



# Cambridge Police Department BridgeStat

February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010



# Introduction

The Cambridge Police Department is proud to announce our new BridgeStat program. This program, released on the first Friday of every month, is designed to share information with the public and combat crime in the city.

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 NYC, Washington, DC, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Austin, San Francisco, and Baltimore.

Through the new BridgeStat program, 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.

Cambridge Police BridgeStat



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Cambridge Part I Crimes

# **CRIME INDEX: JANUARY -2011**

BridgeStat - January 2011



## *A Perspective on Serious Crime in Cambridge:*

- The Crime Index is composed of selected offenses used to gauge fluctuations in the overall volume and rate of crime reported to police. The offenses included are the violent crimes of **murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault**, and the property crimes of **burglary, larceny, and auto theft**. The Crime Index was developed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting program to standardize the way in which law enforcement agencies report crime statistics. In 2007, the Cambridge Police converted from UCR submission to entering crime data electronically in to the National Incident Based Reporting System.
- **The total crime index has fallen 44% in the 25 years since 1986. Serious crime numbers have been on a steady decline since the late 1970s**, with the exception of spikes at the turn of two decades. These spikes were caused by a sharp increase in property crimes in 1980 and a sharp increase in violent crimes in 1990. After 1997, the crime rate leveled off for approximately six years, until it dropped by 10% in 2003. Since 2003, crime totals have averaged about 4,000 crimes a year, with fluctuations of around 300 crimes above and below this amount. However, serious crime dropped for two consecutive years, a 15% decline between 2007 and 2009. The trend of serious crime not sustaining a decline for 3 consecutive years held true in 2010.



## **SERIOUS CRIME IN CAMBRIDGE IN 2010**

- Serious crime **increased by 1% in Cambridge in 2010**. There were 44 additional Part 1 crimes reported in 2010 when compared with the previous year. This slight rise in crime comes on the heels of the 2009 total which represented a 40-year low in reported offenses. Point in fact, **the 3,614 serious crimes recorded in Cambridge in 2010 represents the City's second lowest Uniform Crime Reporting Index number reported to the FBI since 1970.**
- After recording two consecutive yearly declines of 5% in 2008 and 10% in 2009, **a certain leveling of the crime dip was expected**. Cambridge had not recorded three consecutive crime declines since the Eisenhower administration. However, when compared with the 2007 total of serious crimes, there were 541 fewer incidents reported in 2010. When measured against the 5-year weighted average for Part 1 crimes in Cambridge, which is 3,835 incidents, a six percent reduction is revealed.
- Further analysis reveals that while **property crime registered a slight uptick of two percent, violent crime fell 3%** in 2010. The violent crime of **robbery is slightly above a 50 year low** and the property crime of **auto theft is at that nadir.**



# Part I Stats: Violent Crime

Crime	January 1 – January 31				4 Week Snapshot		
	2010	Avg	YTD	Change	12/7-1/3	1/4-1/31	Change
Murder	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
Rape	2	2	5	150%	4	3	-25%
Robbery	9	12	3	-75%	23	3	-87%
-Commercial Robbery	1	2	0	-100%	3	0	-100%
-Street Robbery	8	10	3	-70%	20	3	-85%
Aggravated Assault	21	19	16	-16%	15	11	-27%



# Part I Stats: Property Crime

Crime	January 1 – January 31				4 Week Snapshot		
	2010	Avg	YTD	Change	12/7 - 1/3	1/4 – 1/31	Change
<b>Burglary</b>	22	44	<b>45</b>	<b>2%</b>	55	<b>39</b>	<b>-29%</b>
-Housebreaks	18	36	<b>33</b>	<b>-8%</b>	42	<b>31</b>	<b>-26%</b>
-Commercial Breaks	4	8	<b>12</b>	<b>50%</b>	13	<b>8</b>	<b>-38%</b>
<b>Larceny</b>	167	194	<b>138</b>	<b>-29%</b>	158	<b>119</b>	<b>-25%</b>
-Larceny from Building	31	37	<b>28</b>	<b>-24%</b>	34	<b>24</b>	<b>-29%</b>
-Larceny from MV	49	72	<b>38</b>	<b>-47%</b>	46	<b>29</b>	<b>-37%</b>
-Larceny from Person	29	28	<b>13</b>	<b>-54%</b>	27	<b>11</b>	<b>-59%</b>
-Larceny from Residence	16	13	<b>20</b>	<b>54%</b>	19	<b>18</b>	<b>-5%</b>
-Larceny of Bicycle	9	6	<b>3</b>	<b>-50%</b>	4	<b>3</b>	<b>-25%</b>
-Shoplifting	30	31	<b>27</b>	<b>-13%</b>	18	<b>25</b>	<b>39%</b>
-Miscellaneous Larceny	3	7	<b>9</b>	<b>29%</b>	10	<b>9</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Auto Theft</b>	7	13	<b>7</b>	<b>-46%</b>	11	<b>5</b>	<b>-56%</b>



# Part I Stats: Totals

	January 1 – January 31			Change
	2010	5-Year Avg	2011 YTD	
<b>Violent Crime Total</b>	32	34	24	-29%
<b>Property Crime Total</b>	196	250	191	-24%
<b>Total Part 1 Crimes</b>	228	284	215	-24%



# Crime in Cambridge: 1/1/11 to 1/31/11

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- Criminologists argue that weather is strongly associated with short term fluctuations in crime, and that inclement, cold weather is conducive to less crime. Forty – four inches of snow were recorded in Cambridge during the first month of 2011. **Serious crime fell 6% when compared with January of 2010, and was a dramatic 24% below the 5-year weighted average** for prior Januaries. The argument appears to have a strong basis.
- There were five fewer **property crimes** in January 2011 to record a **3% decrease** when compared with last year. **Violent incidents** are down **25%** when measured with the 2010 figures. Both violent (**-29%**) and property crime (**-24%**) registered significant declines when measured against the 5-year weighted average for the first month of the year.
- Five of the major crime indices reported major reductions in January of 2011. Robbery (**-75%**) , Auto Theft (**-46%**) , Larceny (**-29%**) and Aggravated Assault (**-16%**), all registered **substantial declines when compared with the 5-year average for these crimes which are considered the most serious offenses by the FBI.**



# MURDER

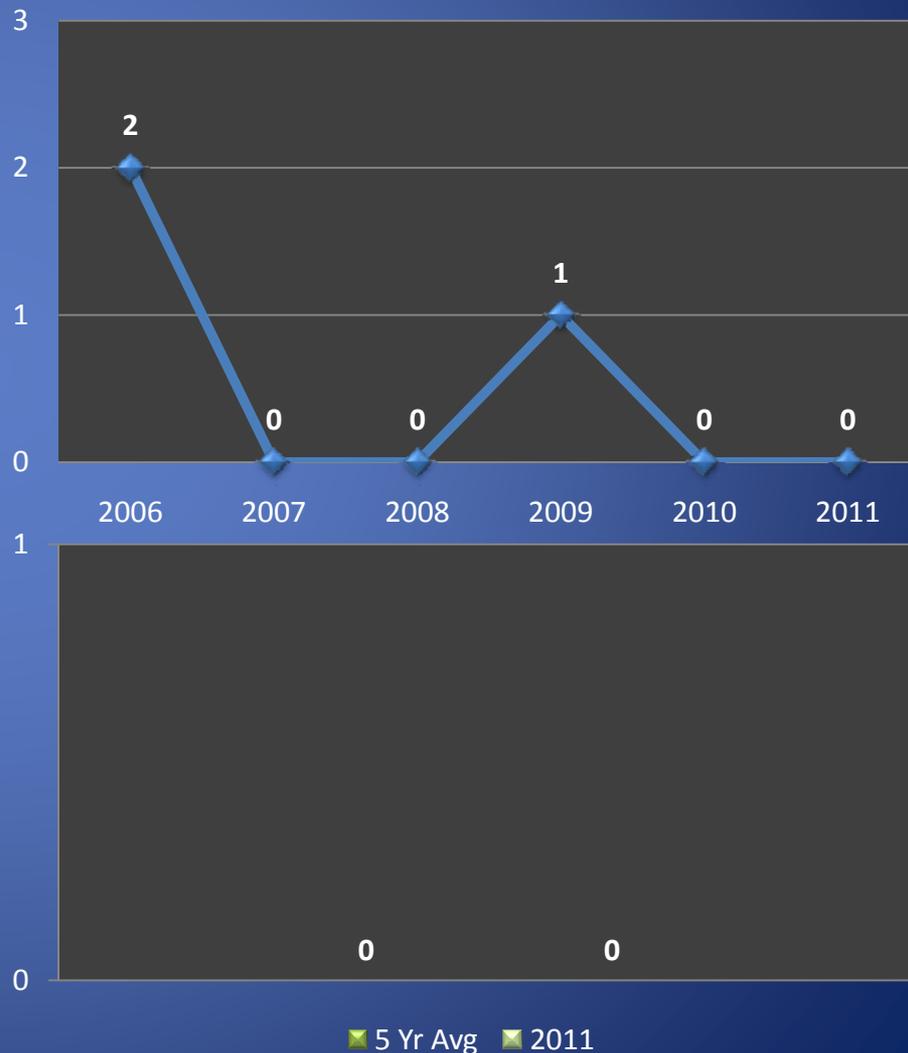
Change from 2010

0%

Change from 5 yr Average

0%

- For only the **fourth time** in the last **50 years**, there were **0** murders recorded in Cambridge in 2010. Prior years without a homicide being reported in Cambridge were: 1985, 2004 and 2007.
- The last homicide to occur in Cambridge was 18 months ago in June, 2009.
- The annual average murder rate in Cambridge since 1990 has fallen to approximately **2** per year.
- Nationally, cities of 100,000 residents average **10 murders each year**.





# RAPE

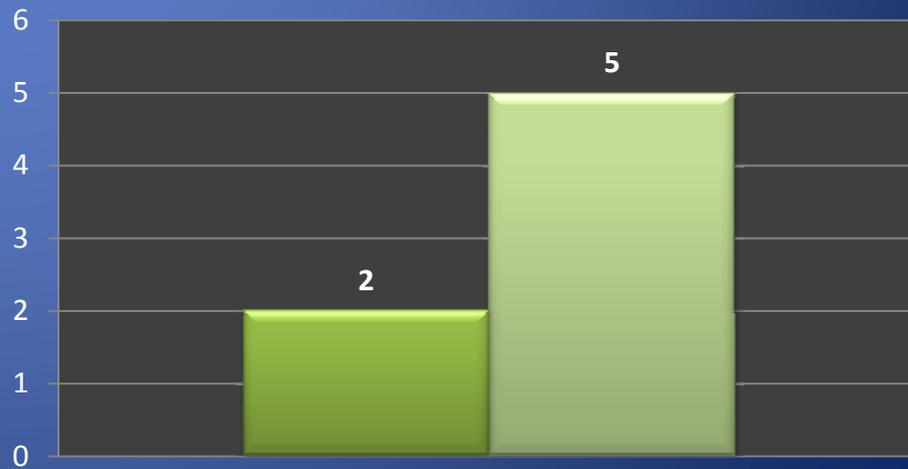
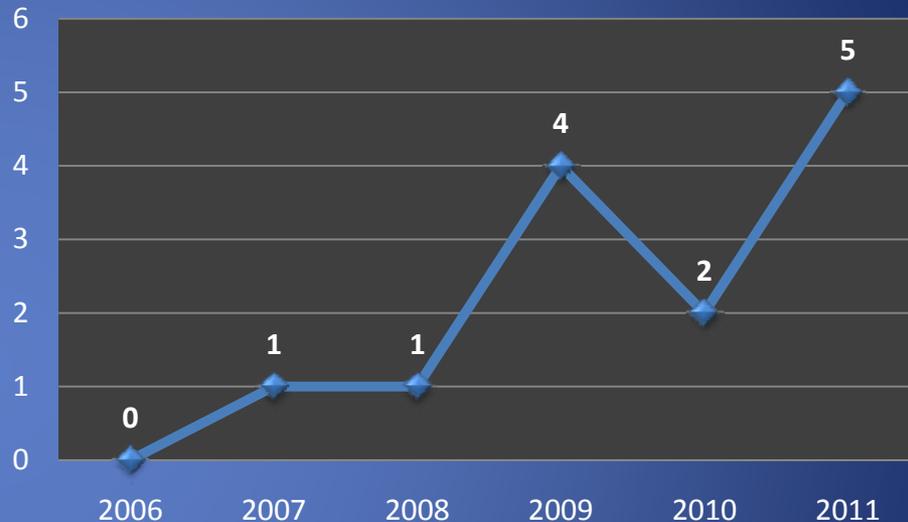
Change from 2010

150%

Change from 5 yr Average

150%

- There were **5** sexual assaults reported in January of 2011. **3** of the incidents occurred prior to this year and **1** is a past incident from the mid-1990s.
- **None** of the **5** recorded rapes in January of 2011 were classified as a **stranger-to-stranger crime**. **4** of the incidents involved **acquaintances**, and the other was a **domestic situation**.
- Recent increases in the reporting of rapes over the past three years in Cambridge can partly be attributed to a surge in domestic and acquaintance incidents where a minor has been involved.
  - The FBI reports that the rate for forcible rapes on the National level was estimated at **59.1 offenses per 100,000 female inhabitants**. The Cambridge Police Department cautions that a significant portion of rapes go unrecorded, making the validity of statistics uncertain.



■ 5 Yr Avg ■ 2011



# RAPE

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- The increases in the reporting of rapes over the past three years can partly be attributed to a surge in domestic and acquaintance incidents where a minor has been involved. The FBI reports that the rate for forcible rapes on the National level was estimated at 59.1 offenses per 100,000 female inhabitants. The Cambridge Police Department cautions that a significant portion of rapes go unrecorded, making the validity of statistics uncertain.
- The Cambridge Police Department takes reports of rapes very seriously and encourages all victims to report these crimes to police by calling **9-1-1** or speaking with investigators at **617-349-3370** or by e-mail at [Lclarke@CambridgePolice.org](mailto:Lclarke@CambridgePolice.org).



# ROBBERY

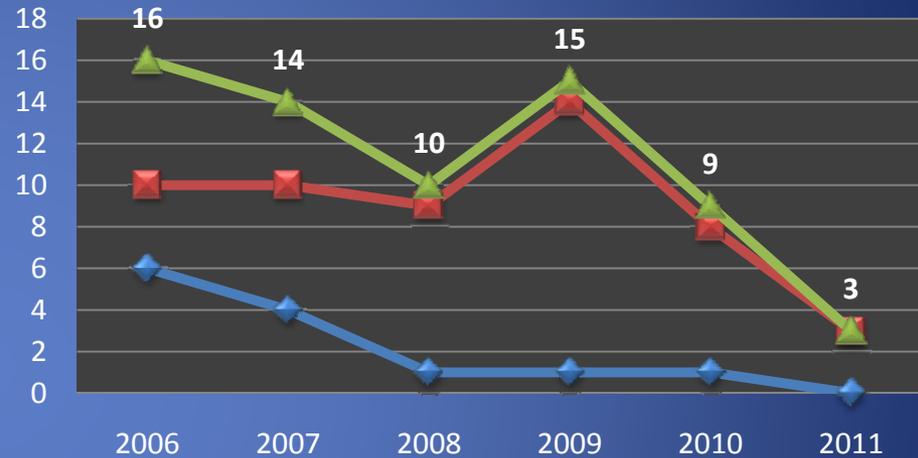
Change from 2010

**-67%**

Change from 5 yr Average

**-75%**

- **Total Robbery** dropped from a 5 year average of 12 incidents YTD to 3 incidents in 2010, which translates to a **75% decrease**. The total of only three robberies in a month is the lowest for this crime in recent memory.
- **While major commercial robbery patterns were identified in Boston and in Eastern Mass in January, there has not been an incident in Cambridge since the last week in December.**
- **Street Robbery** has recorded a **70% decline** from the 5-year average. Five street robberies since Christmas, is a remarkably low number for Cambridge when placed in context with previous years.





# AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

Change from 2010

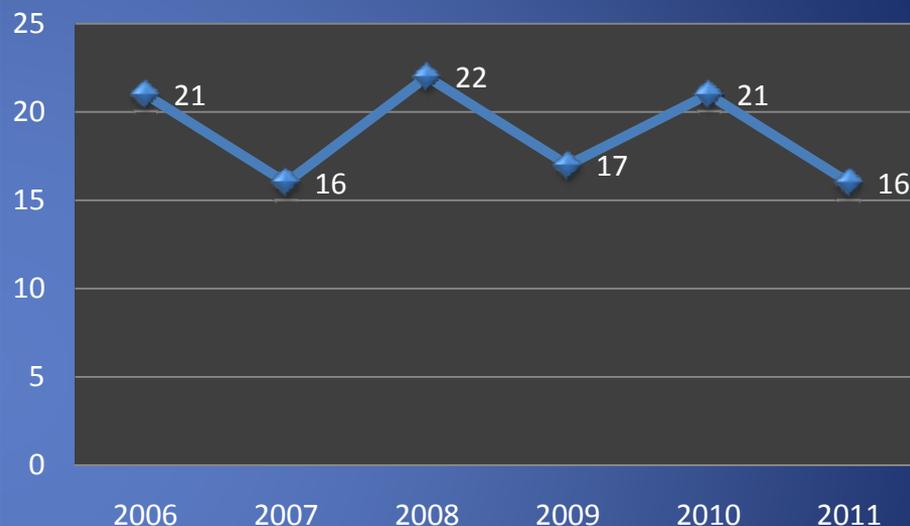
**-24%**

Change from 5 yr Average

**-16%**

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- There were five fewer aggravated assaults this January when compared with the same month in 2010. A measurement against the 5-year average for this violent crime translates to a **16% decline**.
- The most serious Aggravated Assault to occur in Cambridge in January was an exchange of gunfire near Clifton Street and Dudley Street on the night of 1.27.11 at 8:00PM.
  - Witnesses saw two suspects and another in a vehicle shooting at each other. The suspects fled the scene in a car. There were four spent casings recovered. **No one was shot.** This was the first attempted shooting in Cambridge in nearly seven months. Shootings **declined** in Cambridge from eight incidents in 2009 to four crimes in 2010.





# BURGLARY

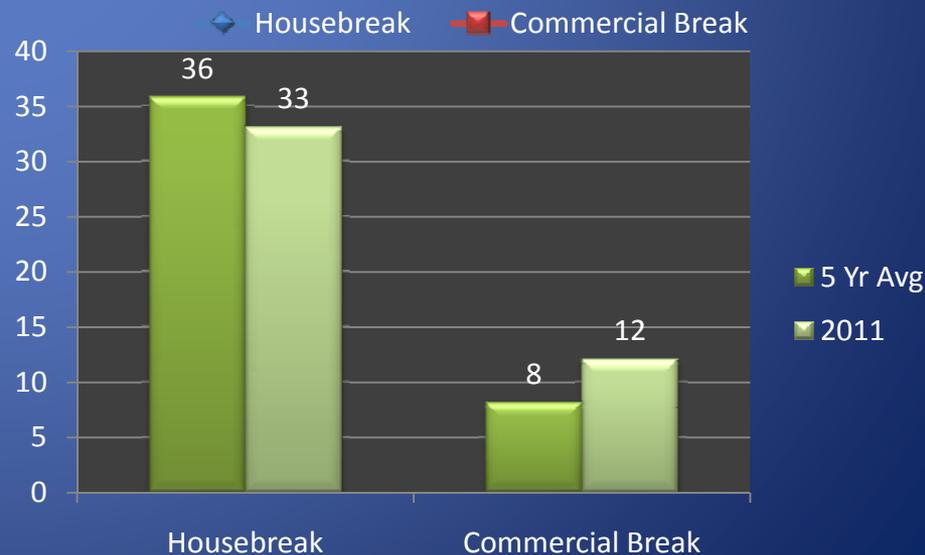
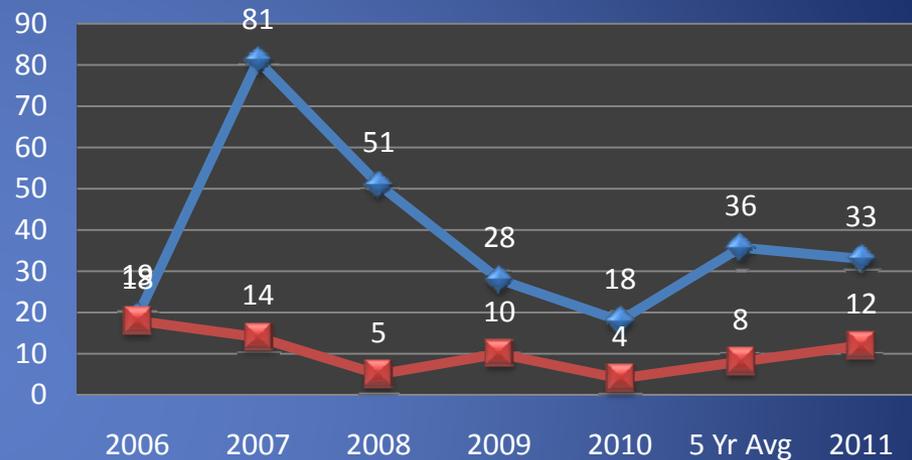
Change from 2010

105%

Change from 5 yr Average

2%

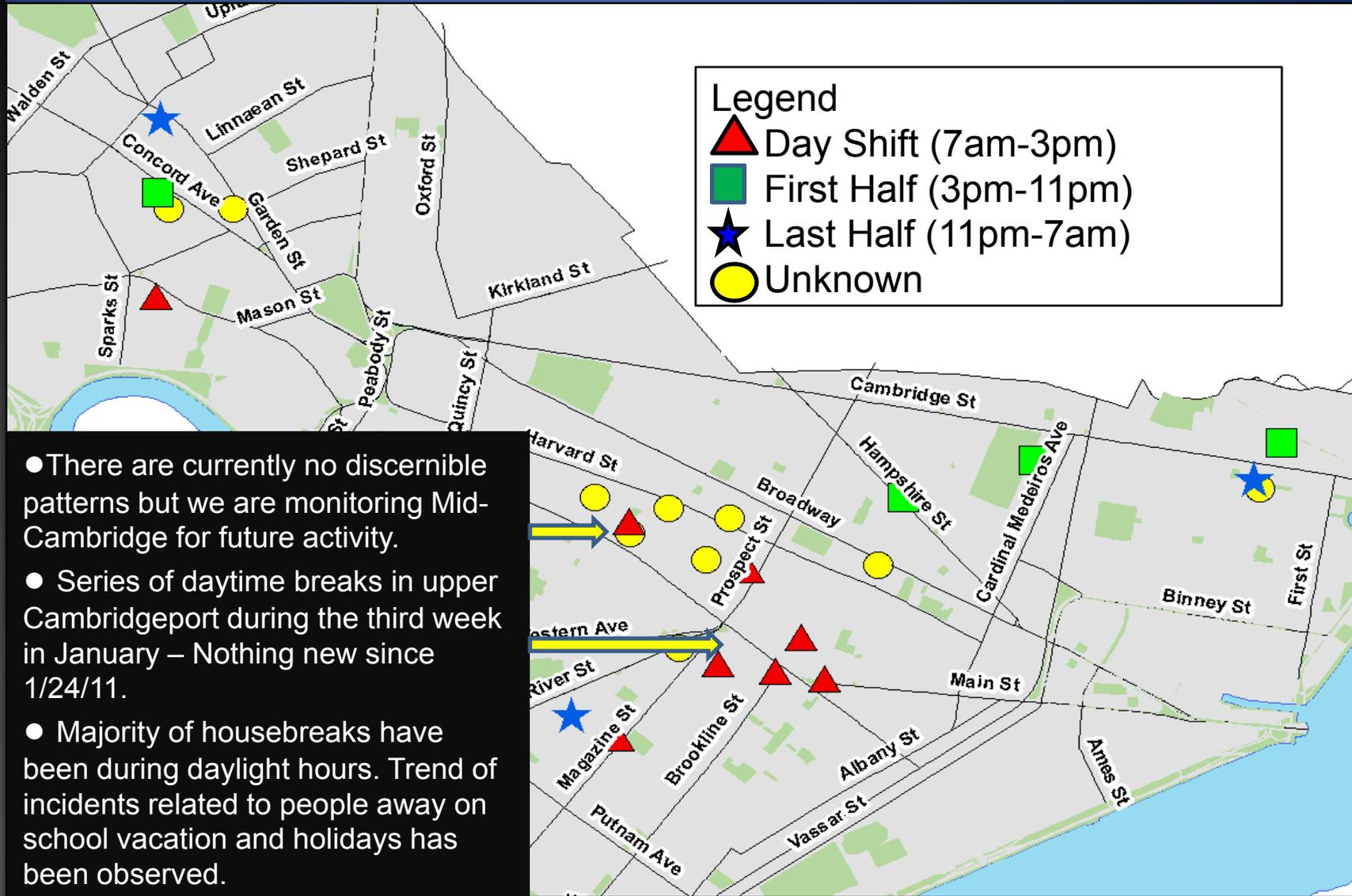
- **Total Burglary**, the combination of residential and commercial burglary, **increased by 2%** when compared to the 5 year average.
- **Housebreaks** have recorded a significant increase from 18 incidents last January to 33 during the first month of 2011. Further analysis reveals that last January's total was uncharacteristically low due to the factor that all housebreak activity was confined to Somerville for the first quarter of the year.
- **Commercial Breaks** increased by four incidents compared to January of 2010. A possible pattern of commercial breaks to restaurants in Central Square on weekend nights was monitored but never fully materialized.





# HOUSEBREAK: *REVIEW*

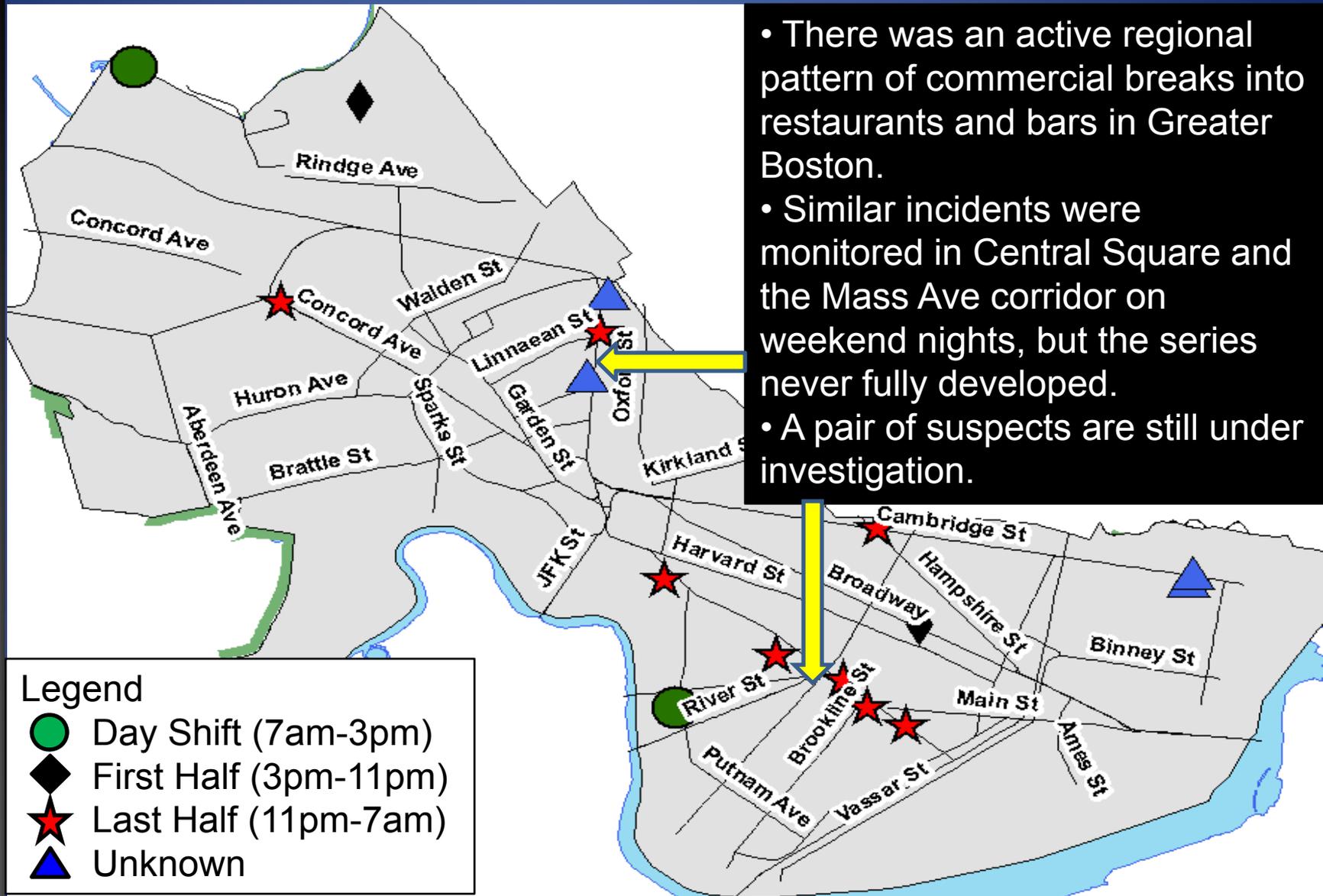
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# COMMERCIAL BURGLARY: *REVIEW*

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# LARCENY

Change from 2010

**-17%**

Change from 5 yr Average

**-28%**

- Overall, larceny **decreased by 17 %** when compared with January of 2010 and **28%** when measured against the 5-year weighted average for the first month of the year. There were 56 fewer larcenies counted than the typical January since 2006.
- For the second January in a row, larceny from motor vehicles were down significantly (34 fewer crimes), a **47% reduction**, when gauged versus the weighted average for the month.
- There are no identifiable patterns for any of the larceny types at the present time.
  - Dippers /pickpockets remain scarce in Harvard Square.
  - Larceny from persons have been cut in half compared to previous years.





# LARCENY: *from MV*

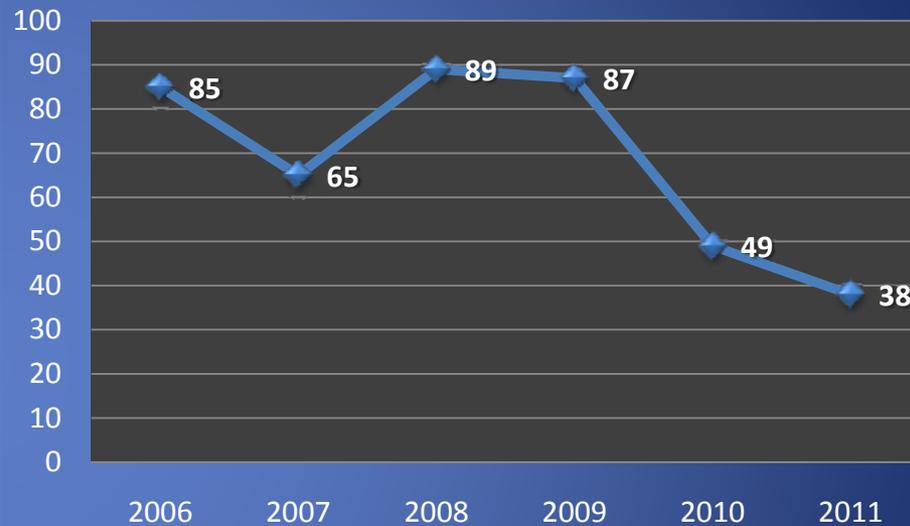
Change from 2010

**-22%**

Change from 5 yr Average

**-47%**

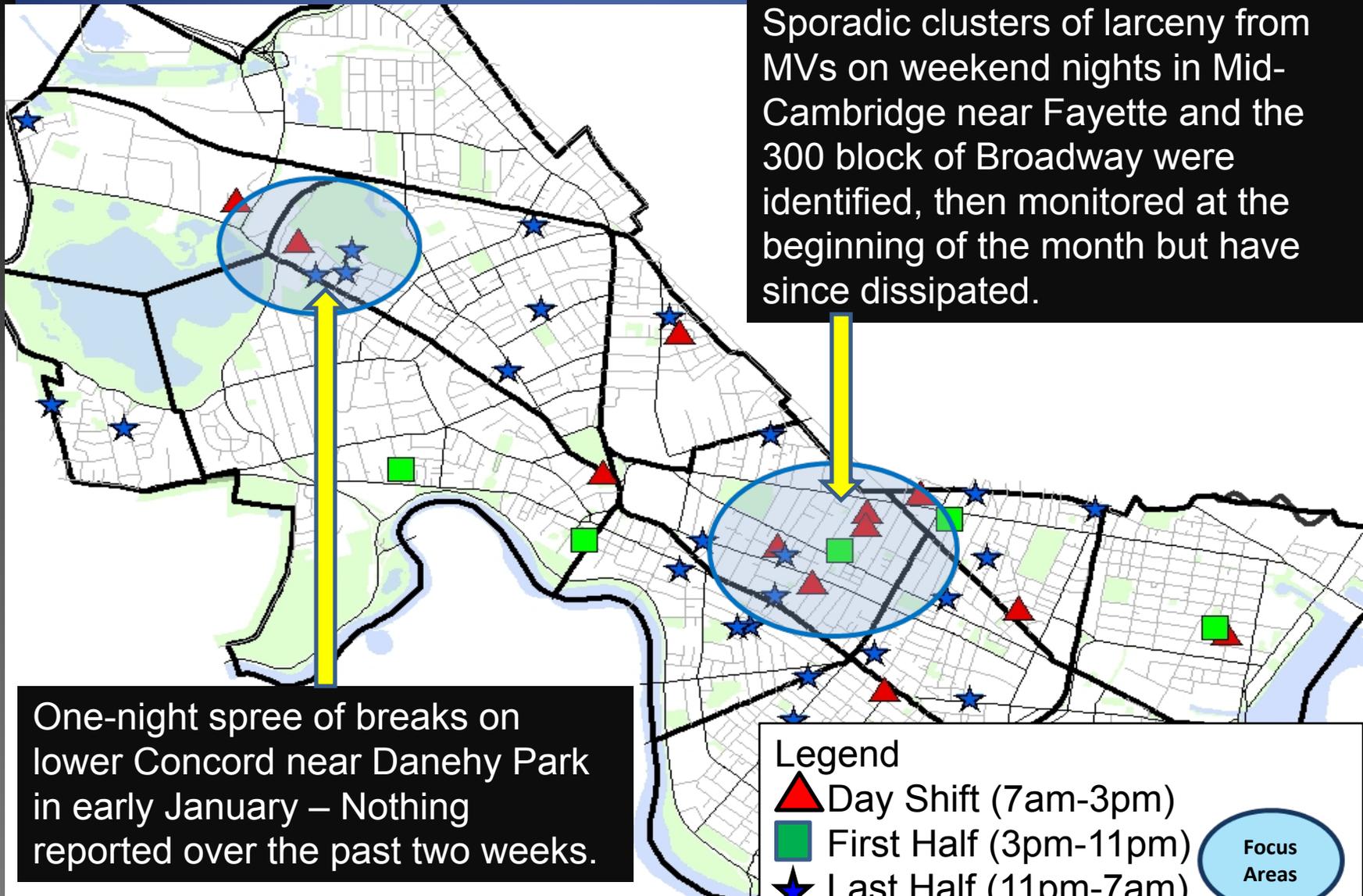
- Larceny from MVs are **down 47%** when compared with the 5-year average. The January total of 38 incidents was the **lowest for the first month of the year in over a decade.**
- There are no identifiable pattern for this target crime at the present time. Sporadic clusters of incidents on weekend nights in Mid-Cambridge were monitored at the beginning of the month but have since dissipated.
- A pleasant surprise has been the scarcity of activity for this crime around the usual hot spot of Central Square.





# LARCENY FROM MV: *REVIEW*

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Sporadic clusters of larceny from MVs on weekend nights in Mid-Cambridge near Fayette and the 300 block of Broadway were identified, then monitored at the beginning of the month but have since dissipated.

One-night spree of breaks on lower Concord near Danahy Park in early January – Nothing reported over the past two weeks.

**Legend**

- ▲ Day Shift (7am-3pm)
- First Half (3pm-11pm)
- ★ Last Half (11pm-7am)
- Unknown

Focus Areas



# LARCENY: *from Person*

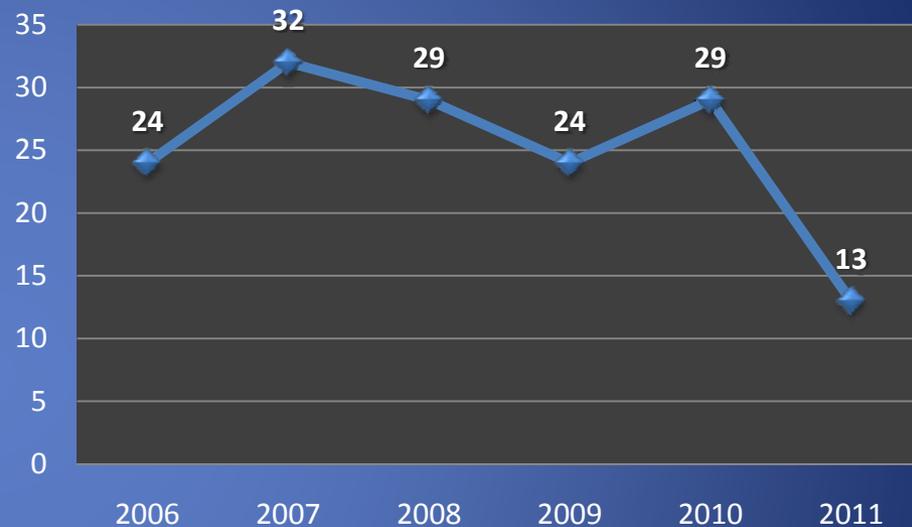
Change from 2010

**-55%**

Change from 5 yr Average

**-54%**

- Larcenies from persons increased dramatically early in the Summer of 2010 (**up 17%** at that time), but quieted down substantially after BridgeStat directed strategies to address the problem.
  - Brief upticks were reported sporadically during the second half of the year, but no defined patterns emerged.
- So far in 2011, the results of the above mentioned selected enforcement strategies continue to be effective in combating this target crime.
  - Larceny from persons were **down 55%** from last January and **54%** under the 5-year average.





# AUTO THEFT

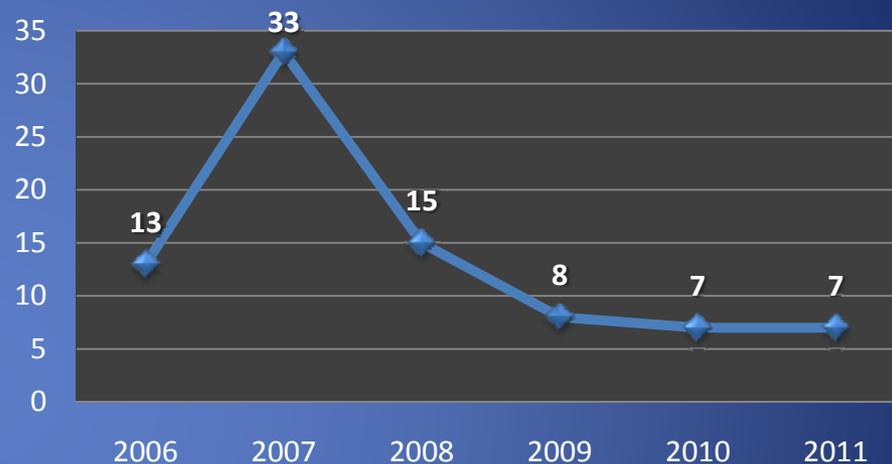
Change from 2010

0%

Change from 5 yr Average

-46%

- For the second consecutive January, there were only **seven** vehicles stolen in Cambridge. The five year weighted average for the first month of the year is **thirteen** incidents.
- There are no identifiable auto theft patterns at the present time.
- The top three makes of car stolen in Cambridge during 2010 were Honda, Toyota, and Dodge.
- The Auto Theft total in Cambridge in 2010 was at a **50-year low**.





# National/Regional Crime Patterns & Trends:

<p><b>National</b></p>	<p><b>Escalation in the Shooting of Law Enforcement Officers</b></p>
	<p>Since the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2011, there has been an escalation in the shooting of members in law enforcement in the United States. These shootings, however, have no apparent correlation and are not related to terrorism, anti-law enforcement groups, or gang-related activity. There have been five incidents in Miami, Detroit, Indianapolis, and St. Petersburg. All of the shootings, except for the incident in Detroit, did not appear to be targeting law enforcement officials, but rather reacting to the shooters' encounters with law enforcement</p>
<p><b>Greater Boston</b></p>	<p><b>Commercial Robberies – Convenience Stores &amp; Gas Stations</b></p>
	<p>A crew of armed robbers, possibly out of Boston, who are believed to be responsible for a series of stick-ups at convenience stores connected to gas stations. Group may have been involved in over ten robberies in Boston, Randolph, Quincy and Somerville. Possibly ended with arrest on 1.31.11 in Randolph. Cambridge has not had a commercial robbery in the past five weeks.</p>
<p><b>Eastern Mass.</b></p>	<p><b>ATM Burglaries</b></p>
	<p>There have been a series of bank burglaries and stand alone ATM burglaries in Eastern Mass that has been an ongoing pattern for the last two years. Similar M.O. with telephone lines cut and ATM ripped out of wall. Nothing similar has been reported in Cambridge.</p>



# 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](mailto: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](http://www.cambridgema.gov/CPD/publications/crime_2010.cfm)