



Cambridge Police Department BridgeStat

February 2022

Produced by the Crime Analysis Unit



Part I Total Crime

A review of serious crime statistics for the first two months of 2022 indicates a solid decrease of 19% in the Part One index total for Cambridge when compared with 2021. Through February 28th of this year, there were 321 serious crimes reported in the City. For the same time period in 2021, the combined total for Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny & Auto theft was 394 incidents, 73 more than this year. When measured against the five-year average, a moderate 6% dip in the crime index has been registered.

Further analysis of the crime totals for the first eight weeks of 2022 indicates that violent crimes recorded a 3% increase to start the year when compared with 2021, with one additional incident counted. Property crimes plunged downward 21% with 74 fewer crimes reported when compared with the first two months of 2021. There were zero homicides, three rapes, 16 robberies and 22 aggravated assaults recorded in the first 59 days of 2022.

The 60% decrease in larcenies of bicycles, the 51% dive in thefts from residences and the 28% drop in larceny from motor vehicles when compared with the first two months of 2021 are the key trend indicators observed so far in 2022 that are driving the downward curve in the crime index. Meanwhile, overall robberies increased from eight incidents to 16 crimes and housebreaks jumped from 13 reports to 42 incidents when comparing the first eight weeks of 2022 with that of the same time frame last year.

When analyzing the serious crime totals of February of 2022 versus the previous month of January, there has been a minor increase of 5% in the number of index incidents with eight additional crimes reported.

An analysis of end-of-the-year serious crime statistics for Cambridge in 2021 reveals an increase of 6% in the Part One index total reported to the FBI, when compared with the same time period in 2020.

	<u>4 Week Snapshot</u>			<u>Year to Date</u>			<u>Five Year</u>	
	1/4/22 - 1/31/22	2/1/22 - 2/28/22	Change	2021	2022	Change	Avg	Change
Total Violent Crime	20	20	0%	40	41	3%	40	3%
Total Property Crime	127	135	6%	354	280	-21%	303	-8%
Total Part I Crime	147	155	5%	394	321	-19%	343	-6%

Part I Property Crime

Analysis of property crime totals for the first two months of 2022 points to a 21% decline when measured against the 2021 totals and an 8% slip below the five-year average, with 74 fewer incidents below the total for the first eight weeks of last year and 23 fewer crimes below the 303 reports forecasted for this time period.

Five of the major property crime categories recorded significant declines when measured against the first 59 days of 2021, most notably a 60% reduction in larceny of bicycles, which was down 37 incidents from the high total of 62 bike thefts during the cold weather months that occurred at the start of last year. Larceny from residence also registered a sharp drop of 51% for the first two months of the year.

	4 Week Snapshot			Year to Date			Five Year	
	1/4/22 - 1/31/22	2/1/22 - 2/28/22	Change	2021	2022	Change	Avg	Change
Burglary	11	21	91%	25	36	44%	27	33%
Commercial Break	1	3	200%	10	4	-60%	7	-43%
Housebreak	10	18	80%	15	32	113%	20	60%
Larceny	108	106	-2%	320	226	-29%	265	-15%
Larceny (Misc)	7	2	-71%	7	10	43%	6	67%
Larceny from Building	12	19	58%	20	33	65%	37	-11%
Larceny from MV	38	25	-34%	96	69	-28%	55	25%
Larceny from Person	5	4	-20%	11	9	-18%	17	-47%
Larceny from Residence	23	22	-4%	94	46	-51%	60	-23%
Larceny of Bicycle	11	13	18%	62	25	-60%	35	-29%
Larceny of Plate	2	2	0%	3	4	33%	2	100%
Larceny of Services	2	0	-100%	1	2	100%	2	0%
Shoplifting	8	19	138%	26	28	8%	51	-45%
Auto Theft	8	8	0%	9	18	100%	10	80%
Total Property Crime	127	135	6%	354	280	-21%	303	-8%



Part I Violent Crime

From January 1st to February 28th of 2022, there were 41 violent crimes recorded in Cambridge, an incident above last year (+3%) and one additional violent crime (+3%) above the 40 incidents forecasted for the first two months of the year.

There were three rapes reported in Cambridge during the first two months of 2022, while there was just one reported during the first eight weeks of the year in 2021. The three rapes in 2022 have been categorized as two acquaintance incidents and one blitz scenario.

The trend observed during the Covid period of a high percentage of aggravated assaults occurring in the 500 to 600 block of Mass Ave in Central Square continued in January and February with nine of the twenty-two citywide reports occurring in this area. One of these altercations involved an argument with shop owners on mask-wearing indoors.

The last murder in Cambridge took place on March 27th, 2021. In that incident, a fatal shooting occurred at approximately 12:40 a.m. on Pemberton Street. The victim was reportedly located unconscious outside his vehicle by a passerby who called 911. The victim was transported to Mount Auburn Hospital where he later died. The victim has been identified as Xavier Louis-Jacques, 19, of Cambridge. The investigation is ongoing.

	4 Week Snapshot			Year to Date			Five Year	
	1/4/22 - 1/31/22	2/1/22 - 2/28/22	Change	2021	2022	Change	Avg	Change
Homicide	0	0	IN-CALC	0	0	IN-CALC	0	IN-CALC
Rape	2	1	-50%	1	3	200%	3	0%
Robbery	7	8	14%	8	16	100%	9	78%
Commercial Robbery	1	2	100%	2	3	50%	3	0%
Street Robbery	6	6	0%	6	13	117%	6	117%
Aggravated Assault	11	11	0%	31	22	-29%	29	-24%
Total Violent Crime	20	20	0%	40	41	3%	40	3%



MURDER

No Patterns

- On Saturday 3/27/21, there was a fatal shooting that occurred at approximately 12:40 a.m. on Pemberton Street. The victim was reportedly located unconscious outside his vehicle by a passerby who called 911. The victim was transported to Mount Auburn Hospital where he later died. The victim has been identified as Xavier Louis-Jacques, 19, of Cambridge. The investigation is ongoing.
- On April 23, 2020, Jose Bermudez was arrested for the fatal daylight stabbing of 33-year-old Danilo Perez in Central Square on April 14. Bermudez and Perez were both part of the homeless community and were known to each other. Bermudez is being held without bail. This was the first homicide reported in Cambridge since January of 2019 and it ended up being the only homicide recorded in 2020.
- There was one murder in Cambridge in 2019. The Middlesex DA's Office and the Cambridge Police are asking for public assistance regarding the ongoing investigation into the fatal incident that occurred in the New Street area of Danehy Park around 6:30PM on the night of January 2nd, 2019. This incident is being investigated as a homicide. The preliminary investigation suggests that the victim, 60-year-old Paul Wilson, died as a result of blunt force trauma and that robbery does not appear to have been the motive.

Percent Change*

Last 4 Weeks

In-Calc

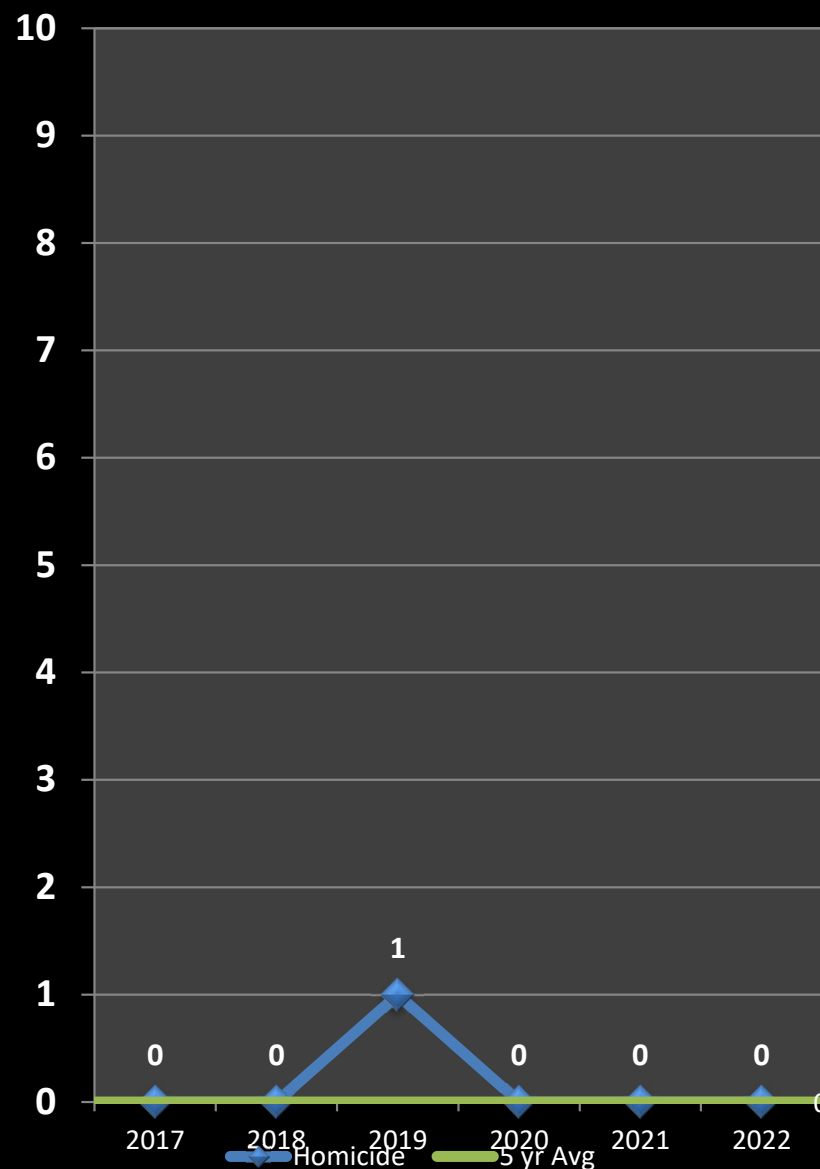
Previous Year

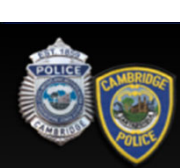
0%

5-Year Average

0%

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



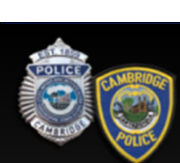


Characteristics of Murder in Cambridge

For the 30-year period between 1960 and 1989, the City of Cambridge averaged slightly less than five murders per year. The annual average since 1990 has fallen to approximately two per year. Trend analysis over recent years points to two recurring murder scenarios in Cambridge: domestic murder, in which one family member is brutally killed by another in a homicidal rage, and the murder of young males by a handgun or knife in acts of retaliatory street violence.

Cambridge Murder Statistics, 1990-2021

- 64 people murdered in 59 incidents (in 4 of the incidents, 2 or more people were killed)
- 44 victims were male
- 20 victims were female
- Most common weapons: handguns (30 incidents) and knives (14 incidents)
- 20 of the 59 cases are still under investigation or remain unsolved
- 27 of the 38 cases since 2000 have been cleared by arrest or by the death of the suspect.



RAPE

No Patterns

- There were three rapes reported in Cambridge during the first two months of 2022, while there was a single incident reported through February 28th in 2021. No appreciable difference can be measured for such a short time frame and small numbers to compare. The three rapes so far in 2022 have been categorized as two acquaintance incidents and one blitz scenario.
- Final counts indicate that there were 34 rapes reported in 2021, seven more than were reported during the same time frame last year. That total was also six incidents above the five-year average of 27 crimes.
- The sexual assaults in 2021 were classified as nine domestic situations, 17 involving acquaintances as the predator, five contact incidents, and three blitz scenarios that remain under investigation.
- The total number of reported rapes tends to fluctuate from year to year, but the number of stranger-to-stranger rapes reported each year in Cambridge—between one and five—remains extremely low.

Percent Change*

Last 4 Weeks

Previous Year

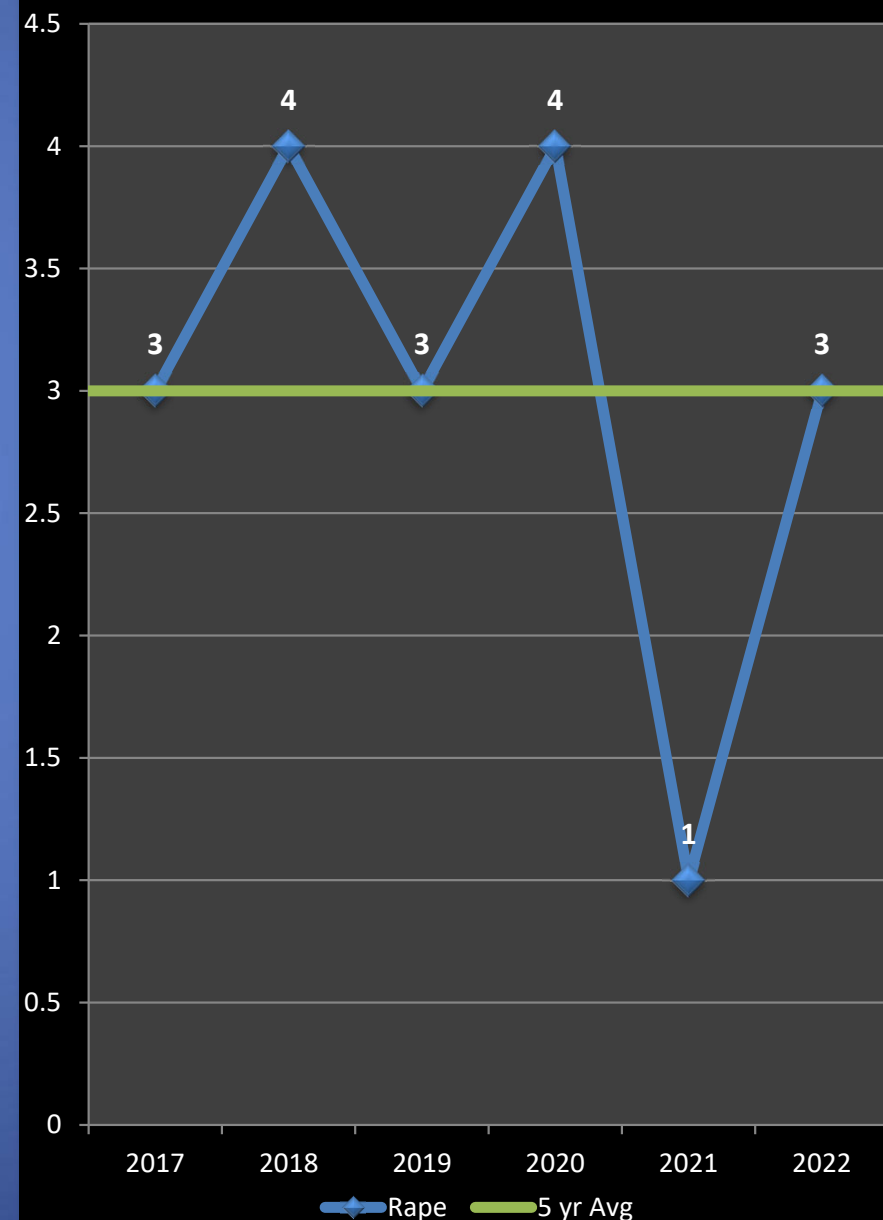
5-Year Average

-50%

+200%

0%

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





AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

No Patterns

- The total of 22 aggravated assaults reported through February 28th of 2022 was nine crimes (-29%) under the total for the first two months of 2021, as well as seven incidents (-24%) below the forecast for the five-year average of 29 crimes.
- The 22 aggravated assaults reported over the first eight weeks of this year were composed of the following classifications: 5 unprovoked scenarios; 3 domestic altercations; 3 shop owner/patron assaults; 2 psychotic episodes; 2 assaults between unhoused individuals; 2 assaults on police officers; 2 juvenile-related assaults; 1 affray; 1 landlord/neighbor assault, and a drug deal that went awry.
- The trend observed during the Covid period of a high percentage of aggravated assaults occurring in the 500 to 600 block of Mass Ave in Central Square has continued in 2022 with nine of the 22 citywide reports in this area.
- There have been three confirmed shots fired incidents in Cambridge through February 2022, none of which resulted in gunshot wounds. No shots fired incidents were reported in Cambridge through the same time period in 2021. See map on slide 10 for more info.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

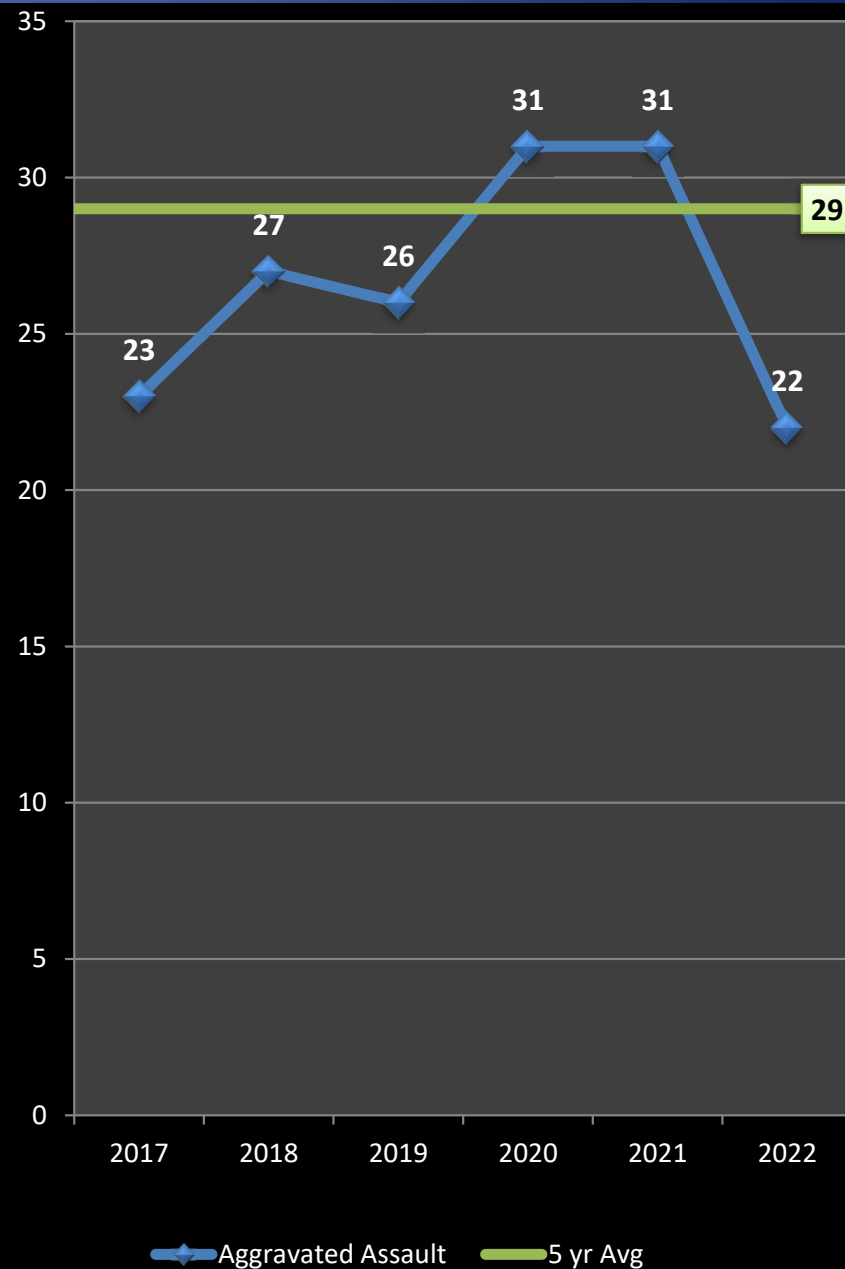
0%

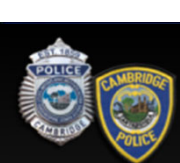
Previous Year

-29%

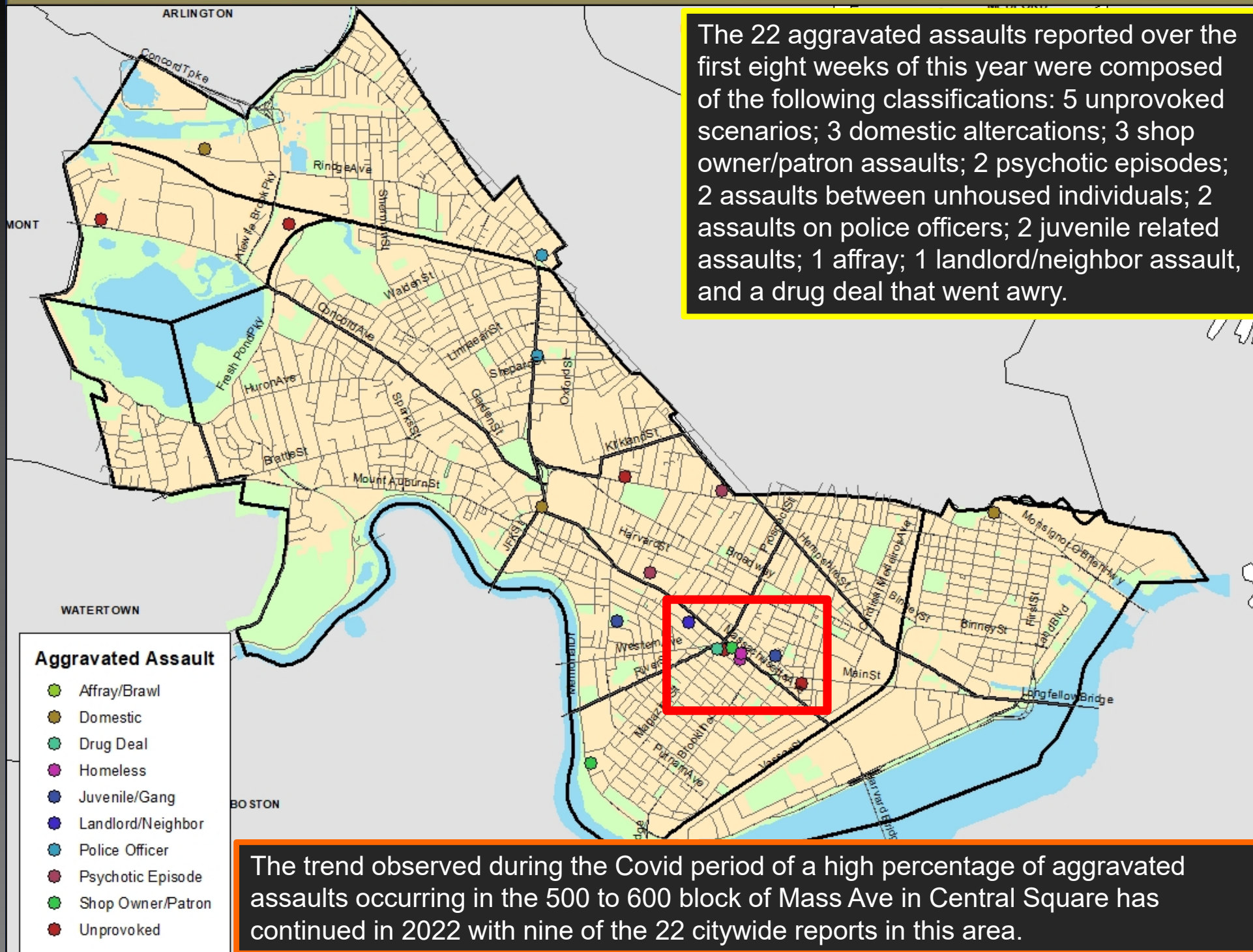
5-Year Average

-24%





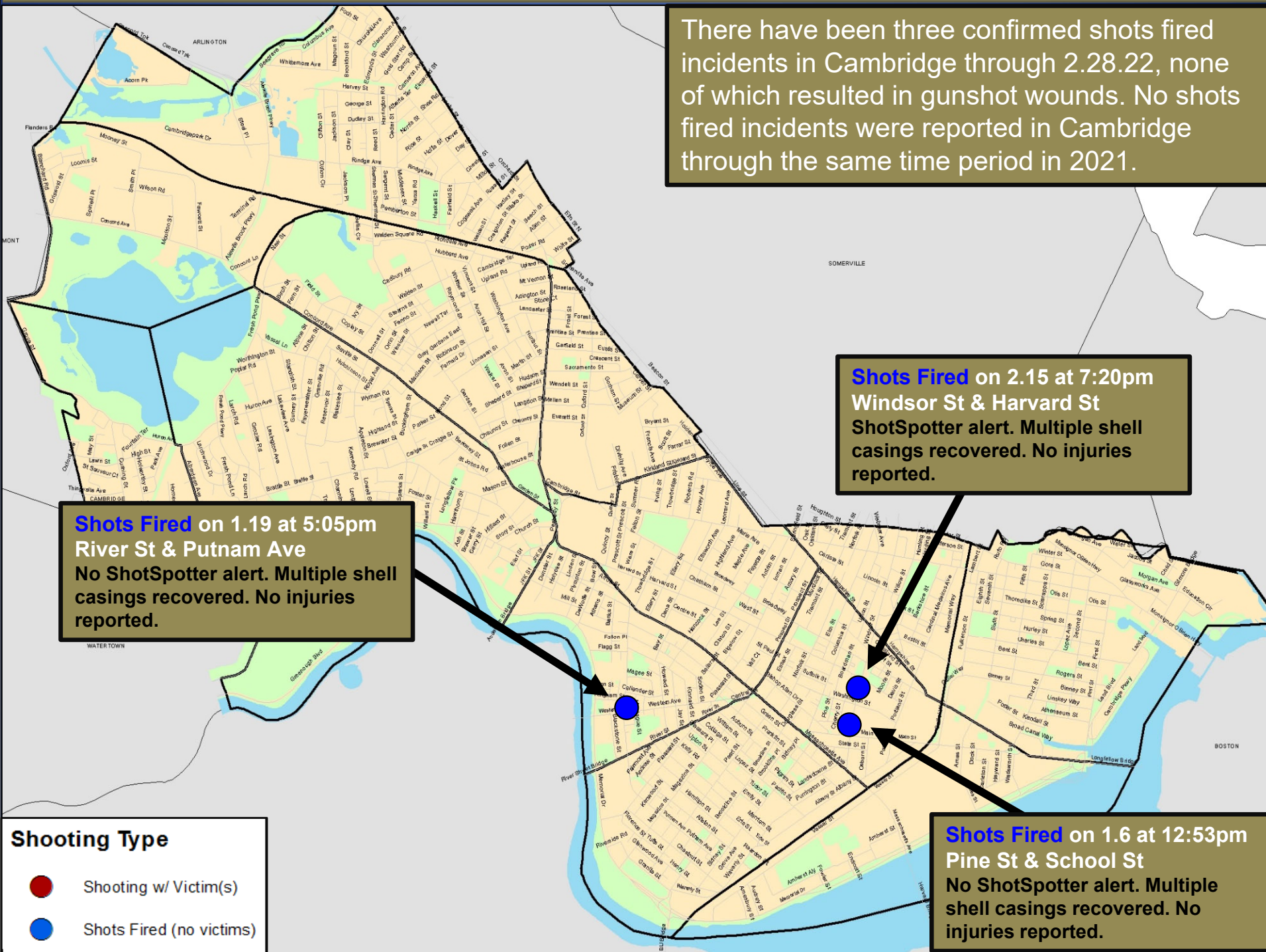
Geographic Breakdown of Aggravated Assault: 1.1.22 – 2.28.22



Confirmed Shots Fired and Shootings in Cambridge: 1.1.22 – 2.28.22



There have been three confirmed shots fired incidents in Cambridge through 2.28.22, none of which resulted in gunshot wounds. No shots fired incidents were reported in Cambridge through the same time period in 2021.



Shooting Type

● Shooting w/ Victim(s)

● Shots Fired (no victims)



Robbery

No Patterns

- The five-year average for overall robbery in Cambridge for the first two months of the year is nine incidents. Through February 28th of 2022, 16 robberies were recorded, which translates to a 78% increase above the projected total and a 100% spike above the eight robberies counted for the first two months of 2021.
- There have been three commercial robberies committed in Cambridge over the first eight weeks of this year. These incidents include: two crimes at a Memorial Drive gas station – one with an implied handgun, the other a strongarm rifling of the register – and a shoplifting at the CambridgeSide Shopping Center that escalated into a robbery when the assailant threatened the clerk with a bat.
- The street robbery total has surged from six incidents over the first two months of last year to 13 (+117%) through February 28th of 2022. Eight of these street robberies have been concentrated in and around the periphery of Central Square, continuing a trend that emerged over the last few months of 2021.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

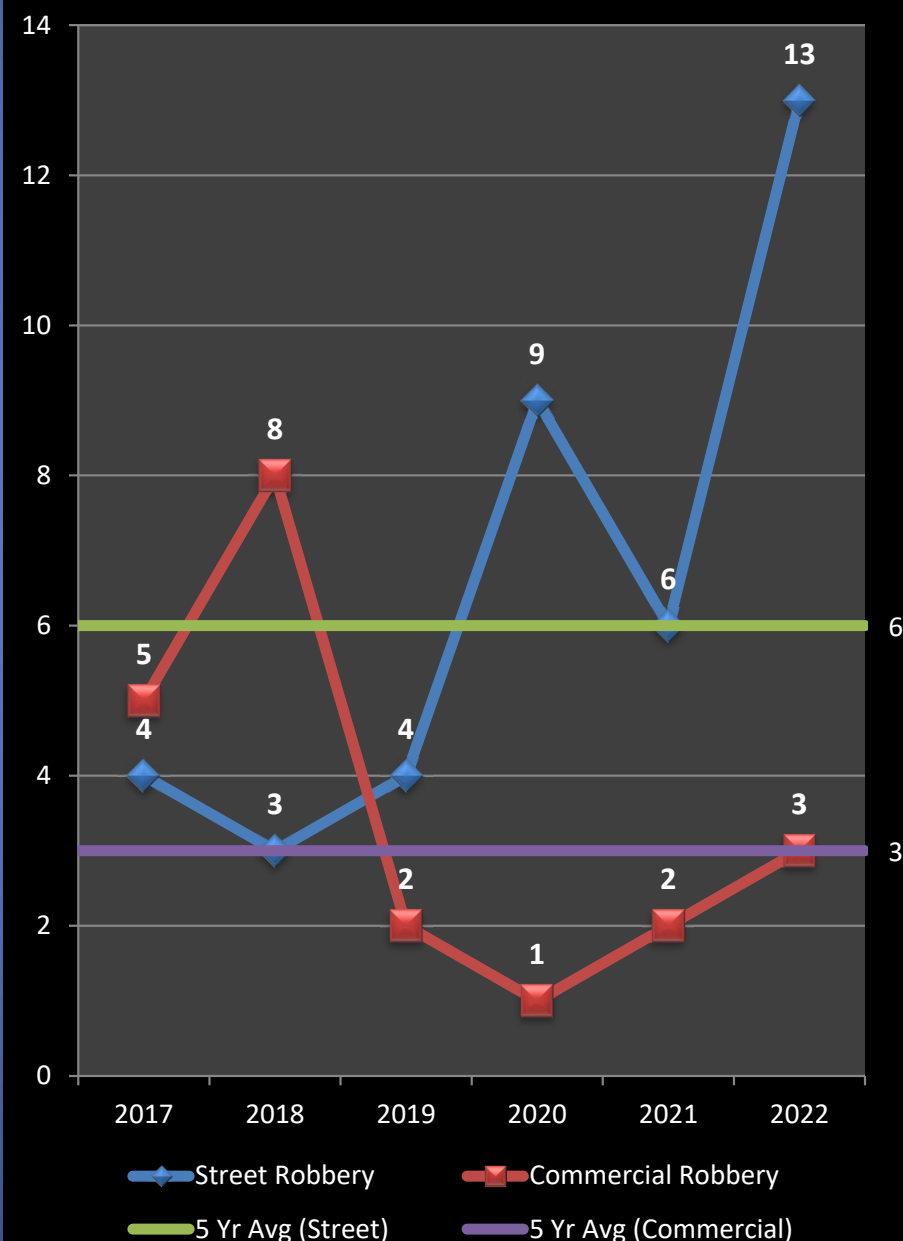
+14%

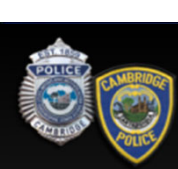
Previous Year

+100%

5-Year Average

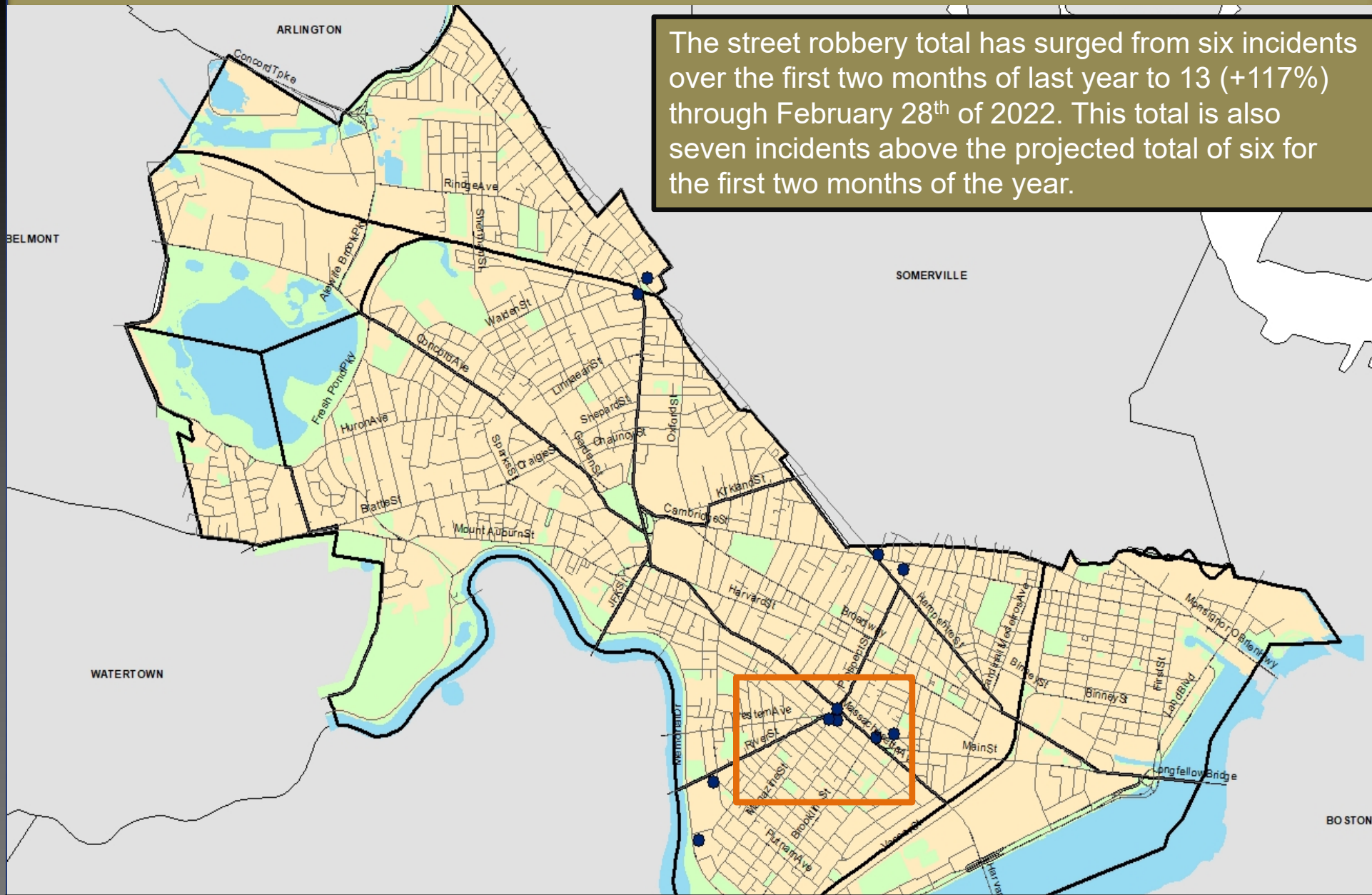
+78%





Geographic Breakdown of Street Robberies: 1.1.22 – 2.28.22

The street robbery total has surged from six incidents over the first two months of last year to 13 (+117%) through February 28th of 2022. This total is also seven incidents above the projected total of six for the first two months of the year.



Seven of the 11 street robberies over the final two months of 2021 were committed late at night in and around the periphery of Central Square and involved individuals who were unhoused. That trend continued in 2022 with eight street robberies over the first two months of 2022 following the same pattern.

Burglary

No Patterns

- The property index crime of burglary, the combination of residential and commercial breaks, has recorded a considerable increase of 33% over the first two months of 2022 when compared to the five-year average, with nine additional incidents reported above the projected total of 27 breaks. When compared with last year's low total of 25 incidents through February 28th, a 44% increase has been registered (up 11 incidents in 2022).
- Housebreaks year-to-date in 2022 have more than doubled (+113%) over the first eight weeks of 2021, with 32 incidents reported this year compared to the 15 reported over the first 59 days of 2021. There was also an 80% rise in housebreaks from January to February of this year with eight additional incidents reported. Currently, there are no active housebreak patterns in the City.
- Only four commercial breaks were reported in the first two months of 2022, registering a decrease of 60% below last year's total of ten breaks counted during the same time period.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

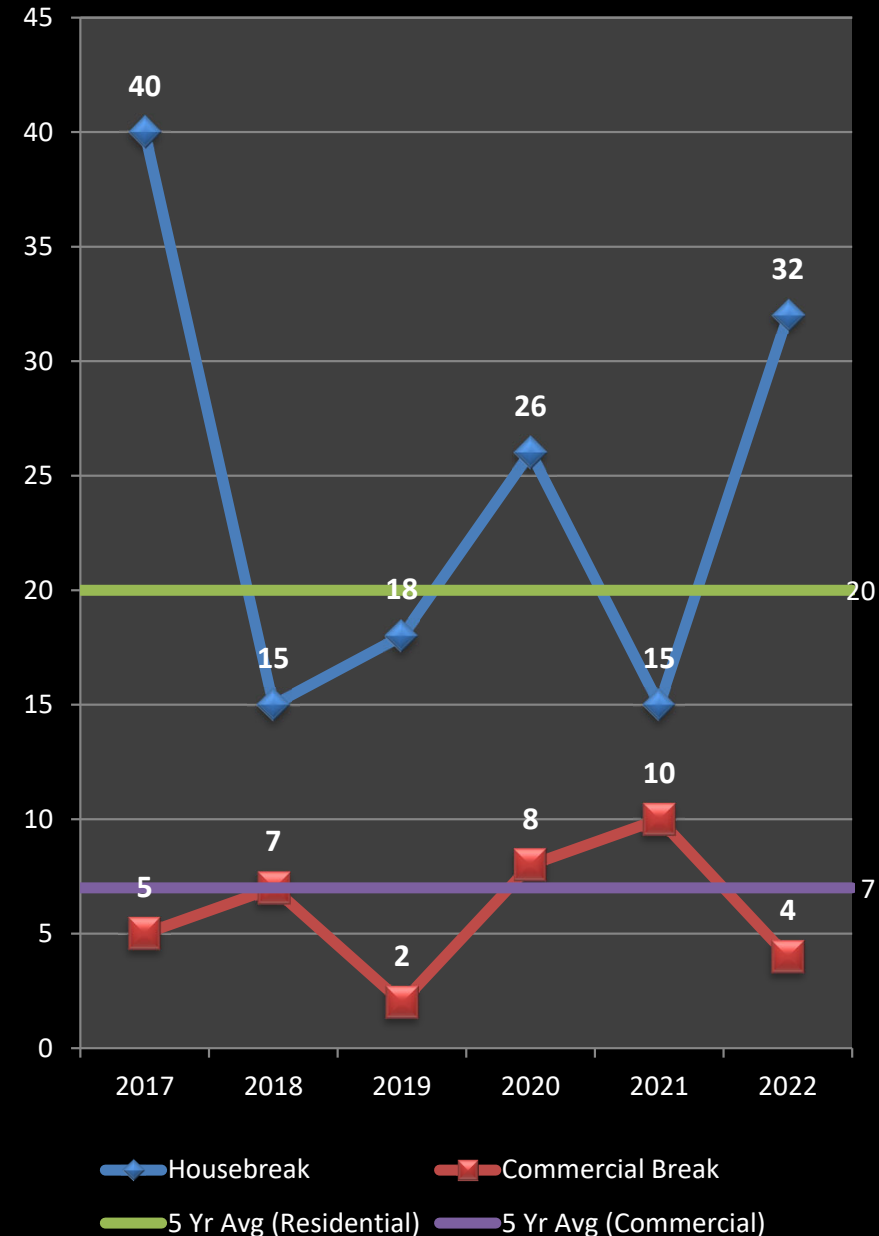
+91%

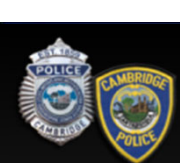
Previous Year

+44%

5-Year Average

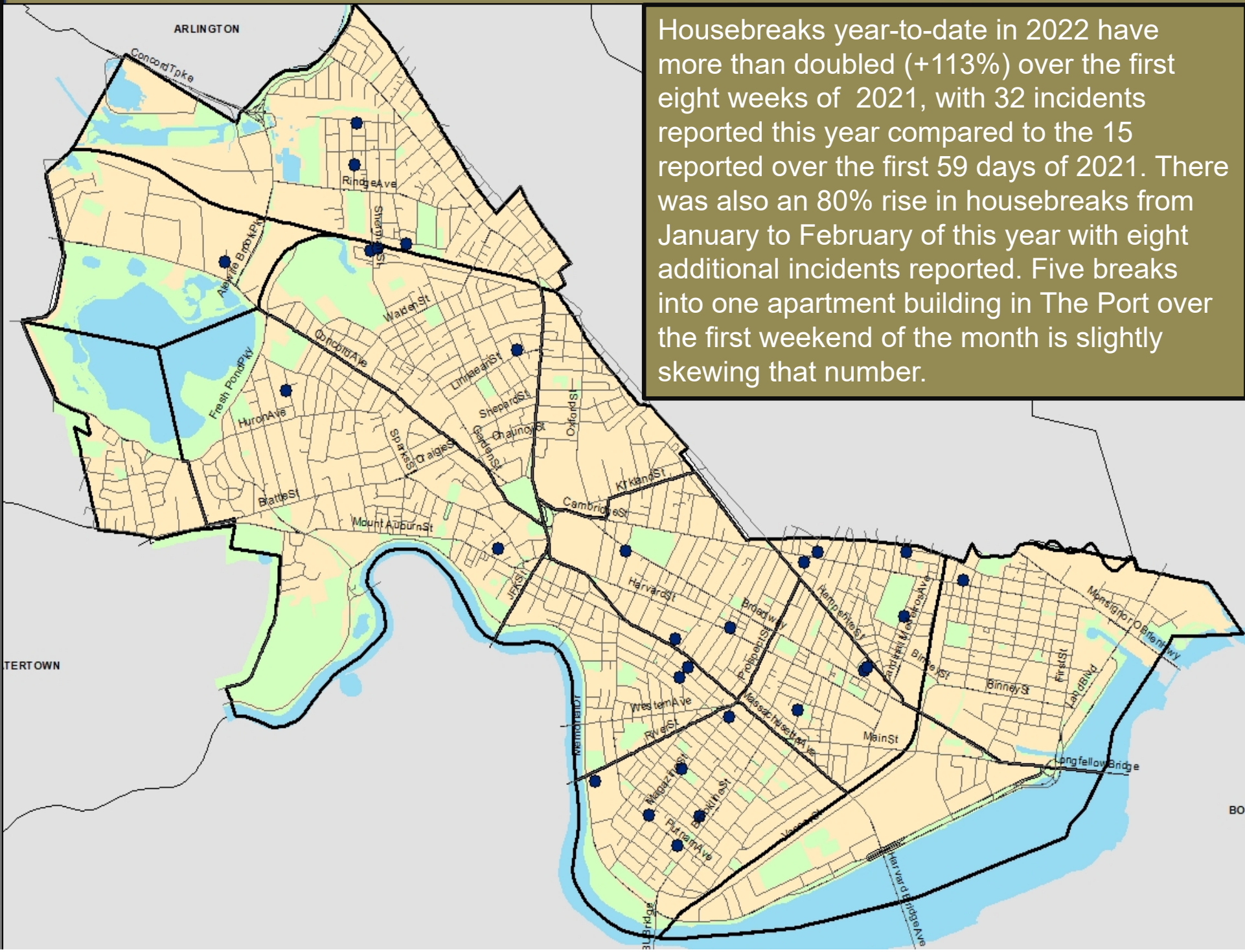
+33%





Geographic Breakdown of Housebreaks: 1.1.22 – 2.28.22

Housebreaks year-to-date in 2022 have more than doubled (+113%) over the first eight weeks of 2021, with 32 incidents reported this year compared to the 15 reported over the first 59 days of 2021. There was also an 80% rise in housebreaks from January to February of this year with eight additional incidents reported. Five breaks into one apartment building in The Port over the first weekend of the month is slightly skewing that number.





LARCENY

Sporadic Pattern

- **Preliminary stats indicate that overall larceny in 2022 is registering at 226 incidents, 29% below the same time frame in 2021.** The total of 226 larcenies reported year-to-date in 2022 is also 15% below the 5-year average of 265 incidents.
- **The larceny from motor vehicles total through 2/28 in 2022 is 69 incidents, 28% below the same time frame in 2021.** The 69 thefts reported represent an increase of 14 incidents (+25%) above the number forecasted for 2022. Much of this upsurge can be attributed to the continuing trend of catalytic converter thefts that was seen in January and February.
- **Through February 28, 2022, there were 9 larcenies from the person reported in Cambridge, down two incidents (-18%) when compared to the same time period in 2021.** The 2022 total is also down 47% from the 5-year average of 17, likely still due to the ongoing pandemic. Central Square has seen the most activity this year with 5 incidents.
- **There were 33 larcenies from buildings reported in through the first two months of 2022.** This total is 65% (13 incidents) above the same time frame in 2021 and is 4 incidents (11%) below the 5-year average. With gyms and public buildings reopening to the public in 2022, it is expected that there will be an increase in this activity compared to the past two years.
- **Larcenies from residences are down 48 incidents (51%) in 2022 when compared with 2021.** Package thefts made up the majority of this crime type in recent years and registered even higher than average in 2020 and 2021, likely due to the increased volume of deliveries during the pandemic. Package thefts have accounted for 29 (or 63%) of the 46 larcenies from residences thus far in 2022.
- **Larceny of bicycles will likely end up being one of the major property crimes in 2022, similar to recent years. However, currently there have only been 25 bike thefts reported in 2022, which is 60% less than the same time frame in 2021.** Bike thefts are also down 29% (10 thefts) below the five-year average. Much of this decrease is likely due to the colder and snowier weather in 2022.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

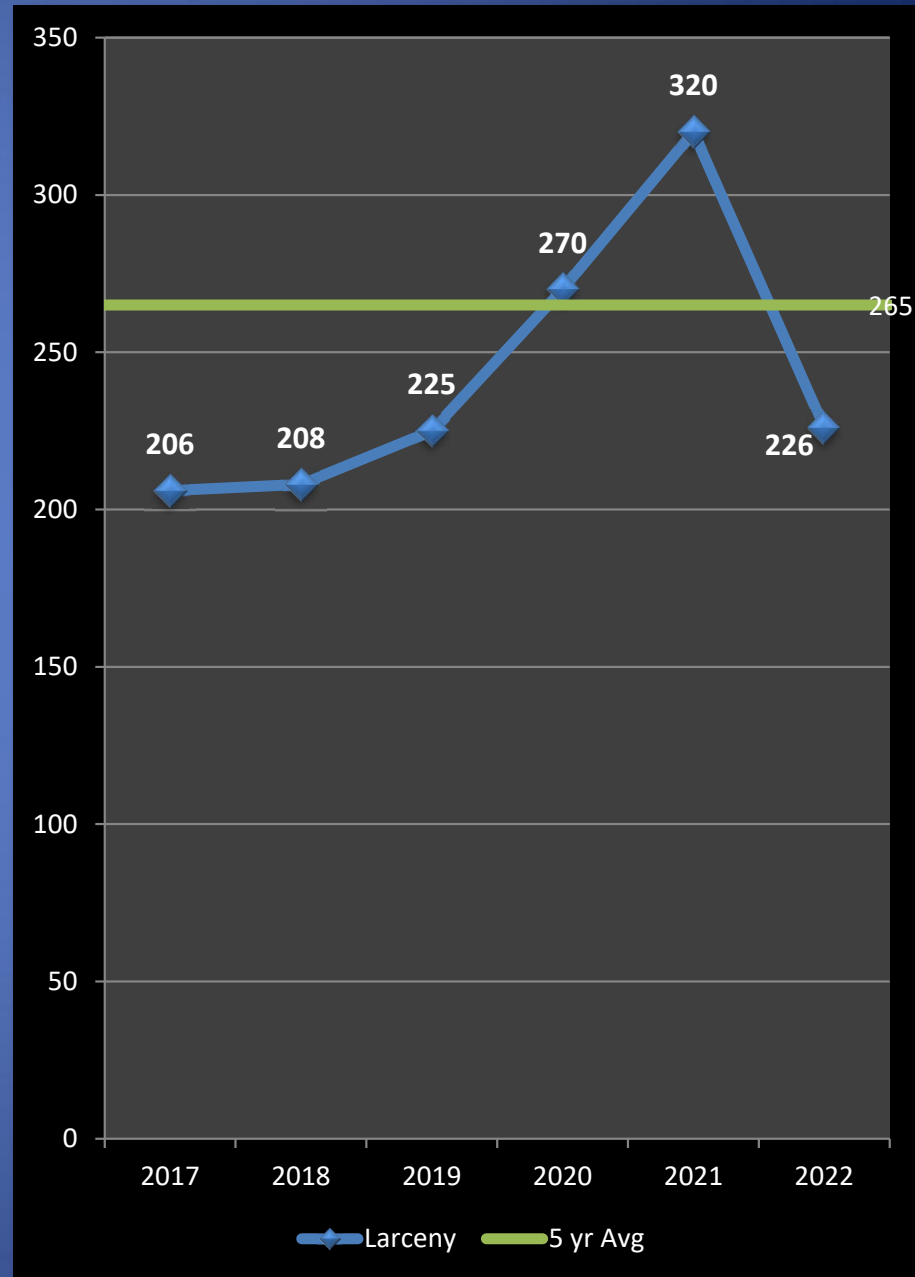
-2%

Previous Year

-29%

5-Year Average

-15%





LARCENY From MV

Sporadic Pattern

- The larceny from motor vehicle total for the first two months of 2022 is 69 incidents, which is 28% below the total for the same time period in 2021. The 69 thefts from cars reported during January and February indicates an increase of 14 incidents (+25%) above the number forecasted through the first 8 weeks of 2022.
- The neighborhoods with the highest larceny from motor vehicle totals so far in 2022 are: North Cambridge (17); Mid Cambridge (14), and Peabody (10). There were no incidents reported in the Highlands and MIT neighborhoods.
- Catalytic converter thefts became a problem in Cambridge when a series of thefts were reported by residents primarily in the Cambridgeport neighborhood in January of 2021. Surges continued sporadically throughout the year with the pattern resurfacing over the final two months of 2021, with 25 additional thefts reported in Riverside, North Cambridge, Peabody, and West Cambridge. In January and February of 2022, catalytic converter thefts have continued with an additional 27 incidents reported. The majority of the catalytic converter thefts in Cambridge have involved 2004-2009 Toyota Priuses, along with a few Honda Elements and CR-Vs. See the map on the next slide for a visual interpretation.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

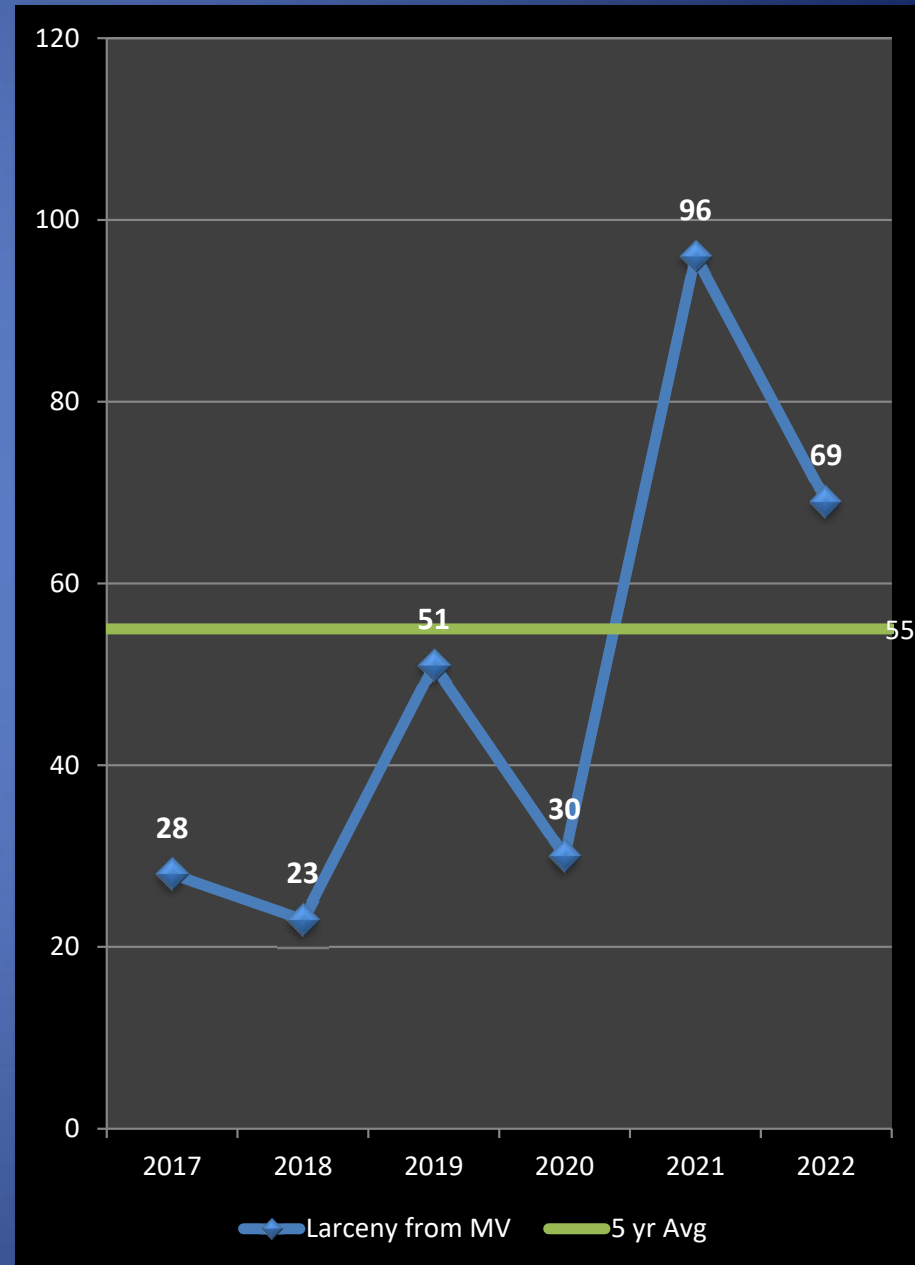
-34%

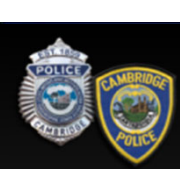
Previous Year

-28%

5-Year Average

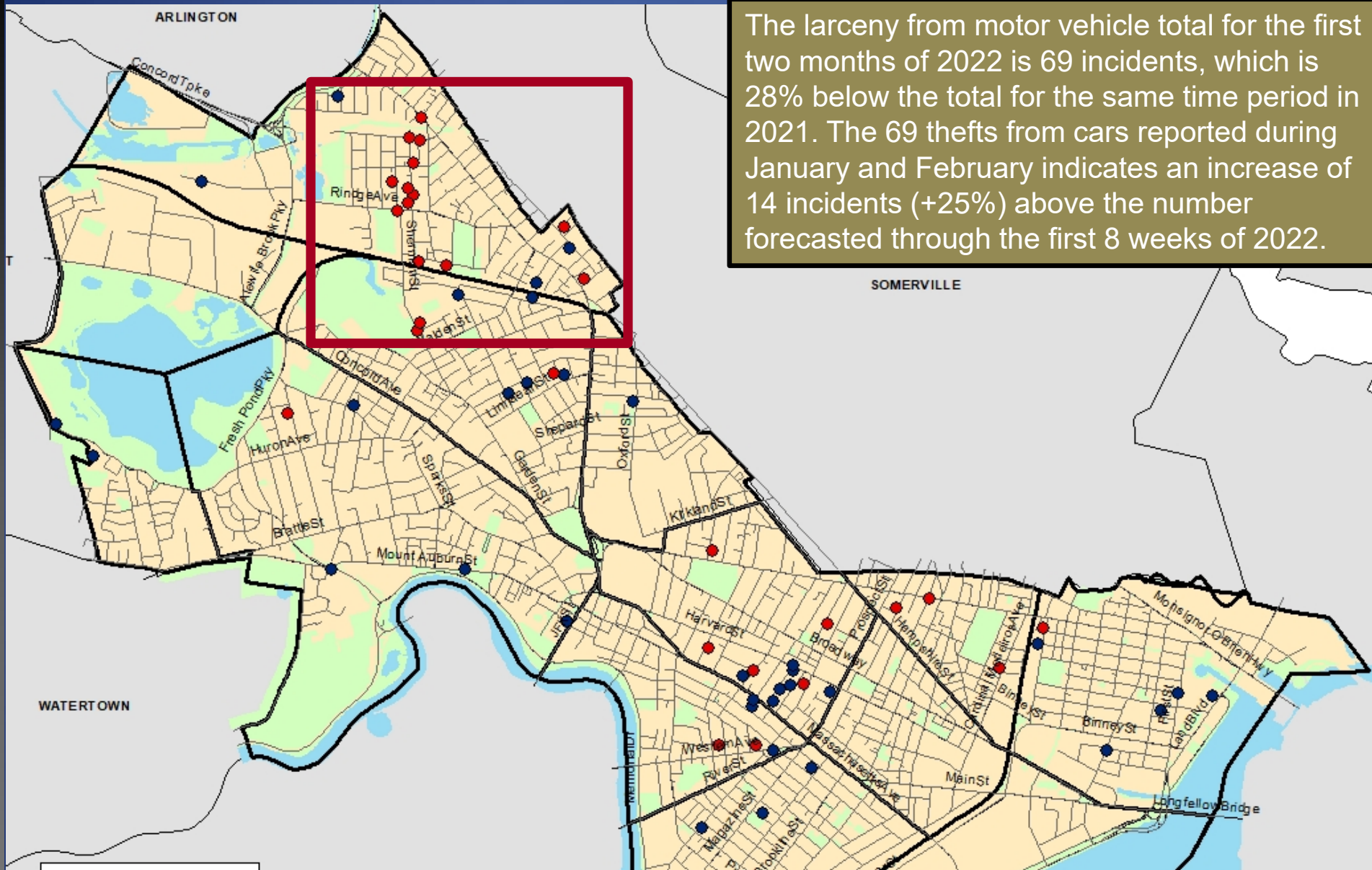
+25%





Geographic Breakdown of Larceny from Motor Vehicles: 1.1.22 – 2.28.22

The larceny from motor vehicle total for the first two months of 2022 is 69 incidents, which is 28% below the total for the same time period in 2021. The 69 thefts from cars reported during January and February indicates an increase of 14 incidents (+25%) above the number forecasted through the first 8 weeks of 2022.



Larceny from MV

- Exterior Theft
- Interior Theft

Catalytic converter thefts became a problem in Cambridge in January of 2021. Surges continued sporadically throughout the year with the pattern resurfacing over the final two months of 2021, with 25 additional thefts reported in Riverside, N. Cambridge, Peabody, and W. Cambridge. In 2022, an additional 27 catalytic converter thefts have been reported with a large concentration in N. Cambridge and Mid-Cambridge.



LARCENY *from Person*

No Patterns

- Larcenies from the person in 2022 have decreased by two incidents compared to the same time period in 2021 and dropped by eight incidents when compared to the five-year average of 17.
- Five of the nine incidents this year have taken place in Central Square. The others took place in Porter Square (2) and Alewife and Kendall Square (1 each). Shockingly, there has yet to be a larceny from the person reported in Harvard Square. This is highly unusual, but most Harvard Sq larcenies from the person involve diners or students, neither of whom have been out in full force in the past two years. The numbers citywide have been considerably lower than we would expect because of the numerous COVID-related closures of and restrictions at restaurants and shops across the city, where we typically see the majority of this crime type occur.
- In recent years, higher numbers in Central Sq have mainly been due to grab-and-run situations or incidents that involved individuals who are unhoused whose property may have been stolen while they were asleep or otherwise distracted.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

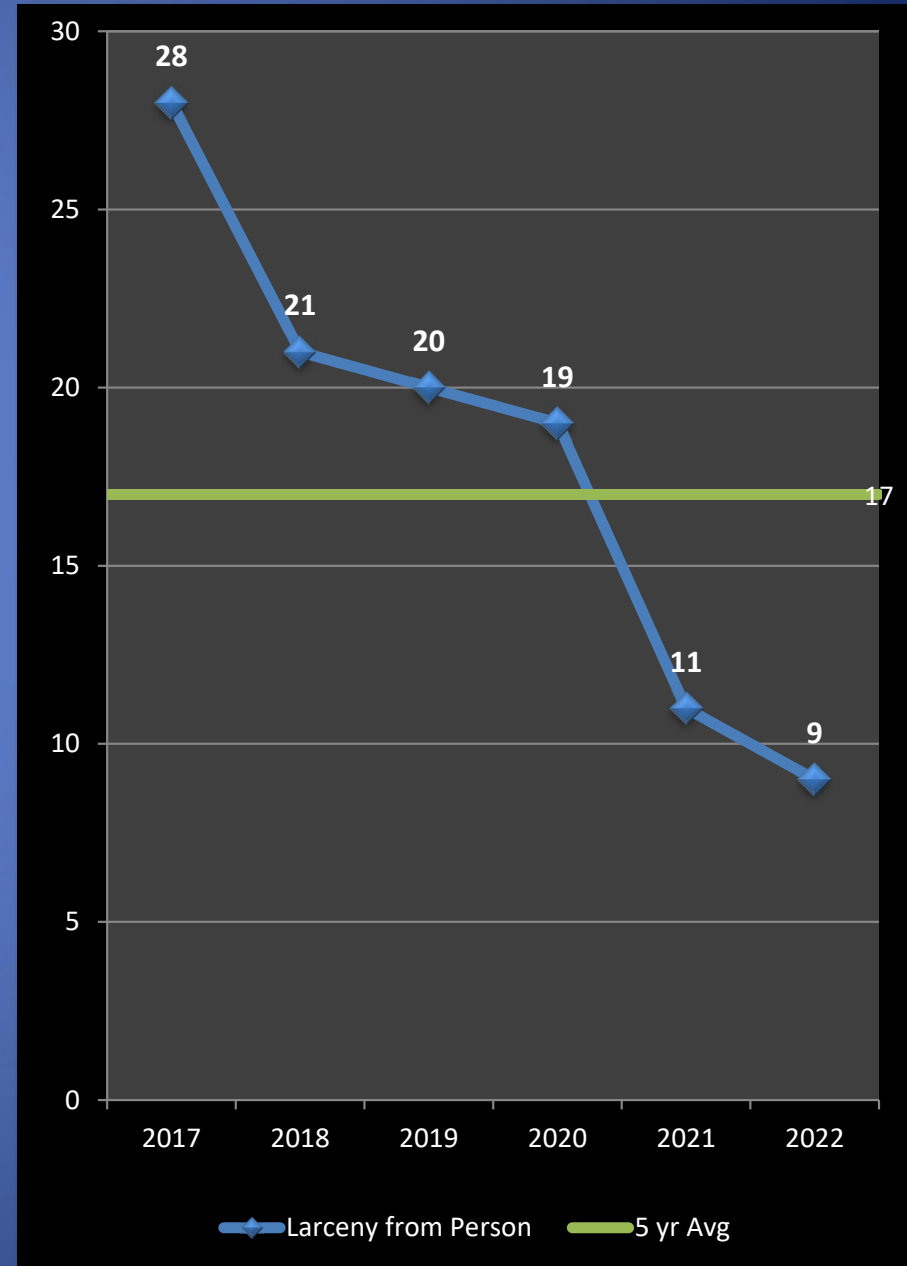
-20%

Previous Year

-18%

5-Year Average

-47%





LARCENY of Bicycle

No Patterns

- Likely due at least in part to the colder weather and snow this year, 2022 has started off with a sharp decline in bike thefts. Only 25 thefts have been reported in the first two months of 2022, leading to a significant 60% decrease below last year and a 29% decline below the 5-year average.
- February was up two incidents over January with 13 thefts reported. This is expected to continue to increase as the weather gradually improves.
- Unlike last year when nearly two-thirds of the bike thefts were reported in the lower half of the city, just over half (or 14 of the 25) thefts reported so far in 2022 have occurred north/west of Harvard Square.
- Of the 25 bike thefts reported year-to-date in 2022, 21 (84%) were reportedly locked at the time of the theft.

Top Neighborhoods for Bike Theft in 2022

Neighborhood	YTD Total	% Citywide
Peabody	6	24%
North Cambridge	4	16%
East Cambridge	3	12%
Cambridgeport	3	12%

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

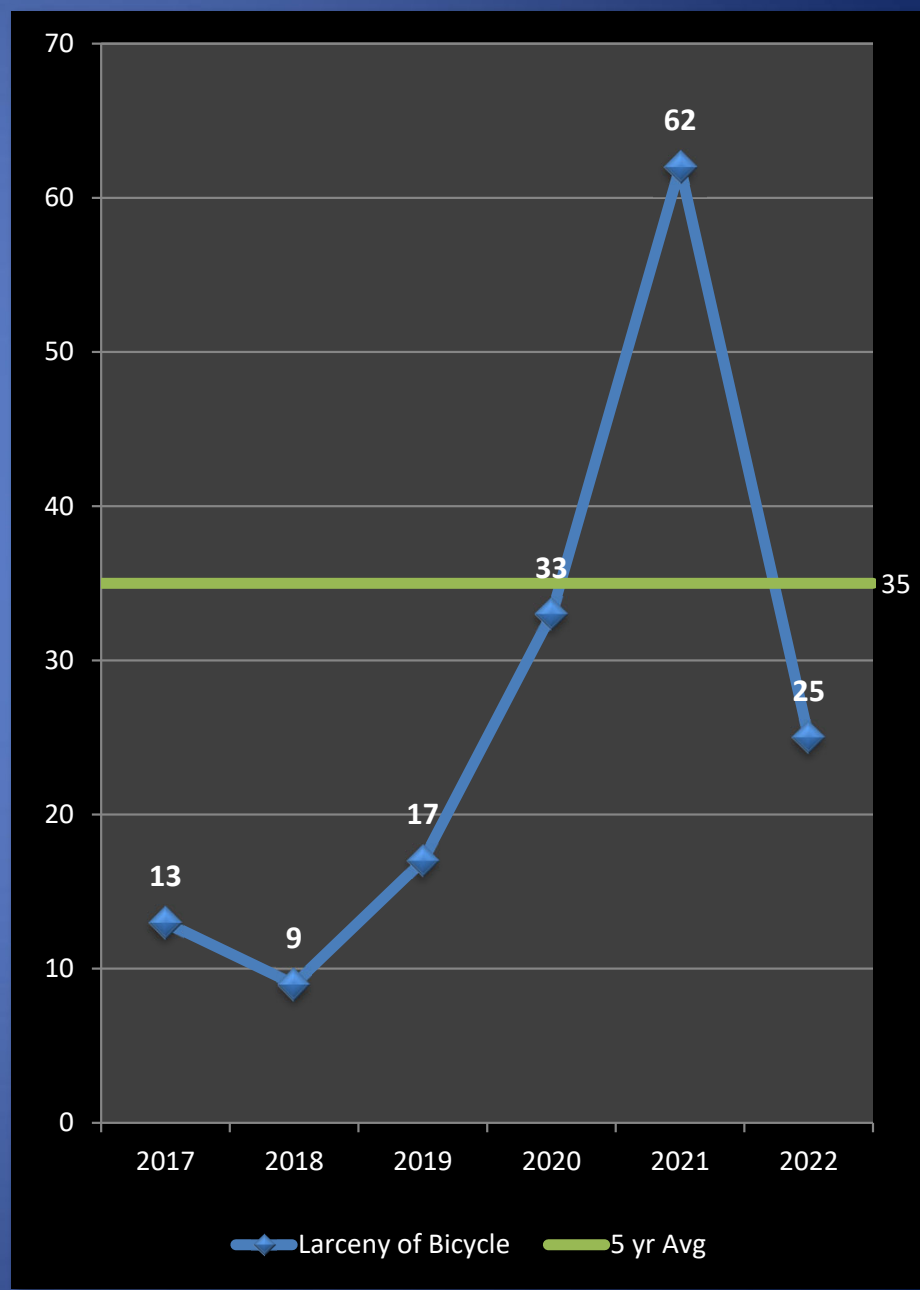
Previous Year

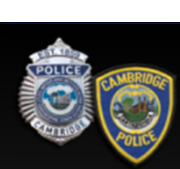
5-Year Average

+18%

-60%

-29%

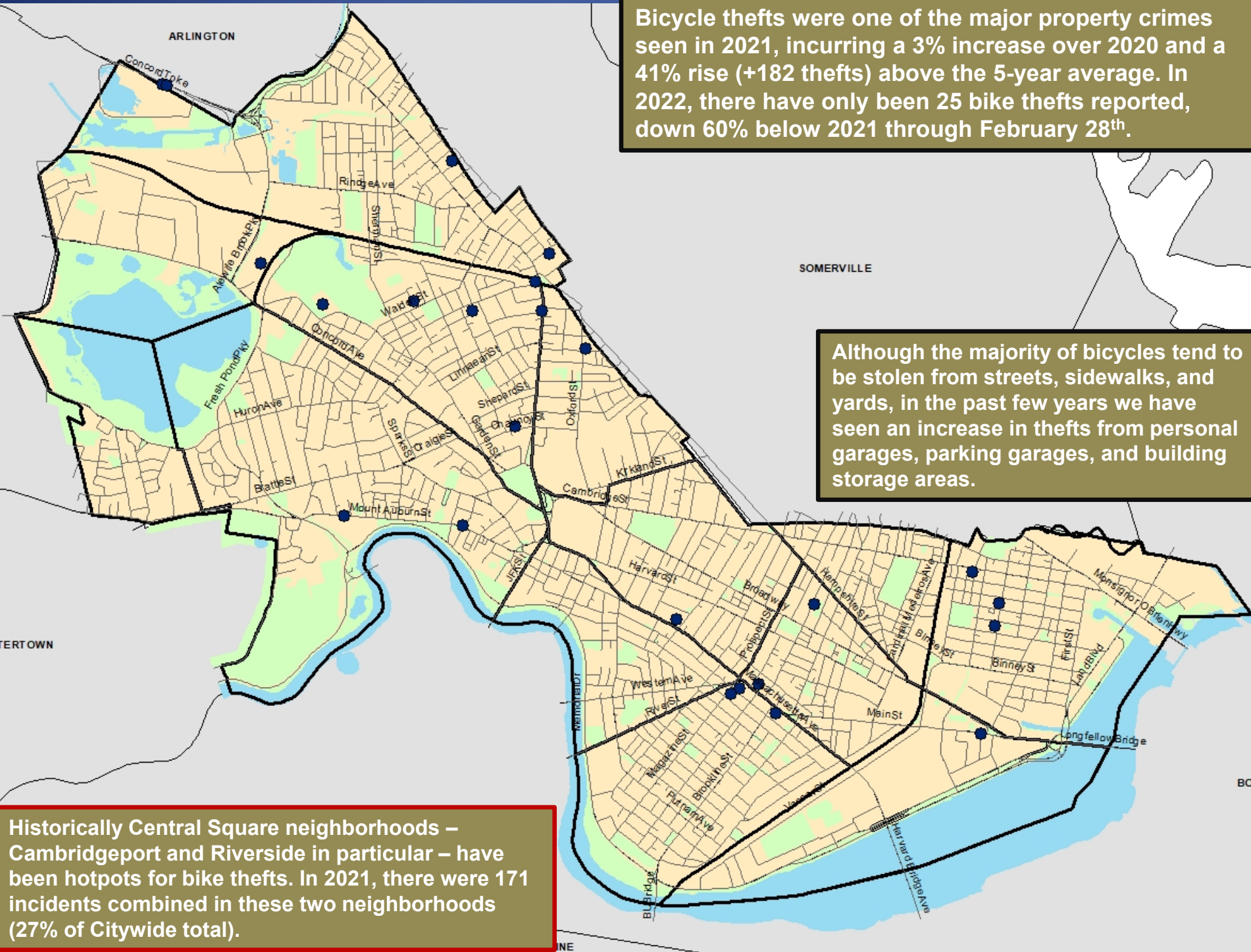




Geographic Breakdown of Larceny of Bicycles: 1.1.22 – 2.28.22

Bicycle thefts were one of the major property crimes seen in 2021, incurring a 3% increase over 2020 and a 41% rise (+182 thefts) above the 5-year average. In 2022, there have only been 25 bike thefts reported, down 60% below 2021 through February 28th.

Although the majority of bicycles tend to be stolen from streets, sidewalks, and yards, in the past few years we have seen an increase in thefts from personal garages, parking garages, and building storage areas.



Historically Central Square neighborhoods – Cambridgeport and Riverside in particular – have been hotspots for bike thefts. In 2021, there were 171 incidents combined in these two neighborhoods (27% of Citywide total).



AUTO THEFT

No Patterns

- The projected 5-year weighted average for auto thefts through February of 2022 is 10, and with 18 reported in 2022, we have experienced an increase of 80% over the expected total thus far this year. Auto thefts in 2022 are also up 100% over last year, with nine additional incidents reported.
- When comparing the most recent four weeks (February) to the previous four weeks (January), auto thefts have stayed level with eight reported each month.
- This year has experienced a number of thefts where the operator has left the vehicle unlocked and running in order to deliver a package or grab food. When the victim returns, the vehicle is gone. Two juveniles were arrested in February, believed to be responsible for at least two such thefts out of Harvard Square.
- The neighborhood breakdown for auto theft totals thus far in 2022 is as follows: The Port – 5, East Cambridge – 3, Riverside – 2, North Cambridge – 2, Cambridgeport – 2, and Inman/Harrington, Mid-Cambridge, Peabody and West Cambridge each with 1.
- Four of the 18 vehicles reported stolen in 2022 have been recovered to date.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

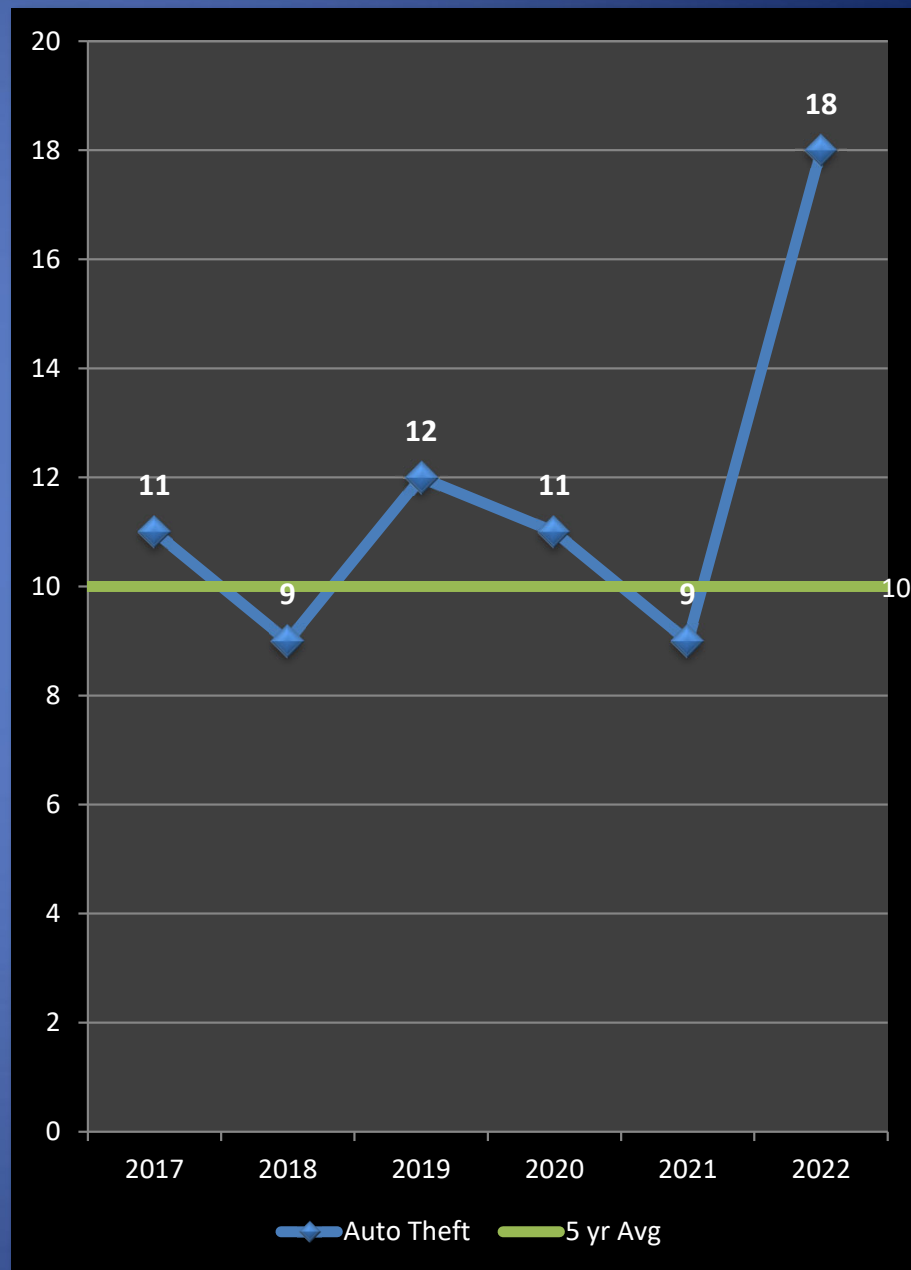
0%

Previous Year

+100%

5-Year Average

+80%





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