



Cambridge Police Department BridgeStat

February 2021

Produced by the Crime Analysis Unit



Part I Total Crime

An analysis of serious crime statistics for the first two months of 2021 points to a moderate increase of 7% in the Part One index total for Cambridge when compared with 2020. Over the first eight weeks of this year, there were 394 serious crimes reported in the City. For the same time period in 2020, the combined total for Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny & Auto theft was 367 incidents, 27 fewer than this year. When measured against the five-year average, a notable 20% vault in the crime index has been registered.

Further analysis of the crime totals for January & February of 2021 indicates that while violent crimes recorded a measurable 13% decrease to start the year when compared with last year, property crimes leaped upward 10% with 33 additional crimes reported when compared with the first two months of 2020. There were zero homicides, one rape, and nine robberies recorded in the first 60 days of 2021.

The 206% increase in larcenies from motor vehicles, the 81% surge in thefts from residences, and 91% rise in larcenies of bicycles when compared with January & February of 2020 were the key trend indicators observed so far in 2021. These three categories of larceny accounted for 64% of the total crime index so far in 2021.

When analyzing the serious crime totals of February 2021 versus the previous month of January, there has been a minor dip of 4% in the number of index incidents with eight fewer crimes reported.

An analysis of the end-of-the-year serious crime number totals for Cambridge in 2020 indicated a measured increase of 8%, with 184 additional serious incidents in the City reported to the FBI when compared with the final count for 2019. Further analysis reveals that this moderate incline in criminal activity comes on the heels of the previous year's total, which was the lowest crime index total for the City in over 50 years.

	<u>4 Week Snapshot</u>			<u>Year to Date</u>			<u>Five Year</u>	
	1/5/21 - 2/1/21	2/2/21 - 3/1/21	Change	2020	2021	Change	Avg	Change
Total Violent Crime	13	23	77%	46	40	-13%	42	-5%
Total Property Crime	177	159	-10%	321	354	10%	286	24%
Total Part I Crime	190	182	-4%	367	394	7%	328	20%



Part I Property Crime

Analysis of property crime totals for the first two months of 2021 reveals a 10% increase when measured against the 2020 totals and a 24% inflation above the five-year average, with 33 additional incidents above the total for the first eight weeks of last year and 68 additional crimes above the 286 reports forecasted for this time period.

Three of the major property crime categories recorded significant inclines when measured against the first 60 days of 2020, most notably a 206% surge in larceny of motor vehicles, fueled by a regional pattern of the thefts of catalytic converters, and a 91% surge in bike thefts, which is uncharacteristically high for a colder weather month.

	4 Week Snapshot				Year to Date			Five Year	
	1/5/21 - 2/1/21	2/2/21 - 3/1/21	Change		2020	2021	Change	Avg	Change
Burglary	11	15	36%		35	27	-23%	32	-16%
Commercial Break	5	6	20%		8	11	38%	6	83%
Housebreak	6	9	50%		27	16	-41%	26	-38%
Larceny	163	141	-13%		275	318	16%	243	31%
Larceny (Misc)	3	2	-33%		6	5	-17%	5	0%
Larceny from Building	13	6	-54%		53	20	-62%	47	-57%
Larceny from MV	42	52	24%		31	95	206%	37	157%
Larceny from Person	4	7	75%		19	11	-42%	22	-50%
Larceny from Residence	53	36	-32%		52	94	81%	44	114%
Larceny of Bicycle	33	25	-24%		33	63	91%	20	215%
Larceny of Plate	2	1	-50%		0	3	IN-CALC	2	50%
Larceny of Services	1	0	-100%		1	1	0%	2	-50%
Shoplifting	12	12	0%		80	26	-68%	64	-59%
Auto Theft	3	3	0%		11	9	-18%	12	-25%
Total Property Crime	177	159	-10%		321	354	10%	286	24%



Part I Violent Crime

From January 1st to March 1st of 2021, there were 40 violent crimes recorded in Cambridge, six incidents below last year (-13%) and two fewer violent crimes (-5%) than the 42 incidents forecasted for the first two months of the year.

With nine robberies counted in the first two months of 2021—three categorized as commercial and six classified as street incidents—there was a slight dip of one less crime when compared with 2020. The remarkable streak of 27 months without a bank robbery came to an abrupt conclusion when a serial robber hit twice around Thanksgiving of 2020. On January 19th of 2021, the Mass State Police, FBI Bank Robbery Task Force and Cambridge Police arrested a suspect in Boston for the November 23 robbery of TD Bank located at 1270 Mass Ave. Subject is also a suspect in several other area bank robberies.

The last homicide in Cambridge resulted in the arrest of Jose Bermudez for the fatal daylight stabbing of a homeless man in Central Square in April of 2020. This was the first homicide reported in Cambridge since January of 2019 and the only one reported in 2020. There has been one rape, an acquaintance classification, reported in Cambridge so far in 2021. The forecasted number for rapes in Cambridge for the first two months of the year is four incidents.

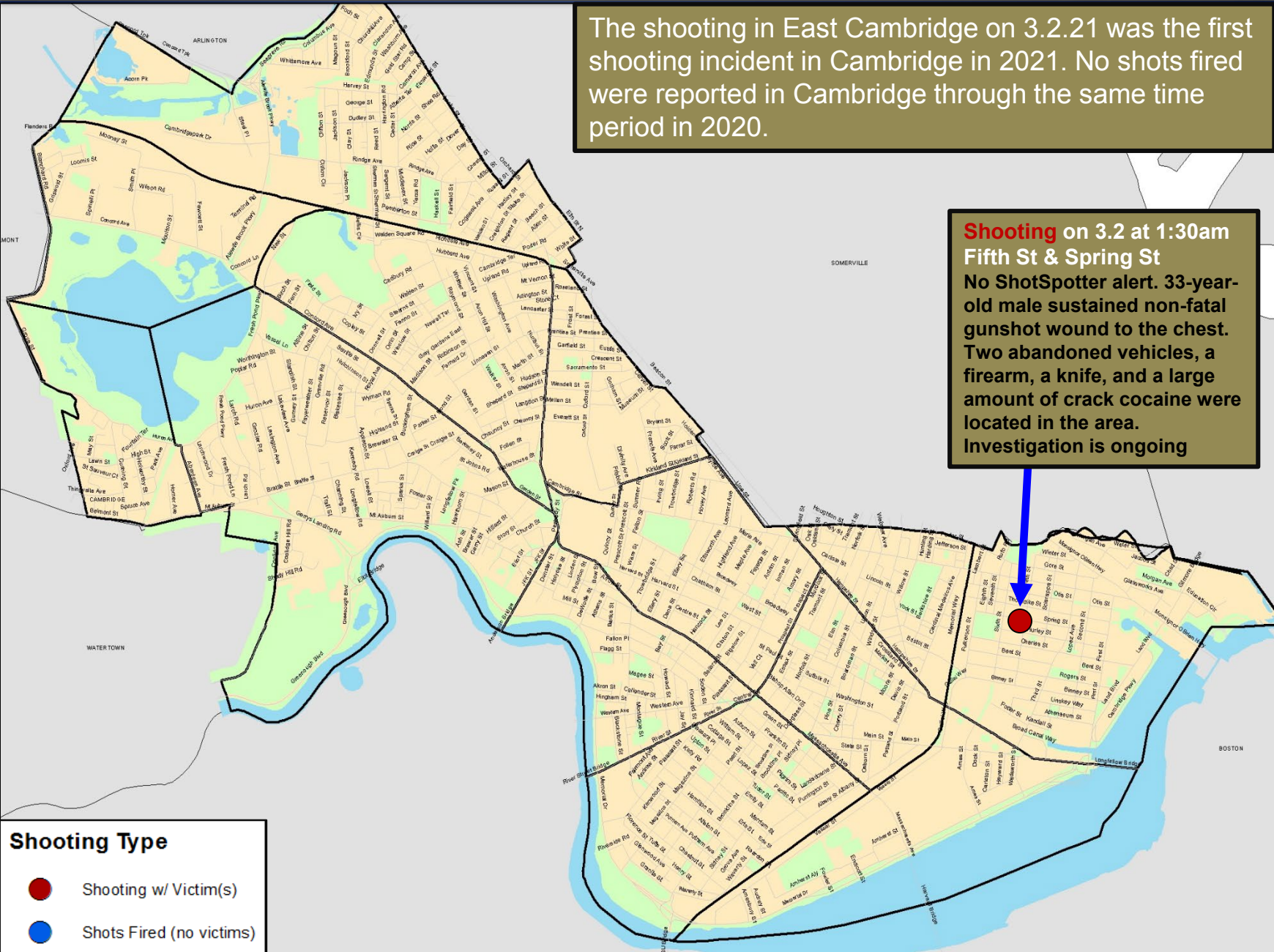
	<u>4 Week Snapshot</u>			<u>Year to Date</u>			<u>Five Year</u>	
	1/5/21 - 2/1/21	2/2/21 - 3/1/21	Change	2020	2021	Change	Avg	Change
Homicide	0	0	IN-CALC	0	0	IN-CALC	0	IN-CALC
Rape	0	1	IN-CALC	5	1	-80%	4	-75%
Robbery	3	6	100%	10	9	-10%	10	-10%
Commercial Robbery	1	2	100%	1	3	200%	3	0%
Street Robbery	2	4	100%	9	6	-33%	6	0%
Aggravated Assault	10	16	60%	31	30	-3%	28	7%
Total Violent Crime	13	23	77%	46	40	-13%	42	-5%



Shootings & Shots Fired in Cambridge: 1.1.21 – 3.2.21

The shooting in East Cambridge on 3.2.21 was the first shooting incident in Cambridge in 2021. No shots fired were reported in Cambridge through the same time period in 2020.

Shooting on 3.2 at 1:30am
Fifth St & Spring St
No ShotSpotter alert. 33-year-old male sustained non-fatal gunshot wound to the chest. Two abandoned vehicles, a firearm, a knife, and a large amount of crack cocaine were located in the area. Investigation is ongoing



Shooting Type

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

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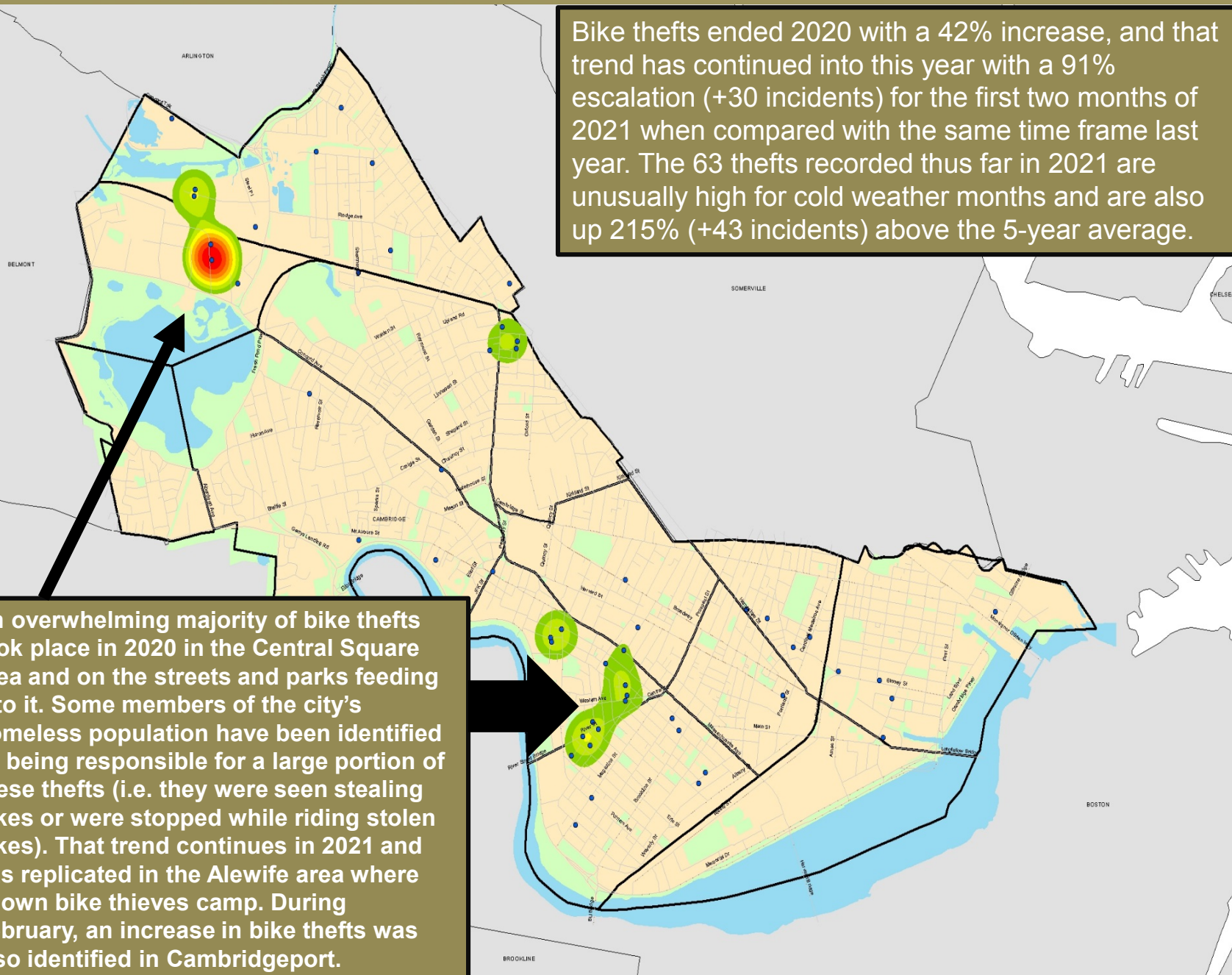
February 2021



Geographic Breakdown of Larceny of Bicycles: 1.1.21 – 3.1.21

Bike thefts ended 2020 with a 42% increase, and that trend has continued into this year with a 91% escalation (+30 incidents) for the first two months of 2021 when compared with the same time frame last year. The 63 thefts recorded thus far in 2021 are unusually high for cold weather months and are also up 215% (+43 incidents) above the 5-year average.

An overwhelming majority of bike thefts took place in 2020 in the Central Square area and on the streets and parks feeding into it. Some members of the city's homeless population have been identified as being responsible for a large portion of these thefts (i.e. they were seen stealing bikes or were stopped while riding stolen bikes). That trend continues in 2021 and has replicated in the Alewife area where known bike thieves camp. During February, an increase in bike thefts was also identified in Cambridgeport.

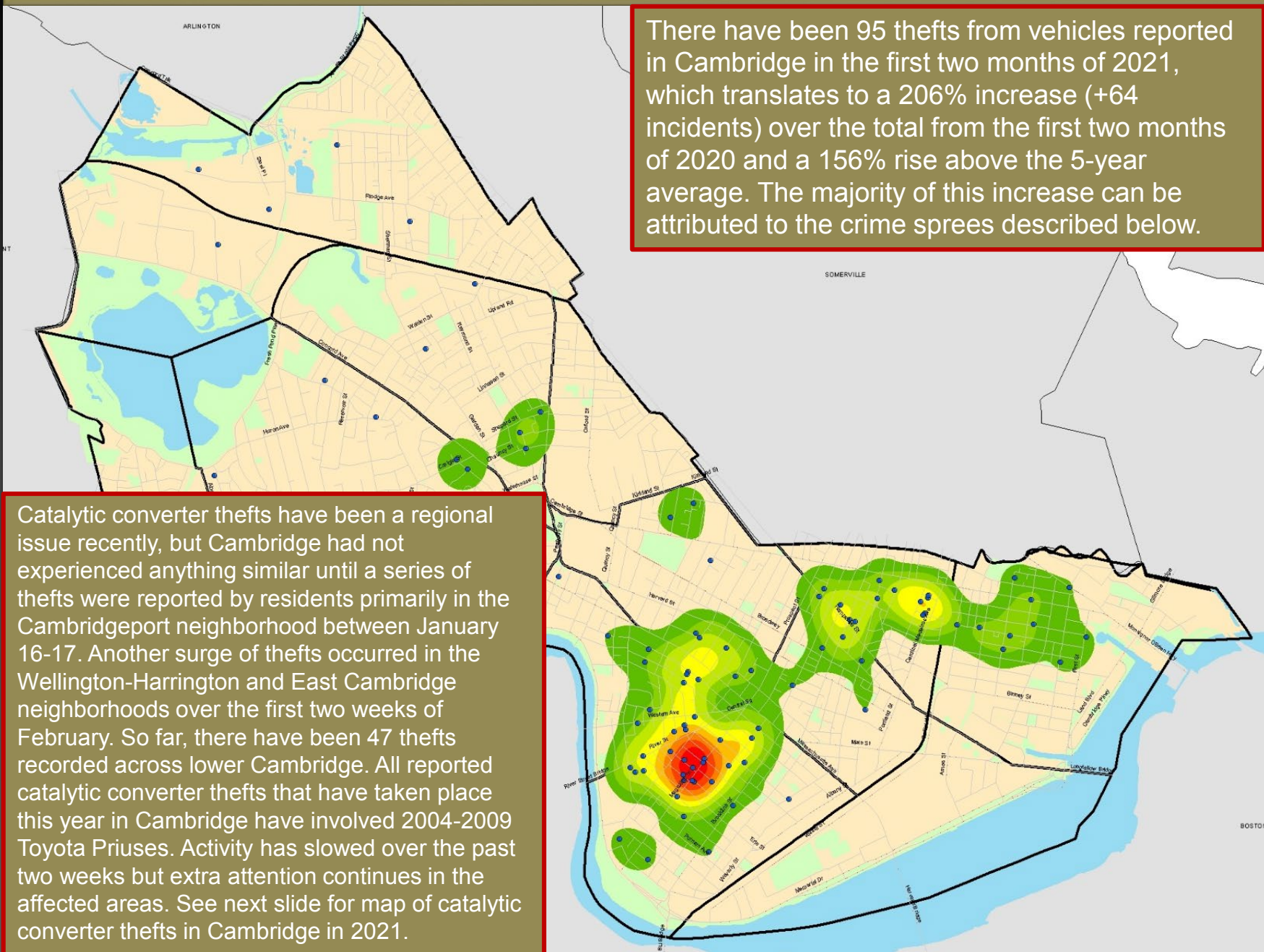




Geographic Breakdown of Larceny from Motor Vehicles: 1.1.21 – 3.1.21

There have been 95 thefts from vehicles reported in Cambridge in the first two months of 2021, which translates to a 206% increase (+64 incidents) over the total from the first two months of 2020 and a 156% rise above the 5-year average. The majority of this increase can be attributed to the crime sprees described below.

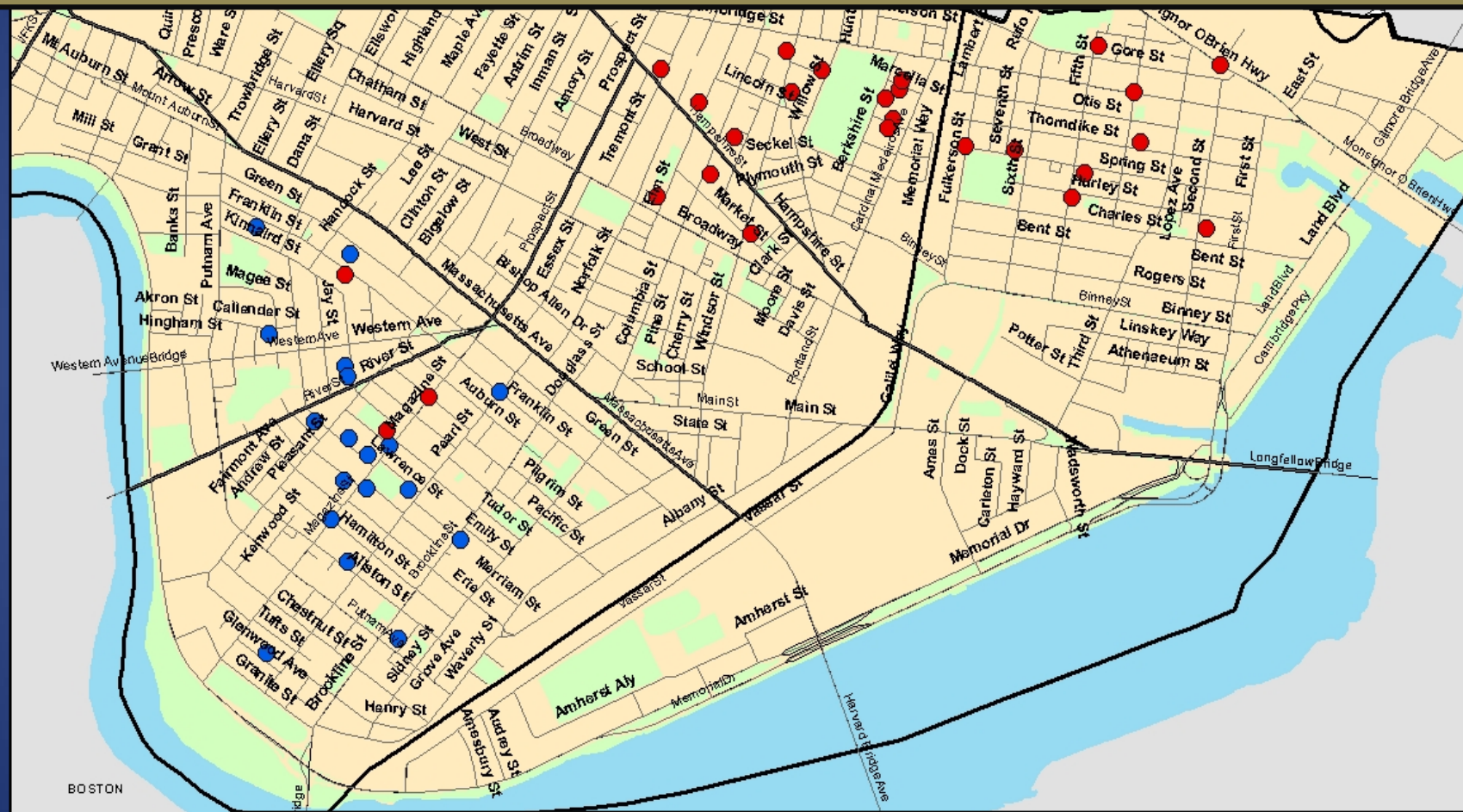
Catalytic converter thefts have been a regional issue recently, but Cambridge had not experienced anything similar until a series of thefts were reported by residents primarily in the Cambridgeport neighborhood between January 16-17. Another surge of thefts occurred in the Wellington-Harrington and East Cambridge neighborhoods over the first two weeks of February. So far, there have been 47 thefts recorded across lower Cambridge. All reported catalytic converter thefts that have taken place this year in Cambridge have involved 2004-2009 Toyota Priuses. Activity has slowed over the past two weeks but extra attention continues in the affected areas. See next slide for map of catalytic converter thefts in Cambridge in 2021.





Catalytic Converter Thefts: 1.1.21 – 3.1.21

The Cambridge Police are warning residents about a recent increase in catalytic converter thefts in Cambridge. Catalytic converters, which are part of a vehicle's exhaust system, are sought out by thieves because they contain precious metals and can be sold for scrap. In addition to Cambridge, thefts of catalytic converters are also reportedly rising across the country. Using a data driven-approach, officers have increased their patrols in the locations and during the times in which a higher volume of these thefts have been reported.



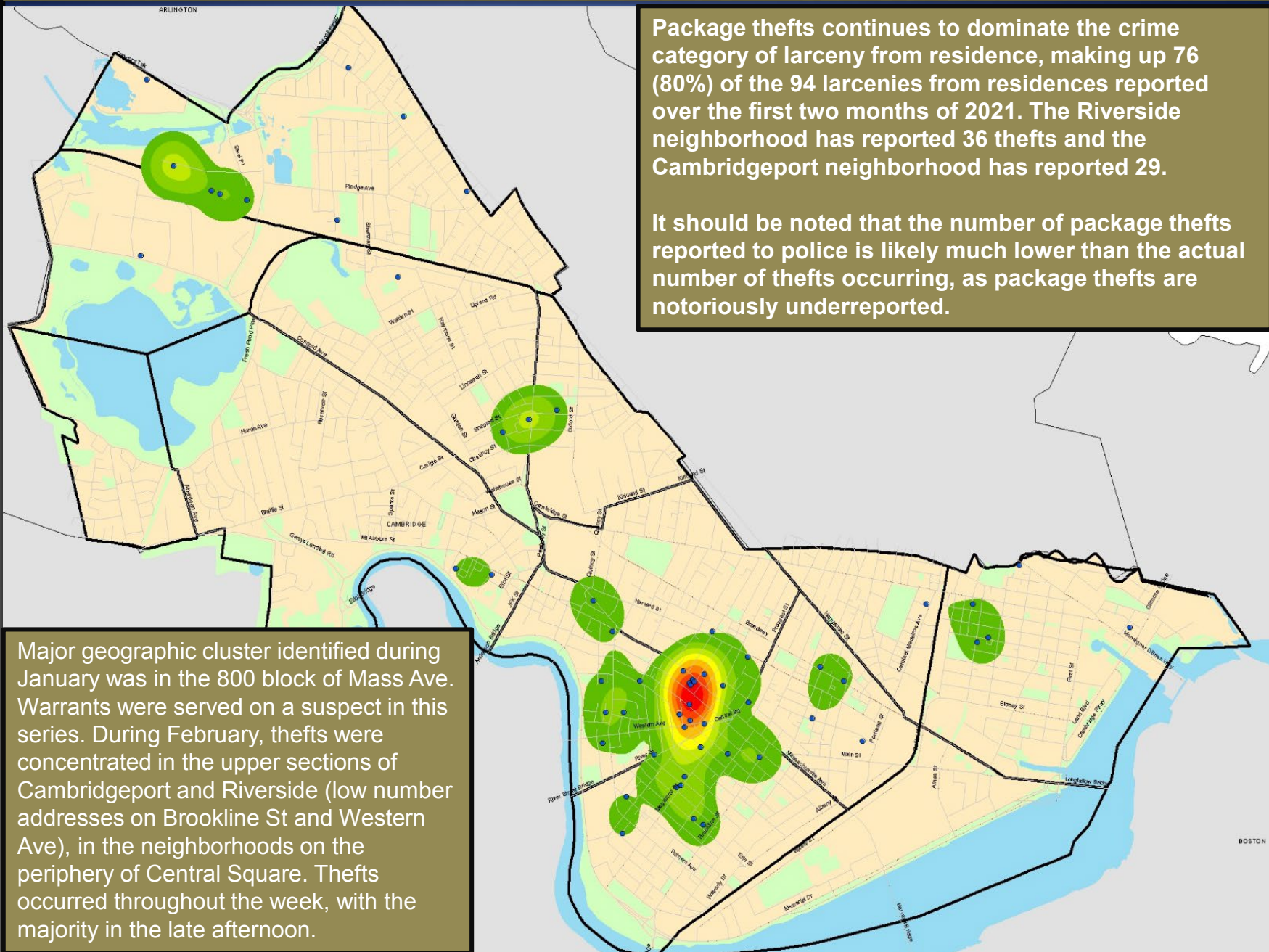
Legend

- February Thefts
- January Thefts

Catalytic converter thefts in January (blue dots) were concentrated in Cambridgeport on a Sunday night into Monday. Theft during the first two weeks of February (red dots) clustered around Inman and East Cambridge with the best time frame being Monday night into Tuesday.



Geographic Breakdown of Package Thefts: 1.1.21 – 3.1.21





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.
- “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.
- Download our “MyPD” smartphone app at 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



Questions?

- We welcome all questions, comments, and suggestions.
- Please direct your feedback to:
BridgeStat@CambridgePolice.org.
- To review previous editions of BridgeStat, visit our website at www.CambridgePolice.org/BridgeStat.