



# Cambridge Police Department BridgeStat

August 2020

**(Abridged Version)**

Produced by the Crime Analysis Unit



# Part I Total Crime

A review of serious crime statistics for the first eight months of 2020 indicates a slight increase of 1% in the Part One index total for Cambridge when compared with 2019. Over the first 34 weeks of this year, there were 1,587 serious crimes reported in the City. For the same time period in 2019, the combined total for Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny & Auto theft was 1,567 incidents, 20 fewer than this year. When measured against the five-year average, a minor decline of 1% has been registered, with 16 fewer crimes recorded so far this year than the projected total of 1,603 incidents.

Further analysis of the crime totals through August 31<sup>st</sup> of 2020 indicates that violent crimes recorded a stunted 2% increase so far this year, while property crimes also registered a small 1% upward trend, with 17 additional crimes reported when compared with the same time frame in 2019. There were 44 robberies counted over the first eight months of 2020, eight categorized as commercial and 36 classified as street incidents, pointing to an increase of one crime (+2%) when compared with 2019. There has not been a bank robbery in Cambridge since July of 2018. On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Jose Bermudez was arrested for the fatal daylight stabbing of a homeless man in Central Square on April 14. Bermudez is being held without bail. This has been the first and only murder in Cambridge since January of 2019.

When monitoring the serious crime totals of August versus the previous month of July of 2020, a 20% spike in the number of index incidents was measured with 35 additional crimes counted in the eighth month of this year. The jump from 73 thefts of bicycles in July to 88 in August, and the 90% increase in larcenies from motor vehicles when compared with the previous month (up from 10 to 19), were the key trends that surfaced. After five months of comparative data to analyze the effect that COVID-19 and social distancing are having on the crime rate in our City, the following trends have been identified and remain as persistent problems: larcenies of bicycles (up 47% over the 5-year average), thefts of packages, psychiatric-related calls, an emerging issue involving a surging wave of commercial burglaries (up 73% above 2019) with a series of breaks into Harvard Square restaurants, and the continued increase in psychiatric and domestic-related calls during August. The explosion in calls for service for fireworks, and a deluge of unemployment frauds that peaked in June, have abated over the past six weeks.

**See next slide for the Part I Crime Chart through August 2020.**



# Cambridge Police BridgeStat

|                            | 4 Week Snapshot |                  |            | Year to Date |            |           | Five Year  |            |
|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------|--------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|
|                            | 7/7/20 - 8/3/20 | 8/4/20 - 8/31/20 | Change     | 2019         | 2020       | Change    | Avg        | Change     |
| Homicide                   | 0               | 0                | IN-CALC    | 1            | 1          | 0%        | 1          | 0%         |
| Rape                       | 3               | 5                | 67%        | 21           | 18         | -14%      | 18         | 0%         |
| Robbery                    | 9               | 3                | -67%       | 43           | 44         | 2%        | 56         | -21%       |
| Commercial Robbery         | 0               | 1                | IN-CALC    | 7            | 8          | 14%       | 18         | -56%       |
| Street Robbery             | 9               | 2                | -78%       | 36           | 36         | 0%        | 37         | -3%        |
| Aggravated Assault         | 15              | 18               | 20%        | 125          | 130        | 4%        | 120        | 8%         |
| <b>Total Violent Crime</b> | <b>27</b>       | <b>26</b>        | <b>-4%</b> | <b>190</b>   | <b>193</b> | <b>2%</b> | <b>194</b> | <b>-1%</b> |

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|-----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|------------|
|                             | 7/7/20 - 8/3/20 | 8/4/20 - 8/31/20 | Change     | 2019         | 2020        | Change    | Avg         | Change     |
| Burglary                    | 15              | 20               | 33%        | 98           | 136         | 39%       | 162         | -16%       |
| Commercial Break            | 4               | 5                | 25%        | 26           | 45          | 73%       | 36          | 25%        |
| Housebreak                  | 11              | 15               | 36%        | 72           | 91          | 26%       | 127         | -28%       |
| Larceny                     | 152             | 176              | 16%        | 1198         | 1196        | 0%        | 1174        | 2%         |
| Larceny (Misc)              | 6               | 6                | 0%         | 27           | 28          | 4%        | 27          | 4%         |
| Larceny from Building       | 10              | 3                | -70%       | 160          | 90          | -44%      | 184         | -51%       |
| Larceny from MV             | 10              | 19               | 90%        | 173          | 211         | 22%       | 187         | 13%        |
| Larceny from Person         | 5               | 12               | 140%       | 104          | 63          | -39%      | 111         | -43%       |
| Larceny from Residence      | 25              | 24               | -4%        | 162          | 243         | 50%       | 154         | 58%        |
| Larceny of Bicycle          | 73              | 88               | 21%        | 321          | 366         | 14%       | 249         | 47%        |
| Larceny of Plate            | 0               | 0                | IN-CALC    | 15           | 5           | -67%      | 17          | -71%       |
| Larceny of Services         | 1               | 0                | -100%      | 11           | 3           | -73%      | 15          | -80%       |
| Shoplifting                 | 22              | 24               | 9%         | 225          | 187         | -17%      | 231         | -19%       |
| Auto Theft                  | 7               | 13               | 86%        | 81           | 62          | -23%      | 71          | -13%       |
| <b>Total Property Crime</b> | <b>174</b>      | <b>209</b>       | <b>20%</b> | <b>1377</b>  | <b>1394</b> | <b>1%</b> | <b>1408</b> | <b>-1%</b> |

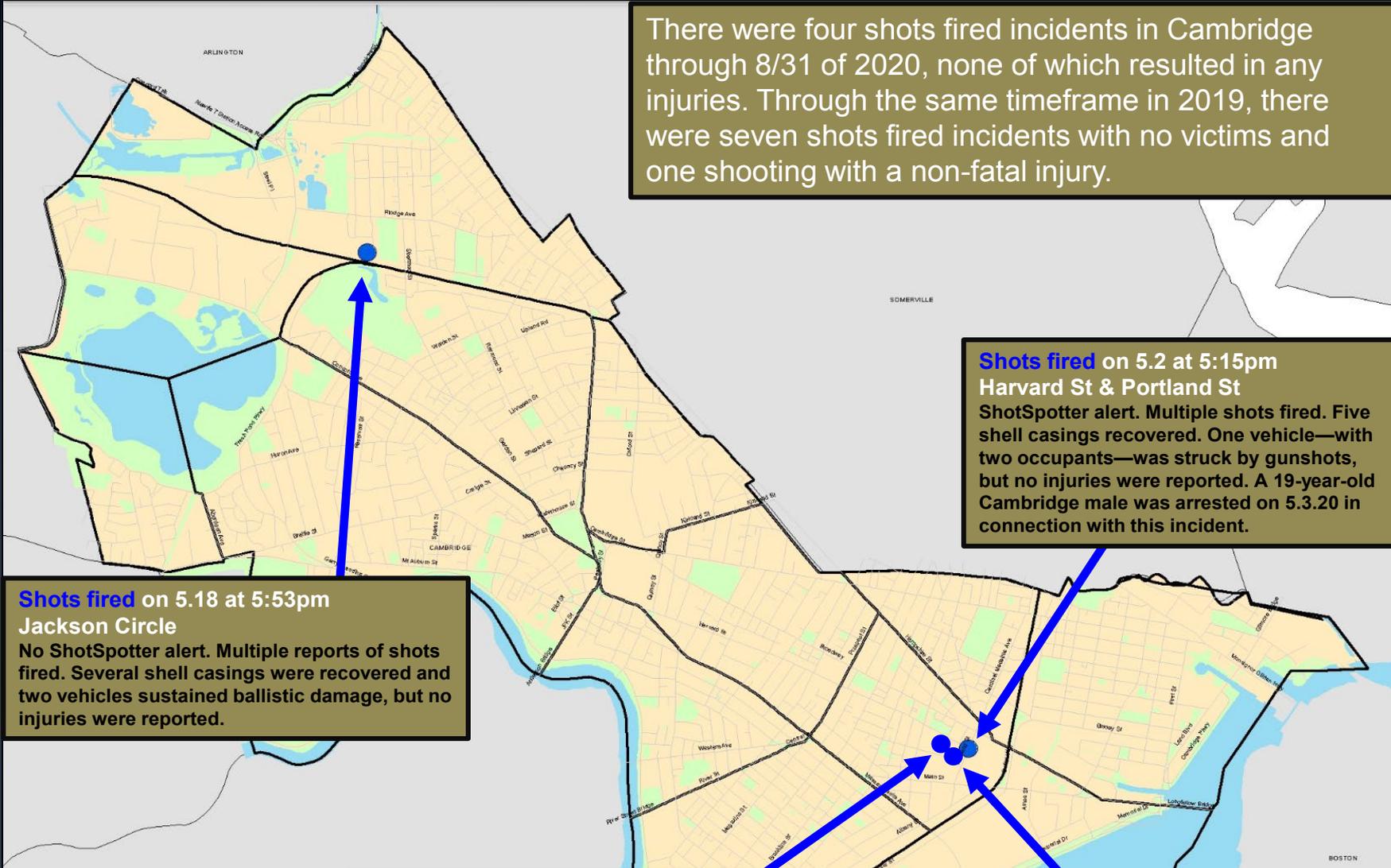
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| <b>Total Part I Crime</b>   | <b>201</b>      | <b>235</b>       | <b>17%</b> | <b>1567</b>  | <b>1587</b> | <b>1%</b> | <b>1603</b> | <b>-1%</b> |



# Shootings & Shots Fired in Cambridge: 1.1.20 – 8.31.20

Cambridge Police BridgeStat

There were four shots fired incidents in Cambridge through 8/31 of 2020, none of which resulted in any injuries. Through the same timeframe in 2019, there were seven shots fired incidents with no victims and one shooting with a non-fatal injury.



**Shots fired on 5.18 at 5:53pm**  
**Jackson Circle**  
No ShotSpotter alert. Multiple reports of shots fired. Several shell casings were recovered and two vehicles sustained ballistic damage, but no injuries were reported.

**Shots fired on 5.2 at 5:15pm**  
**Harvard St & Portland St**  
ShotSpotter alert. Multiple shots fired. Five shell casings recovered. One vehicle—with two occupants—was struck by gunshots, but no injuries were reported. A 19-year-old Cambridge male was arrested on 5.3.20 in connection with this incident.

**Shots fired on 7.2 at 9:41pm**  
**110 Harvard St**  
ShotSpotter alert. Over 40 shell casings recovered. No injuries reported. Unknown at this time if related to a shooting in Somerville an hour later.

**Shots fired on 8.3 at 12:51pm**  
**Washington Elms / Portland St**  
No ShotSpotter alert. 8 shell casings recovered. No injuries reported. Black SUV seen fleeing the scene.

**Shooting Type**

- Shooting w/ Victim(s)
- Shots Fired (no victims)



# 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](http://www.CambridgeMa.gov/AlertNetwork).
- “Like” the Cambridge Police Department on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/CambridgePolice](http://www.facebook.com/CambridgePolice)
- Follow [@CambridgePolice](https://twitter.com/CambridgePolice) on Twitter.
- Visit our website at [www.CambridgePolice.org](http://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 “MyPD” smartphone app at [www.CambridgePolice.org/MyPD](http://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](http://www.CambridgePolice.org/Tips)



# Questions?

- The complete 2018 Cambridge Police Annual Crime Report is available on our website at [www.CambridgePolice.org](http://www.CambridgePolice.org).
- The 2019 Annual Crime Report will be released later this year.
- We welcome all questions, comments, and suggestions.
- Please direct your feedback to: [BridgeStat@CambridgePolice.org](mailto:BridgeStat@CambridgePolice.org).
- To review previous editions of BridgeStat, visit our website at [www.CambridgePolice.org/BridgeStat](http://www.CambridgePolice.org/BridgeStat).