



# Cambridge Police Department BridgeStat

December 2013

Produced by the Crime Analysis Unit

**\*Preliminary 2013 YTD numbers are subject to change as data are finalized in the coming weeks.**



# Part I Total Crime

With just one day left in 2013, serious crime in Cambridge has **decreased 8%** when measured against the same time period in 2012. Compared against the five-year weighted average for this same time frame, an **11% decline (393 fewer Part 1 crimes below the projected average)** have been recorded. The majority of this decrease can be attributed to the overall drop in burglary (**-22%**), with 109 fewer breaks recorded when contrasted with the same time period in 2012. The **28% decline** in the violent index crime of aggravated assault has also been a driving force in the crime reduction in 2013.

- A detailed analysis of all statistics indicates that there were **208 fewer property crimes recorded up until the next-to-last day** of 2013, which translates to a **7% decrease** when measured against the 2012 statistics. **Violent crime has abated 21% between January 1<sup>st</sup> and December 30<sup>th</sup> of 2013 when compared with the same time period in 2012.**
- When measuring the serious crime totals versus the previous month of November, there was a substantial **29% decrease** in the number of index crimes, with 66 fewer incidents recorded during December of 2013.

	<u>4 Week Snapshot</u>			<u>Year to Date</u>			<u>Five Year</u>	
	11/5-12/2	12/3-12/30	Change	2012	2013	Change	Avg	Change
Total Violent Crime	16	18	13%	419	332	-21%	439	-24%
Total Property Crime	211	143	-32%	3060	2852	-7%	3138	-9%
Total Part I Crime	227	161	-29%	3479	3184	-8%	3577	-11%



# Part I Property Crime

- Totals for property crime indicate a 7% slip below the number reported during the first twelve months of 2012, and a 9% drop below the five-year average. The only larceny category to register a notable increase over the past four weeks was a rise of 90% (9 additional reports) in thefts from residences, which can be attributed to the seasonal trend of holiday package / delivery larcenies. Burglary is down a notable 22% from 2012 and 19% below the five-year weighted average.

	4 Week Snapshot			Year to Date			Five Year	
	11/5-12/2	12/3-12/30	Change	2012	2013	Change	Avg	Change
Burglary	36	15	-58%	498	389	-22%	483	-19%
Commercial Break	8	3	-63%	79	62	-22%	83	-25%
Housebreak	28	12	-57%	419	327	-22%	401	-18%
Larceny	167	125	-25%	2445	2355	-4%	2497	-6%
Larceny (Misc)	3	2	-33%	40	23	-43%	33	-30%
Larceny from Building	29	28	-3%	372	386	4%	388	-1%
Larceny from MV	37	18	-51%	685	613	-11%	747	-18%
Larceny from Person	21	27	29%	368	340	-8%	344	-1%
Larceny from Residence	10	19	90%	225	186	-17%	214	-13%
Larceny of Bicycle	23	8	-65%	356	379	6%	350	8%
Larceny of Plate	1	0	-100%	40	20	-50%	43	-53%
Larceny of Services	2	1	-50%	17	21	24%	24	-13%
Shoplifting	41	22	-46%	342	387	13%	353	10%
Auto Theft	8	3	-63%	117	108	-8%	157	-31%
Total Property Crime	211	143	-32%	3060	2852	-7%	3138	-9%



# Part I Violent Crime

- The violent index crimes of aggravated assault (-28%) and robbery (-9%) have registered significant declines when compared to 2012. Propelled on by these reductions, the overall total of violent crime is down 21% compared to the first twelve months of 2012 and has dropped 24% when measured against the five-year average (107 fewer incidents) below the projected total of 439 violent crimes.
- Despite the fact that there were only 18 violent crimes recorded in Cambridge during the month of December, there was a 13% increase reported over the previous month of November, when there were only sixteen violent crimes registered in Cambridge. Both of these monthly totals are exceptionally below the normal averages during the fourth quarter for Cambridge. The robbery increase in December (+125%) as compared to the previous month should be tempered by the fact that there were only four incidents in November.

	4 Week Snapshot			Year to Date			Five Year	
	11/5-12/2	12/3-12/30	Change	2012	2013	Change	Avg	Change
Homicide	1	0	-100%	1	3	200%	2	50%
Rape	2	1	-50%	28	24	-14%	29	-17%
Robbery	4	9	125%	128	117	-9%	149	-21%
Commercial Robbery	2	3	50%	16	29	81%	24	21%
Street Robbery	2	6	200%	112	88	-21%	125	-30%
Aggravated Assault	9	8	-11%	262	188	-28%	259	-27%
Total Violent Crime	16	18	13%	419	332	-21%	439	-24%



# MURDER

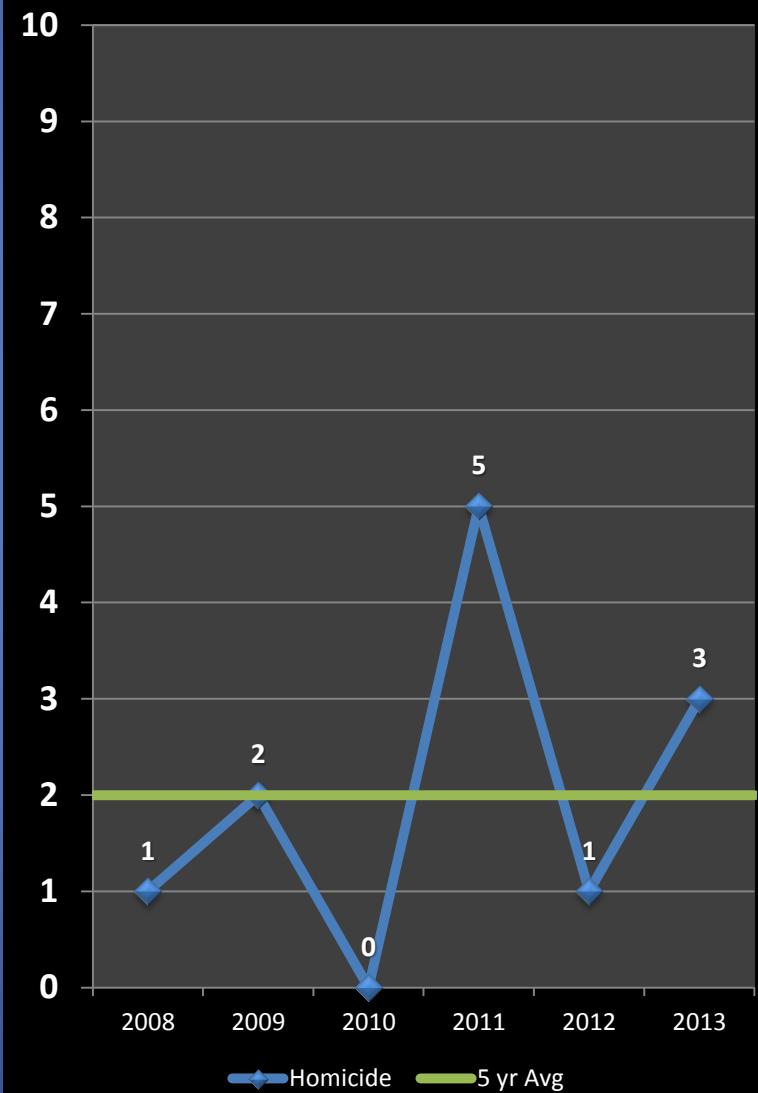
## No Patterns

- There have been three murders reported in Cambridge with one day remaining in 2013. Two of these incidents were recorded in April. The 3<sup>rd</sup> murder of the year occurred on November 25<sup>th</sup>.
- On April 10<sup>th</sup>, Aisling Brady McCarthy was charged with murder in the death of a Cambridge child who died in January. Aisling is awaiting trial.
- On April 18<sup>th</sup>, Cambridge Police received reports of shots fired on the MIT campus. At 10:30 p.m., an MIT police officer was found shot in his vehicle in the area of Vassar and Main Streets. Officer Sean Collier, 27, was found with multiple gunshot wounds. He was transported to Massachusetts General Hospital and pronounced deceased. On October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013, the Middlesex Attorney's Office obtained a default warrant against Cambridge resident and Boston Marathon bombing suspect, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev for this incident.
- On November 25<sup>th</sup>, Jesse Maxwell's body was found in his apartment at 243 Broadway. An autopsy determined that the 73-year-old died as a result of injuries to the head and compression of the neck. His death has been ruled a homicide. Harold Antoine Maxwell, 34, of Cambridge, the victim's nephew, was arrested for this crime on November 26<sup>th</sup>. He was held without bail and will appear in court on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> for a probable cause hearing.

Change\*

Last 4 Weeks	Previous Year	5 Year Average
*IN -CAL	*IN -CAL	*IN -CAL

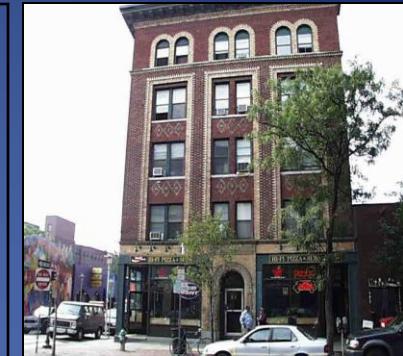
\*IN -CAL: Percentages are not calculated for numbers so small as to present a statistically misleading percentage.





# Unsolved Murders: 1999 to 2013

**Colin Burton**, 30, of Dorchester, was shot and killed outside of Hi - Fi Pizza on Mass Ave in Central Square on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 1999. Burton was talking with the occupants of a Ford Explorer when the subject in the passenger seat fired through the window. Two suspects fled the scene. The case remains under active investigation.



September 18, 1999, Mass Ave



April 5 , 2002, Mass Ave

**Ian Gray**, 19, of Mattapan, was in an argument outside of the Rhythm & Spice restaurant that spilled out onto Mass Ave. A suspect that had left the scene returned with a group of people and a fight ensued. A knife was produced during the altercation and four gunshots were fired, fatally wounding Gray. This case remains open.

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2002 at 7:00PM, **Ricardo Williams**, 27, of Malden, was found in the driver's seat of a motor vehicle suffering from a gunshot wound to his face. Williams was taken to CCH where he was pronounced dead. This case remains open.



June 17, 2002, Windsor St.

\*Anyone with information about these crimes is asked to contact CPD at 617-349-3370.\*



# Unsolved Murders: 1999 to 2013

**Jason Ellcock**, 33, of Malden, formerly of Cambridge and father of three, was found with multiple gunshot wounds in front of the driveway to 364 Rindle Ave at 3:05 AM on the night of June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009. He was pronounced dead at the scene. This incident remains under investigation.



June 16, 2009, Rindle Ave



March 12, 2011, Brookline St.

**James Lauture**, 30, of Cambridge, was sitting in a vehicle near Brookline and Watson Streets just after midnight on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011, when an unknown gunman opened fire. The occupants in the car were able to drive to Central Square. Lauture died from multiple gunshot wounds. The other man in the vehicle survived. This case remains open.

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012, **Charlene Holmes**, 16, of Cambridge was shot while sitting on a porch on Willow Street. She later succumbed to her wounds at the hospital. The investigation into this incident remains active, but no arrests have been made to date.



June 3, 2012, Willow St

\*Anyone with information about these crimes is asked to contact CPD at 617-349-3370.\*



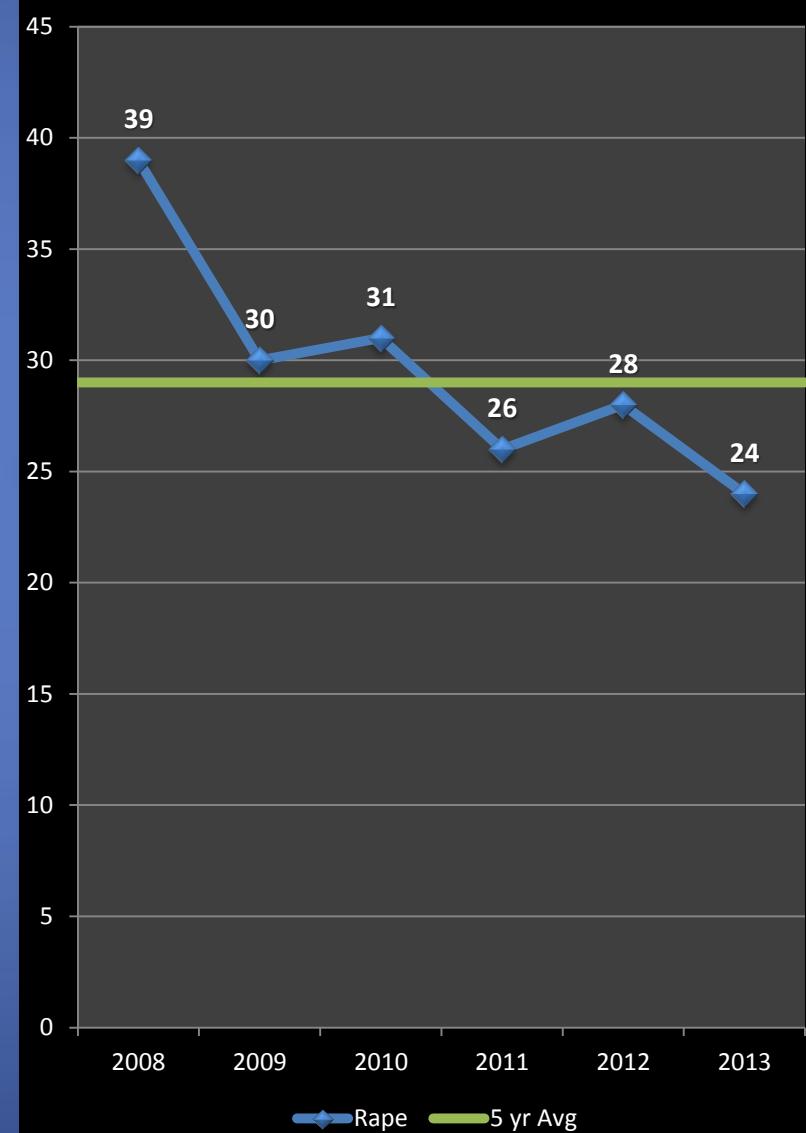
# RAPE

## No Patterns

- Up until the next-to-last day of 2013, there were 24 rapes reported in Cambridge. During the same period in 2012, there were 28 incidents, which indicates a **14% reduction** from 2012 and a **17% decline** when compared to the five-year average of 29 sexual assaults for the time period between January 1<sup>st</sup> and December 30<sup>th</sup>.
- A breakdown of the rape classifications through December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013 is as follows: there have been three (3) reports of rapes classified as domestic, eleven (11) involving acquaintances known to the victim, and five (5) incidents categorized as contact scenarios. Four (4) of the sexual assaults have yet to be categorized.
- The first and only stranger-to-stranger rape of the year was recorded in March. This incident involved a blitz type scenario late at night in Central Square. A Cambridge male has since been charged in this incident.
- Statistics released in October by the FBI reveal that rape decreased by .2% in the U.S. in 2012. The rate of forcible rapes in the U.S. in 2012 was estimated at 52.9 per 100,000 female inhabitants. The five-year average of rapes in Cambridge, a city of 106,000, is 30 incidents per year.

Percent Change	Last 4 Weeks	Previous Year	5 Year Average
	-50%	-14%	-17%

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





# ROBBERY

## No Patterns

- The five-year average for overall robbery in Cambridge for the first twelve months of the year is 149 incidents. From January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 30<sup>th</sup> of 2013, 117 robberies were recorded, which translates to a **21% decline** below the projected total.
- There was a **125% increase** in robberies from November to December due to the fact that there was an exceptionally low total of four incidents in November.
- Street robberies have **nosedived 30%** when measured against the five-year average, down 37 crimes from the projected total of 125 incidents. When compared with the same time frame in 2012, there has been a **21% decrease** from 112 to 88 street robberies.
- There have been 29 commercial robberies at: (10) banks, (10) convenience stores, (3) drug stores, (2) gas stations, a liquor store, a parking garage, a fast food chain, and a miscellaneous retail establishments so far in 2013.
- A major regional commercial robbery pattern involving the same suspect was identified in late October. This suspect was apprehended in Lynn at the end of November.

### Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

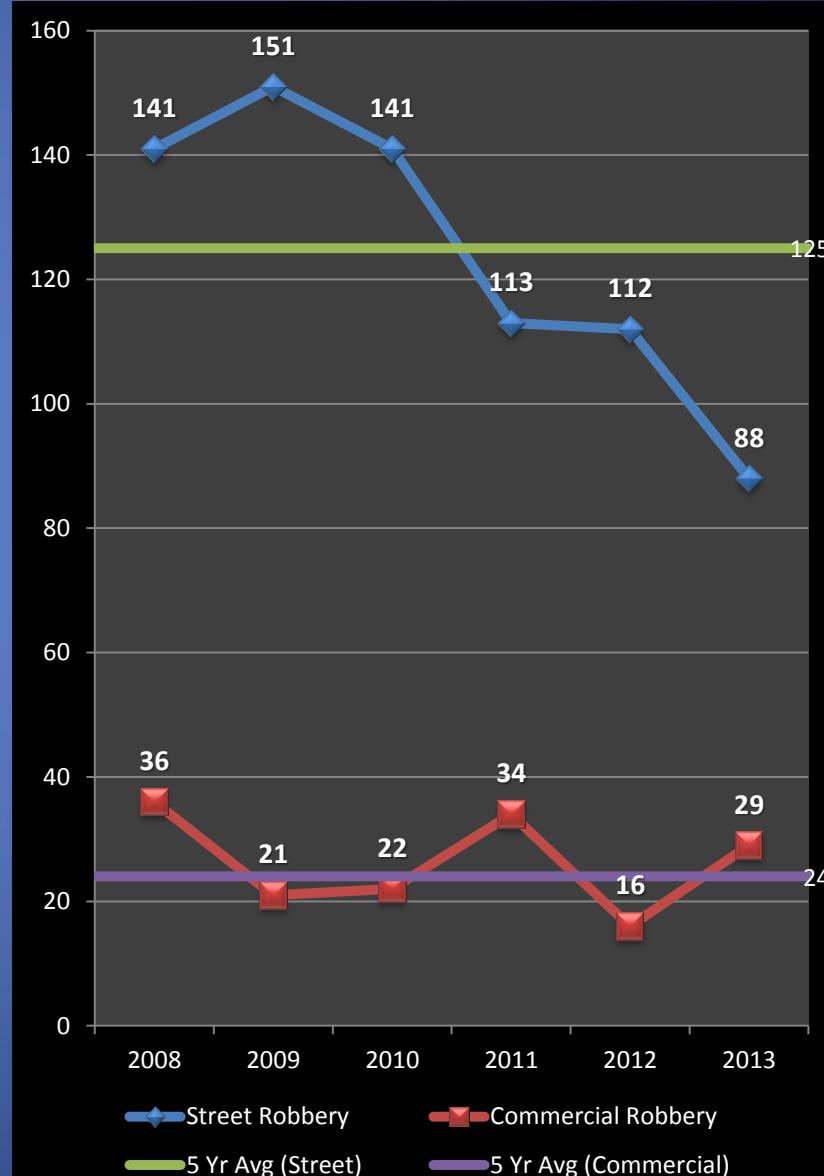
Previous Year

5 Year Average

+125%

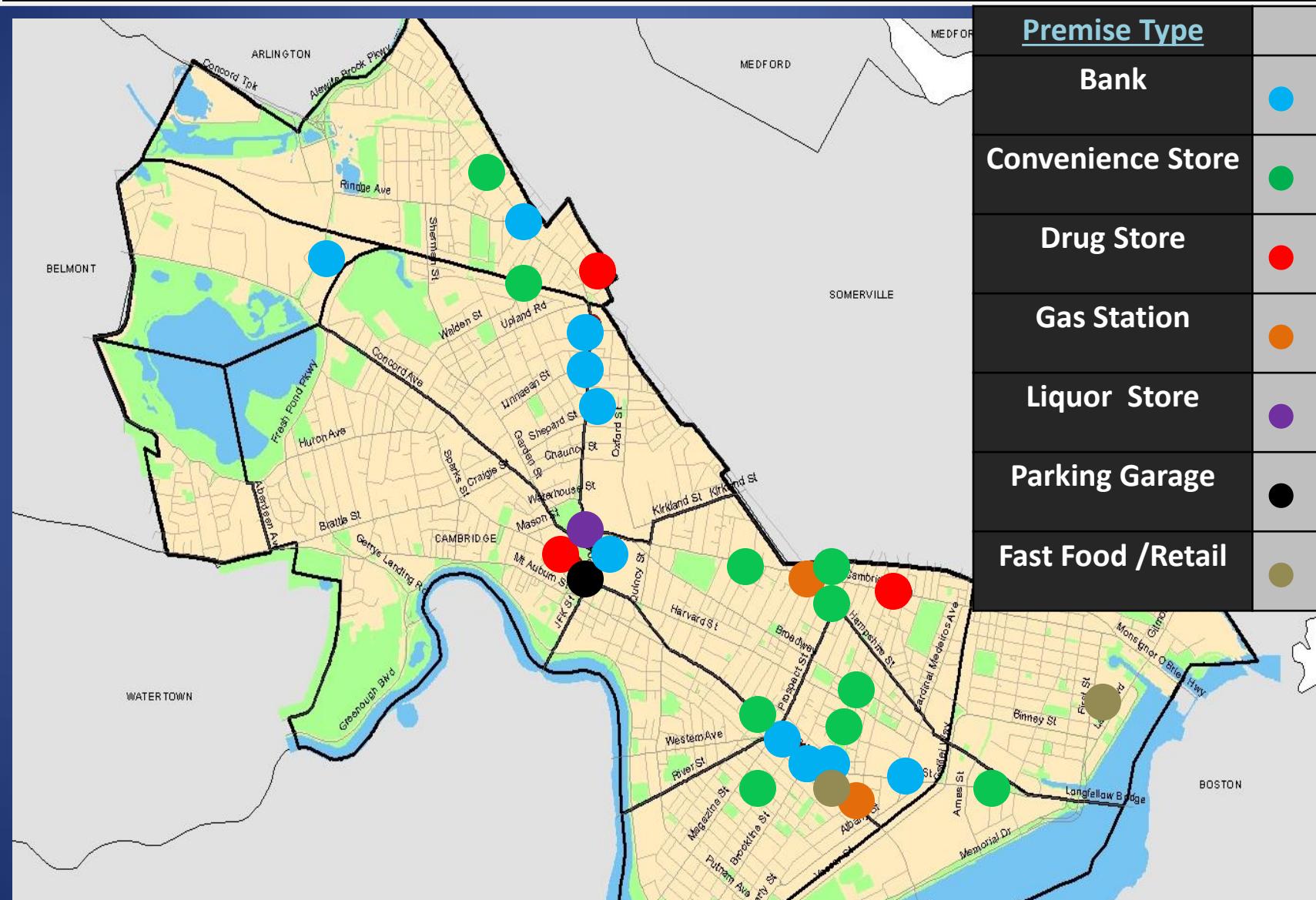
-9%

-21%





## Commercial Robberies: 1/1/13 to 12/30/13



There have been 29 commercial robberies at: (10) banks, (10) convenience stores, (3) drug stores, (2) gas stations, a liquor store, a parking garage, a fast food chain, and a miscellaneous retail establishment through 12.30.13.



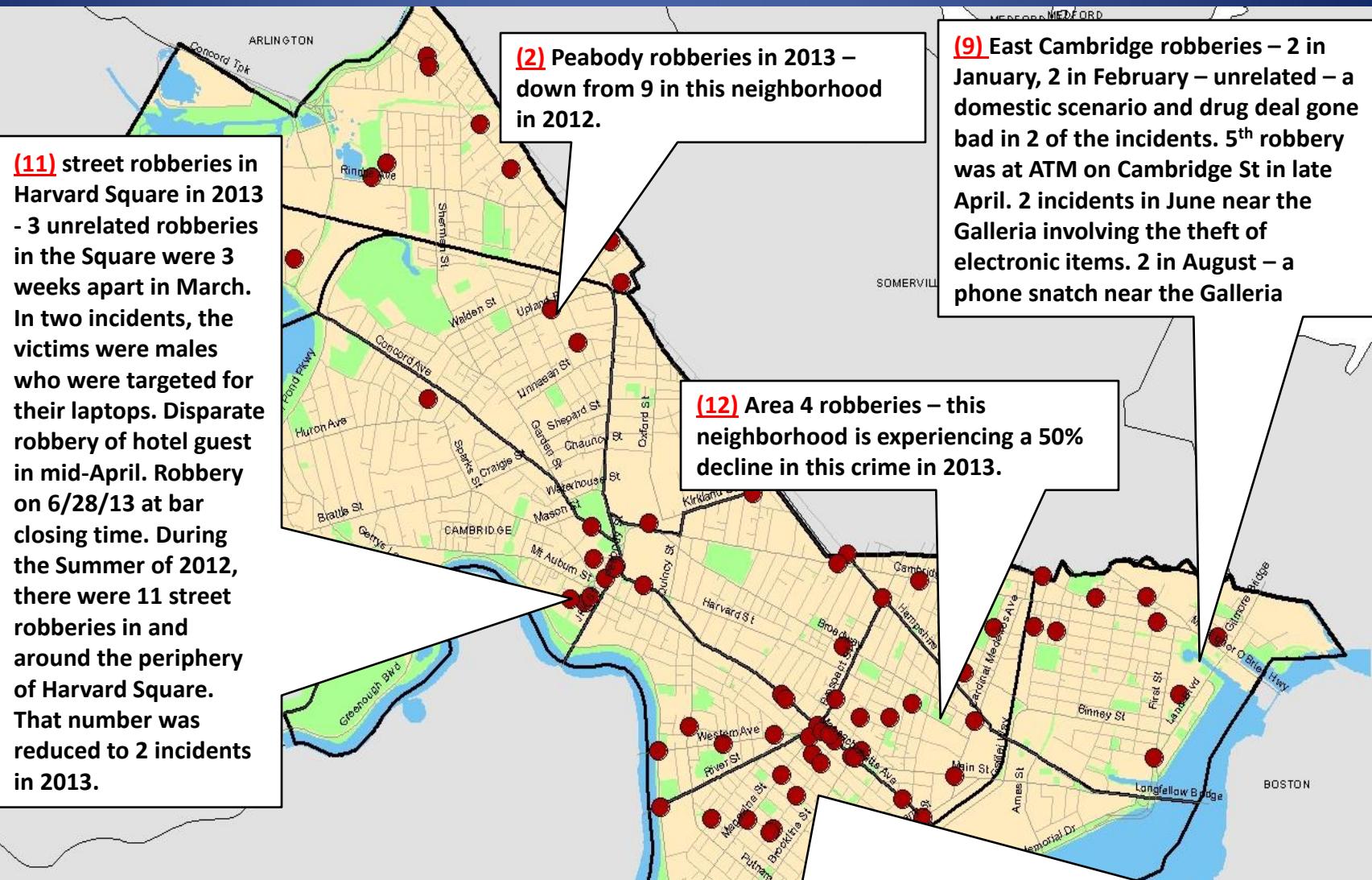
## Central Square Bank Robbery: Identification Needed



**OVERVIEW:** On 12/31/13 @ approximately 2:30 p.m., an unknown male passed a note demanding cash at the Bank of America at 727 Mass Ave, Cambridge, in Central Square. He was tracked to an MBTA red line train and subsequently to Charles/MGH station, but was not located. The suspect is described as a white male, early 20s, thin build, reddish hair, wearing a blue sweatshirt with "The Zone" written on back and a black stocking cap.



# Street Robberies: 1/1/13 to 12/30/13





# AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

## No Patterns

- When compared to the time period through December 30<sup>th</sup> of 2012, aggravated assaults have registered a significant decline of 28%, with 74 fewer crimes recorded so far in 2013. When measuring this violent index crime against the five-year average for the time period between January 1<sup>st</sup> and December 30<sup>th</sup>, there has been a decline of 27%, with 71 incidents below the projected average of 259 assaults.
- The majority of the decline in aggravated assaults can be attributed to a drop of nearly 30% in violent crimes of a domestic nature in Cambridge over the course of the year in 2013.
- Other assault classifications such as homeless, bar /alcohol, and road rage have remained relatively unchanged so far in 2013.

Type	Number	% of Total
Domestic	62	33%
Homeless	25	13%
Bar /Alcohol	20	11%
Acquaintance	18	10%
Road Rage	13	7%

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

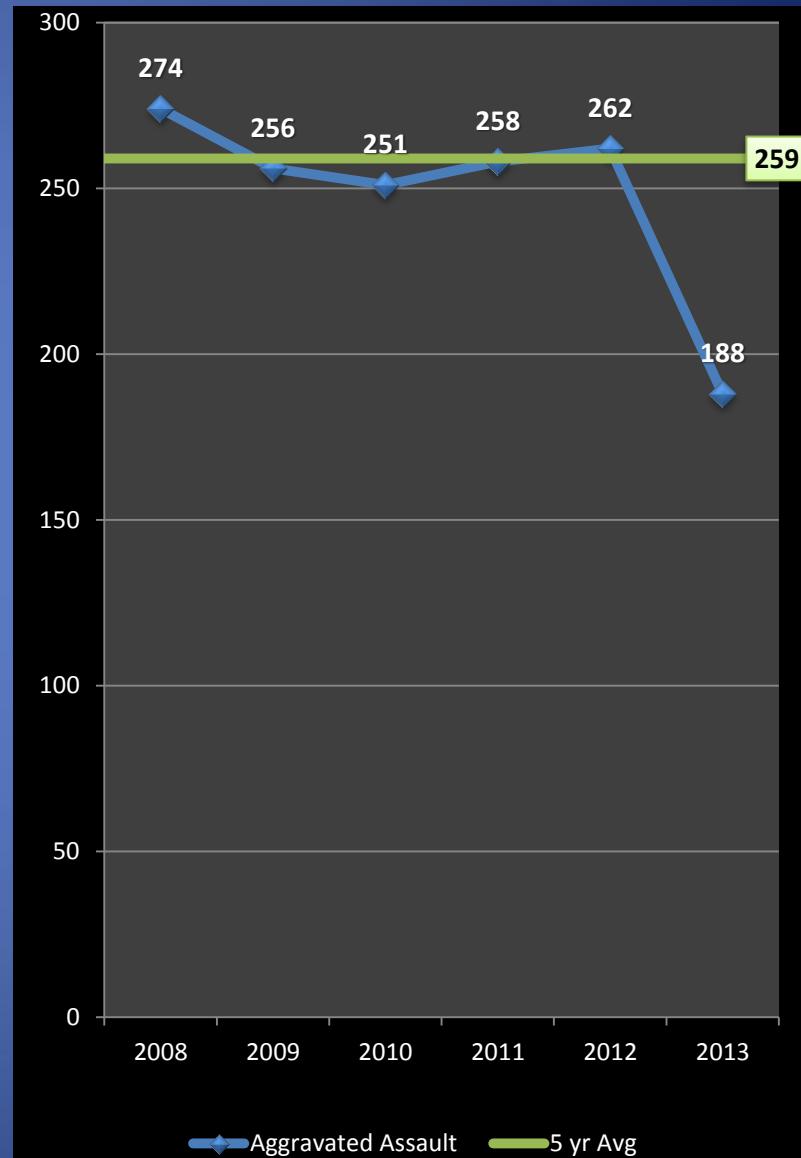
Previous Year

5 Year Average

-11%

-28%

-27%





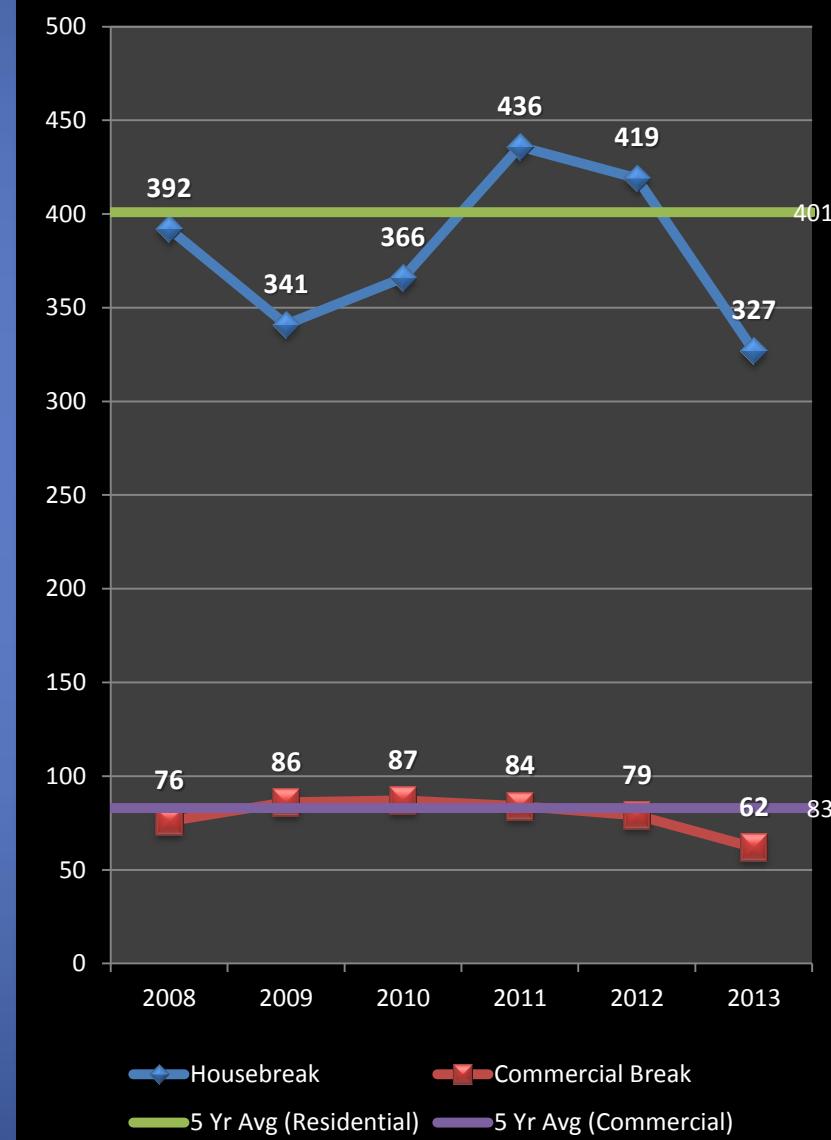
# Burglary

## No Patterns

- Up until the next-to-last day of 2013, there have been 389 total burglaries (the combination of residential and commercial burglaries) reported in Cambridge. This number has fallen **22%** when compared to last year during this time period and is **19% lower than the five-year average** of 483 incidents.
- Commercial burglary has **dropped 22%** when compared with 2012, with 17 fewer incidents reported, and has **slipped 25%** when measured against the five-year average of 83 breaks.
- Residential burglaries ("housebreaks") are **down 22%** through December 30<sup>th</sup> of 2013 with 92 fewer incidents reported and has **dipped down 18%** when measured against the five-year average.
- The December 2013 burglary total of 15 incidents is uncharacteristically low and is **down 58% from the previous month of November**. The majority of this decline can be attributed to the eradication of three housebreak patterns that had been a problem from late September to mid-November.

Percent Change

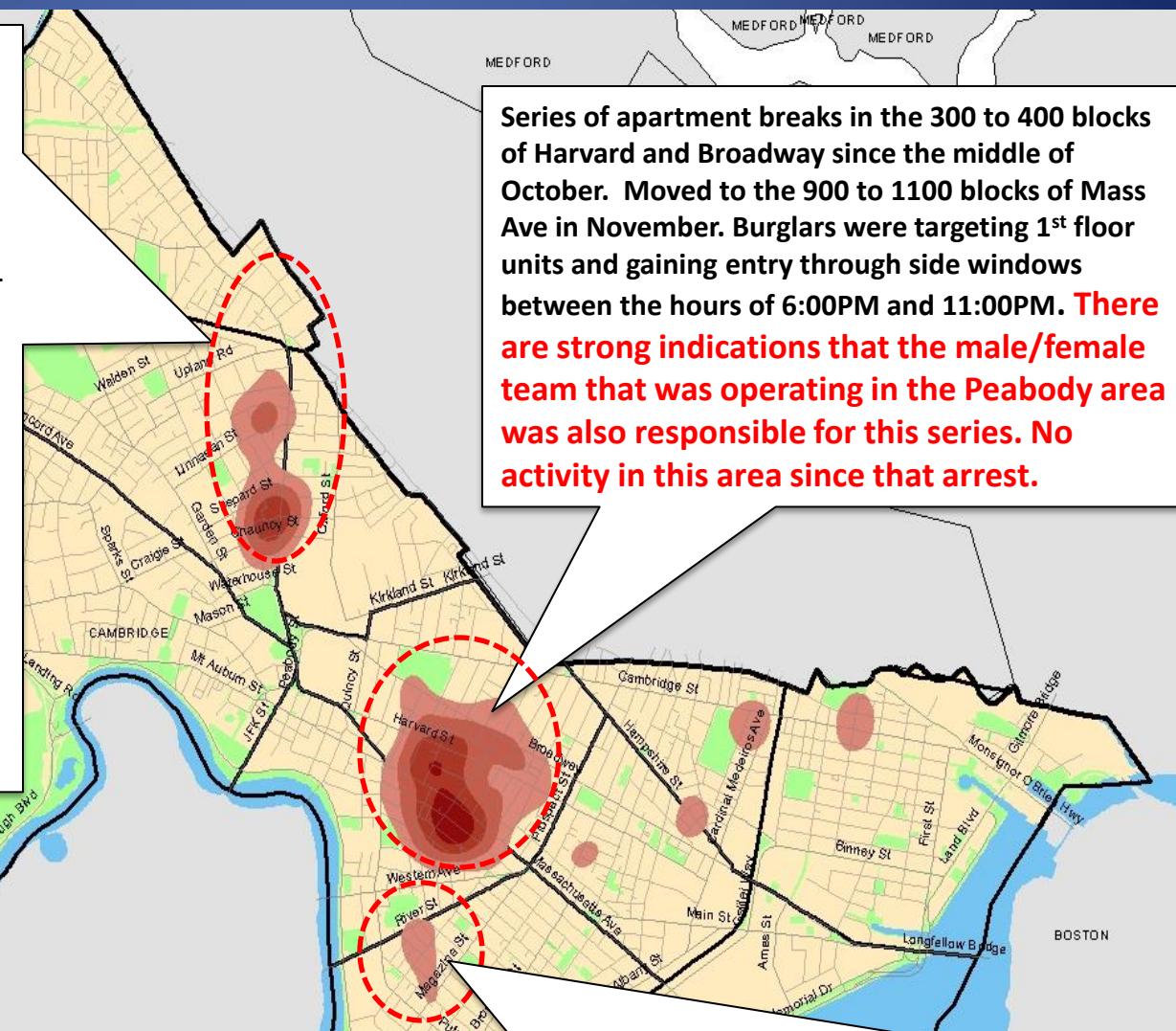
Last 4 Weeks	Previous Year	5 Year Average
-58%	-22%	-19%





# The (3) Major Housebreak Patterns of 2013 that were Resolved During the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter

This pattern was identified in late September in the Mass Ave Corridor (1500 to 1800 Mass) and adjacent side streets. The series has grown to 25 incidents with the majority of the breaks to first floor apartments in multi-unit buildings. In a high percentage of the incidents the point of entry has been through an unlocked window between the hours of 7:00PM and 11:00PM. **This pattern was resolved in late November when Detectives linked a male/female team to the series through stolen credit cards. No activity in this area since that arrest.**



This pattern was identified in lower Cambridgeport around Putnam Ave and Allston St during the first week of October. A suspect was identified and warrants have been issued. **The suspect, a former Port resident, was connected to this series via fingerprints and video surveillance. There has been no activity in this area since his arrest.**



# LARCENY

*No Patterns*

- Overall, **larceny year-to-date has decreased by 4%** when compared with 2012 and is down 6% when measured against the five-year weighted average for this time frame.
- Larcenies from motor vehicles are down 11% year-to-date** when compared with the same time frame in 2012. LMVs dropped 51% from 37 in November to 18 in December. Cambridgeport and Mid-Cambridge each saw four reports, but no patterns emerged.
- Larcenies from persons citywide in 2013 have registered 8% below the level reported in 2012** with 28 fewer incidents this year, while the 2013 year-to-date total came in just 4 incidents below the five-year average of 344 incidents.
- There have been 386 larcenies from buildings reported citywide through December 30<sup>th</sup> of 2013.** This total is 14 crimes above the number reported during this time frame in 2012 and 2 below the five-year average. There were five thefts from construction sites citywide in December, three of which took place at the same site in North Cambridge. It is unknown if any or all are related.
- In 2013, there have been **379 bike thefts**. This total is 23 incidents (6%) above the 356 reported in 2012. Bike thefts dropped by 65% (15 incidents) in December when compared with November. Only East Cambridge and Area 4 experienced more than one bike theft in December, with two each.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

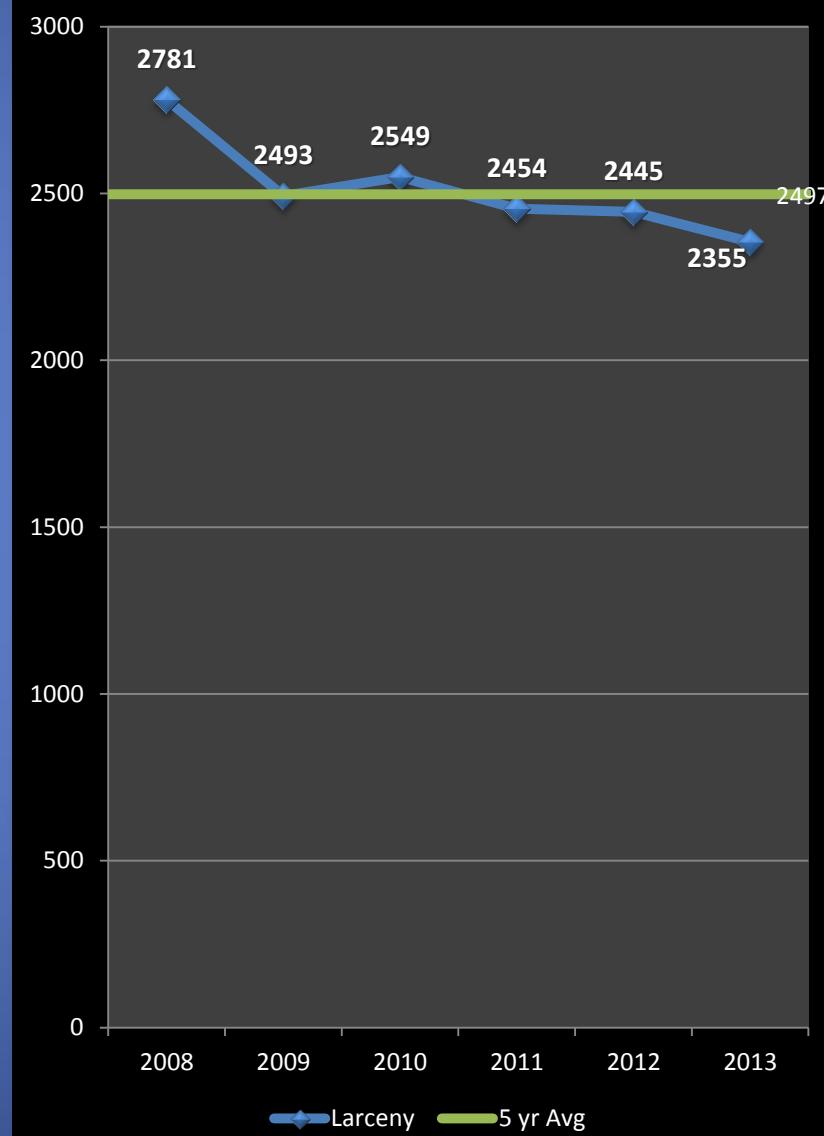
Previous Year

5 Year Average

-25%

-4%

-6%





# LARCENY: From MVs

## No Patterns

Percent Change

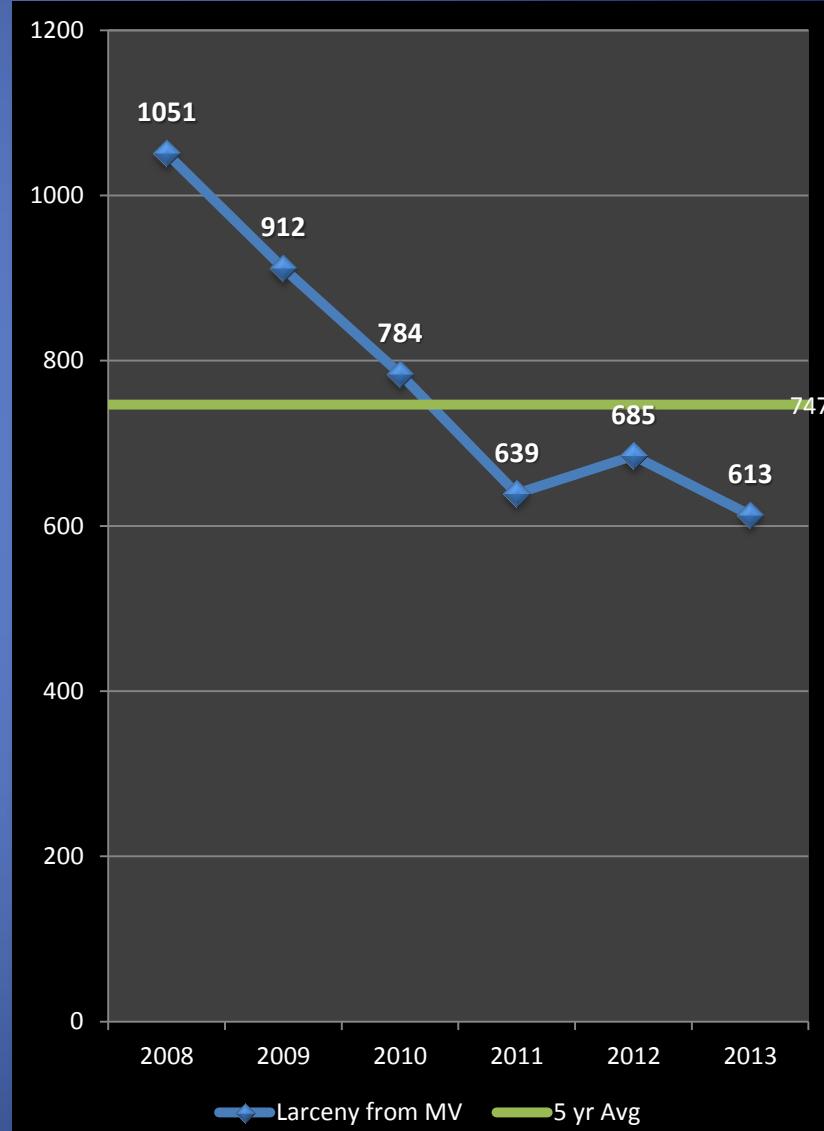
Last 4 Weeks

Previous Year

5 Year Average

**-51%****-11%****-18%**

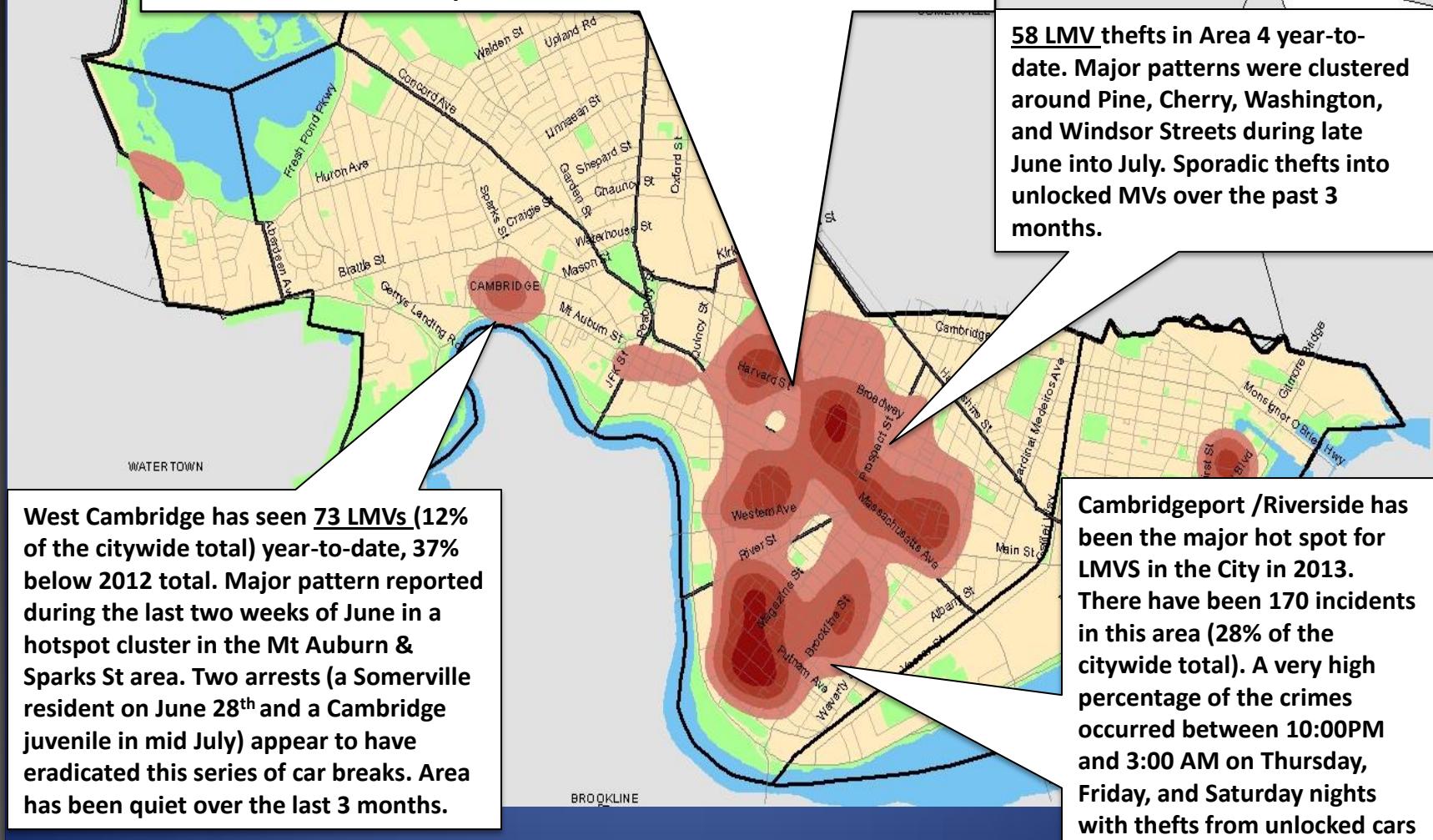
- Larcenies from MVs **are down 11% through December 30<sup>th</sup> of 2013** when compared with the same time frame in 2012. There have been 72 fewer thefts reported this year. This target crime has **fallen 18%** when measured against the five-year average, with **134 fewer incidents** than the projected total of 747 thefts.
- This index crime declined 51% from November to December. Larcenies from MVs dipped from 37 thefts last month to 18 between December 3<sup>rd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>. There have been no significant larceny from motor vehicle patterns in the city over the past two months.
- Sporadic thefts from unlocked vehicles are still occurring in Cambridgeport / Riverside but at a much slower rate than over the previous six months. Extra patrols and citizens' locking of vehicles appears to be an effective deterrent for this crime.





# Larceny from MVs: 1/1/13 to 12/30/13

**101 thefts** from cars in Mid-Cambridge in 2013 (16% of citywide total). There have been 49 LMV thefts in this neighborhood since September 1<sup>st</sup>. A high percentage of these crimes are entry into unlocked cars with loose change and personal items as the target. Arrests during August point to activity by homeless and vagrants after midnight between Thursday and Sunday night. Extra patrols over the last 2 weeks in November have abated some of this activity.





# 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 or under a blanket to conceal them**
  - Visit our website for more tips to keep your vehicles and belongings at [www.CambridgePolice.org/SafetyTips](http://www.CambridgePolice.org/SafetyTips)



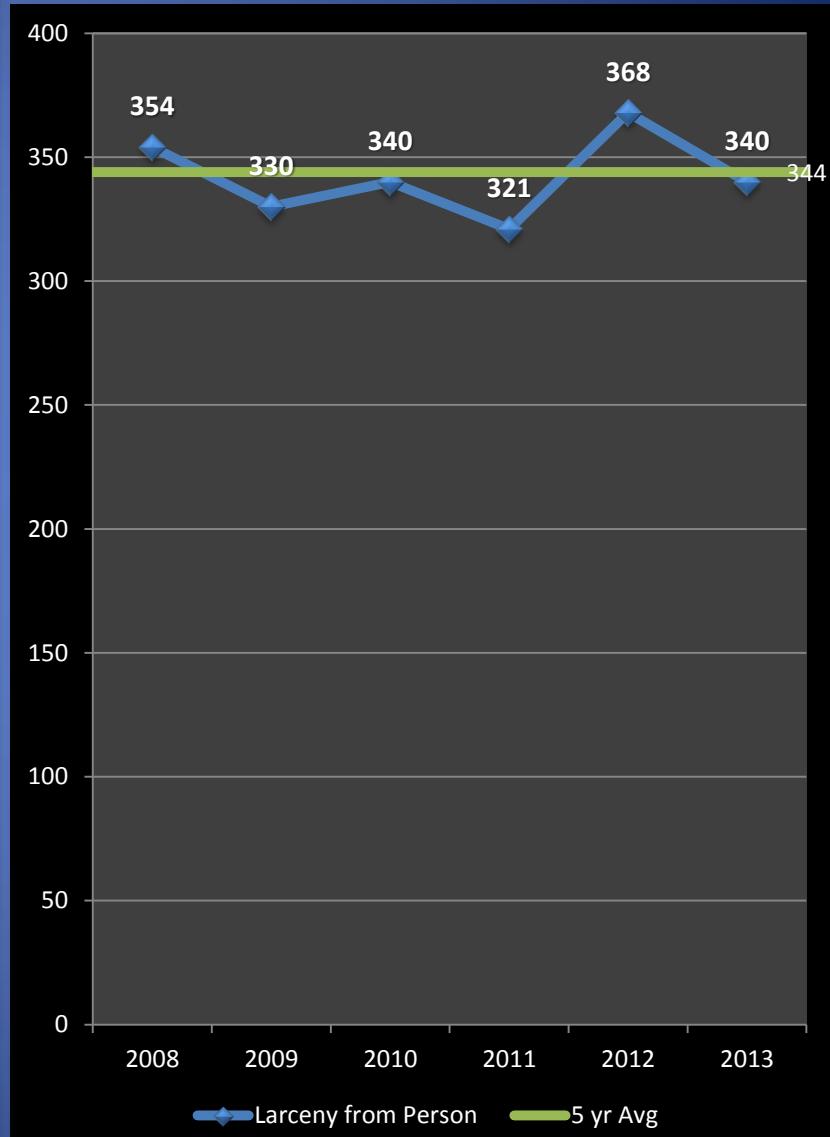
# LARCENY: from Person

## No Patterns

- Larcenies from the person are down 28 incidents (8%) through 12/30/13 when compared with 2012. The total of 340 incidents reported in 2013 is just 4 incidents (1%) below the five-year average of 344.
- Larcenies from the person citywide rose by six incidents from November (21 thefts) to December (27 thefts). Often, much of this activity is reported at the many bars and restaurants in Harvard Square (known as "dipper" activity). However, only three larcenies were reported in the Square in December. Notably, however, there were nine thefts reported from shoppers/diners at the Galleria Mall over the month.
- Two arrests were made for larceny from the person in December. On December 10<sup>th</sup>, two females from Boston were arrested after they stole a wallet from a patron of a clothing store in the Galleria Mall.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks	Previous Year	5 Year Average
+29%	-8%	-1%





# LARCENY: of Bicycle

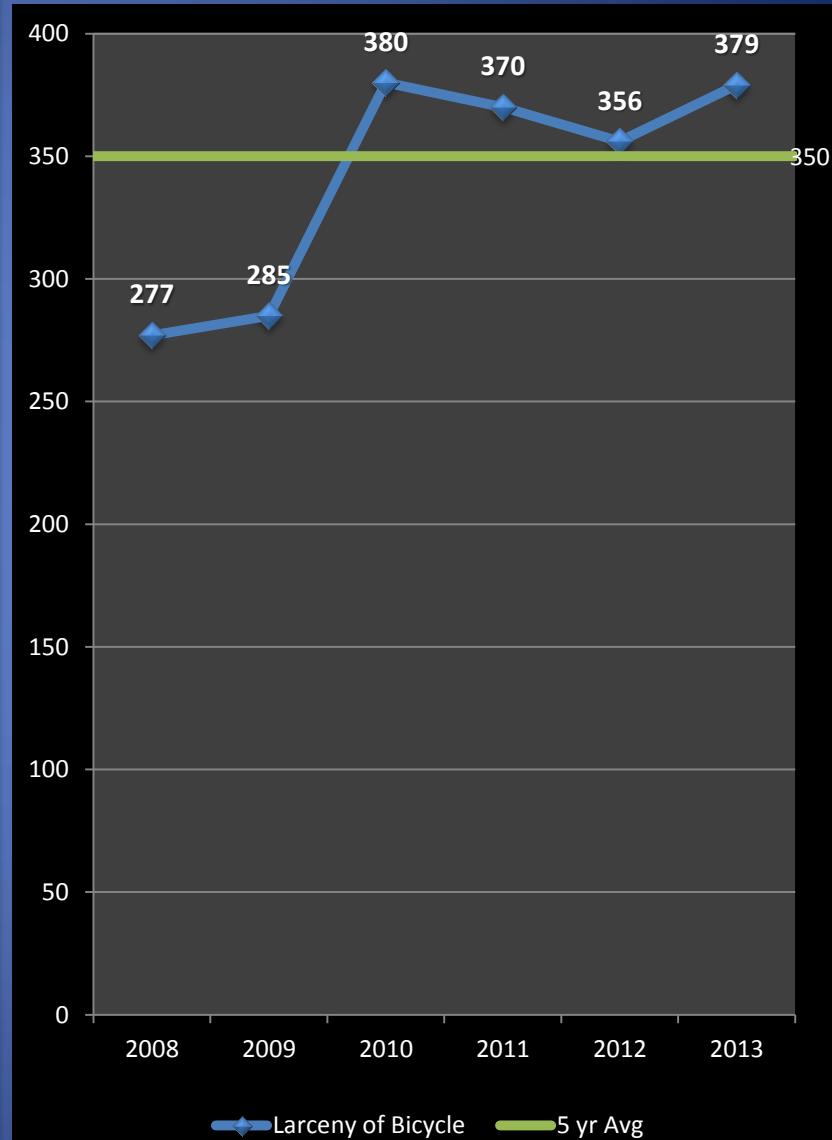
## No Patterns

- There were 379 bike thefts reported through 12/30/13, which is 23 incidents (6%) above the 356 reported during the same time frame in 2012 and 29 (8%) above the five-year average of 350 thefts.
- Bike thefts dropped by 65% (15 incidents) from November to December. As would be expected, both bike ridership and bike thefts waned with the cold and snowy weather this month. Only East Cambridge and Area 4 saw multiple thefts, with two each.
- The majority of thefts this year (**57%**) have involved bikes that were locked but left out in the open (locked to public bike racks, for example).
- Breakdown by Neighborhood, year-to-date:**

Neighborhood	Total	% Citywide
Mid-Cambridge	59	16 %
Cambridgeport	54	14 %
West Cambridge	47	12 %
Riverside	46	12 %

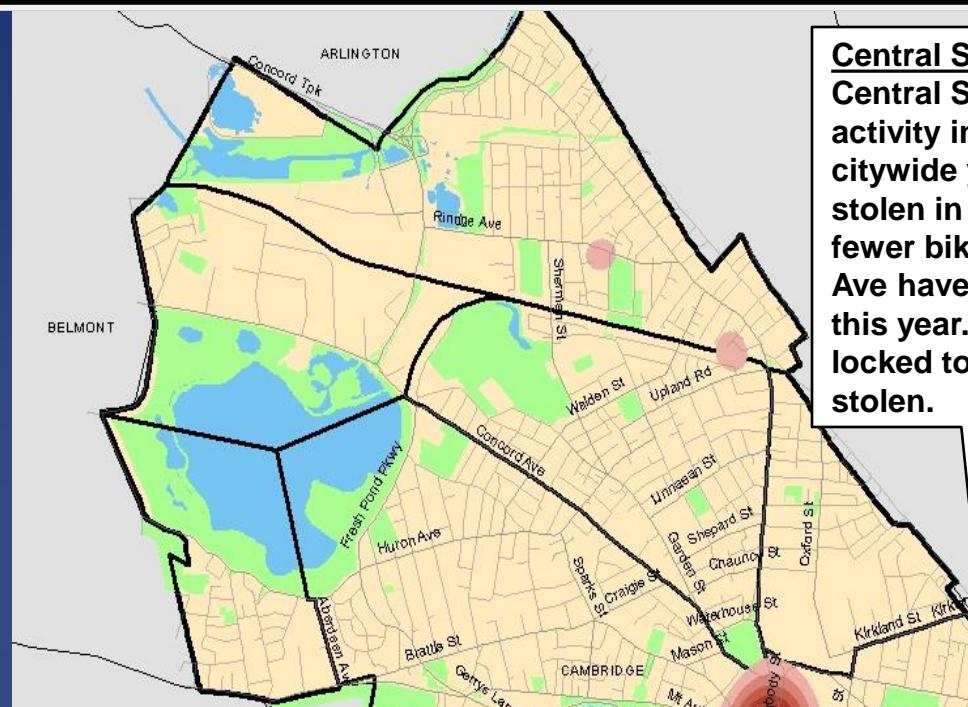
Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks	Previous Year	5 Year Average
-65%	+6%	+8%



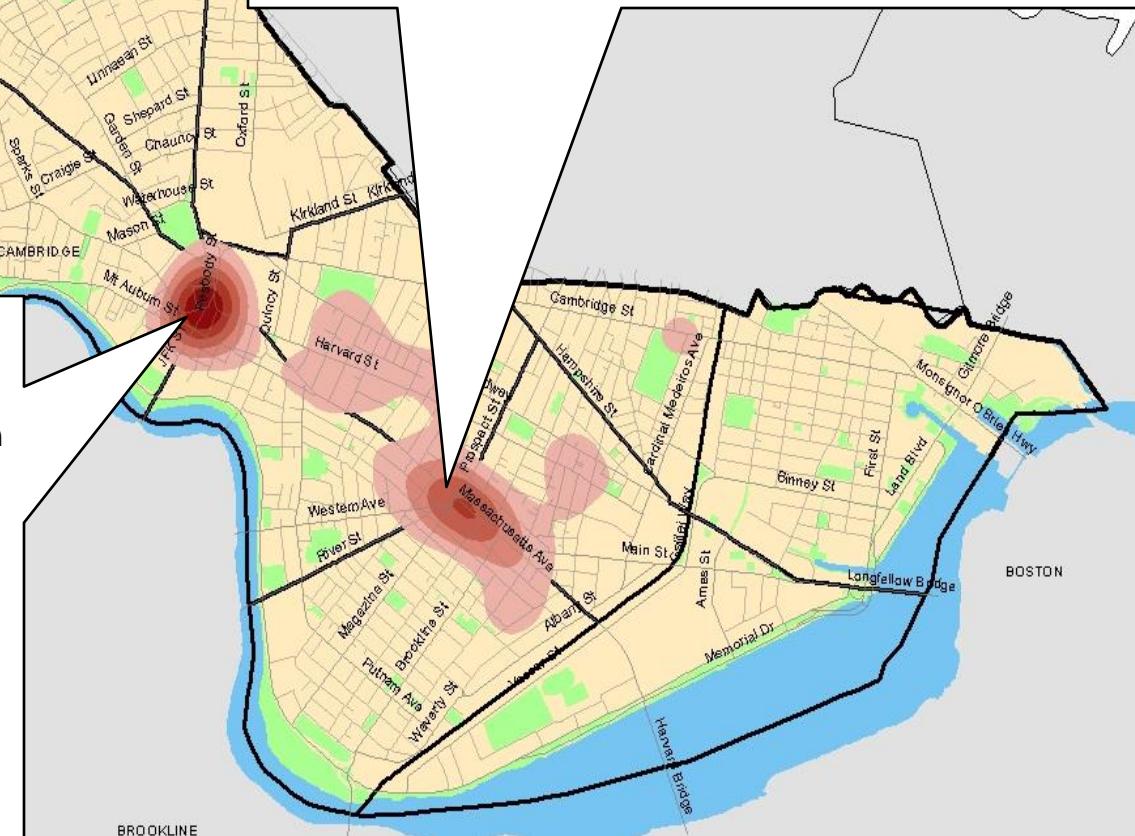


# Larceny of Bicycles: 6/1/13 to 12/30/13



## Central Square

Central Square has been the hotspot for bike theft activity in 2013, with 89 of the 379 thefts (23%) reported citywide year-to-date. However, there were only 15 stolen in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, as the colder weather has led to fewer bikes left out to steal. The 400–700 blocks of Mass Ave have seen the brunt of the Central Square activity this year. A majority of the bikes in this area had been locked to bike racks on weekdays when they were stolen.



## Harvard Square

Nearly 14% of the bike thefts citywide in 2013 were reported in Harvard Square. 52 thefts have been reported in the past six months. However, incidents in this area have been on the decline since the summer, dropping from 20 in August, to 6 in September, to 4 in October, to 0 in November and 1 in December. This is due largely to the reduction in bike ridership that occurs annually with the cooler fall & winter weather.

# 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.

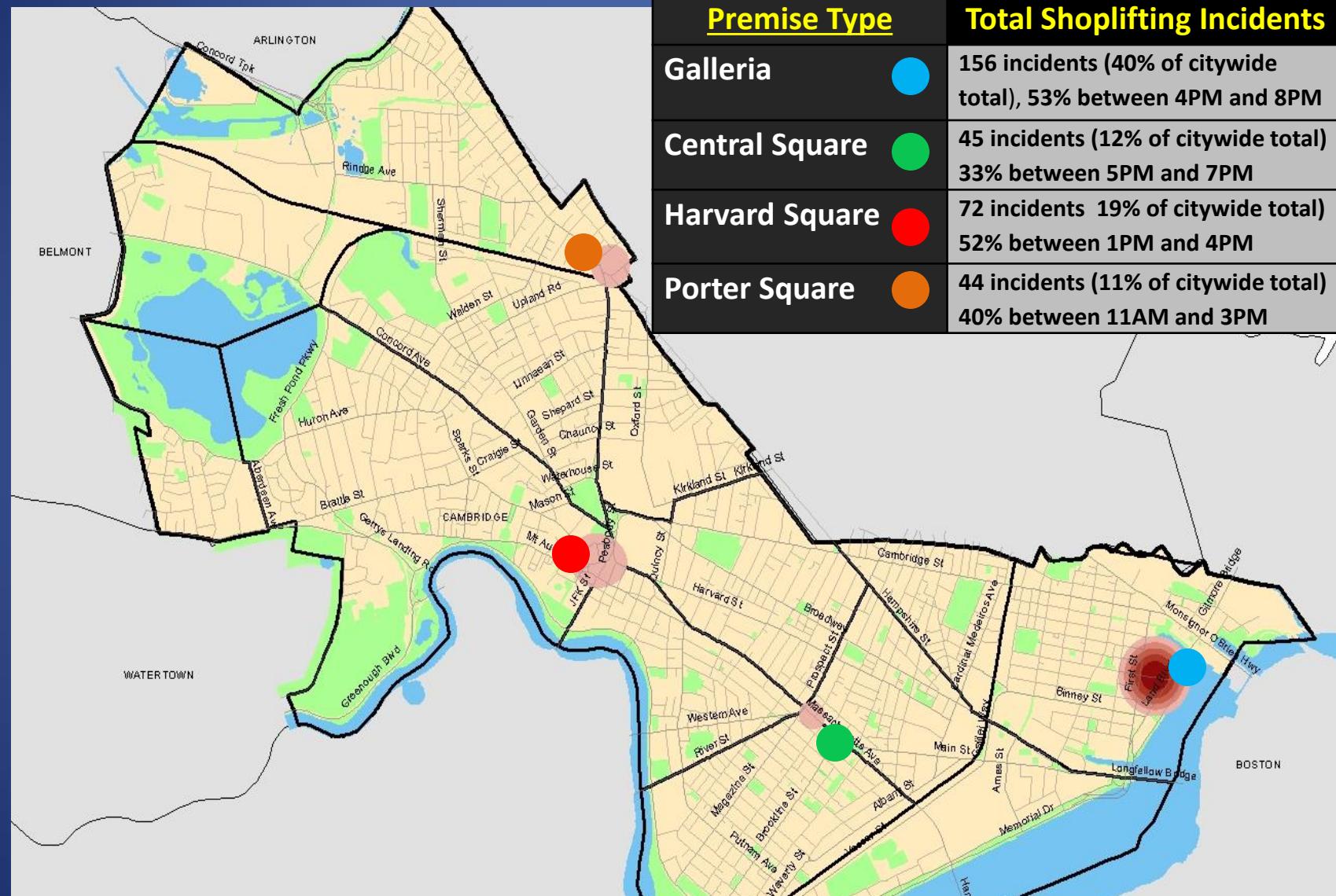


### **Citizen Response Strategy:**

- Bicyclist are encouraged to record their bike's serial number as well as take a picture of their bike to provide to police in the event that it is lost or stolen.
- For information on bicycle safety, visit: [www.CambridgePolice.org/CommunityResources](http://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.



## Shoplifting: 1/1/13 to 12/30/13



**Shoplifting has increased 13% in Cambridge through December 30<sup>th</sup> of 2013. This index crime is also 10% above the projected five-year average. Incidents of shoplifting have risen 21% at the Galleria Mall in 2013.**



# AUTO THEFT

## No Patterns

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

Previous Year

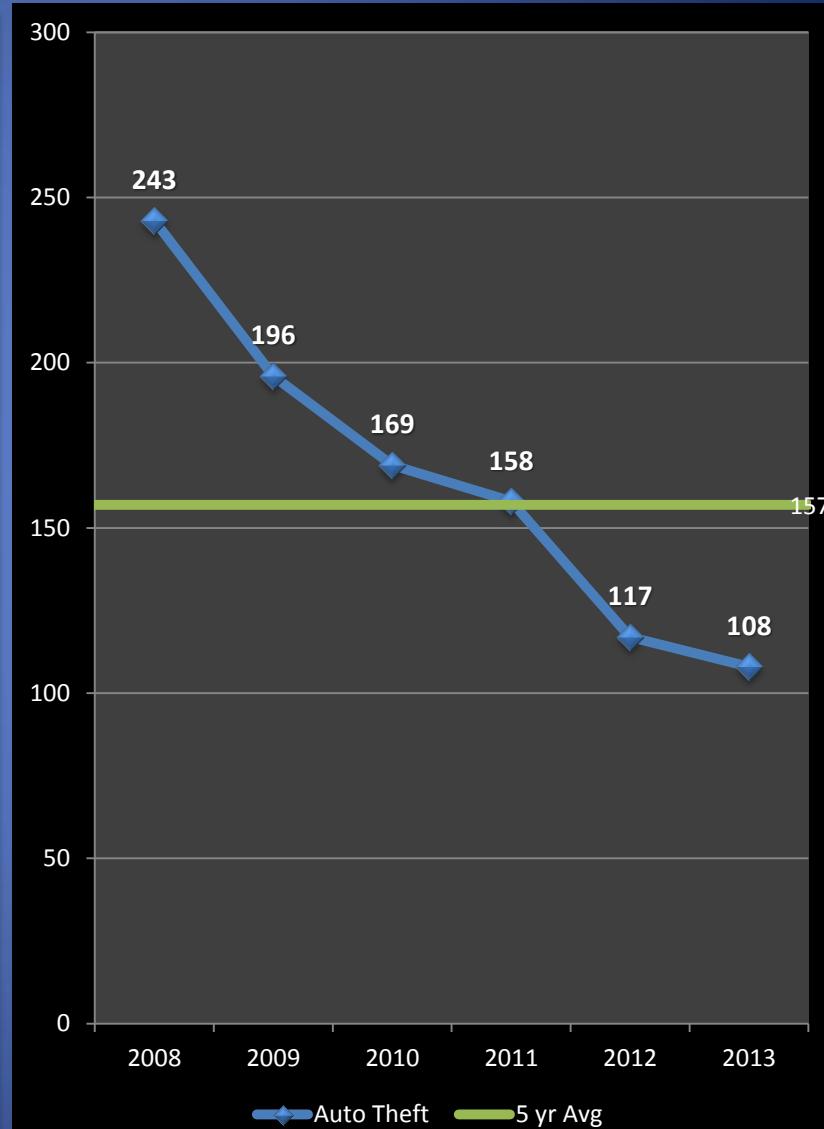
5 Year Average

-63%

-8%

-31%

- The projected five-year weighted average for auto thefts through Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> is 157 incidents. In 2013, auto thefts registered well below this level with only 108 reported, translating to a **31% decline**. This number is also 9 thefts below the total of 117 reported in 2012, equaling an **8% drop**.
- Only three vehicles have been reported stolen in the past four weeks, **down 63%** from the previous four-week total of eight. Two thefts were reported in Riverside, while Inman and North Cambridge each reported one during the month of December.
- Since the beginning of the year, Cambridgeport and Mid-Cambridge experienced the most auto thefts citywide, with 21 and 19 thefts, respectively.
- Year-to-date, **52%** (or 56) of the stolen motor vehicles have been recovered.





# 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 new “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?

- In the coming weeks, a “2013 Crime Snapshot” will be released on our website.
- The complete 2012 Cambridge Police Annual Crime Report is available on our website at [www.CambridgePolice.org](http://www.CambridgePolice.org).
- 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).