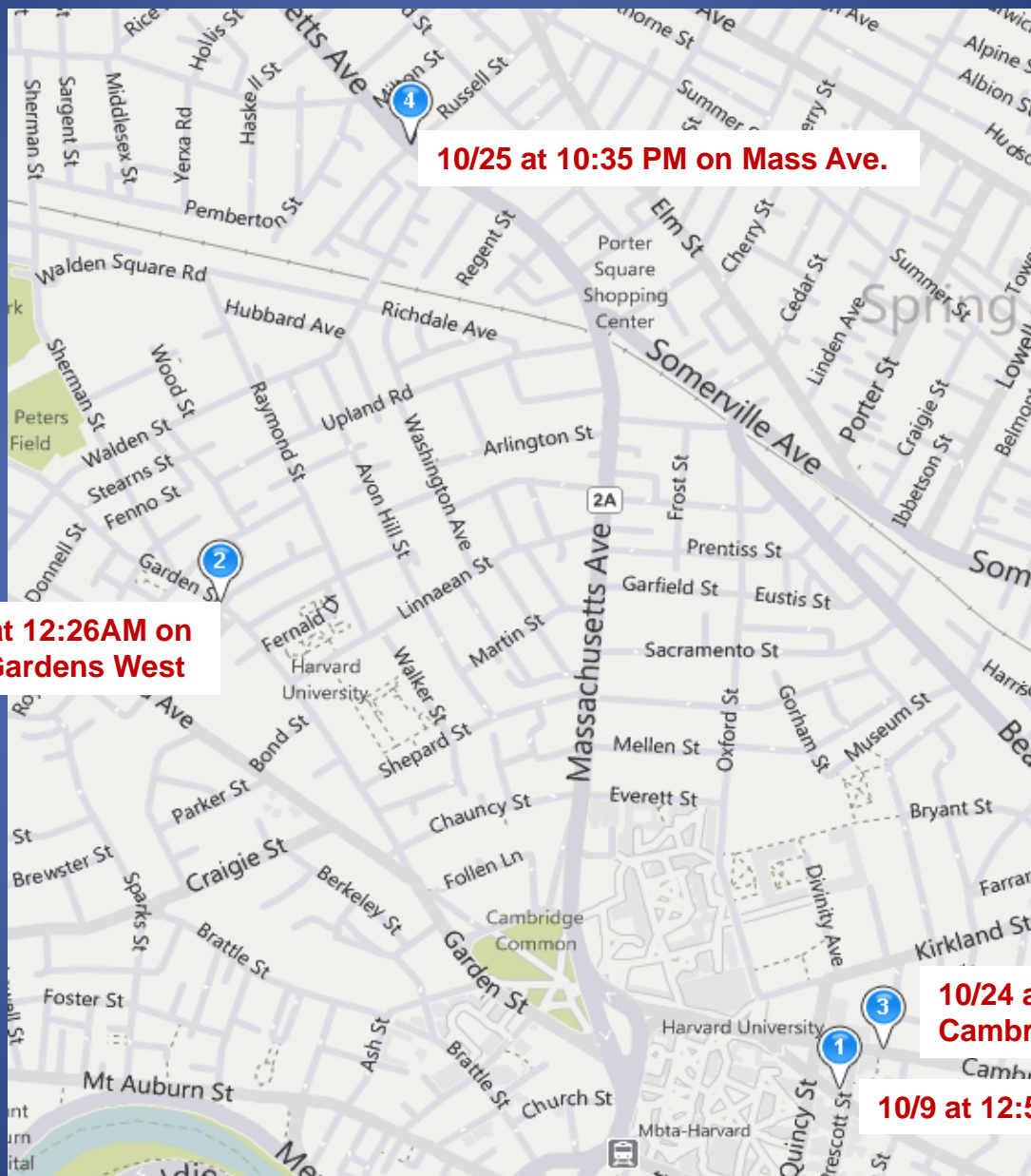
# Recent Purse Snatching Robberies:

- Between 10/09 to 10/25 there have been possibly five (5) related incidents along the Mass Ave corridor between Agassiz and Peabody neighborhoods.
  - 2 incidents near the Somerville border in the 300 to 400 block of Beacon St. where all robberies occurred between 10PM and Midnight.
- Victims are females 20 to 30 years old, walking alone in close proximity to their residence.
- Victims are approached from behind and their purses and backpacks are taken. The suspect then flees into a waiting motor vehicle with another suspect driving.
- There have been a variety of suspect descriptions, leading police to believe that the suspects may be switching from driver to snatcher.
  - Best composite is a white, possibly Hispanic, male in his early 20's approximately 5'8" to 5'10" with short brown hair.
- Anyone with information about these incidents is asked to call the Cambridge Police Department at 617-349-3300.



# Purse Snatching: *Incident Map*

Cambridge Police BridgeStat



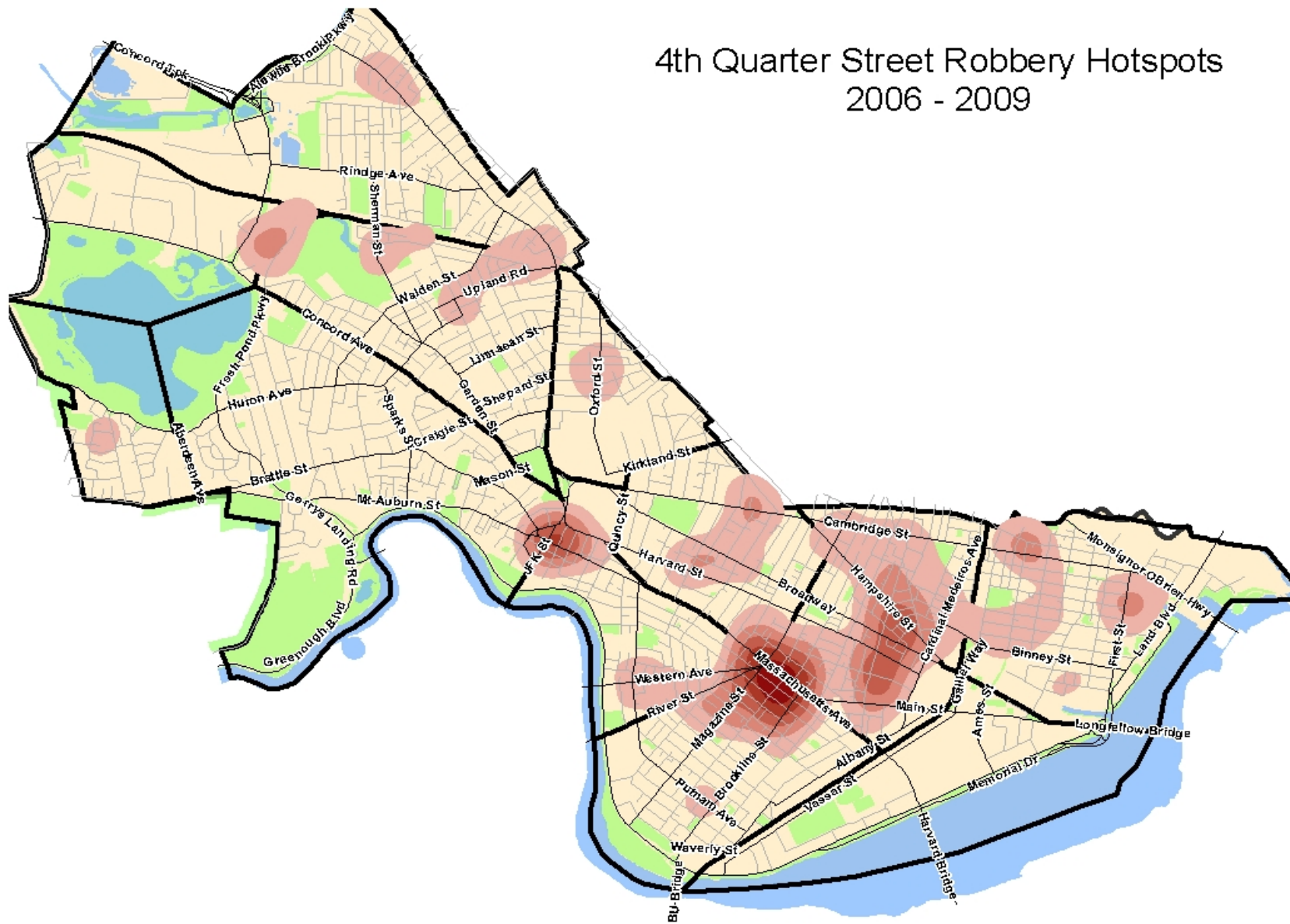
\*Not pictured is 1 incident that occurred in Cambridgeport on 10/20.



# Potential Street Robbery Hot Spots: 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter

Cambridge Police BridgeStat

4th Quarter Street Robbery Hotspots  
2006 - 2009







# Street Robberies

## *What can we do?*

### Police Response

- Cambridge Police convened a meeting where members of the department met with representatives from Somerville, Brookline, Harvard, MIT, and Boston University police departments to discuss the recent street robberies and formulate a strategy to address these incidents.
  - This was successful in apprehending a suspect believed to be connecting to the recent string of street robberies.
- Cambridge Police are seeking the public's help in identifying Mr. Joseph's accomplice(s) in these robberies, and ask anyone with information to please call the Cambridge Police Department at 617-349-3300.

### Citizen Response

- Cambridge Police would like to remind people that if approached and asked for your belongings, **DO NOT RESIST** – the robber wants your valuables, not you.
- Police also ask residents 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.
  - Walk with confidence. Keep your head up to observe your surroundings and don't look down at the ground.
  - If you feel you are being followed, show you are suspicious – turn to look at the person. It sends a clear message that you will not be taken by surprise.
  - Do not wear ear buds, headphones, or listen to music when walking alone.
  - If someone is following you, cross the street and vary your pace.
- More safety tips are available via the Cambridge Police Department website at [http://www.cambridgema.gov/CityOfCambridge\\_Content/documents/street%20saftety.pdf](http://www.cambridgema.gov/CityOfCambridge_Content/documents/street%20saftety.pdf)

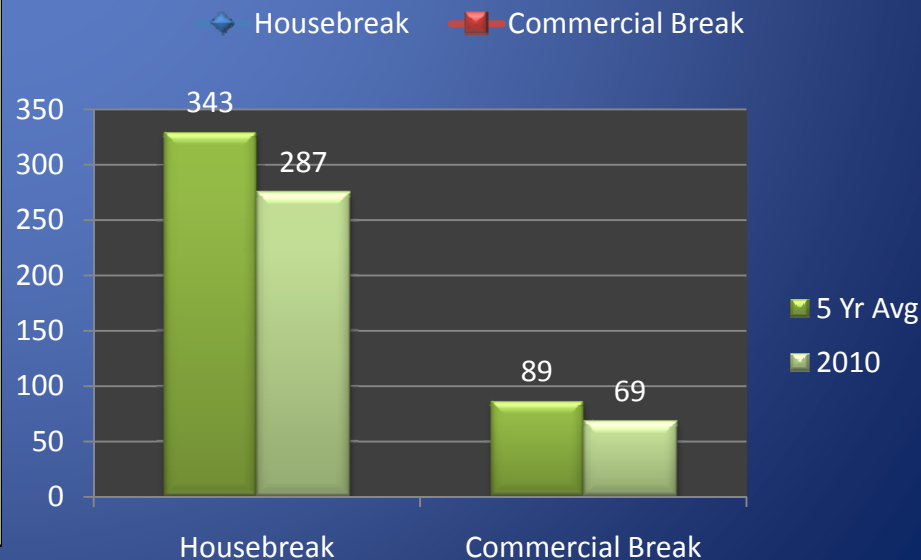
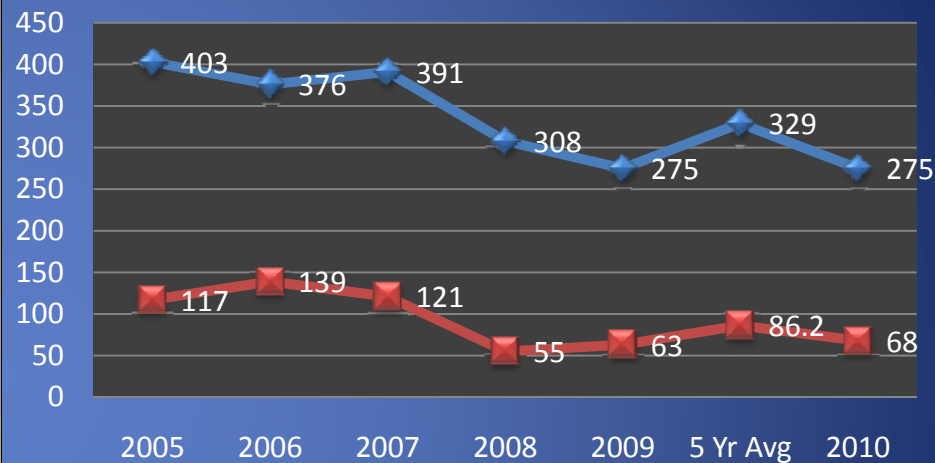


# BURGLARY

Waning Patterns

-18%

- **Total Burglary**, the combination of residential and commercial burglary, has decreased by 18% YTD when compared to the 5 year average.
- **Housebreaks** have recorded a significant decline (down 18%) on the 5-year average, and have dropped 45% when compared to the previous four weeks, with 24 fewer housebreaks. The West Cambridge and Peabody patterns that were identified at the end of August appear to have dissipated or displaced across the border to Somerville. However a weekend series along the Somerville border is being closely monitored.
- **Commercial Breaks** are down 21% with no discernible patterns at the present time. A regional church break pattern has observed in neighboring communities but nothing in Cambridge.



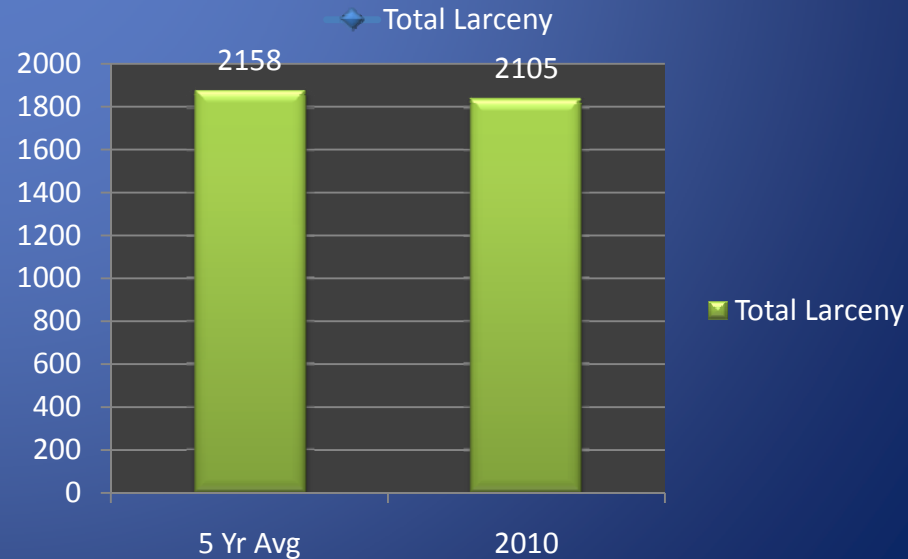
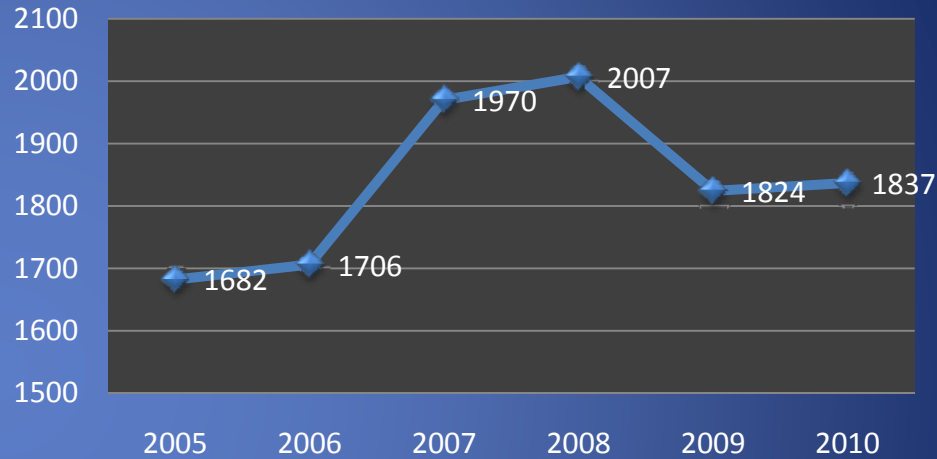


# LARCENY

No Patterns

-2%

- Overall, larceny has decreased by 2%.
- The only larceny type with a dramatic increase:
  - Larceny of Bicycles **+51%**
- Other Larceny Crimes:
  - Larceny from MV **-20%**
  - Larceny / Building **-2%**
  - Larceny /Resid. **-1%**
  - Shoplifting **+5%**





# Housebreak Pattern Overview:

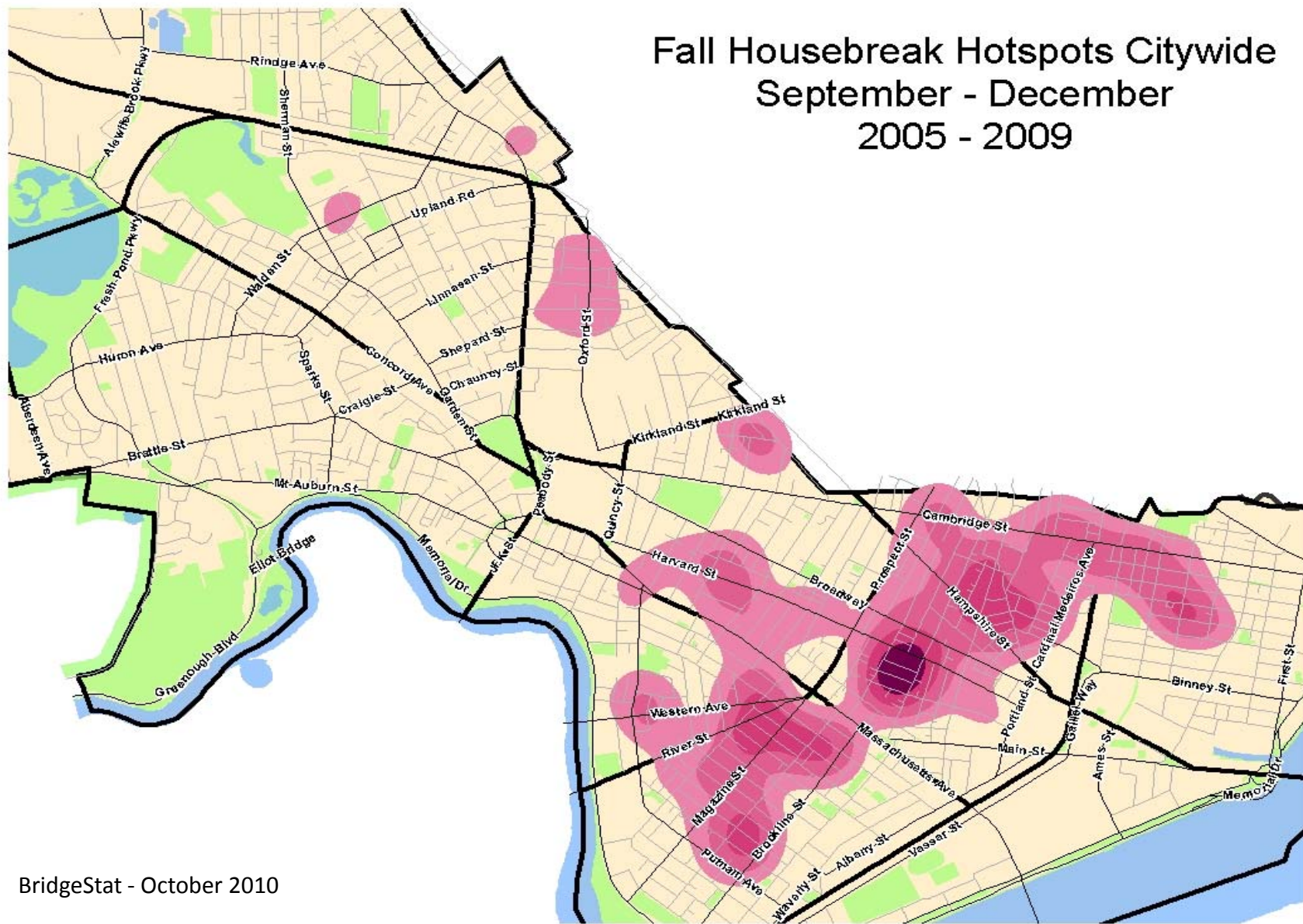
- **Mid-Cambridge**
  - Pattern that was identified in early September of eight tightly clustered incidents around Antrim St. Further analysis revealed that the pattern ignited in mid-July and was balanced along the Somerville border between Inman and Porter Squares with the majority of the activity on weekend afternoons.
- **Agassiz/Somerville Border**
  - During the weekend of 10.18.10, there were four breaks reported along the Somerville border on Magnolia Ave, Exeter Place, Newport Road and King Place. Friday and Saturday nights between 6PM and 9PM and Saturday and Sunday during the early morning hours from 1AM to 3AM are the most likely timeframe.
  - Suspects entered by forcing side and rear windows, with laptops as the prime target.



# Housebreak Hot Spots: 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Projections

Cambridge Police BridgeStat

Fall Housebreak Hotspots Citywide  
September - December  
2005 - 2009



BridgeStat - October 2010



# Housebreaks

## *What can we do?*

### Police Response Strategy:

- CPD deployed Saturation patrols and dispersed activity to Somerville from the end of September to mid – October.
  - However, there were **seven additional incidents between 10.13 to 10.18.**
  - Since recent arrests in Somerville, there have been no related housebreaks in Cambridge since **10.18.**
    - Sporadic breaks have occurred across the border in Somerville.
- In response, CPD:
  - **Deployed patrol units, bike units, and major crime units to saturate potential target areas.**
  - Released a **community update bulletin** to the Mid-Cambridge neighborhood through our Citizen Observer program, our website, social media outlets (Facebook and Twitter), and to the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association email listserv.
- **A meeting took place between Cambridge and Somerville PD to collaborate.** The result of this meeting was a joint operation that produced three arrests.
  - **Cambridge Police and Somerville PD are exchanging information daily** on housebreaks and potential suspects.

### 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://bit.ly/biEdvk>

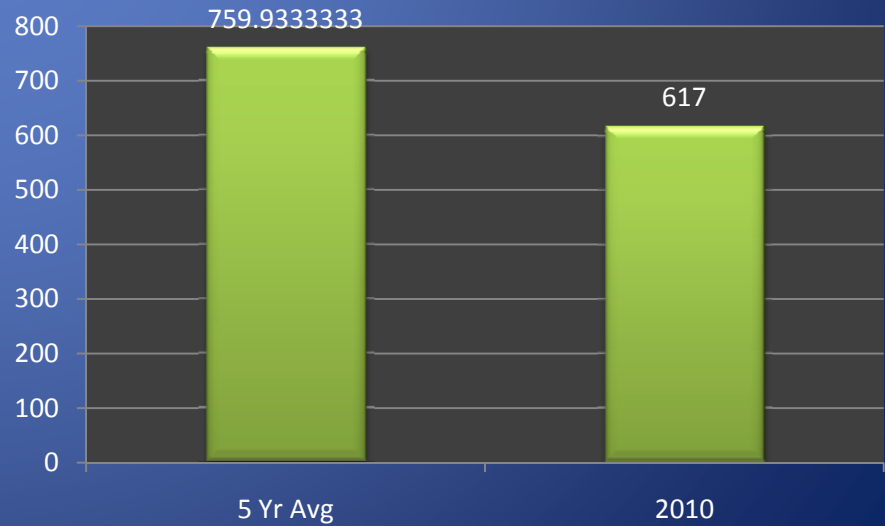
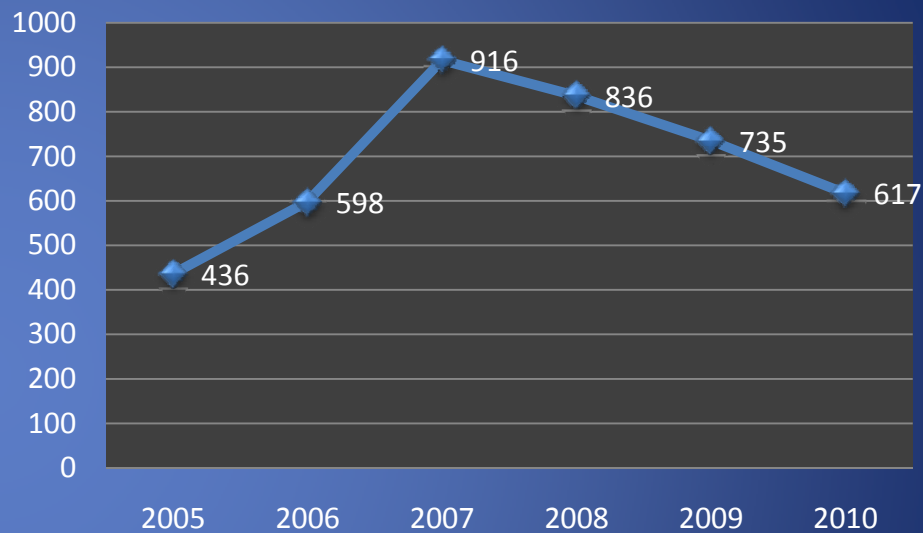


# LARCENY: *from MV*

Emerging Pattern

-19%

- Larceny from MVs are down 20%.
- Only pattern at the present time involves Whole Foods parking lot on River Street where a number of incidents have occurred, mostly on Saturdays.
- **Potential 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Hot Spots:**
  - *Parking lots on First and Second Streets along Binney in East Cambridge*
  - *Albany & Vassar Streets*
  - *Allston/Brookline Streets in Cambridgeport*
  - *Avon Hill in Peabody*





# Ongoing Larceny from Motor Vehicle Pattern:

*River Street, Putnam Ave, Magazine Street Parking Lots*

- Since **9/20**, there have been **12** larceny from motor vehicle reports in a single lot on River Street.
  - All but one of which occurred by breaking a window.
- The best time frame is from **12:30 PM – 3:30 PM on Saturday and Sunday** as well as **4PM to 6:30 PM Monday through Friday**.
- Targeted at all locations are electronics:
  - Mainly iPods, laptops and GPS.
  - Also bags/backpacks left unattended inside vehicles.





# Larceny from Motor Vehicle

## *What can we do?*

### Police Response

- Cambridge Police **alerted the managers** of the businesses at these locations about the pattern and informed them of potential crime “hot spots” in their parking lots.
  - Managers increase staff presence in parking lots to deter crime.
  - **Community Relations Unit distributed information flyers to store managers for them to distribute to costumers** asking them to help protect their vehicles by following several safety tips.
    - CPD also left informational flyers on car windshields in parking lots.
- CPD **deployed extra patrols and plainclothes officers** to these areas in an effort to deter crime.
- CPD asks anyone with information about these crimes to please report it to the police by calling **617-349-3300**.

### Citizen Response

- Roll up windows and lock all doors.
- **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.
  - As we approach the holiday shopping season, be especially careful and make sure to **place all bags, valuables, etc. in the trunk** and out of view of potential thieves.
- **Take GPS units and clips out of the car with you.**
  - If you must leave the unit in the car, be sure to hide both it and the clip or suction cup that holds it. Thieves see the clip and know there is a unit somewhere in the vehicle.
  - Frequently wipe your dash to remove tell-tale dust rings that are left by suction cup mounts. Replace the cover to the vehicle's power outlet when not in use.
  - **Record the serial number** and keep a copy in the glove compartment and with your other valuable papers at home to assist the police with recovery should your unit be stolen.

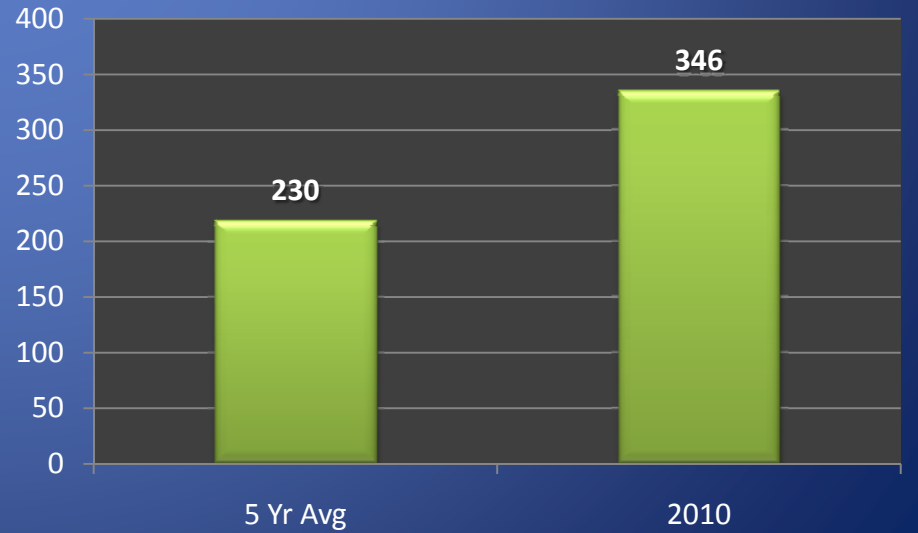
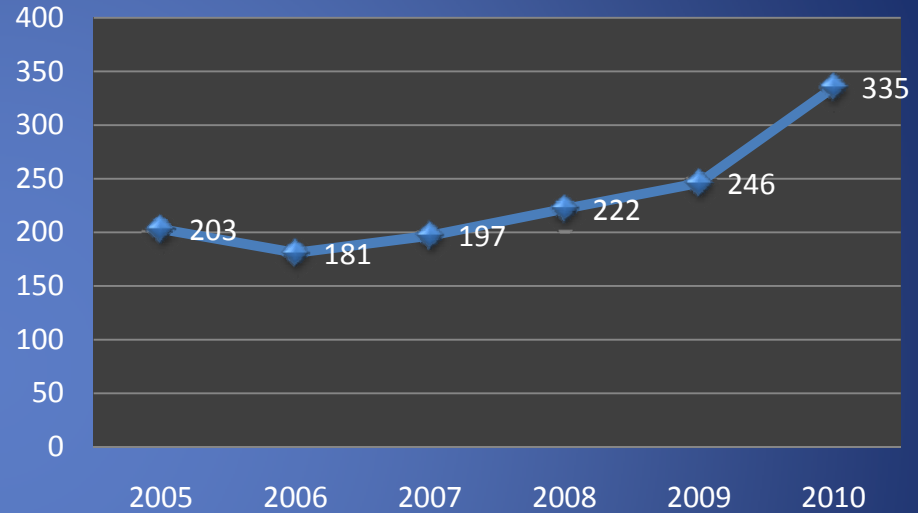


# LARCENY: *of Bicycle*

No Patterns

+51%

- After three flat years, Larceny of Bicycles increased dramatically over the first seven months of the year.
- These increases have leveled off since the middle of July
  - Bike thefts dropped 32% when compared with the previous four weeks.
- Since early September, nearly 50% of the bike thefts in the city have clustered in Cambridgeport with the common scenario being thefts from back yards or porches.
- As bike thefts are a seasonal crime, we expect to see a decrease as we approach the colder winter months.
  - Will meet to develop strategies as spring approaches & thefts rise.

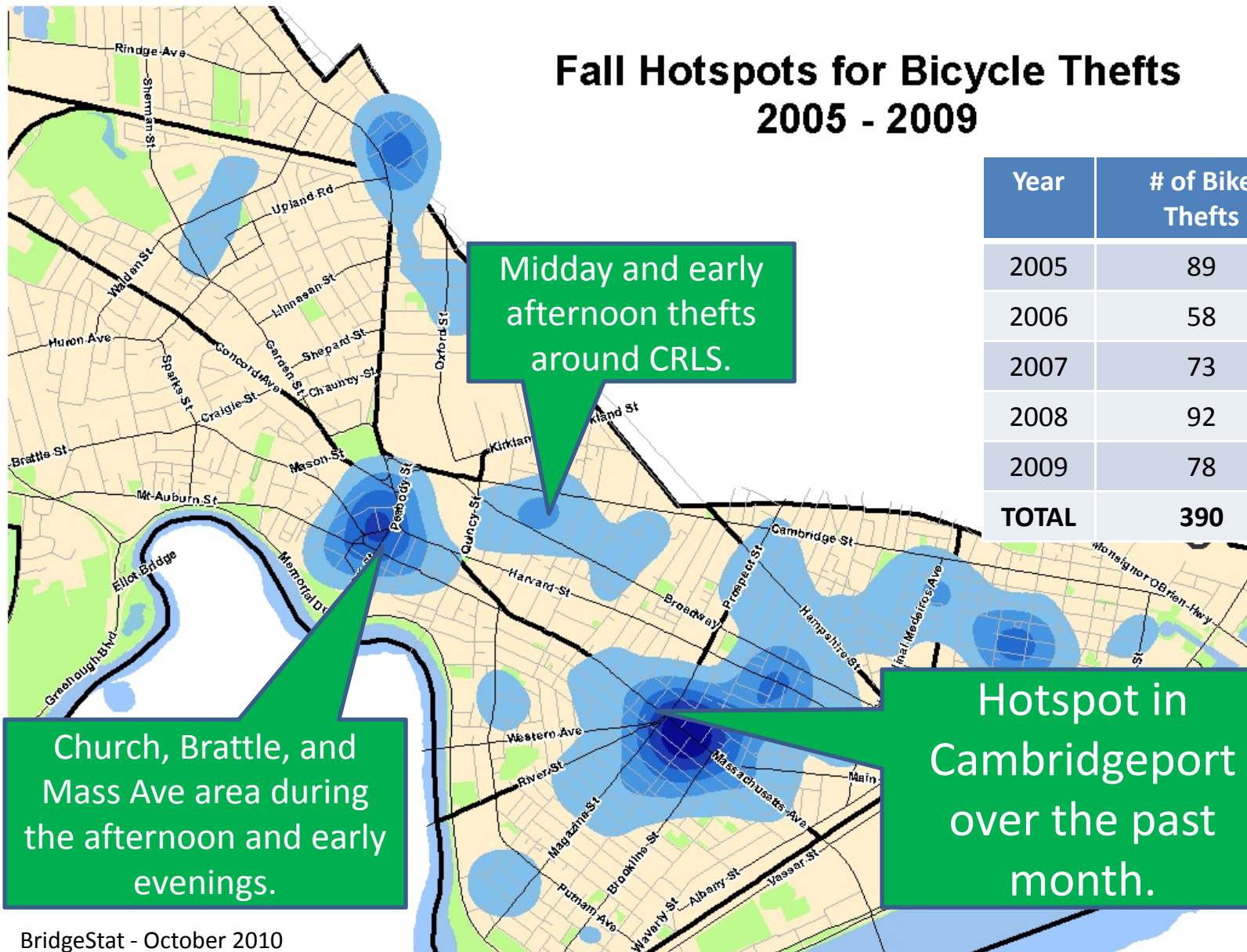




# LARCENY: *of Bicycle*

Cambridge Police BridgeStat

## Fall Hotspots for Bicycle Thefts 2005 - 2009



Year	# of Bike Thefts
2005	89
2006	58
2007	73
2008	92
2009	78
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>390</b>

Midday and early afternoon thefts around CRLS.

Church, Brattle, and Mass Ave area during the afternoon and early evenings.

Hotspot in Cambridgeport over the past month.



# 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](mailto: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](http://www.cambridgema.gov/CPD/publications/crime_2010.cfm)