



Cambridge Police Department BridgeStat

January 2021

Produced by the Crime Analysis Unit

****Preliminary 2020 Year-to-Date numbers are subject to change as data is finalized in the coming weeks.***



Part I Total Crime

A review of serious crime statistics for the first month of 2021 (from January 1st to February 1st) points to a modest increase of 3% in the Part One index total for Cambridge. During January of this year, there were 210 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 203 incidents, seven fewer than this year.

When measured against the five-year average, a marked 19% vault in the crime index has been registered. Further analysis of the crime totals for January of 2021 indicates that while violent crimes recorded a substantial 27% decrease to start the year, property crimes jumped upward 7%, with 13 additional crimes reported when compared with January of 2020. There were zero homicides and rapes, but three robberies recorded in the first month of 2021.

When analyzing the serious crime totals of January 2021 versus the previous month of December 2020, there has been a minor dip of 2% in the number of index incidents with three fewer crimes counted in the first month of this year. The 153% increase in larcenies from motor vehicles, the 68% surge in thefts from residences, and 90% rise in larcenies of bicycles when compared with January of 2020 were the key trend indicators observed so far in 2021. These three categories of larceny accounted for 66% of the total crime index in January.

An analysis of the preliminary end-of-the-year serious crime number totals for Cambridge in 2020 indicated a measured increase of 8%, with 174 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 60 years.

	4 Week Snapshot			Year to Date			Five Year	
	12/8/20 - 1/4/21	1/5/21 - 2/1/21	Change	2020	2021	Change	Avg	Change
Total Violent Crime	18	12	-33%	22	16	-27%	23	-30%
Total Property Crime	173	176	2%	181	194	7%	153	27%
Total Part I Crime	191	188	-2%	203	210	3%	176	19%



Part I Property Crime

Analysis of property crime totals for the first month of 2021 reveals a 7% increase when measured against the 2020 totals and a 27% expansion above the five-year average, with 13 additional incidents above last January and 41 additional crimes above the 153 reports forecasted for this time period.

Two of the major property crime categories recorded significant inclines when measured against last January, most notably a 153% rise in larceny from motor vehicle, fueled by a regional pattern of thefts of 20 catalytic converters over the weekend of January 17th, and the 90% surge in bike thefts, which is an uncharacteristically high number for a colder weather month.

	4 Week Snapshot				Year to Date			Five Year	
	12/8/20 - 1/4/21	1/5/21 - 2/1/21	Change		2020	2021	Change	Avg	Change
Burglary	9	11	22%		16	12	-25%	17	-29%
Commercial Break	3	5	67%		0	5	IN-CALC	2	150%
Housebreak	6	6	0%		16	7	-56%	15	-53%
Larceny	157	162	3%		163	176	8%	130	35%
Larceny (Misc)	3	3	0%		4	3	-25%	3	0%
Larceny from Building	8	13	63%		40	14	-65%	28	-50%
Larceny from MV	42	42	0%		17	43	153%	17	153%
Larceny from Person	10	4	-60%		8	4	-50%	9	-56%
Larceny from Residence	55	52	-5%		34	57	68%	27	111%
Larceny of Bicycle	24	33	38%		20	38	90%	12	217%
Larceny of Plate	0	2	IN-CALC		0	2	IN-CALC	1	100%
Larceny of Services	0	1	IN-CALC		0	1	IN-CALC	1	0%
Shoplifting	15	12	-20%		40	14	-65%	33	-58%
Auto Theft	7	3	-57%		2	6	200%	6	0%
Total Property Crime	173	176	2%		181	194	7%	153	27%



Part I Violent Crime

From January 1st to February 1st of 2021, there were 16 violent crimes recorded in Cambridge, six incidents below last year (-27%) and seven fewer violent crimes (-30%) than the 23 incidents forecasted for the first month of the year.

With three robberies counted in the first month of 2021, one categorized as commercial and two classified as street incidents, there was a slight dip of two fewer crimes when compared with last January. 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 23rd robbery of the TD Bank located at 1270 Mass Ave in Cambridge. The subject is also a suspect in several other area bank robberies.

Jose Bermudez was arrested 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 it ended up being the only homicide reported in 2020. There were zero rapes reported in Cambridge in January of 2021. The forecasted number for rapes in Cambridge for January is two incidents.

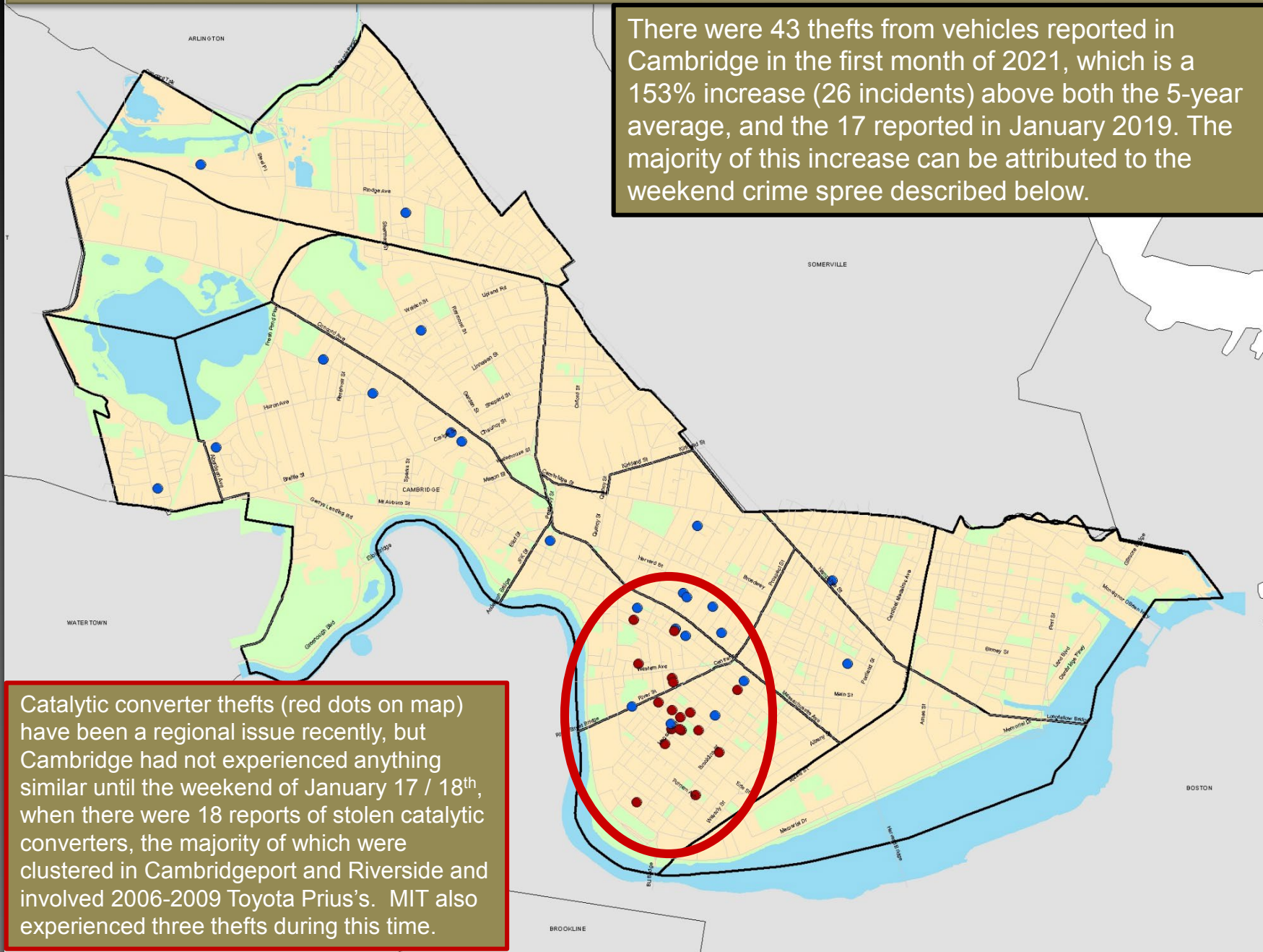
	<u>4 Week Snapshot</u>			<u>Year to Date</u>			<u>Five Year</u>	
	12/8/20 - 1/4/21	1/5/21 - 2/1/21	Change	2020	2021	Change	Avg	Change
Homicide	0	0	IN-CALC	0	0	IN-CALC	0	IN-CALC
Rape	0	0	IN-CALC	3	0	IN-CALC	2	-100%
Robbery	5	3	-40%	5	3	-40%	5	-40%
Commercial Robbery	1	1	0%	0	1	IN-CALC	2	-50%
Street Robbery	4	2	-50%	5	2	-60%	3	-33%
Aggravated Assault	13	9	-31%	14	13	-7%	15	-13%
Total Violent Crime	18	12	-33%	22	16	-27%	23	-30%



Geographic Breakdown of Larcenies from Motor Vehicles: 1.1.21 – 2.01.20

There were 43 thefts from vehicles reported in Cambridge in the first month of 2021, which is a 153% increase (26 incidents) above both the 5-year average, and the 17 reported in January 2019. The majority of this increase can be attributed to the weekend crime spree described below.

Catalytic converter thefts (red dots on map) have been a regional issue recently, but Cambridge had not experienced anything similar until the weekend of January 17 / 18th, when there were 18 reports of stolen catalytic converters, the majority of which were clustered in Cambridgeport and Riverside and involved 2006-2009 Toyota Prius's. MIT also experienced three thefts during this time.

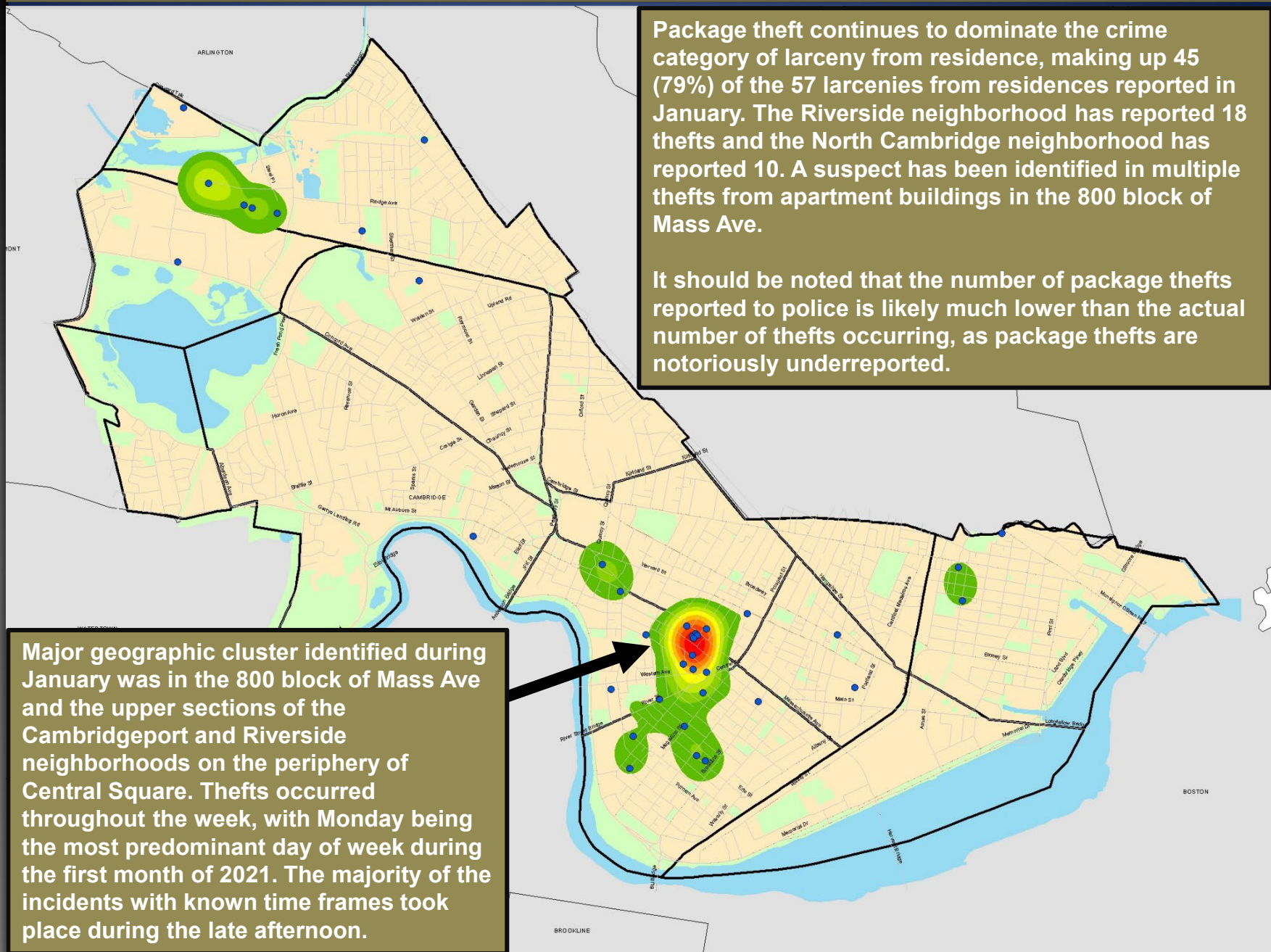




Geographic Breakdown of Package Thefts: 1.1.21 – 2.01.20

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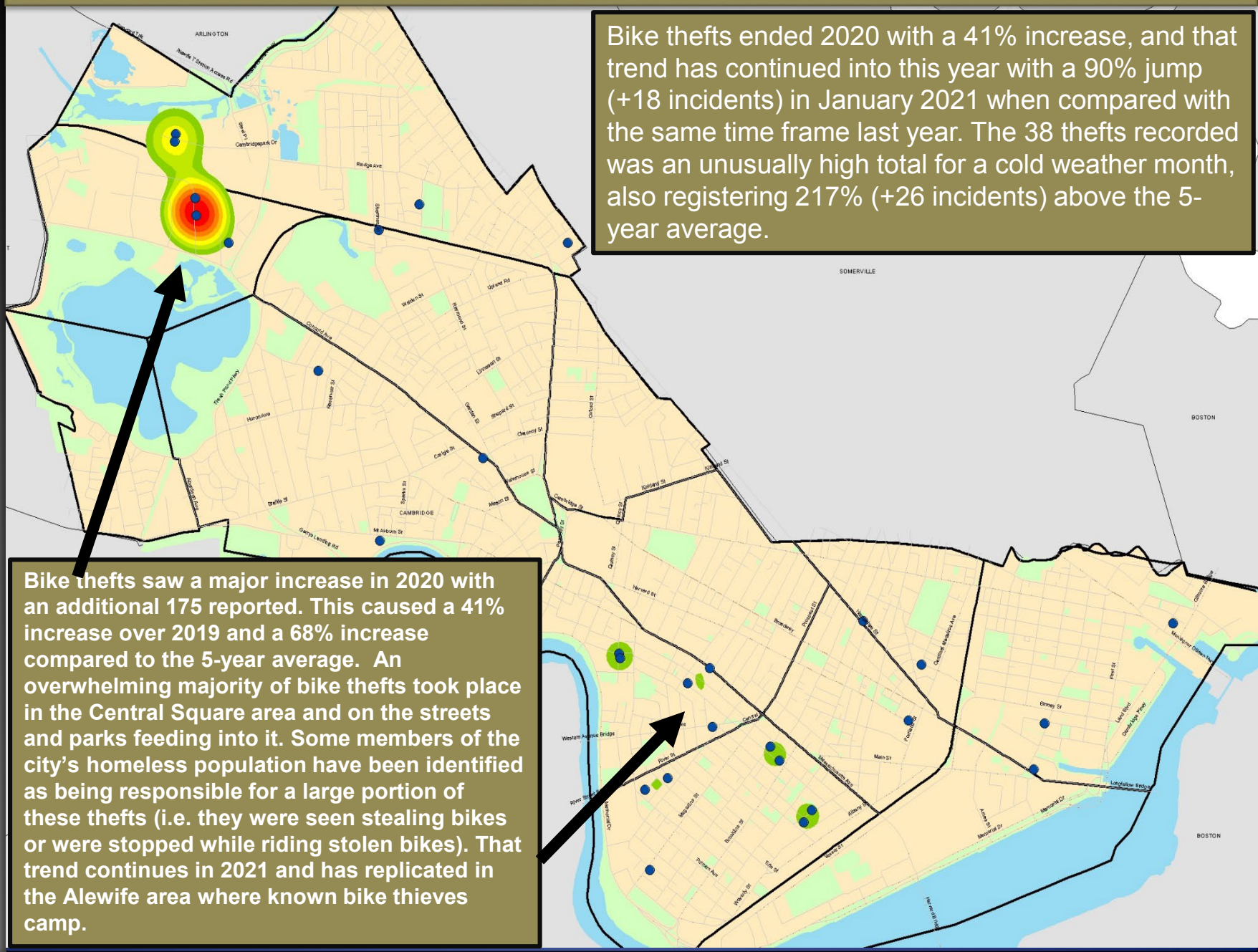




Geographic Breakdown of Bicycle Larcenies: 1.1.21 – 2.01.20

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Bike thefts ended 2020 with a 41% increase, and that trend has continued into this year with a 90% jump (+18 incidents) in January 2021 when compared with the same time frame last year. The 38 thefts recorded was an unusually high total for a cold weather month, also registering 217% (+26 incidents) above the 5-year average.

Bike thefts saw a major increase in 2020 with an additional 175 reported. This caused a 41% increase over 2019 and a 68% increase compared to the 5-year average. An overwhelming majority of bike thefts took place 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.



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.