



Cambridge Police Department BridgeStat

July 2021

Produced by the Crime Analysis Unit



Part I Total Crime

An analysis of serious crime statistics for the first seven months of 2021 indicates an enduring Covid-related period increase of 9% in the Part One index total for Cambridge when compared with 2020. Over the first 30 weeks of this year, there were 1,462 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 1,339 incidents, 123 fewer than this year. When measured against the five-year average, a 10% escalation in the crime index has been recorded.

Further analysis of the crime totals between January 1st & August 2nd of 2021 indicates that while violent crimes recorded a temperate 4% uptick when compared with last year, property crimes climbed upward 10% with 117 additional crimes reported when compared with the first seven months of 2020. The violent crime breakdown in the City through August 2nd, 2021 consisted of one homicide, 14 rapes, 40 robberies and 118 aggravated assaults.

The 33% increase in larcenies from motor vehicles and the 26% surge upward in larcenies of bicycles when compared with the first seven months of 2020 have been the key trend indicators fueling the crime rise so far in 2021. These two categories of larceny accounted for 41% of the total crime index so far in 2021.

When analyzing the serious crime totals of July 2021 versus the previous month of June, there has been a minor decline of 2% in the number of index incidents, with five fewer crimes reported.

	<u>4 Week Snapshot</u>			<u>Year to Date</u>			<u>Five Year</u>	
	6/8/21 - 7/5/21	7/6/21 - 8/2/21	Change	2020	2021	Change	Avg	Change
Total Violent Crime	26	26	0%	167	173	4%	167	4%
Total Property Crime	191	186	-3%	1172	1289	10%	1164	11%
Total Part I Crime	217	212	-2%	1339	1462	9%	1331	10%



Part I Property Crime

Analysis of property crime totals for the first seven months of 2021 points to a 10% incline when measured against the 2020 totals and an 11% uptick above the five-year average, with 117 additional incidents above the total through August 2nd of last year and 125 additional crimes above the 1164 forecasted for this time period.

Multiple property crime categories recorded significant increases when measured against the first 30 weeks of 2020, most notably a 33% jump in larceny from motor vehicles, fueled by a regional pattern of the thefts of catalytic converters during the first quarter, and a 26% hike in bike thefts, which has been a persistent problem throughout the Covid period.

	4 Week Snapshot			Year to Date			Five Year	
	6/8/21 - 7/5/21	7/6/21 - 8/2/21	Change	2020	2021	Change	Avg	Change
Burglary	25	21	-16%	117	123	5%	124	-1%
Commercial Break	15	11	-27%	39	56	44%	31	81%
Housebreak	10	10	0%	78	67	-14%	93	-28%
Larceny	153	160	5%	1007	1109	10%	984	13%
Larceny (Misc)	7	6	-14%	21	28	33%	21	33%
Larceny from Building	16	13	-19%	85	76	-11%	135	-44%
Larceny from MV	40	38	-5%	192	255	33%	161	58%
Larceny from Person	5	8	60%	47	52	11%	78	-33%
Larceny from Residence	28	21	-25%	215	224	4%	160	40%
Larceny of Bicycle	46	58	26%	277	350	26%	219	60%
Larceny of Plate	1	3	200%	5	15	200%	12	25%
Larceny of Services	0	0	IN-CALC	3	3	0%	9	-67%
Shoplifting	10	13	30%	162	106	-35%	189	-44%
Auto Theft	13	5	-62%	48	57	19%	55	4%
Total Property Crime	191	186	-3%	1172	1289	10%	1164	11%



Part I Violent Crime

For the first seven months of 2021, there were 173 violent crimes recorded in Cambridge, six incidents (or 4%) above both last year's total of 167 and the 167 incidents forecasted through August 2nd of this year.

There have been 40 robberies recorded in the first seven months of 2021. Eight of these incidents have been categorized as commercial and 32 classified as street incidents, registering a 7% decrease of three fewer crimes when compared with 2020. Fourteen rapes have been reported so far in 2021, three crimes above the number recorded for this same time frame last year. When compared with the totals through August 2nd of last year, six additional aggravated assaults (+5%) have been counted over the first seven months of 2021.

On Saturday 3/27, 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.

	<u>4 Week Snapshot</u>			<u>Year to Date</u>			<u>Five Year</u>	
	6/8/21 - 7/5/21	7/6/21 - 8/2/21	Change	2020	2021	Change	Avg	Change
Homicide	0	0	IN-CALC	1	1	0%	1	0%
Rape	1	2	100%	11	14	27%	13	8%
Robbery	11	7	-36%	43	40	-7%	45	-11%
Commercial Robbery	1	0	-100%	7	8	14%	13	-38%
Street Robbery	10	7	-30%	36	32	-11%	32	0%
Aggravated Assault	14	17	21%	112	118	5%	107	10%
Total Violent Crime	26	26	0%	167	173	4%	167	4%



MURDER

No Patterns

- On Saturday 3/27, 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.
- On July 22, 2018, 15-year-old Richelle Robinson of Cambridge died following an assault in which she was shoved to the ground on Cambridge Street. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner later ruled the cause of death to be blunt force trauma. On July 30, 2019, following an investigation, Isaias Plaza (4/7/00, homeless) was arraigned on charges of manslaughter and assault and battery causing serious bodily injury in connection with Robinson's death. Plaza plead guilty to manslaughter on March 26, 2021 and was sentenced to 2.5 years.

Percent Change*

Last 4 Weeks

In-Calc

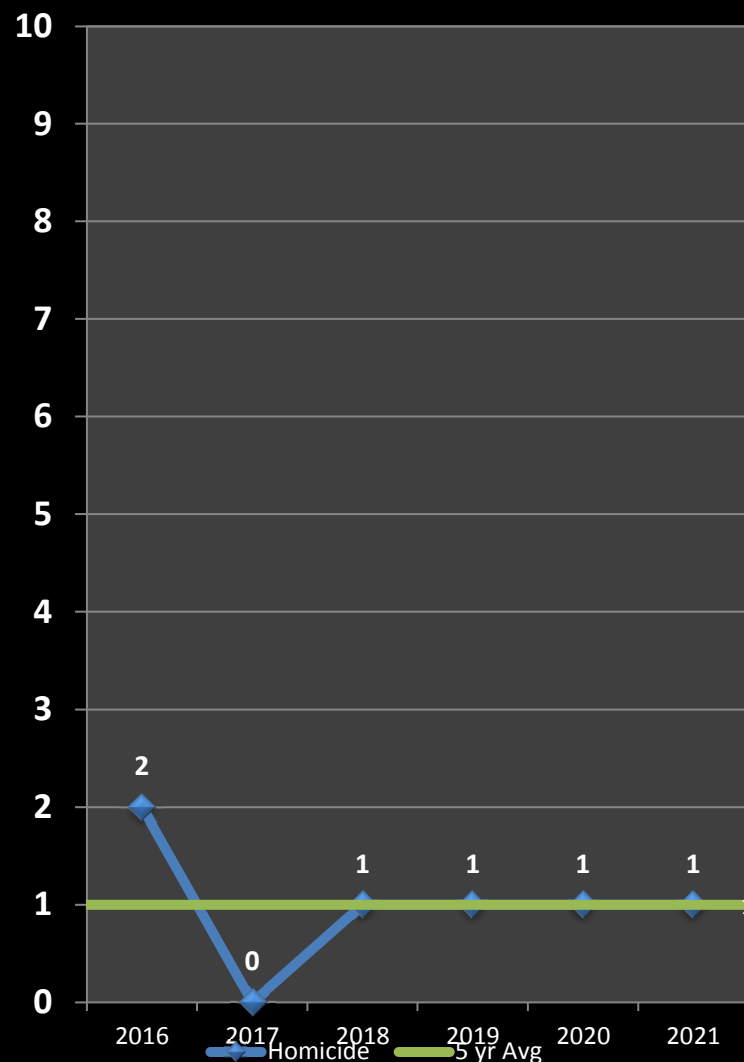
Previous Year

0%

5-Year Average

0%

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





RAPE

No Patterns

- After 12 rapes were reported during the first six months of 2021, that number increased by two sexual assaults to 14 incidents through August 2nd of this year. The sexual assaults so far in 2021 have been classified as six domestic situations, four involving acquaintances as the predator, three contact incidents, and a homeless/blitz scenario in Harvard Square that is under investigation.
- There were 27 rapes reported in 2020, one less than in 2019. The five-year average for 2020 projected to 28 rapes being recorded in Cambridge, which was one above the final total.
- The 27 rapes in Cambridge in 2020 were categorized in the following manner: nine incidents were chronicled as domestic situations, nine were classified as acquaintance assaults, five were contact incidents, and four were blitz scenarios, one of which was an incident in the Alewife section of the City that remains 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

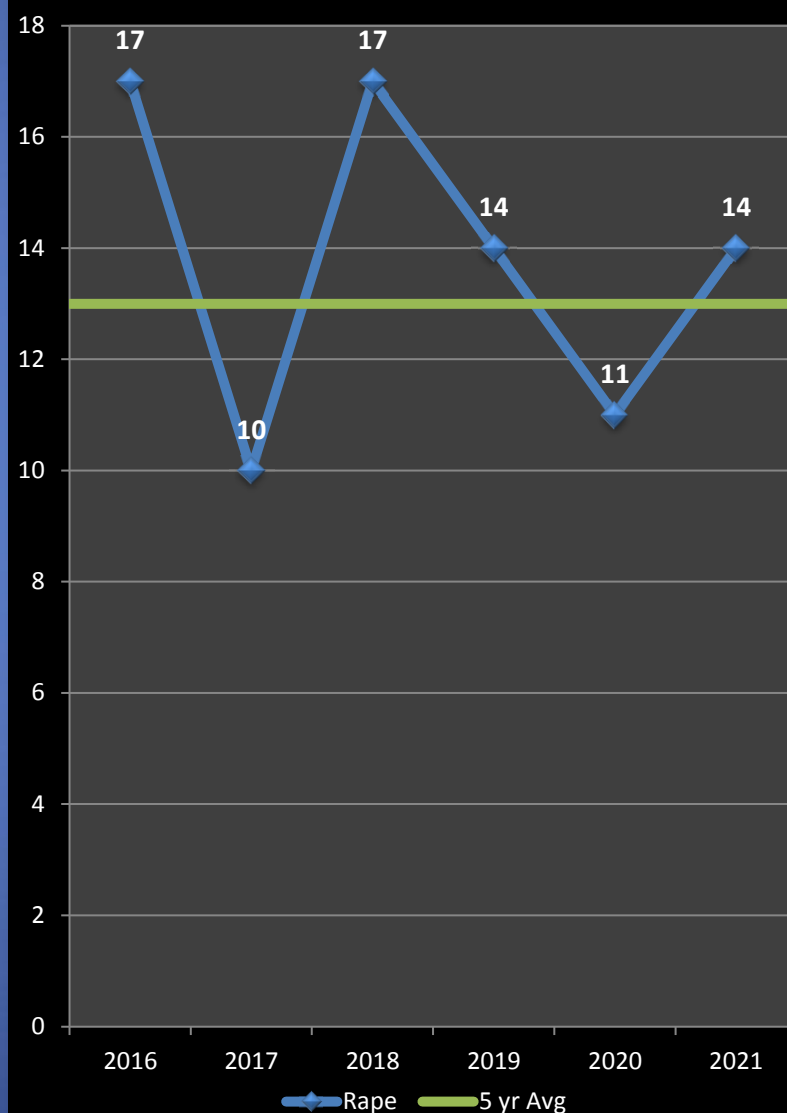
5-Year Average

In -Calc

+27%

+8%

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





AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

No Patterns

- The aggravated assault total for the first seven months of 2021 was six incidents (+5%) above the total for the same time period in 2020. The total of 118 aggravated assaults reported over the first 30 weeks of the year was 11 crimes (+10%) above the 107 incidents forecasted for by five-year average.
- The 118 aggravated assaults reported through August of 2021 were composed of the following classifications: 23 unprovoked scenarios; 23 altercations between acquaintances; 20 domestic altercations; 9 homeless assaults; 8 juvenile incidents; 7 psychotic episodes; 7 traffic & parking related assaults; 5 affrays; 5 shop owner/patron; 4 landlord/neighbor; 3 drug deals, 2 assaults against police officers; and one each for workplace incidents, and bar/alcohol related.
- Through August 2nd of this year, there have been ten reports of shots fired citywide, six of which resulted in gunshot wounds (including the fatal shooting on 3/27/21 in North Cambridge). See maps on slides 9-10 for more info on each of the shootings.
- Through August 2nd of last year (2020), three shots fired incidents were reported. By the end of 2020, there had been seven reports of shots fired, none of which resulted in any injuries.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

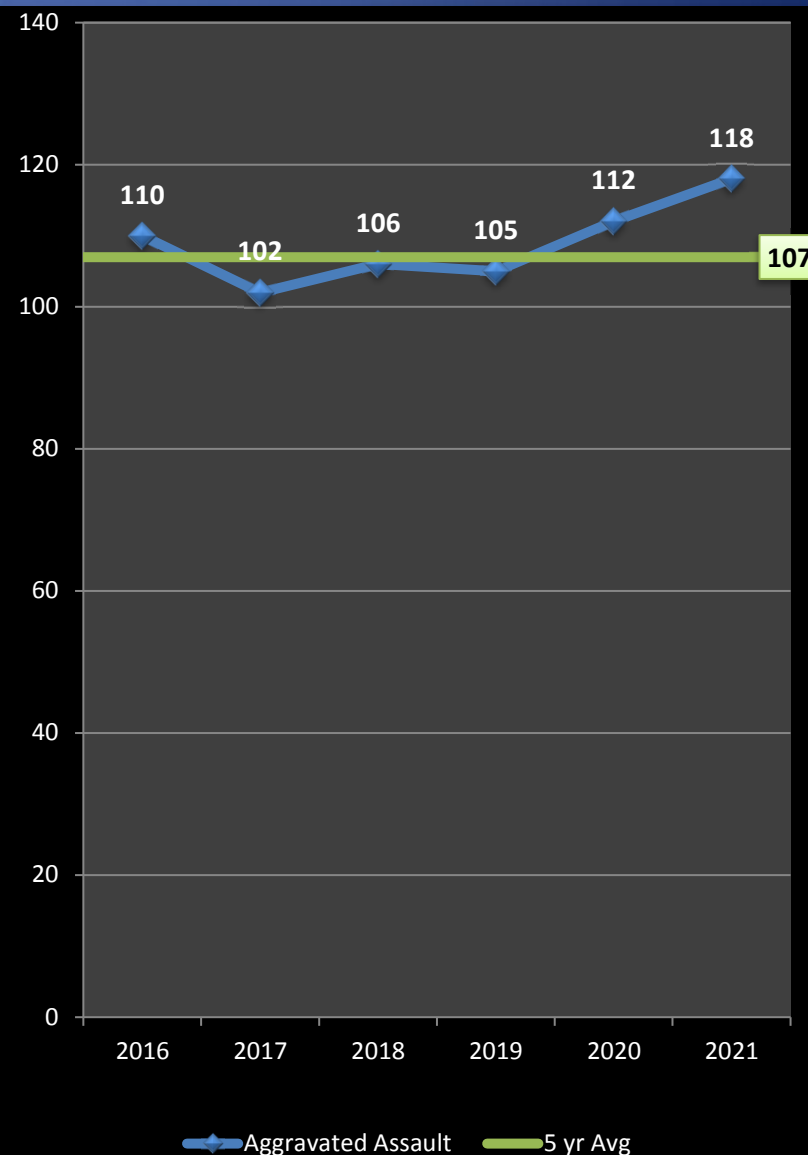
+21%

Previous Year

+5%

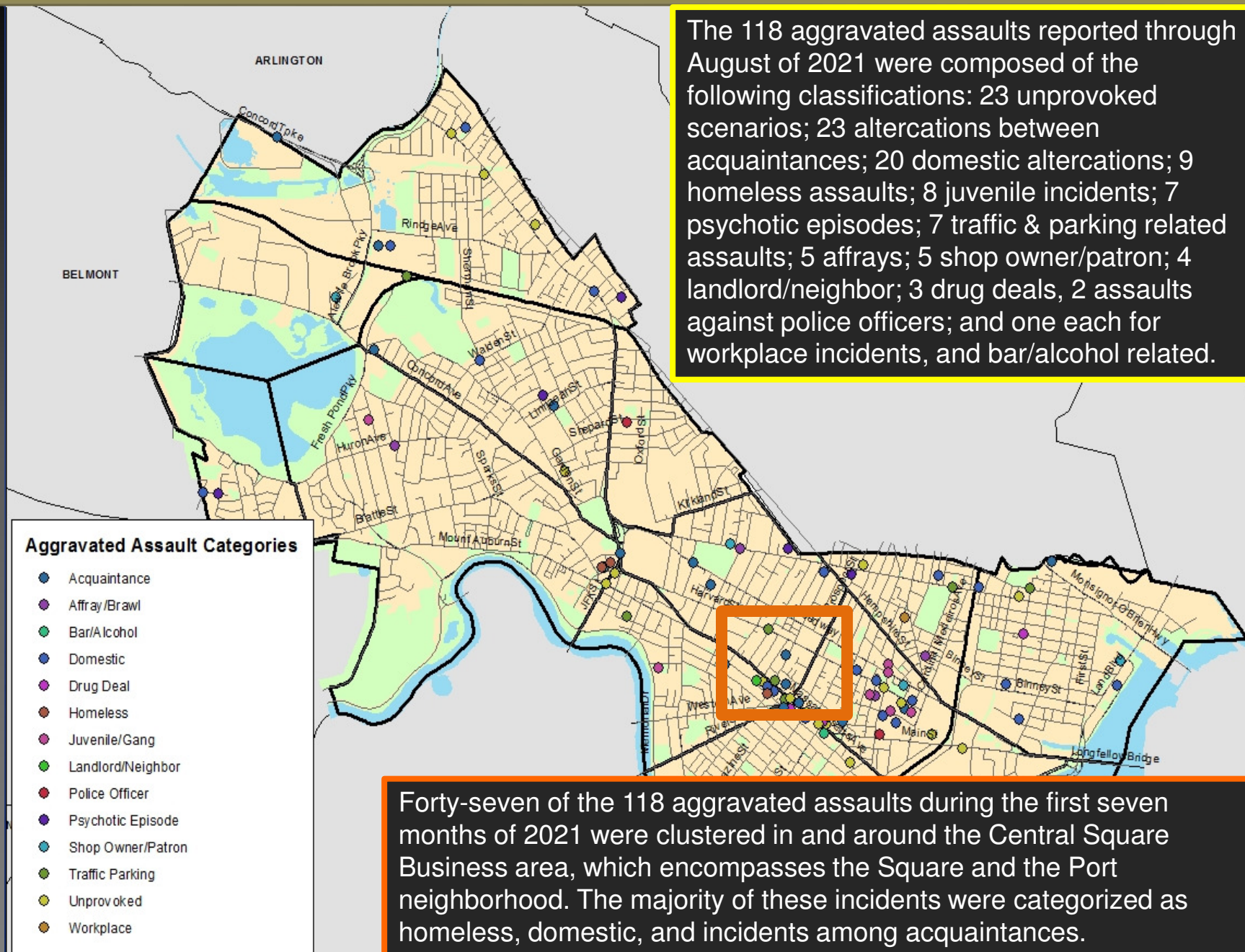
5-Year Average

+10%





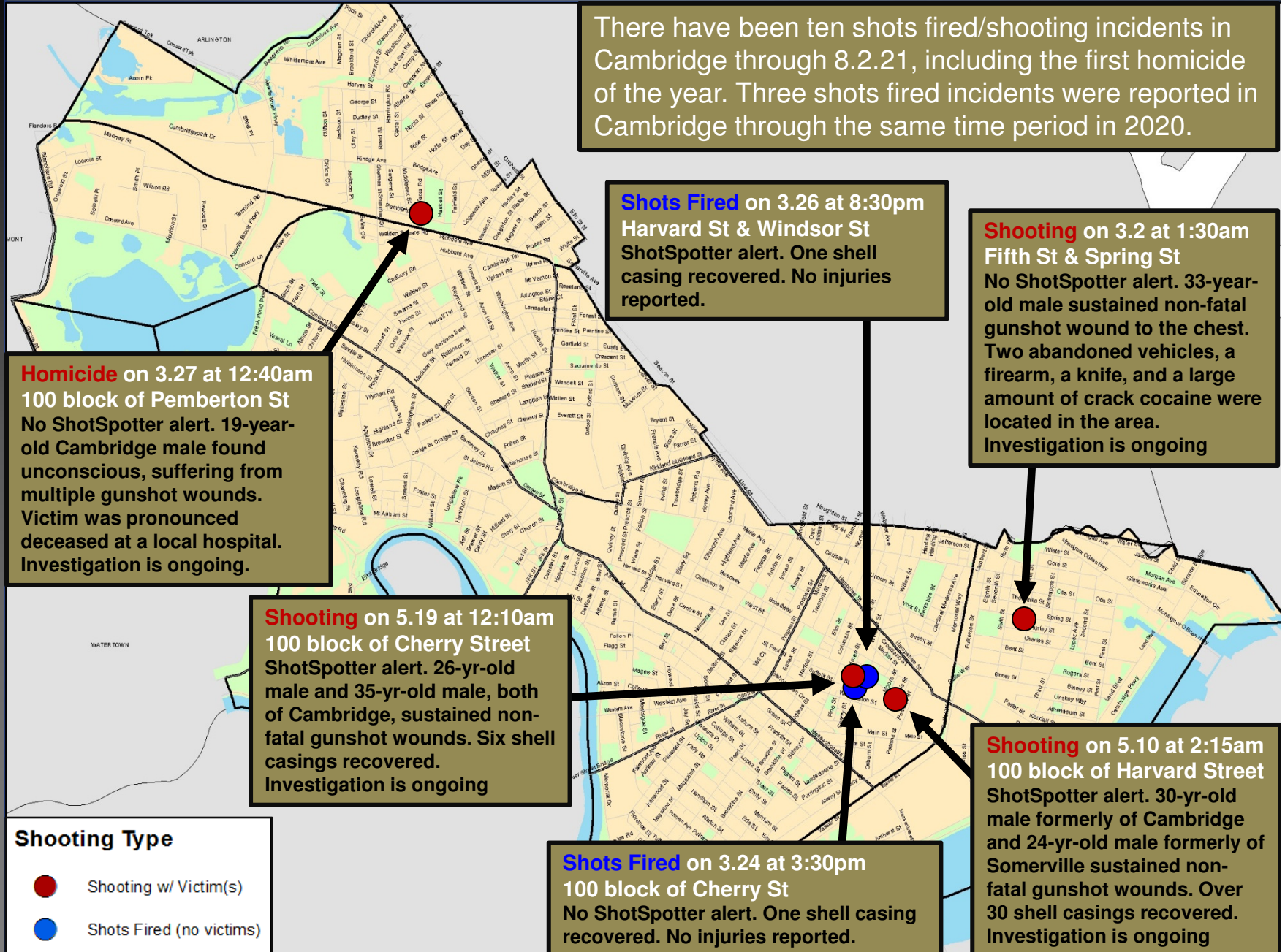
Geographic Breakdown of Aggravated Assaults: 1.1.21 – 8.2.21





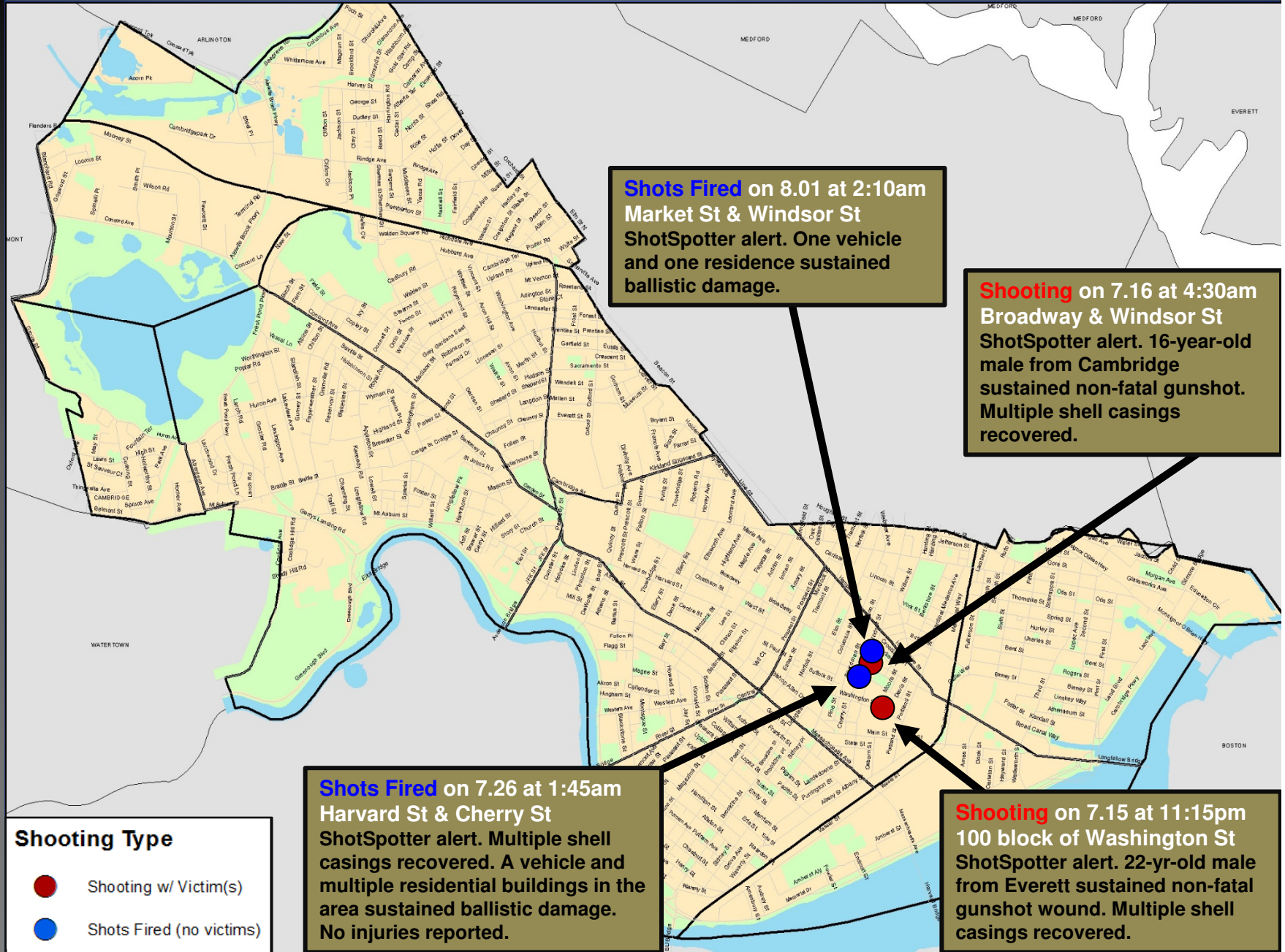
Shootings & Shots Fired in Cambridge: 1.1.21 – 6.30.21

There have been ten shots fired/shooting incidents in Cambridge through 8.2.21, including the first homicide of the year. Three shots fired incidents were reported in Cambridge through the same time period in 2020.





Shootings & Shots Fired in Cambridge: 7.1.21 – 8.2.21





Robbery

No Patterns

- The five-year average for overall robbery in Cambridge for the first seven months of the year is 45 incidents. The total through August 2nd of 2021 was 40 crimes, five incidents (11%) below the number forecasted for that time period. Over the first seven months of 2021, the 40 robberies that were recorded also translated to a 7% decrease (three incidents) below the 43 robberies counted for the first 30 weeks of 2020.
- There were eight commercial robberies recorded in Cambridge during the first seven months of this year, one more than was counted during the same time period of 2020. Two were armed robberies of convenience stores, one in Riverside in January, and the other a shoplifting that escalated into an armed confrontation on March 1st in Harvard Square. Warrants have been served for the suspect in the Riverside incident. Three other commercial robberies were shopliftings that became confrontational at a jewelry store in East Cambridge in late February, a grocery store in Riverside in early March and a drug store in Harvard Square at the end of April. The two commercial robberies that took place in May included a liquor store shoplifting-turned-robbery when the clerk was pushed (the suspect in this was stopped and summonsed for the crime) and a drug store robbery where two males jumped the pharmacy counter on 5/26. No commercial robberies were reported during June of 2021 and the only incident in July was the escalation of a shoplifting at the CambridgeSide Shopping Center.
- Over the first seven months of 2021, there were 32 street robberies, four fewer (-11%) than in the same time period last year.
- There were eight street robberies recorded during July of 2021 that included: three predatory robberies and two robberies involving persons that are homeless; a pack robbery in or near the periphery of Central Square; an ATM mugging in Porter Square; and an incident on Land Boulevard in East Cambridge.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

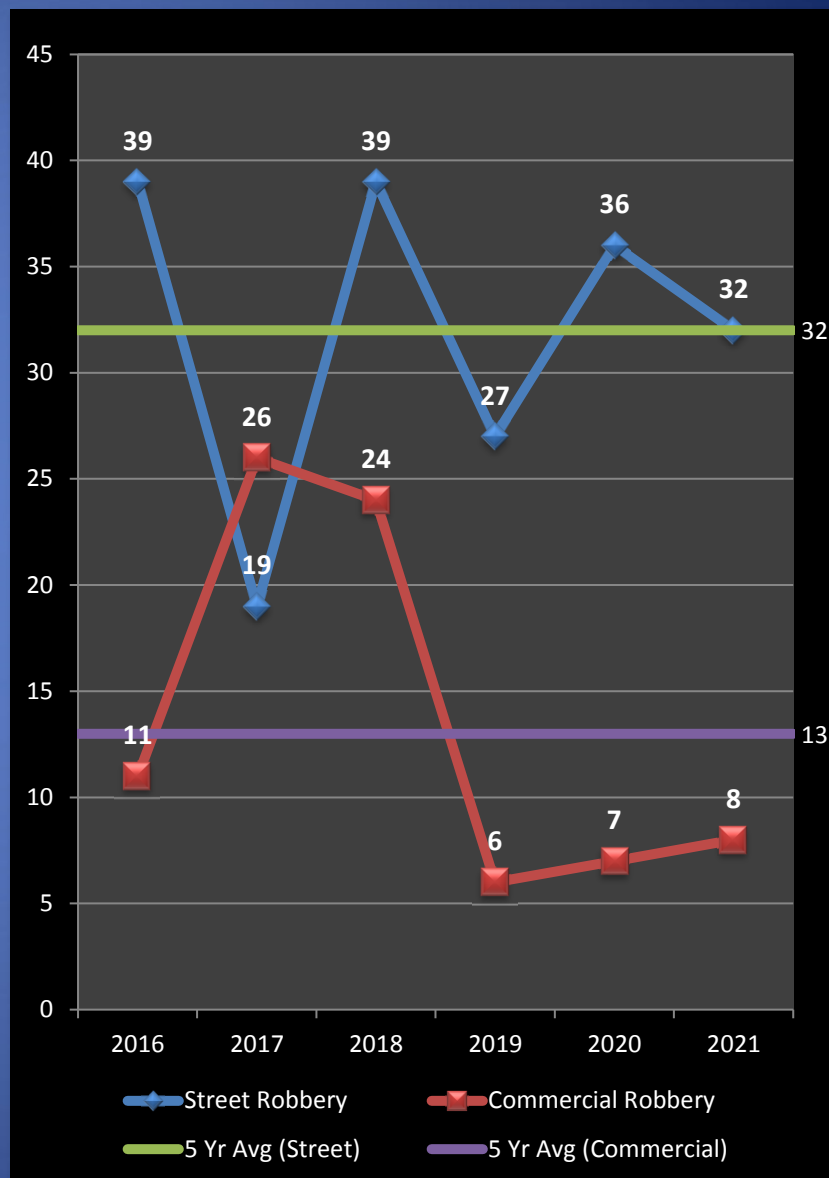
-36%

Previous Year

-7%

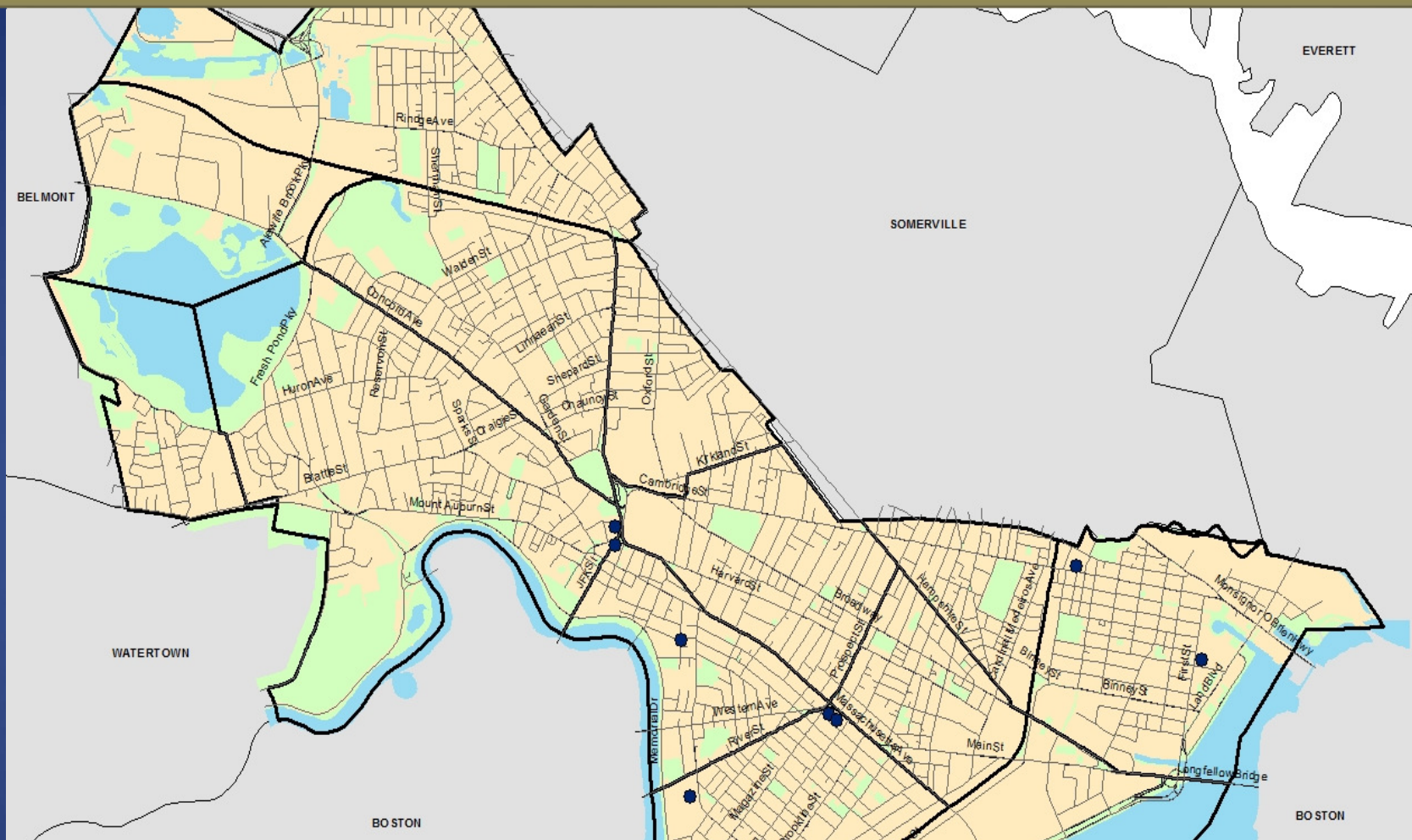
5-Year Average

-11%





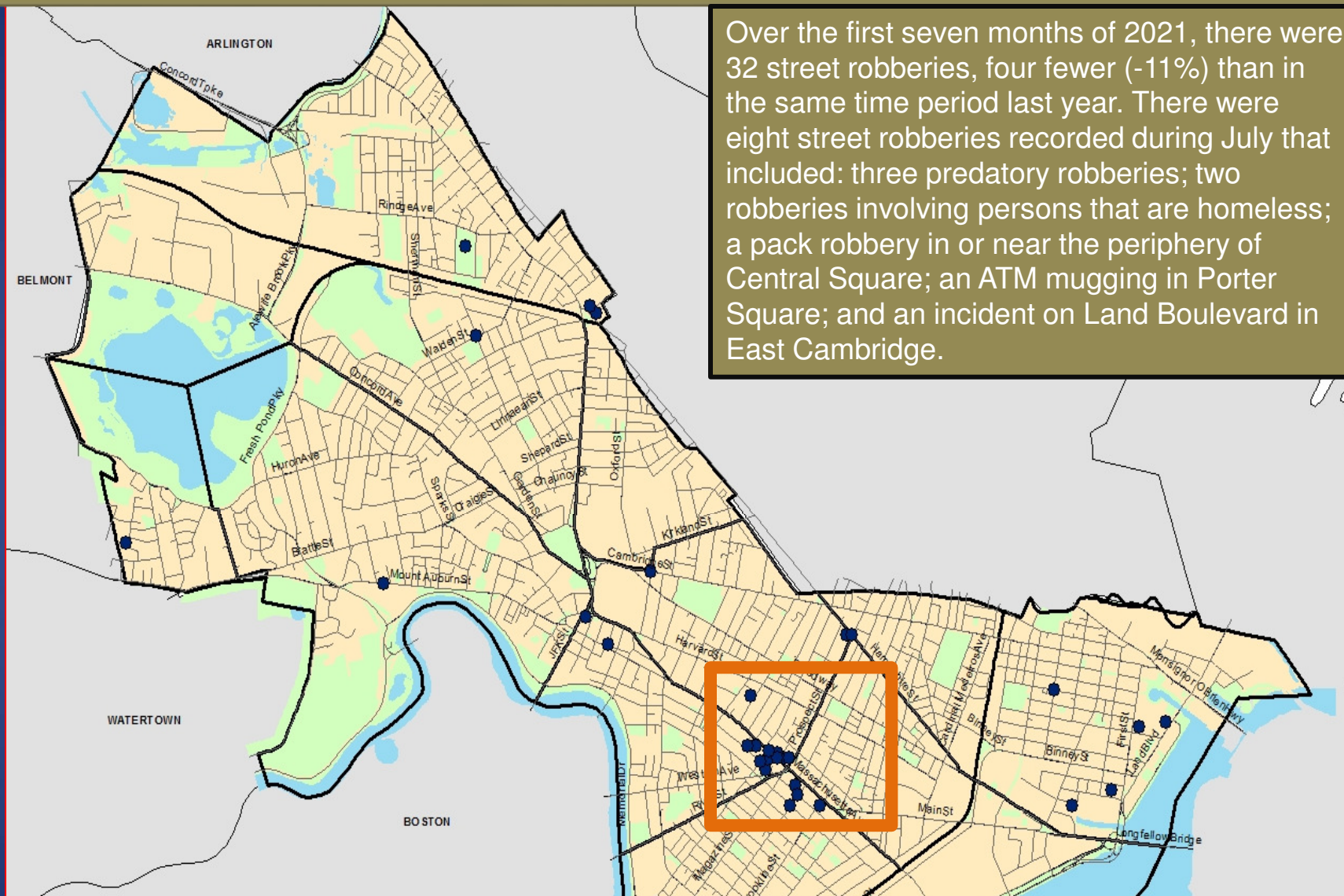
Geographic Breakdown of Commercial Robbery: 1.1.21 – 8.2.21



There were eight commercial robberies recorded in Cambridge during the first seven months of this year, one more than was counted during the same time period of 2020. Two were armed robberies of convenience stores, one in Riverside in January, and the other a shoplifting that escalated into an armed confrontation on March 1st in Harvard Square. Three other commercial robberies were shopliftings that became confrontational at a jewelry store in East Cambridge in late February, a grocery store in Riverside in early March, and a drug store in Harvard Square at the end of April. The two robberies that took place in May included a liquor store shoplifting-turned-robbery and a drug store robbery. No commercial robberies were reported during June, and the only incident in July was the escalation of a shoplifting at the CambridgeSide Shopping Center.



Geographic Breakdown of Street Robbery: 1.1.21 – 8.2.21



Over the first seven months of 2021, there were 32 street robberies, four fewer (-11%) than in the same time period last year. There were eight street robberies recorded during July that included: three predatory robberies; two robberies involving persons that are homeless; a pack robbery in or near the periphery of Central Square; an ATM mugging in Porter Square; and an incident on Land Boulevard in East Cambridge.

Fourteen of the street robberies in 2021 have been in or on adjacent side streets near Central Sq. These incidents include: Six robberies in the 500-800 block of Mass – one in late January, three in February, one in May and one in June; three robberies in the Pearl/Green/Franklin St area – one in January and two in June; and five additional robberies in July.



Burglary

No Patterns

- The property index crime of burglary, the combination of residential and commercial breaks, has recorded a slight increase of 5% in 2021 above the first seven months of last year. When measured versus the five-year average of 124 burglaries, the total of 123 incidents in 2021 also indicates a minor decline of one incident (-1%).
- Since the start of the COVID-19 period, the crime of commercial burglary has been on the rise. Commercial breaks in 2021 have increased by 44% when compared with the first seven months of 2020 and have catapulted upward 81% over the forecasted number for the first 30 weeks of the year. A prolific, habitual offender was arrested and linked to a number of commercial breaks throughout the lower half of the City in July.
- A pair of professional thieves were active during June, accounting for the 333% increase over May. One party was arrested on warrants and summonsed for numerous other breaks. The other was arrested during the commission of a break in early June and has since been tied to additional commercial and residential breaks.
- A breakdown of commercial breaks through August 2nd of 2021 by business area: Bay Square – 10 (6 of which were in June); Central Square – 10; Harvard Square – 8; Alewife – 6; 1500 to 1900 Mass Ave – 5; Kendall/MIT – 5; Galleria/East – 5; Inman Square – 4; and Cambridgeport/Riverside – 3.
- Currently, there are no housebreak patterns in Cambridge. For the first seven months of the 2021, a measurable decrease of 14% has been registered, with 11 fewer crimes reported. Fifty-one the 67 housebreaks counted in 2021 have been in the lower-half of the City.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

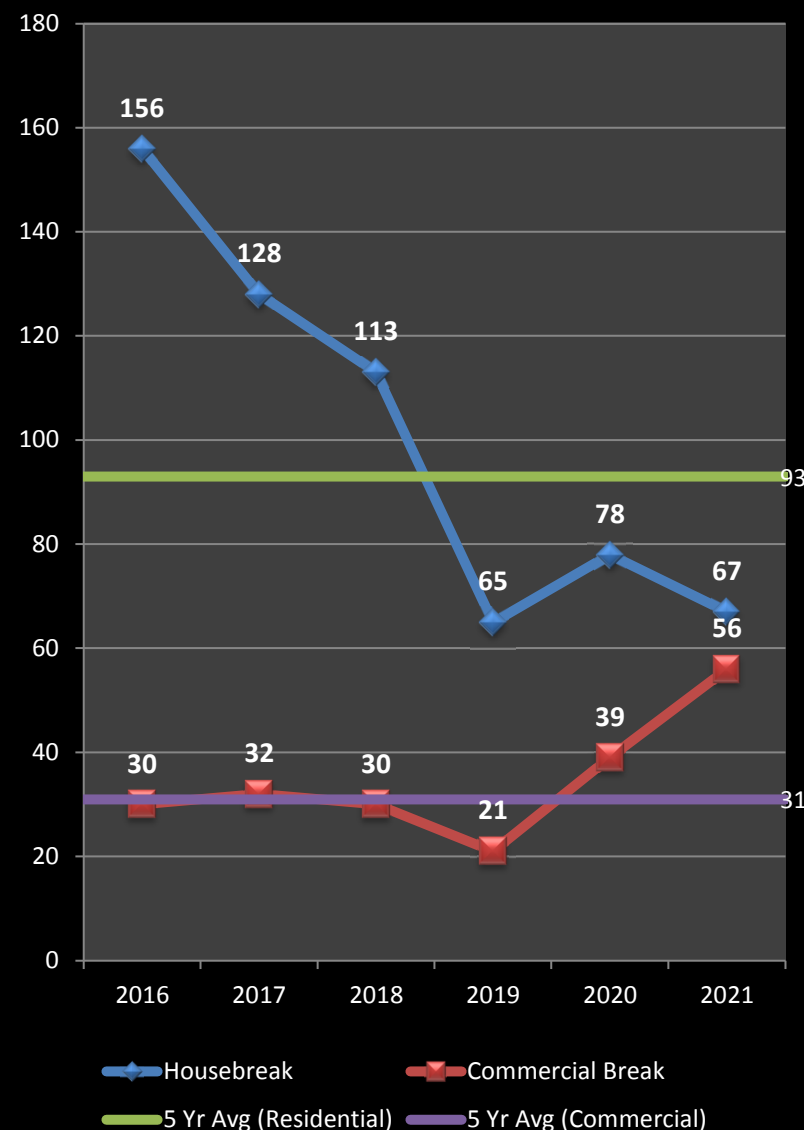
-16%

Previous Year

+5%

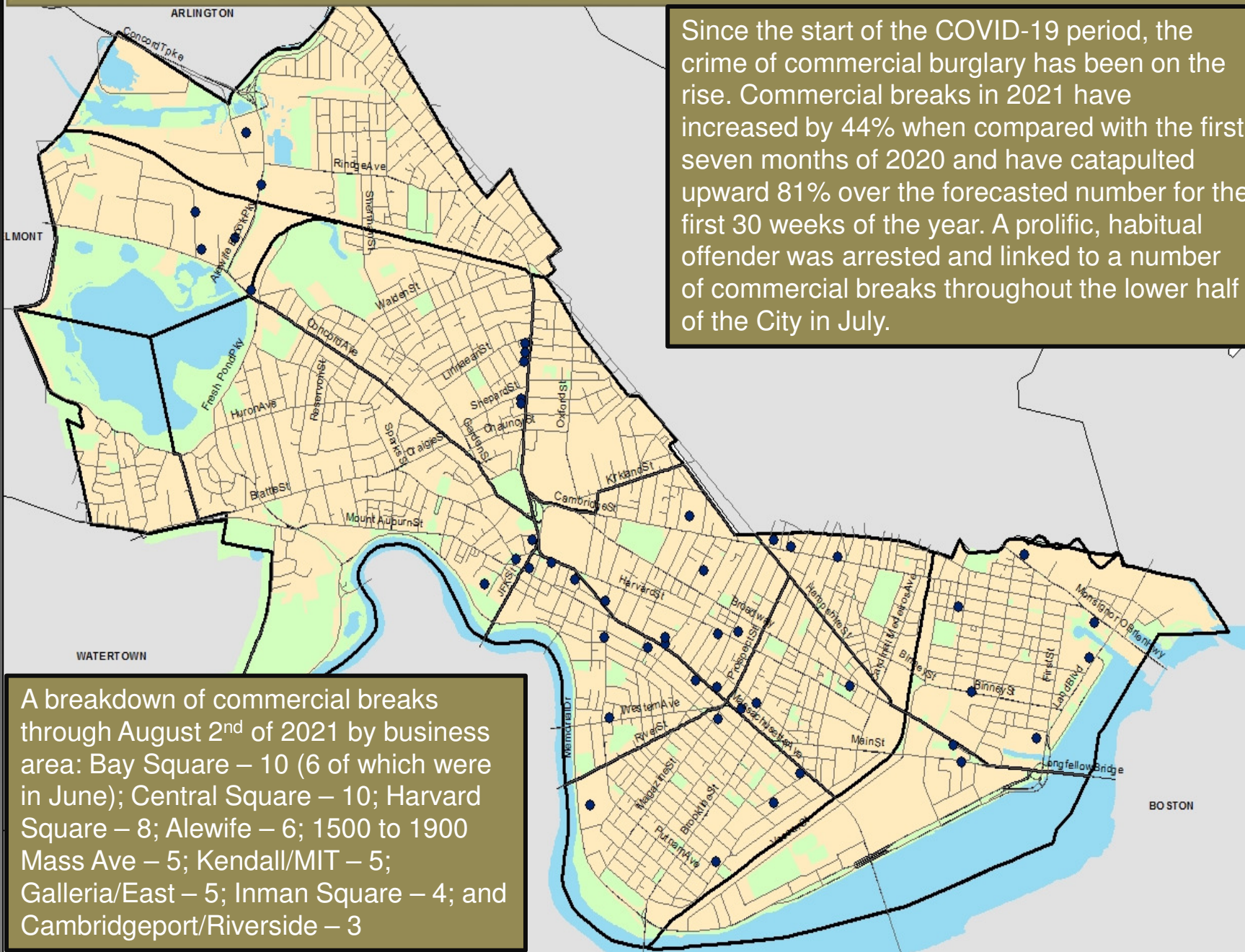
5-Year Average

+1%





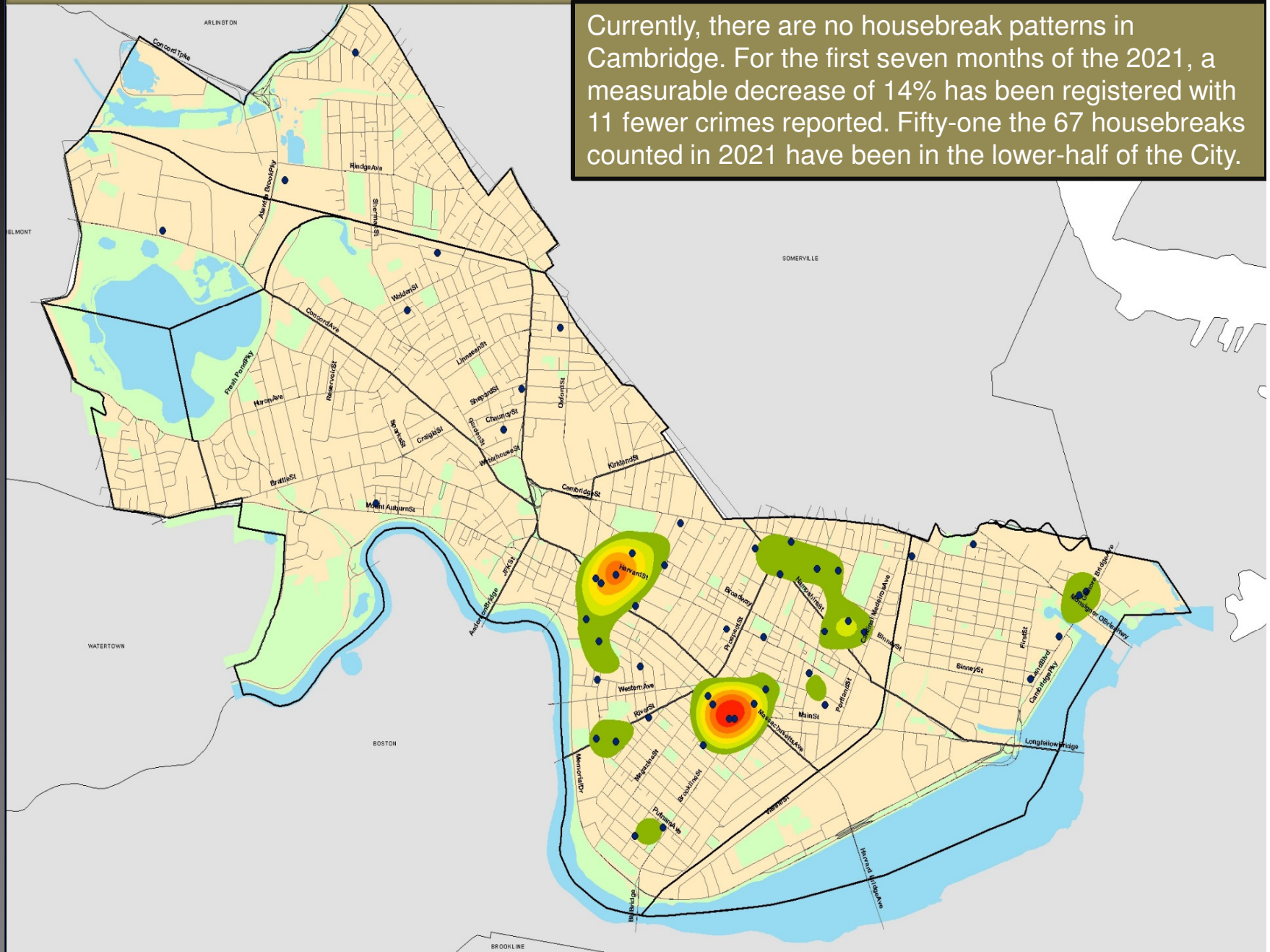
Geographic Breakdown of Commercial Breaks: 1.1.21 – 8.2.21





Geographic Breakdown of Housebreaks: 1.1.21 – 8.2.21

Currently, there are no housebreak patterns in Cambridge. For the first seven months of the 2021, a measurable decrease of 14% has been registered with 11 fewer crimes reported. Fifty-one the 67 housebreaks counted in 2021 have been in the lower-half of the City.





LARCENY

No Patterns

- **Overall larceny through 8/2/21 registered at 1,109 incidents, 10% above the same time frame in 2020.** The total of 1,109 larcenies reported year-to-date in 2021 is also 13% above the 5-year average of 984 incidents through 8/2.
- **The larceny from motor vehicles total for the first seven months of 2021 is 255 incidents, which is 33% above the total for the same time period in 2020.** The 255 thefts reported also indicates an increase of 94 incidents (+58%) above the number forecasted through the first 30 weeks of 2021. Much of this upsurge can be attributed to the large number of catalytic converter thefts that occurred in January and February.
- **Through August 2, 2021, there have been 52 larcenies from the person reported in Cambridge, up by 5 incidents (11%) when compared to the same time period in 2020.** Although similar to 2020, this is down 33% from the 5-year average of 78, likely due to the pandemic. Central Square has seen the most activity this year with 31 incidents.
- **There have been 76 larcenies from buildings reported through August 2, 2021.** This is 9 incidents (11%) below the same time frame in 2020 and 59 incidents (44%) below the 5-year average. With gyms and public buildings closed or at limited capacity for a good portion of the beginning of the year, it is no surprise that this category has decreased.
- **Larcenies from residences are up 4% (9 incidents) through August 2, 2021, when compared with the same time in 2020.** Package thefts have made up the majority of this crime type in recent years and have registered even higher than average in 2020 and 2021, likely due to the high volume of deliveries during the pandemic. Package thefts have accounted for 149 (or 67%) of the 224 larcenies from residences in 2021.
- **Larceny of bicycles continues to be one of the major property crimes seen in 2021, with 73 more bike thefts reported in 2021 than during the same time frame in 2020 (+26%).** Bike thefts are also up 60% (131 thefts) over the five-year average. North Cambridge has seen the most bike thefts year-to-date with 67 incidents (19% of the citywide total of 350), followed by Cambridgeport with 64.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

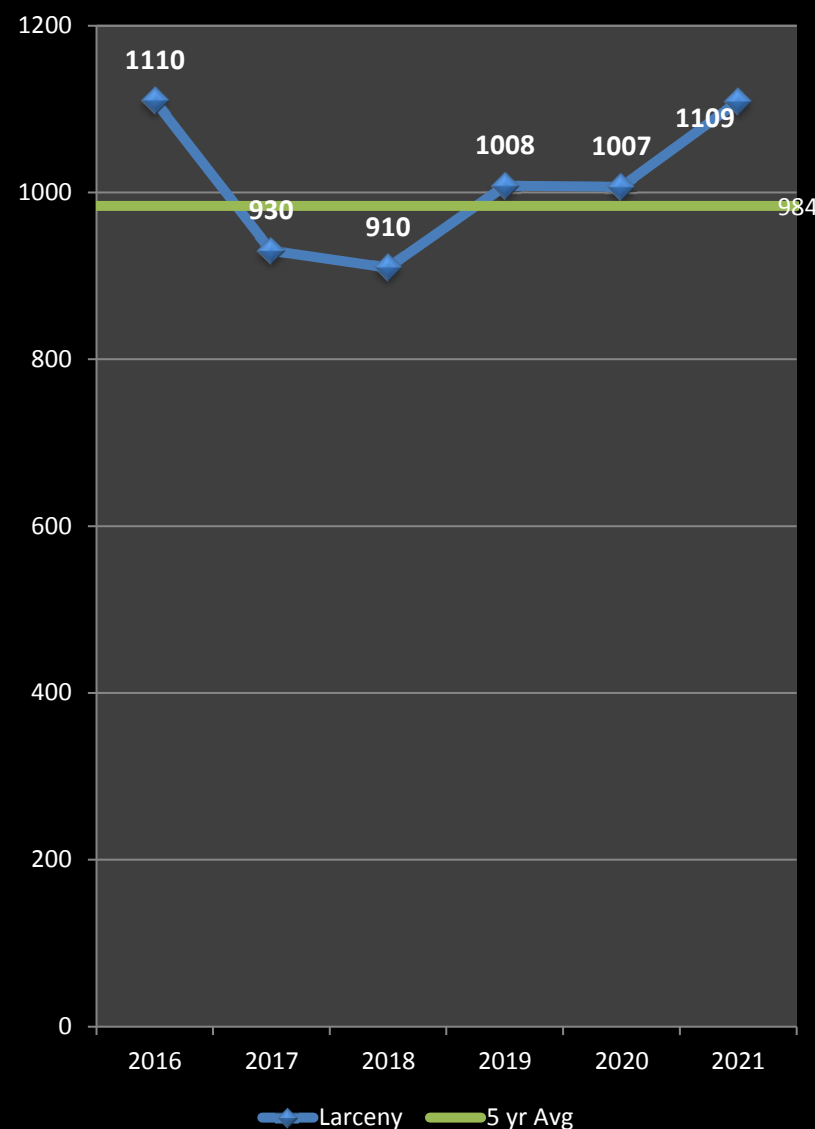
+5%

Previous Year

+10%

5-Year Average

+13%





LARCENY From MV

No Patterns

- The 255 thefts from cars reported over the first seven months of 2021 indicates an increase of 94 incidents (58%) above the number forecasted through August 2nd of 2021. When measured against the total for the first seven months of last year, a 33% increase has been recorded with 63 additional incidents counted. There was a minor decrease of two incidents in July when measured against the previous month's total.
- The neighborhoods with the highest larceny from motor vehicle totals so far in 2021 are: Cambridgeport (47); Mid-Cambridge (36); North Cambridge (32); Riverside (30); and Inman/Harrington (21). The neighborhoods with the lowest totals through the first seven months of this year are the MIT and Strawberry Hill neighborhoods, with 2 each.
- Catalytic converter thefts had been a regional issue with Cambridge not experiencing any until a series of thefts were reported by residents primarily in the Cambridgeport neighborhood between January 17-18. Another surge of thefts occurred in the Inman-Harrington and East Cambridge neighborhoods over the first two weeks of February. So far, there have been 47 thefts recorded across lower Cambridge and just one in upper Cambridge. The majority of catalytic converter thefts in Cambridge have involved 2004-2009 Toyota Priuses. Activity has slowed with two incidents reported in March, two in April, one in May, and zero in June and July.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

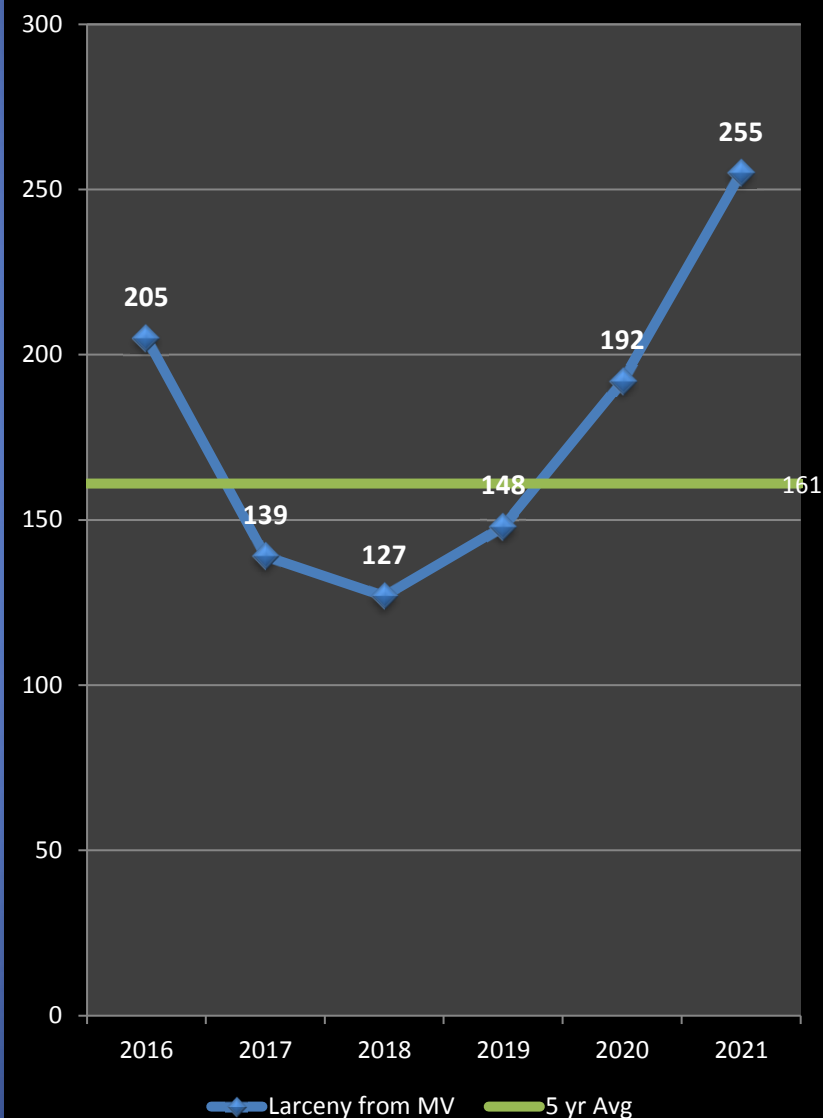
-5%

Previous Year

+33%

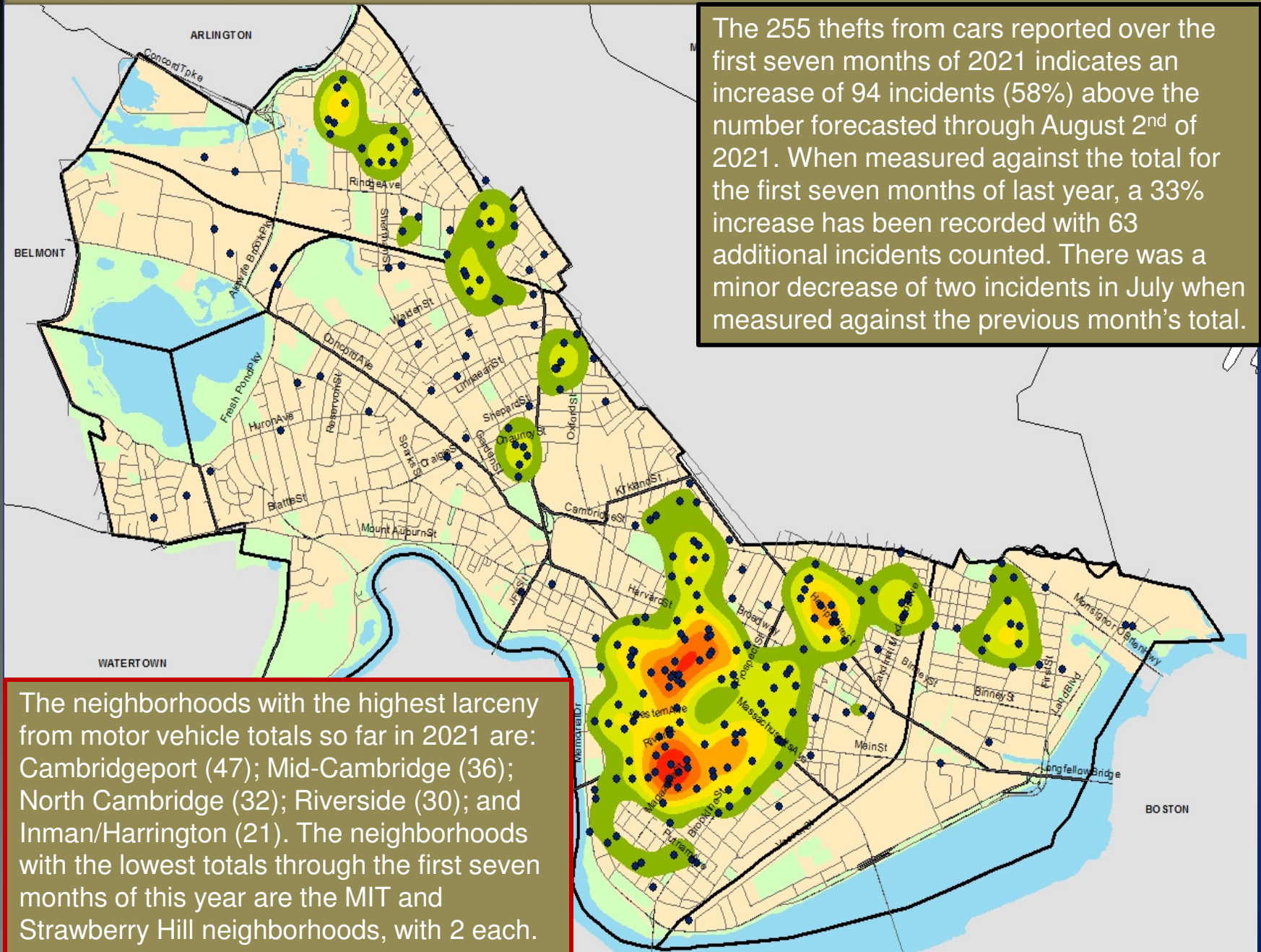
5-Year Average

+58%





Geographic Breakdown of Larceny from Motor Vehicles: 1.1.21 – 8.2.21





LARCENY *from Person*

No Patterns

- Through August 2, 2021, there have been 52 larcenies from the person reported in Cambridge, up by five incidents (11%) when compared to the same time period in 2020. When compared to the 5-year average, there has been a decrease of 26 incidents (-33%). The sizeable decrease below the 5-year average is mostly due to the lack of patronage at restaurants and stores in the city because of the pandemic.
- Central Square has seen by far the most activity this year with 31 incidents, followed by Porter Square with nine. There have only been six larcenies from the person reported in Harvard Square thus far in 2021. This is highly unusual, but most Harvard Square larcenies from the person involve diners or students, neither of whom have been out in full force in the past year. The numbers citywide are 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. The higher numbers in Central Square are mainly due to grab-and-run situations or incidents that involve individuals who are homeless whose property may have been stolen while they were asleep or otherwise distracted.
- The most common situations in which property has been stolen thus far in 2021 are thefts of nearby but unattended property (15) and thefts while shopping (12).
- There have been five suspects developed for this crime type throughout the first seven months of the year. Often when it comes to larcenies involving victims or perpetrators who are unhoused, the suspect is sometimes known but parties are not always cooperative or accessible for follow-up.

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

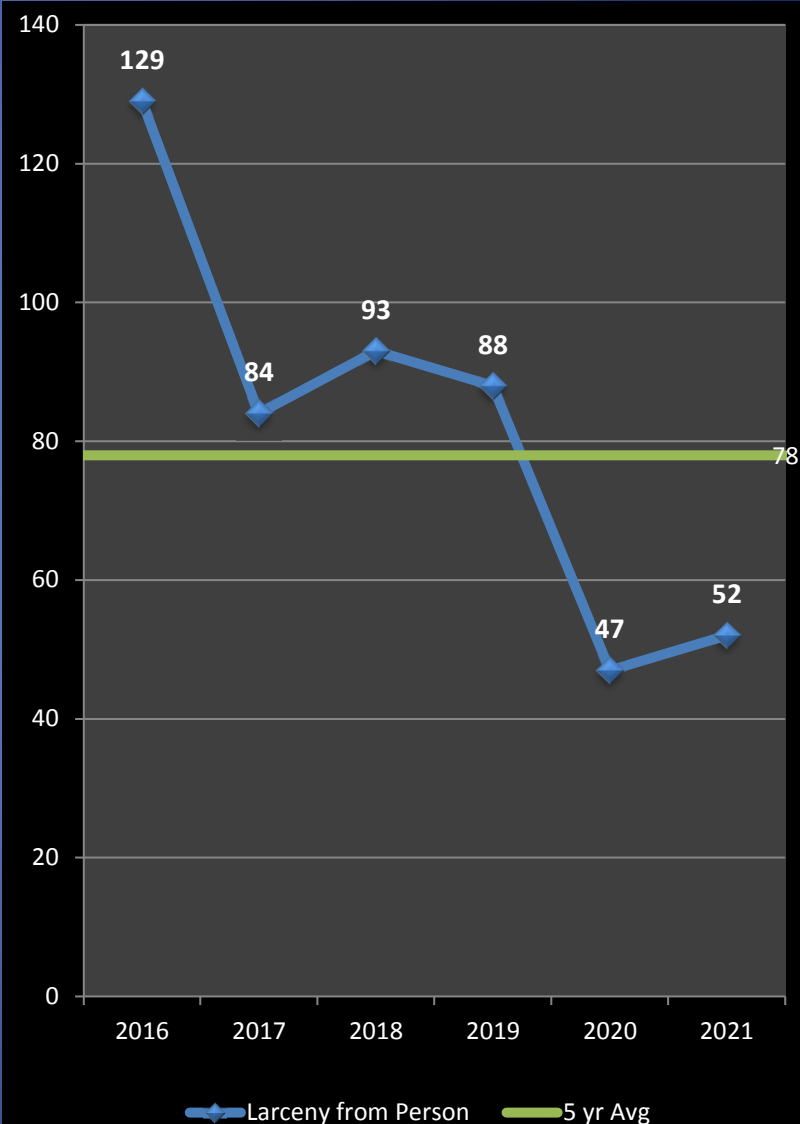
+60%

Previous Year

+11%

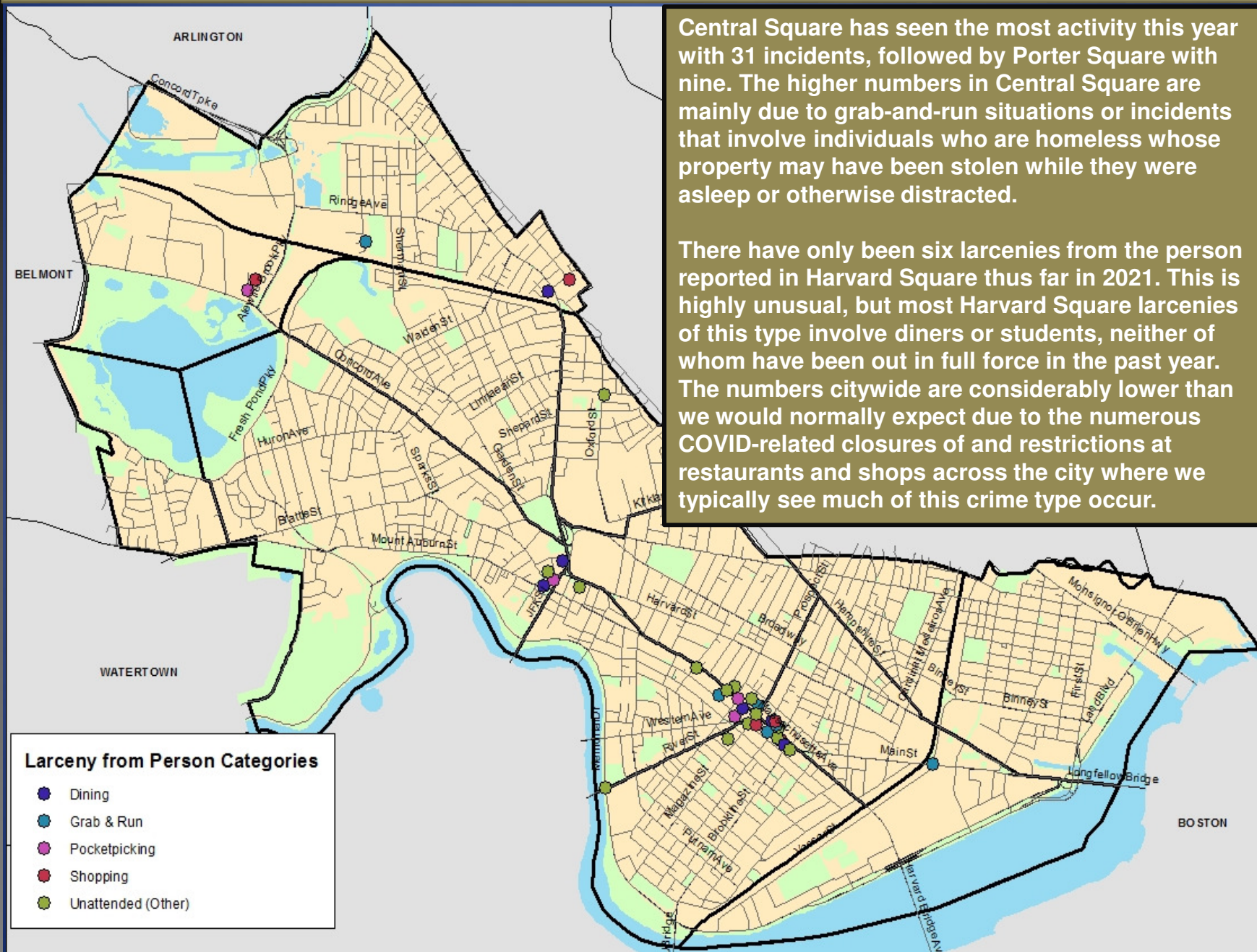
5-Year Average

-33%





Geographic Breakdown of Larceny from Person: 1.1.21 – 8.2.21





LARCENY of Bicycle

No Patterns

- Bicycle thefts continue to be one of the major property crimes seen in 2021, incurring a substantial 26% increase in 2021 when compared with the same time period in 2020, and up 60% (+131 thefts) above the 5-year average.
- Almost two-thirds of the bike thefts this year (or 64%) have taken place in the lower half of the city, with 223 of the 350 reported south/east of Harvard Square. However, there are hot spots in North Cambridge and the Highlands that account for a large number of the thefts in the northern part of the City.
- Although the majority of bicycles tend to be stolen from streets, sidewalks, and yards, similar to last year we continue to see an increase in thefts from personal garages, parking garages, and building storage areas.
- Of the 350 bike thefts reported thus far in 2021, 278 (79%) were reportedly locked at the time of the theft.
- A few individuals who are homeless have been found in possession of bikes that were reported stolen this year.

Top Neighborhoods for Bike Theft in 2021

Neighborhood	YTD Total	% Citywide
North Cambridge	67	19%
Cambridgeport	64	18%
Riverside	46	13%
East Cambridge	41	12%
Mid Cambridge	34	10%
The Port / Peabody	21 each	6%

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

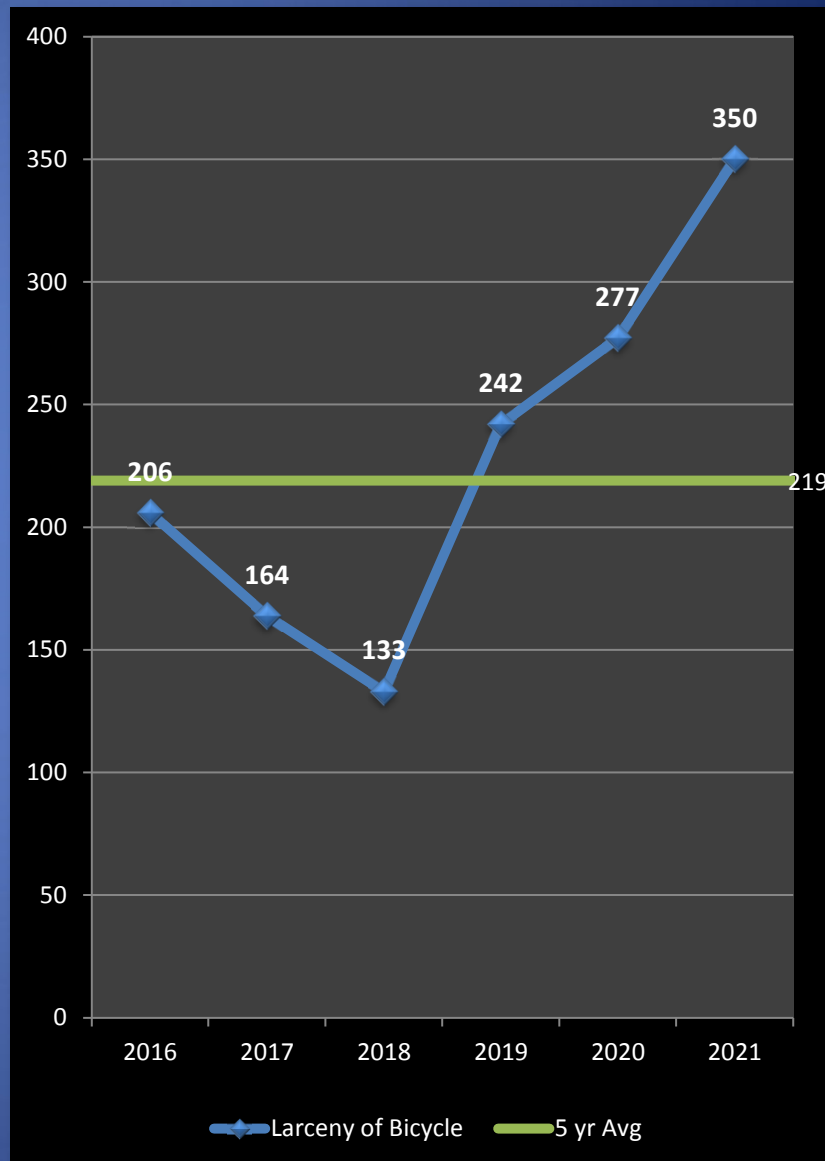
+26%

Previous Year

+26%

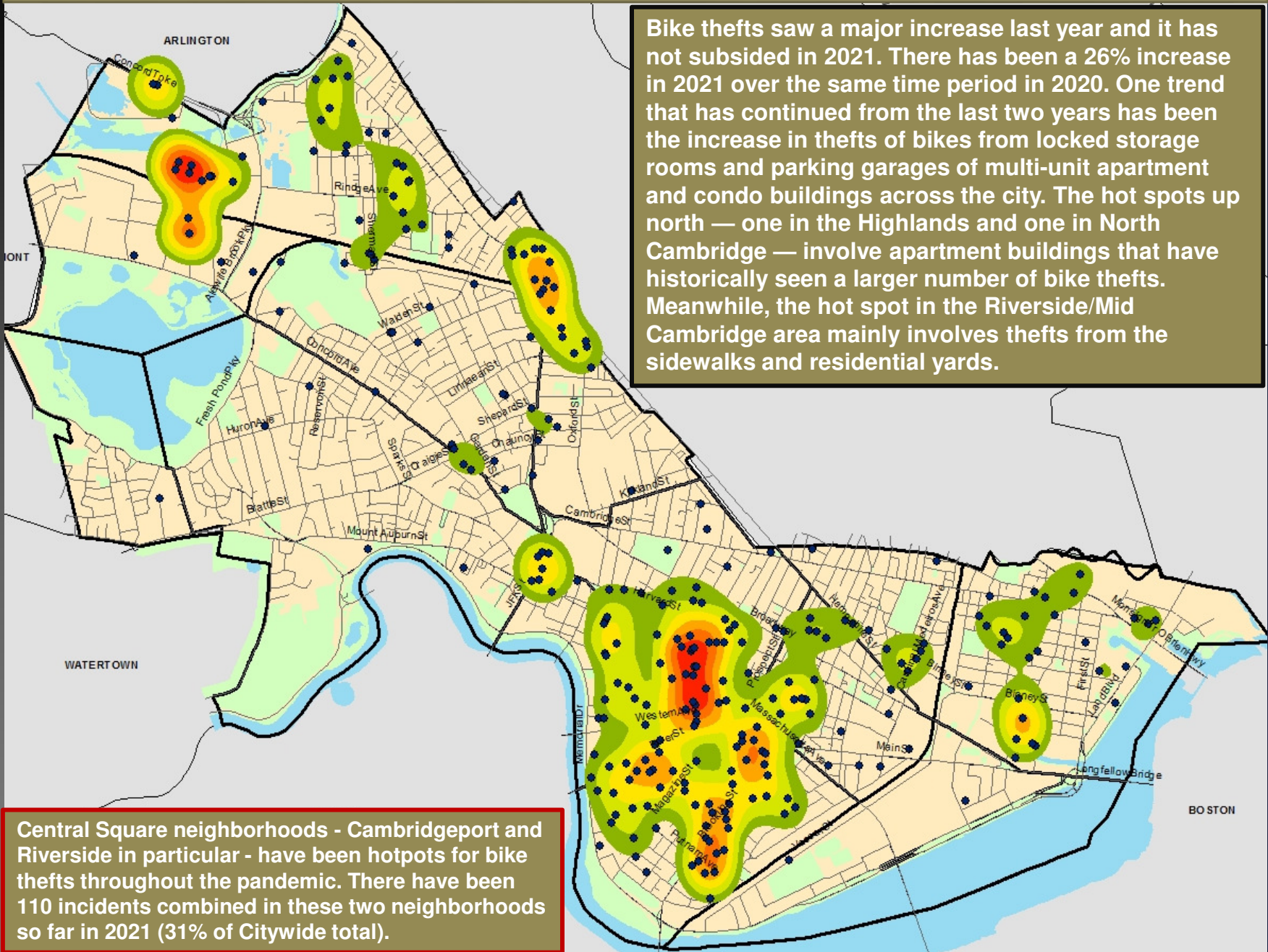
5-Year Average

+60%



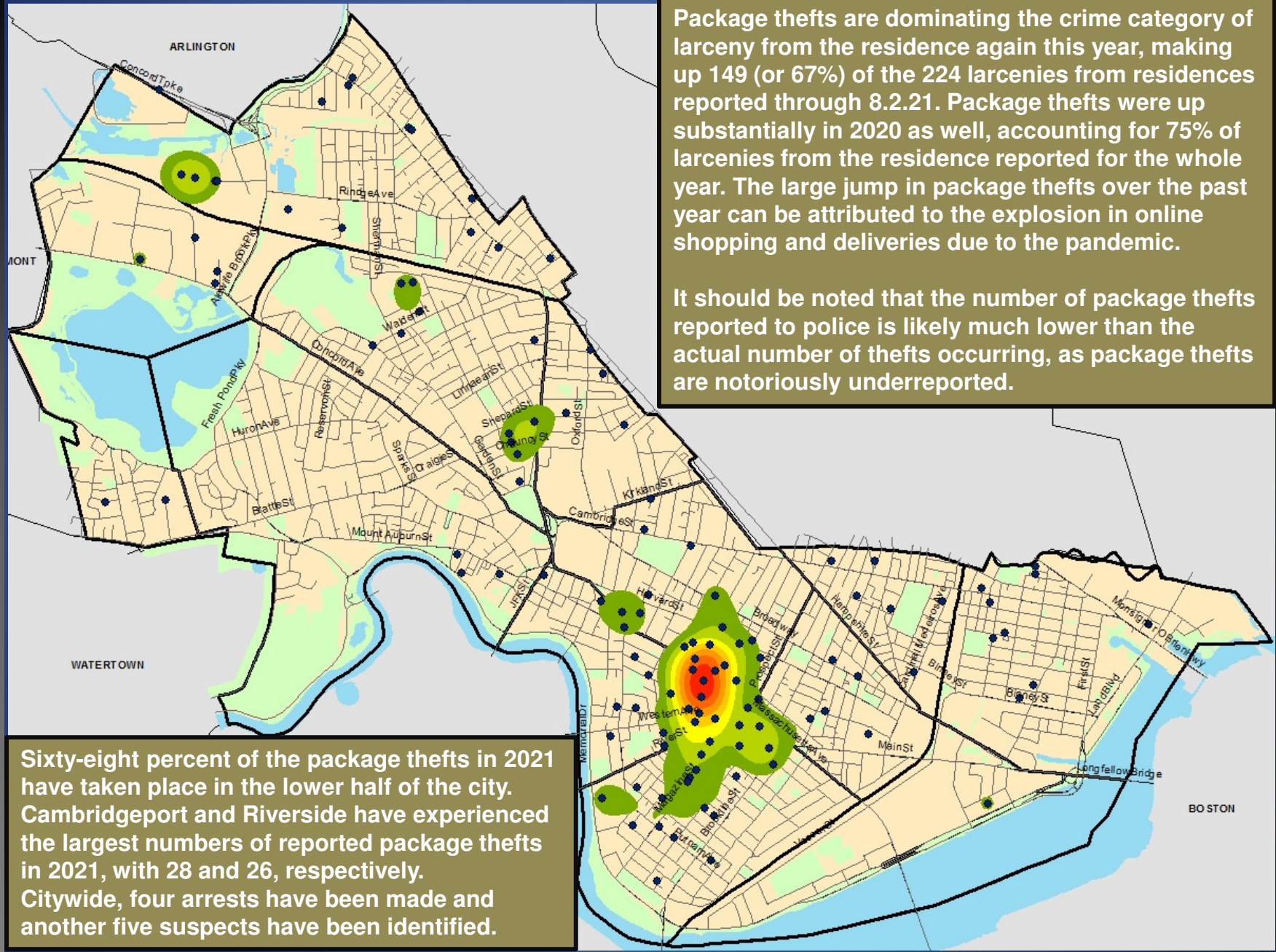


Geographic Breakdown of Larceny of Bicycles: 1.1.21 – 8.2.21



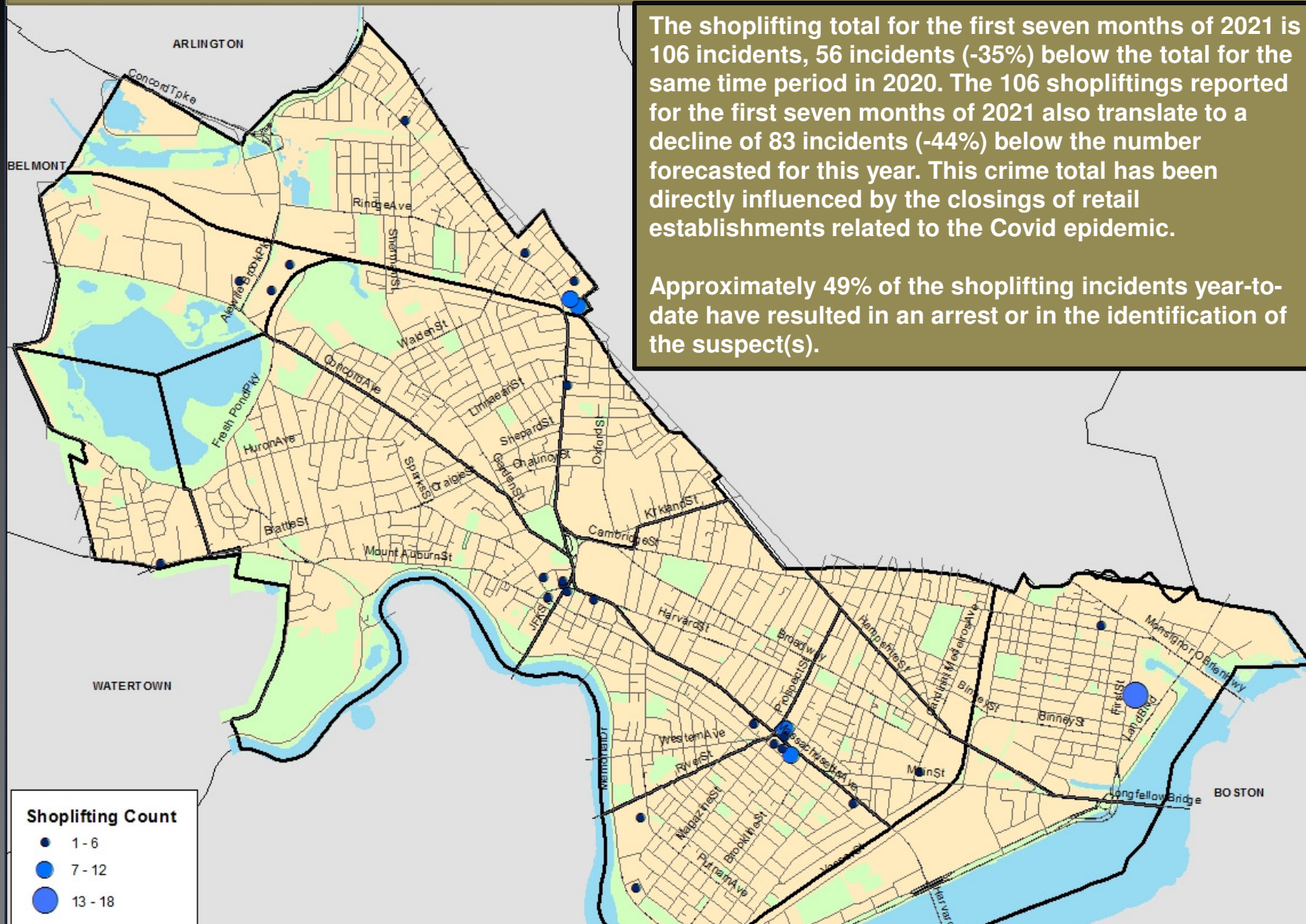


Geographic Breakdown of Package Thefts: 1.1.21 – 8.2.21





Geographic Breakdown of Shoplifting: 1.1.21 – 8.2.21



The shoplifting total for the first seven months of 2021 is 106 incidents, 56 incidents (-35%) below the total for the same time period in 2020. The 106 shopliftings reported for the first seven months of 2021 also translate to a decline of 83 incidents (-44%) below the number forecasted for this year. This crime total has been directly influenced by the closings of retail establishments related to the Covid epidemic.

Approximately 49% of the shoplifting incidents year-to-date have resulted in an arrest or in the identification of the suspect(s).

The CambridgeSide Shopping Center has reported the most shopliftings this year with 18 incidents, followed by the Targets in Central Sq and Porter Sq, with 11 and 10 incidents, respectively.



AUTO THEFT

No Patterns

- The projected 5-year weighted average for auto thefts through August 2nd is 55, and with 57 reported through August 2nd of 2021, we are experiencing an increase of 19% so far this year. Auto thefts in 2021 are also up 4% over last year.
- When comparing the previous four weeks (July) to the prior (June), there was a decrease from 13 incidents to 5, or -62%. There had been a large increase from May to June due to an increase in scooter, moped, and motorcycle thefts, as is common with the warmer temperatures. However, only one scooter was stolen in July, contributing to the drop this month.
- Nine of the 57 thefts this year have been reported by auto rental businesses once their vehicles were not returned on time.
- The neighborhoods with the highest auto theft totals are: Riverside – 13, North Cambridge – 9, East Cambridge – 7, and Cambridgeport and Mid-Cambridge – 5 each. Meanwhile, Agassiz and West Cambridge have recorded 4 each, Peabody has 3, the Port, the Highlands, and Inman/Harrington all have 2 each, and MIT has 1.
- There have been 17 auto theft recoveries recorded so far in 2021 (30%).

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

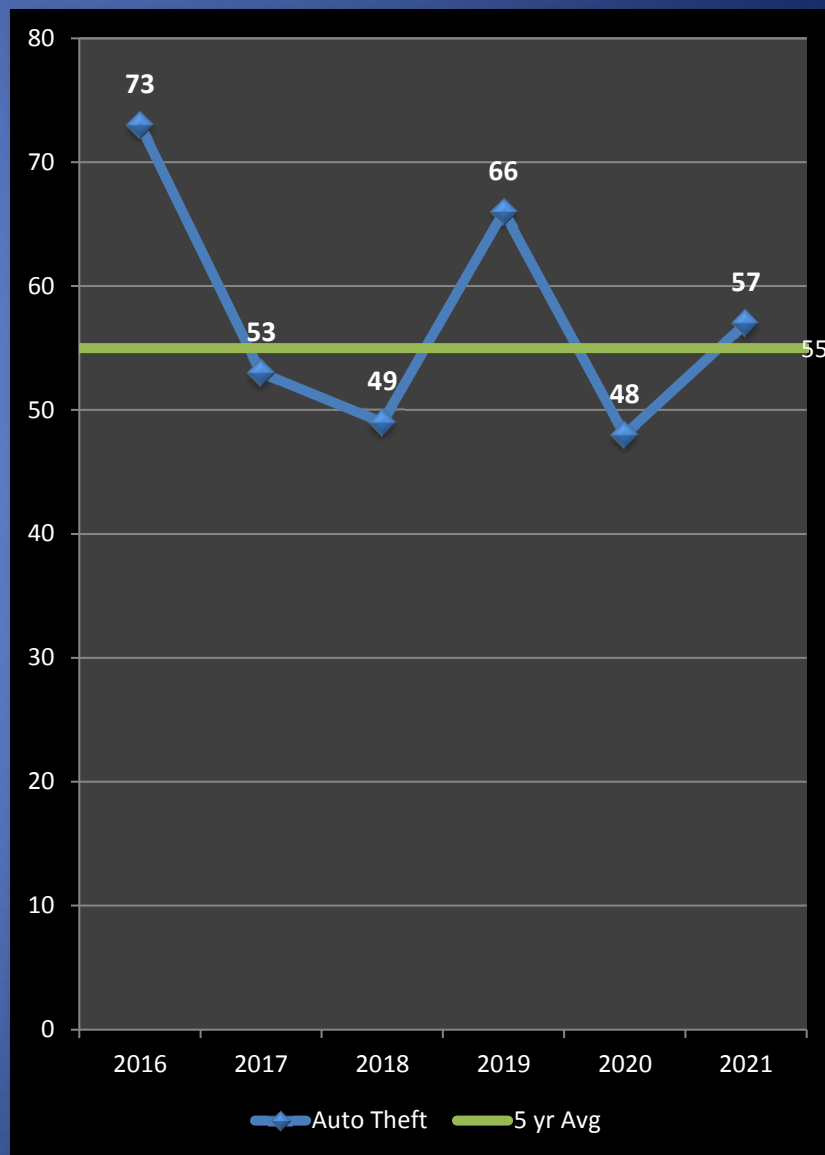
-62%

Previous Year

+19%

5-Year Average

+4%





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