



Cambridge Police Department BridgeStat

April 2011



Introduction

BridgeStat 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 New York, Washington, DC, Philadelphia, Austin, San Francisco, and Baltimore.

Through BridgeStat, 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. This will be made available on the Cambridge Police Department website on the first Friday of each month.

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

Cambridge Part I Crimes

CRIME INDEX: APRIL - 2011

BridgeStat– April 2011



Part I Stats: Violent Crime

Crime	January 1 – April 25				4 Week Snapshot		
	2010	Avg	YTD	Change	3/1-3/28	3/29-4/25	Change
Murder	0	0	1	N/A	1	0	-100%
Rape	7	9	9	0%	1	2	100%
Robbery	31	44	34	-23%	8	12	50%
-Commercial Robbery	5	8	4	-50%	0	3	N/A
-Street Robbery	26	36	30	-17%	8	9	13%
Aggravated Assault	72	71	64	-10%	14	15	7%



Part I Stats: Property Crime

Crime	January 1 – April 25				4 Week Snapshot		
	2010	Avg	YTD	Change	3/1-3/28	3/29-4/25	Change
Burglary	96	138	132	-4%	29	37	28%
-Housebreaks	77	112	106	-5%	24	32	33%
-Commercial Breaks	19	27	26	-4%	5	5	0%
Larceny	663	710	557	-22%	152	150	-1%
-Larceny from Building	109	120	130	8%	35	35	0%
-Larceny from MV	217	262	129	-51%	31	37	19%
-Larceny from Person	113	99	73	-26%	21	20	-5%
-Larceny from Residence	53	50	61	22%	11	13	18%
-Larceny of Bicycle	34	29	25	-14%	12	7	-42%
-Shoplifting	120	123	104	-15%	30	31	3%
-Miscellaneous Larceny	17	28	35	25%	12	7	-42%
Auto Theft	36	54	35	-35%	10	12	20%



Part I Stats: Totals

	January 1 – April 25			Change
	2010	5-Year Avg	2011 YTD	
Violent Crime Total	110	124	108	-13%
Property Crime Total	795	903	724	-20%
Total Part 1 Crimes	905	1027	832	-19%



Crime in Cambridge: 1/1/11 to 4/25/11

- **Serious crime dropped 8% when compared with the first 15 weeks of 2010, and posted a significant 19% 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 106 fewer thefts reported in 2011.
- An analysis of all statistics indicates that there were **71 fewer property crimes recorded** so far in 2011 to register a **9% decrease** when compared with the first four months of last year. **Violent incidents** are down **2% (2 fewer incidents)** when counted against the 2010 figures. **Both violent and property crime** registered significant declines (**-13% and -20%, respectively**) when measured against the 5-year weighted average for the first 15 weeks of the year.
- The decline of **larceny from motor vehicles, at 51%** below the 5-year weighted average for this target crime between 1.1.11 and 4.25.11, continues to be one of the major crime stories to report so far this year. There were **88 fewer thefts** from vehicles during the first 4 months of 2011 than last year. **Larcenies from persons** were also **down 35%** when compared with 2010 figures. **There has not been a solid pattern identified for either of these larceny types this year.**



MURDER

Change from 2010

N/A

Change from 5 yr Average

N/A

- 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, James Lauture, 30, of Cambridge, 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.
- On 4.21.11, Jabrai Jordan Copney of New York was found guilty of first –degree murder in the 2009 shooting of Justin Cosby of Cambridge.
 - Copney was sentenced to life in prison without parole for fatally shooting Cosby in a Harvard dormitory in May of 2009.





RAPE

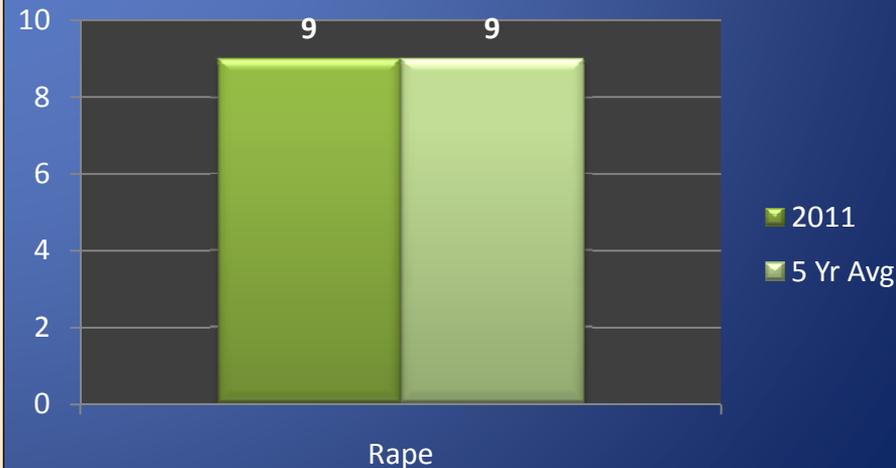
Change from 2010

+29%

Change from 5 yr Average

0%

- There have been 9 sexual assaults reported between 1.1.11 and 4.25.11. **Five of these incidents (including one of the April incidents) occurred prior to this year.** One 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, 1 was a domestic situation, and the other involved a contact scenario with the offender being someone the victim had met in a public place.
- Recent increases in the reporting of rapes over the past 3 years in Cambridge can partly be attributed to a surge in domestic and acquaintance incidents where a minor has been involved. That trend continues over the first 4 months of 2011.





ROBBERY

Cambridge Police BridgeStat

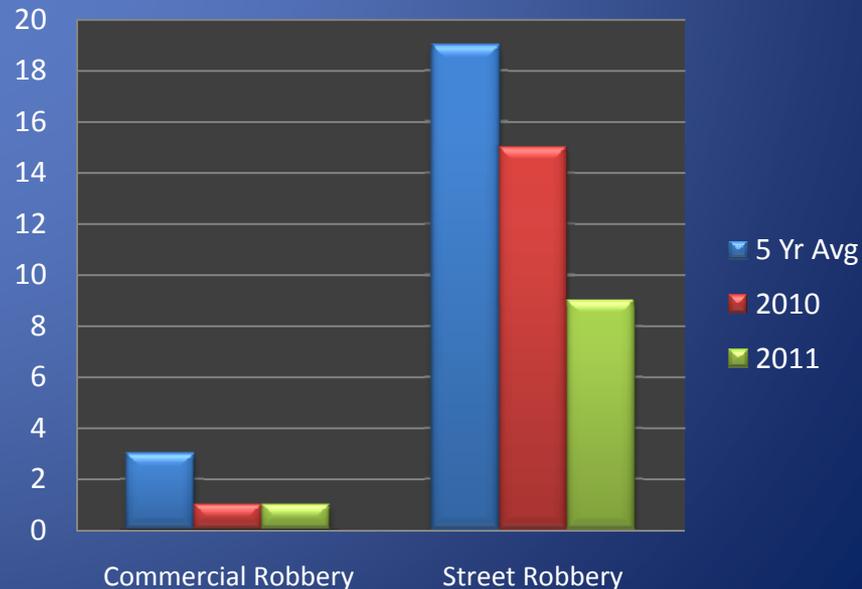
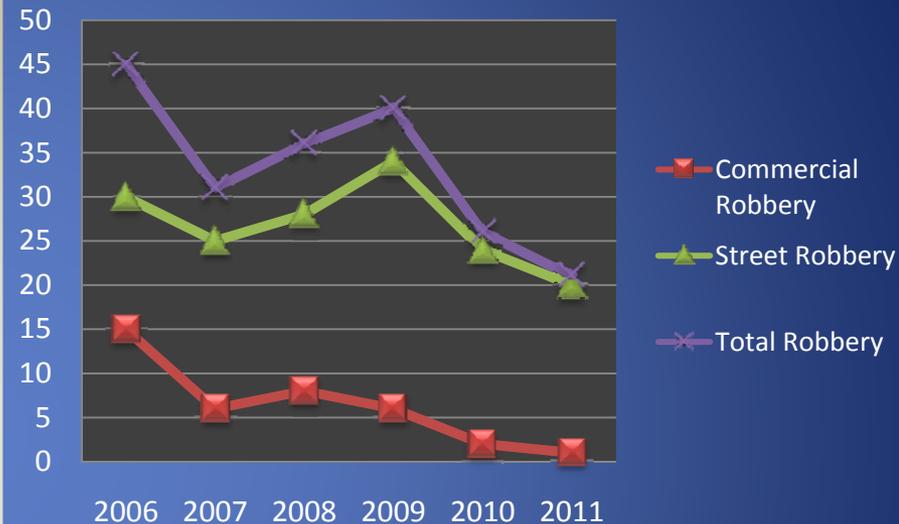
- **Total Robbery** dropped from a 5-year average of 44 incidents YTD to 34 incidents through 4.25.11, a **23% decrease**. A slight spurt over the past 4 weeks of 12 street robberies and 3 commercial robberies has driven a 10% increase in this crime when compared with the first 4 months of 2010.
- Despite the fact that there have been 3 commercial robberies in the past 2 weeks, 2 were quickly cleared with arrests, and when compared with the 5-year average, this violent crime type is **down 50%**.
- **Street Robbery** has recorded a **17% decline** from the 5-year average. There were only 9 street robberies between Christmas and the middle of February.
- **There has been a significant increase since 2.20.11, with 22 of the 30 street robberies this year recorded since that date.** There are no identifiable street robbery patterns at the present time but areas of the city that deserve special attention at certain times have been identified.

Change from 2010

+10%

Change from 5 yr Average

-23%





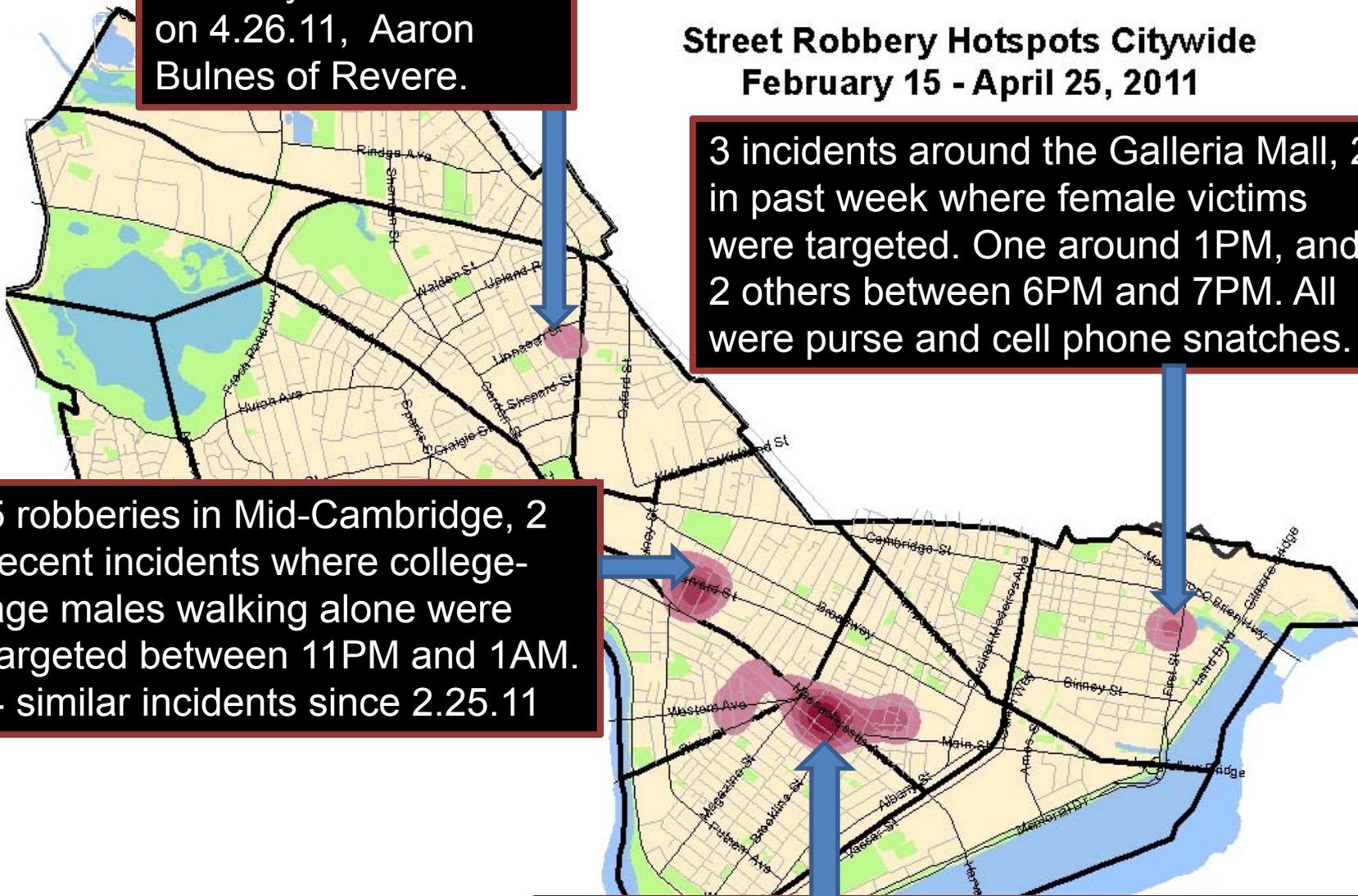
Robbery arrest made on 4.26.11, Aaron Bulnes of Revere.

Street Robbery Hotspots Citywide February 15 - April 25, 2011

3 incidents around the Galleria Mall, 2 in past week where female victims were targeted. One around 1PM, and 2 others between 6PM and 7PM. All were purse and cell phone snatches.

5 robberies in Mid-Cambridge, 2 recent incidents where college-age males walking alone were targeted between 11PM and 1AM. 4 similar incidents since 2.25.11

6 incidents in Central Square, all between 8PM and 11PM. 4 involved homeless vs. homeless. 3 arrests have been made.





Street Robberies

What can we do?

Police Response Strategy:

- Cambridge Police have not identified any discernable patterns for these crimes at this time.
 - A Citizen Advisory was sent via Citizen Observer to those subscribed to receive Cambridge CITYWIDE alerts.
 - To sign up to receive these and other alerts from CPD, visit <http://www.citizenobserver.com/cov6/app/group.html?id=2595>
 - Extra patrols have been deployed to current hot-spot areas to help prevent any increase in activity.
 - Numerous arrests have recently been made following street robbery incidents.
 - 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

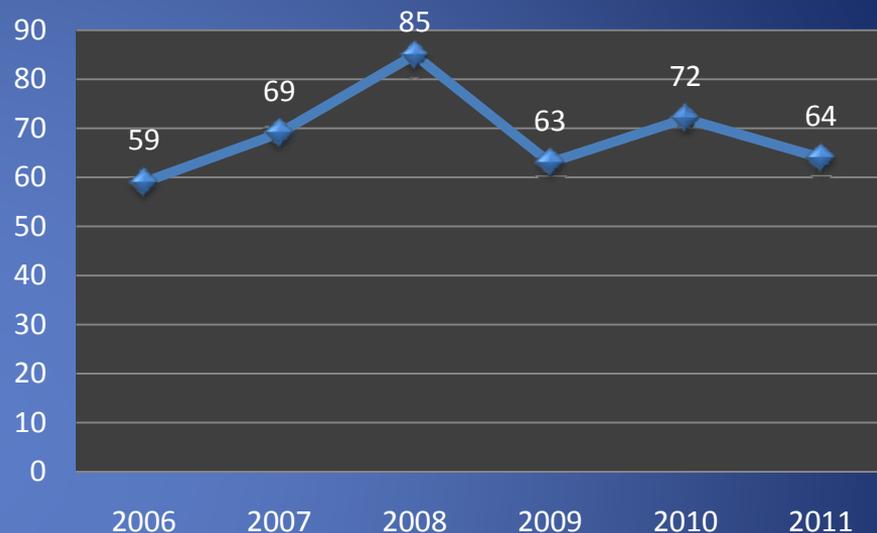
Change from 2010

-11%

Change from 5 yr Average

-10%

- When measuring this violent index crime against the 5-year average for the first 4 months of the year, a **10% decrease is noted. There have been 8 fewer aggravated assaults (-11%) than in the first 15 weeks of 2010.**
- **37 percent of the assaults for the first 4 months of 2011 have been classified as domestic in nature. (this number is slightly higher when compared with previous years' averages).**
- The 2 most serious Aggravated Assaults to occur in Cambridge so far in 2011 were an exchange of gunfire near Clifton and Dudley St on the night of 1.27.11 at 8:00PM, and a shooting that may be related on Pine Street on 2.19.11.
- There have been 3 stabbings and a total of 11 aggravated assaults in Harvard Square in 2011. The majority of these incidents have occurred on weekend nights after the bars close.





BURGLARY

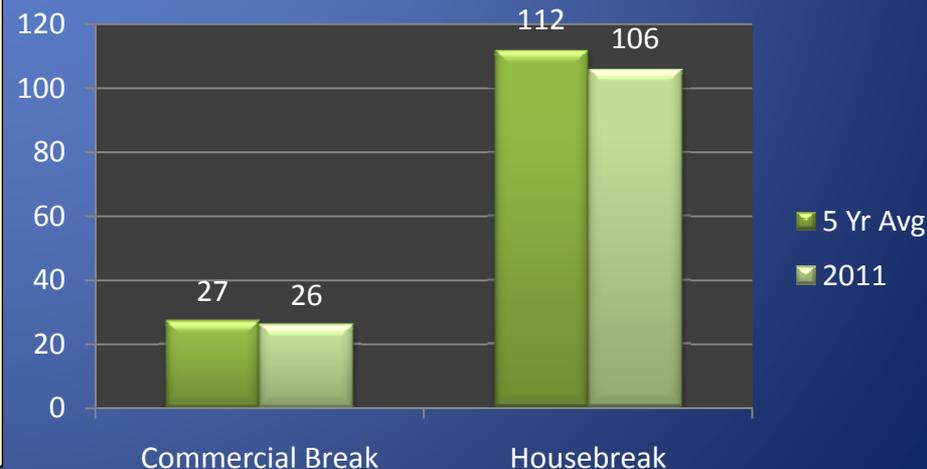
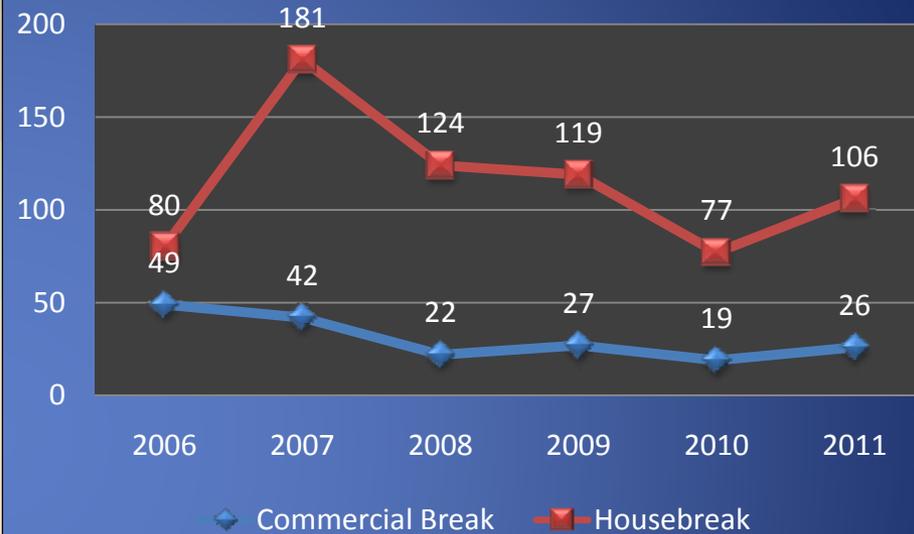
Change from 2010

+38%

Change from 5 yr Average

-4%

- **Total Burglary**, the combination of residential and commercial burglary, **decreased by 4% (6 fewer incidents)** when compared to the 5-year average.
- **Housebreaks** have recorded a noteworthy increase from 77 incidents over the first 15 weeks of last year to 106 breaks during the same time frame in 2011.
 - Further analysis reveals that last year's total was uncharacteristically low (from 50 to 100 fewer breaks than the prior 3 years).
 - The emerging pattern of late night housebreaks in Mid-Cambridge/Area 4 in early April never fully materialized.
- **Commercial Breaks** remained relatively unchanged. These incidents are sporadic and scattered geographically around the City.
 - There are no identifiable patterns for this crime at the present time.



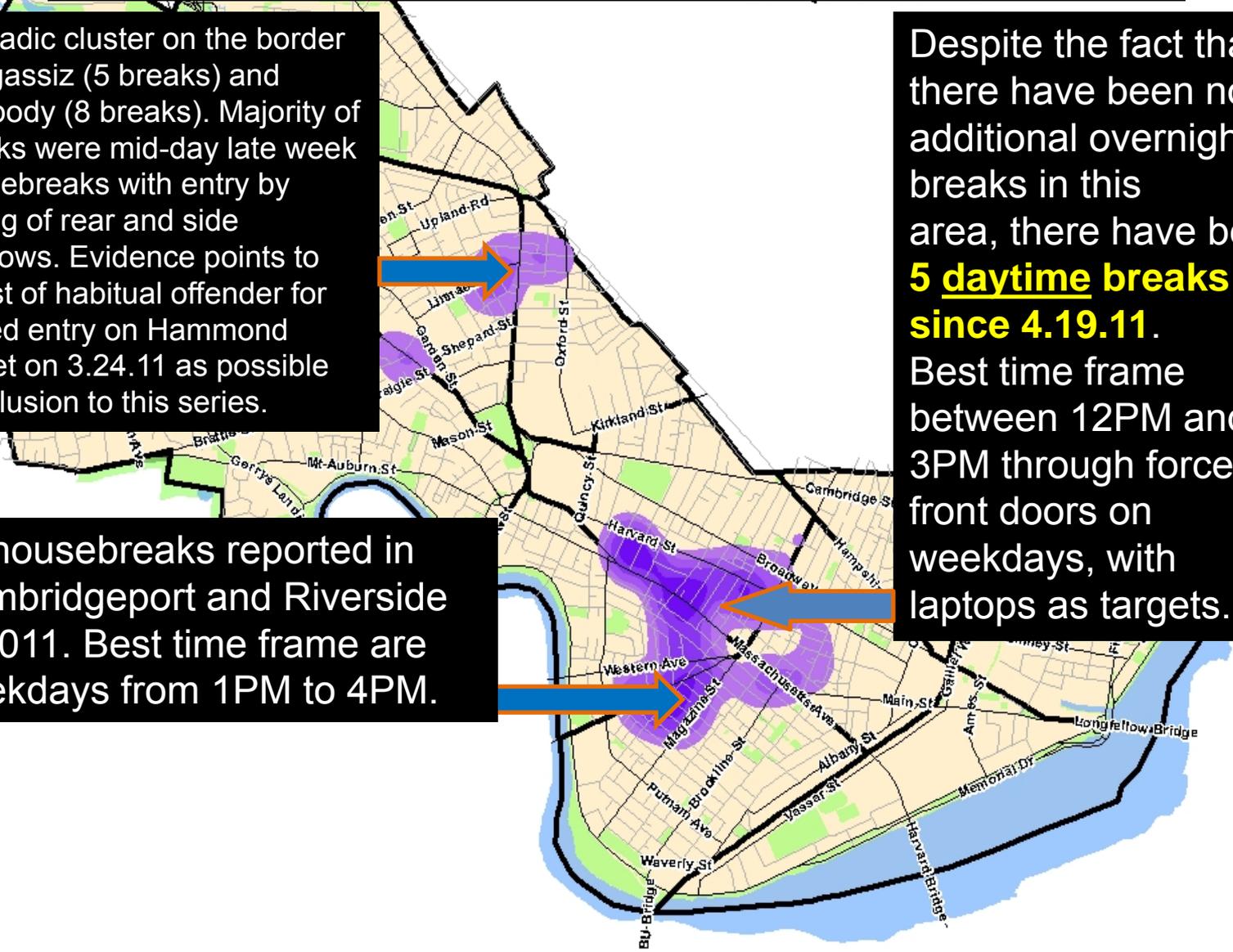


Housebreak Hotspots since 4.14.2011

Sporadic cluster on the border of Agassiz (5 breaks) and Peabody (8 breaks). Majority of breaks were mid-day late week housebreaks with entry by prying of rear and side windows. Evidence points to arrest of habitual offender for forced entry on Hammond Street on 3.24.11 as possible conclusion to this series.

Despite the fact that there have been no additional overnight breaks in this area, there have been **5 daytime breaks since 4.19.11**. Best time frame between 12PM and 3PM through forced front doors on weekdays, with laptops as targets.

31 housebreaks reported in Cambridgeport and Riverside in 2011. Best time frame are weekdays from 1PM to 4PM.





Housebreaks

What can we do?

Police Response Strategy:

- Cambridge Police deployed extra patrols to the Cambridgeport and Riverside neighborhoods in order to combat the recent increase in housebreaks reported in these areas.
 - An arrest was made on 5.3 following a Riverside housebreak. The arrested person's description is similar to that of a suspect in several recent housebreaks in the Riverside and Cambridgeport neighborhoods.
- A Citizen Advisory was sent on 4.27 via Citizen Observer to those subscribed to receive information from the Cambridge CITYWIDE group.
 - To sign up to receive these and other alerts from CPD, visit <http://www.citizenobserver.com/co/v6/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/CityOfCambridgeContent/documents/Flyer_Housbreaks_FINAL2.pdf



LARCENY

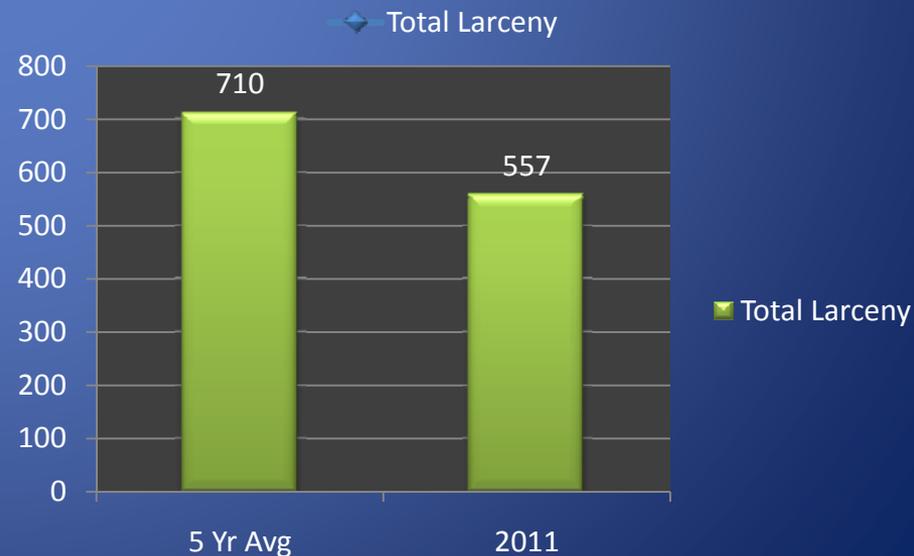
Change from 2010

-16%

Change from 5 yr Average

-22%

- Overall, larceny decreased by 16% when compared with the first 15 weeks of 2010 and 22% when measured against the 5-year weighted average of the time frame between the first of the year and April 25th.
 - There were over 150 fewer larcenies counted than the average for this time frame since 2006.
- The decline of larceny from motor vehicles extended to 51% below the 5-year weighted average for this target crime between 1.1.11 and 4.25.11.
 - There were 88 fewer thefts from vehicles over the first 15 weeks of 2011 than last year. **Larcenies from persons were also down 35% when compared with 2010 totals for this index crime.**
- As the weather warms, all larceny types, from vehicles, bicycles and persons are expected to increase, although over the past four weeks the rise has been marginal.





LARCENY: *from MV*

Change from 2010

-41%

Change from 5 yr Average

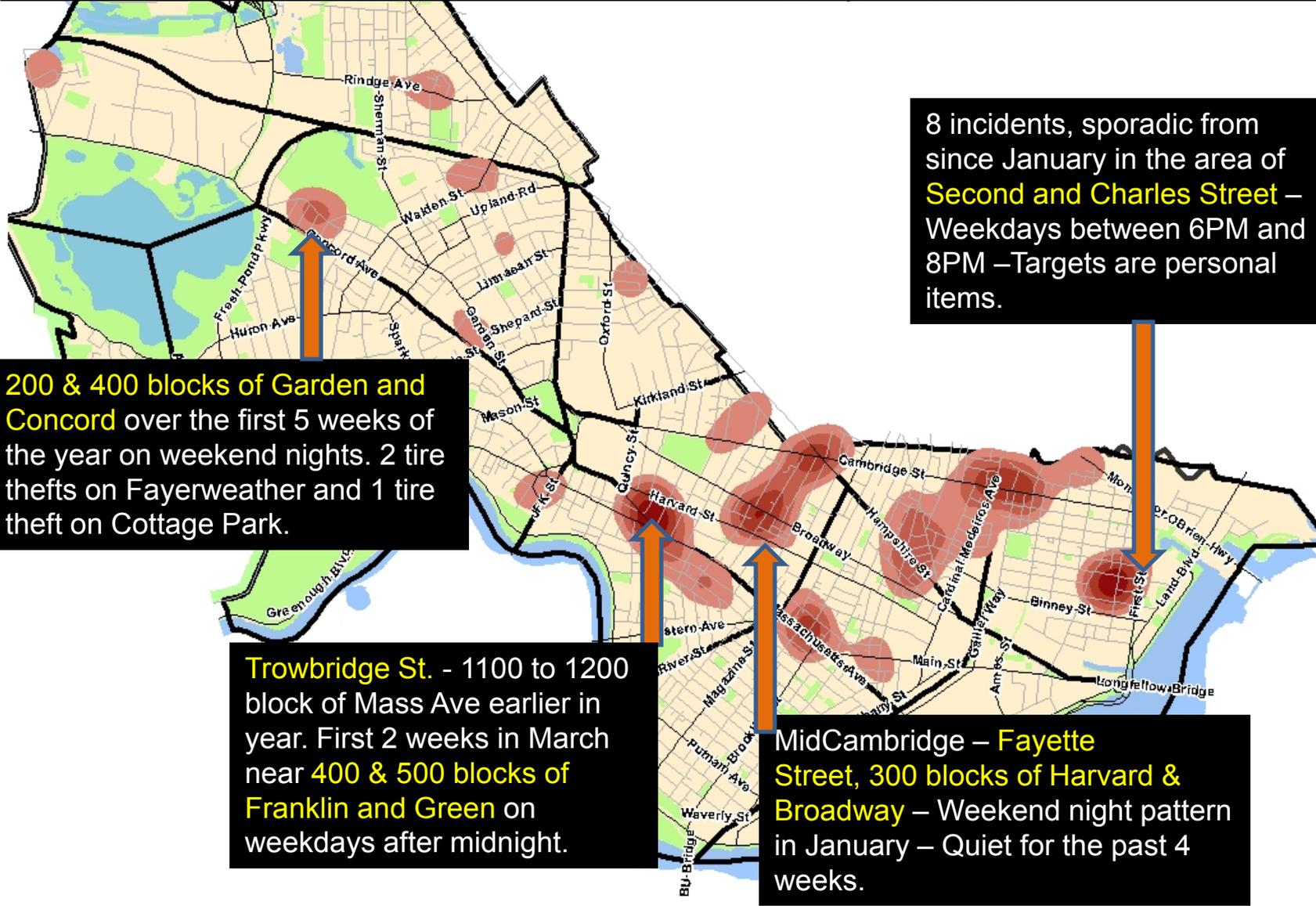
-51%

- Larceny from MVs are **down 51%** when compared with the 5-year average with over **133 fewer incidents** than the norm for this time period and close to 200 incidents under the 2009 total for the first 4 months of the year.
- Police identified 2 series as problems in 2011:
 - 1. A series of sporadic incidents in Mid-Cambridge on weekend nights in the pre-dawn hours with clusters around Dana, Broadway and Trowbridge Streets. This area was monitored closely for further activity and **only 2 incidents were reported.**
 - 2. A set of tire thefts scattered around the city during the second week of March on weekday nights between the hours of 2AM and 4AM. **Only 1 incident has occurred in the last 2 weeks during the overnight hours in North Cambridge.**





Larceny from Motor Vehicle Hotspots since 4.14.11





Larceny from Motor Vehicle

What can we do?

Police Response:

- Cambridge Police have not identified any clear patterns in terms of if, when, and where larcenies from motor vehicles will occur.
 - Hotspots of activity identified on the previous slide are being monitored by patrol units for any uptick in activity.
 - 2 individuals were recently arrested and possessed stolen property from various motor vehicle thefts in the area.
- 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%20Finder.pdf



LARCENY: *from Person*

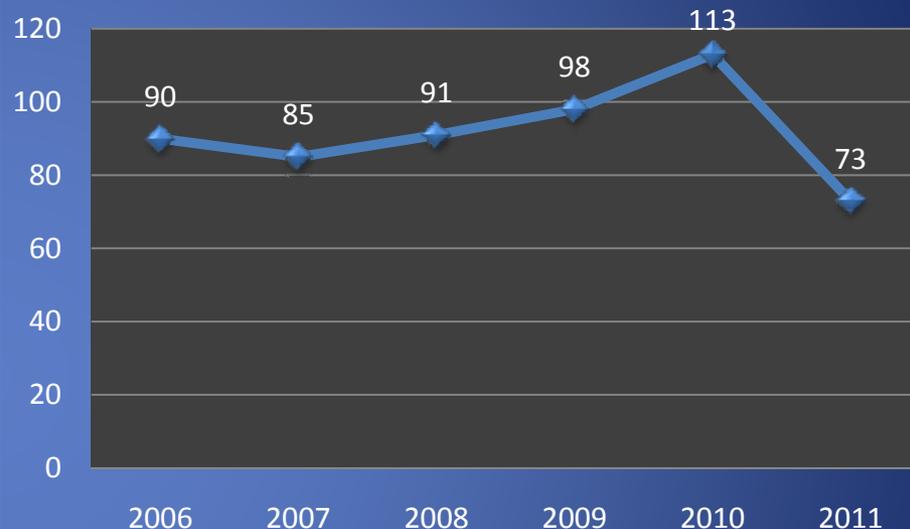
Change from 2010

-35%

Change from 5 yr Average

-26%

- Larcenies from persons increased dramatically early in the summer of 2010 . Directed response strategies to address the problem were initiated and were very effective.
- So far in 2011, the results of the above mentioned selected enforcement strategies continue to be effective in combating this target crime. **Larcenies from persons were down 35% from the first 15 weeks of 2010 and 26% under the 5-year average.**
- **Pickpocket activity has increased since the beginning of March in Harvard Square on weekends :**
 - Recently this activity has subsided, with only 2 incidents of property stolen in bars last weekend.





AUTO THEFT

Change from 2010

-3%

Change from 5 yr Average

-35%

- The 5-year weighted average for auto theft for the first 15 weeks of the year is 54 incidents; **there were only 35 reported in Cambridge for this time period in 2011, which computes to a 35% decline .**
- There are no identifiable auto theft patterns at the present time.
- There have been 1 car stolen in Agassiz, 1 in Strawberry Hill, 2 two in Peabody so far in 2011.
- **The Auto Theft total in Cambridge in 2010 was at a 60-year low.**





National & Regional Crime Patterns & Trends: UPDATE

Eastern Mass.

Regional ATM Skimming Operation



Several agencies have taken reports from victims whose ATM Debit Cards were skimmed from area bank kiosks starting in mid-February. Many of those skimmed numbers and PINs are being accessed at area bank ATMs in Downtown Boston, Cambridge, and Malden. **One incident took place in Cambridge.**

**At approximately 2:00 PM on Saturday, April 30th, Cambridge Police responded to a report of a suspicious person going in and out of an ATM of a bank on Alewife Brook Parkway in Cambridge and tampering with the machine.



Razvan Pascu, 30, of Bucharest, Romania was arrested and charged with Possession of a Burglarious Instrument, Conspiracy, Larceny of Credit Card, and Attempt to Commit a Crime.

A second suspect, Ionut Alexandru, also of Bucharest, fled the scene prior to police arrival and a warrant has been issued for his arrest. **



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