



# Cambridge Police Department BridgeStat

November 2012

Produced by the Crime Analysis Unit

***\*BridgeStat was recognized by the International Association of Crime Analysts in the Statistical Bulletin Category at 2011 IACA Training Conference.***



# Part I Total Crime

- Serious crime in Cambridge slipped downward by 1% when compared with the first 11 months of 2011, and when measured against the 5-year weighted average for this time frame, a 5% decline (**183 fewer crimes than the average**) has been recorded.
- After reporting small increases over the first three quarters of the year, the dramatic dip in serious crime in November, 52 fewer incidents than October, drove the overall rate into negative territory for the first time in 2012.
- A detailed analysis of all statistics indicates that there were **18 additional property crimes recorded in the first 11 months** of 2012, which translates to a **1% increase** when measured against the 2011 statistics. **Violent crime has fallen 8% between January 1<sup>st</sup> and December 3<sup>rd</sup> of 2012 when compared with 2011.**

	4 Week Snapshot			Year to Date			Five Year	
	10/9-11/5	11/6-12/3	Change	2011	2012	Change	Avg	Change
Total Violent Crime	46	15	-67%	413	378	-8%	420	-10%
Total Property Crime	226	205	-9%	2834	2852	1%	2994	-5%
<b>Total Part I Crime</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>-19%</b>	<b>3247</b>	<b>3230</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>3413</b>	<b>-5%</b>



# Part I Property Crime

Larceny from motor vehicles **(+11%)** with 66 additional incidents, and larceny from persons **(+17%)** with 49 thefts above last year, account for the vast majority of the slight increase **(1%)** in property crimes so far this year. Housebreaks, which had increased by **43%** when compared to the First Quarter of 2011, have nosedived over the past 7 months and are now **6% under last years total.**

	4 Week Snapshot			Year to Date			Five Year	
	10/9-11/5	11/6-12/3	Change	2011	2012	Change	Avg	Change
<b>Burglary</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>-7%</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>2%</b>
Commercial Break	3	7	133%	80	70	-13%	80	-13%
Housebreak	28	25	-11%	413	389	-6%	369	5%
<b>Larceny</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>-13%</b>	<b>2196</b>	<b>2276</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>2369</b>	<b>-4%</b>
Larceny (Misc)	2	5	150%	32	42	31%	28	50%
Larceny from Building	29	27	-7%	383	343	-10%	361	-5%
Larceny from MV	64	48	-25%	577	643	11%	775	-17%
Larceny from Person	29	29	0%	285	334	17%	305	10%
Larceny from Residence	12	15	25%	185	204	10%	177	15%
Larceny of Bicycle	24	13	-46%	352	351	0%	325	8%
Larceny of Plate	2	2	0%	40	34	-15%	42	-19%
Larceny of Services	2	3	50%	23	14	-39%	25	-44%
Shoplifting	24	21	-13%	319	311	-3%	330	-6%
<b>Auto Theft</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>-19%</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>-33%</b>
<b>Total Property Crime</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>2834</b>	<b>2852</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>2994</b>	<b>-5%</b>



# Part I Violent Crime

- Between January and the end of November of 2011, there were 413 violent crimes reported. For that same time period in 2012, **there were 378 violent crimes registered in Cambridge, 38 incidents below last year (- 8%) and 42 incidents under the 5-year average for the first 11 months of the year (- 10%).**
- There has been 1 murder in Cambridge in 2012. The crime occurred on the night of June 3rd on Willow Street. A 16-year-old female was the victim of a drive-by shooting. This case remains under investigation.
- The number of rapes remains unchanged when compared with 2011 and the violent index crime of aggravated assault has fallen 4% when compared with the first 11 months of 2011.
- There have been 16 fewer robberies (-17%) in Cambridge over the first 11 months of the year when compared to 2011. Over the past 7 months, **very few predatory street robberies (-8%) were committed in Cambridge.**

	4 Week Snapshot			Year to Date			Five Year	
	10/9-11/5	11/6-12/3	Change	2011	2012	Change	Avg	Change
Homicide	0	0	IN-CALC	2	1	-50%	1	0%
Rape	3	1	-67%	26	26	0%	29	-10%
Robbery	13	5	-62%	139	115	-17%	146	-21%
Commercial Robbery	1	1	0%	31	16	-48%	25	-36%
Street Robbery	12	4	-67%	108	99	-8%	121	-18%
Aggravated Assault	30	9	-70%	246	236	-4%	244	-3%
<b>Total Violent Crime</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>-67%</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>-8%</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>-10%</b>



# MURDER

No Patterns

- The first and only homicide to be recorded in Cambridge during the first 10 months of 2012 occurred on Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, at approximately 8pm. 2 female victims ages 16 and 17 were in the area of 34 Willow St when they were shot by unknown suspects who drove by in a motor vehicle. Both victims were transported to the hospital where the 16-year-old victim, Charlene Holmes, was pronounced dead and the 17-year-old victim was critically injured. The investigation is ongoing.

### Murder Trends in the United States in 2011:

- The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program defines murder and nonnegligent manslaughter as the willful (nonnegligent) killing of 1 human being by another. In 2011, an estimated 14,612 persons were murdered in the United States. This **was a 0.7% decrease from the 2010 estimate, a 14.7% decline from the 2007 figure, and a 10.0% decrease from the 2002 estimate.**
- There were 4.7 murders per 100,000 inhabitants, a 1.5% decrease from the 2010 rate. Compared with the 2007 rate, the murder rate declined 17.4%, and compared with the 2002 rate, the murder rate decreased 16.8%.

### Change\*

Last 4 Weeks

\*IN -CAL

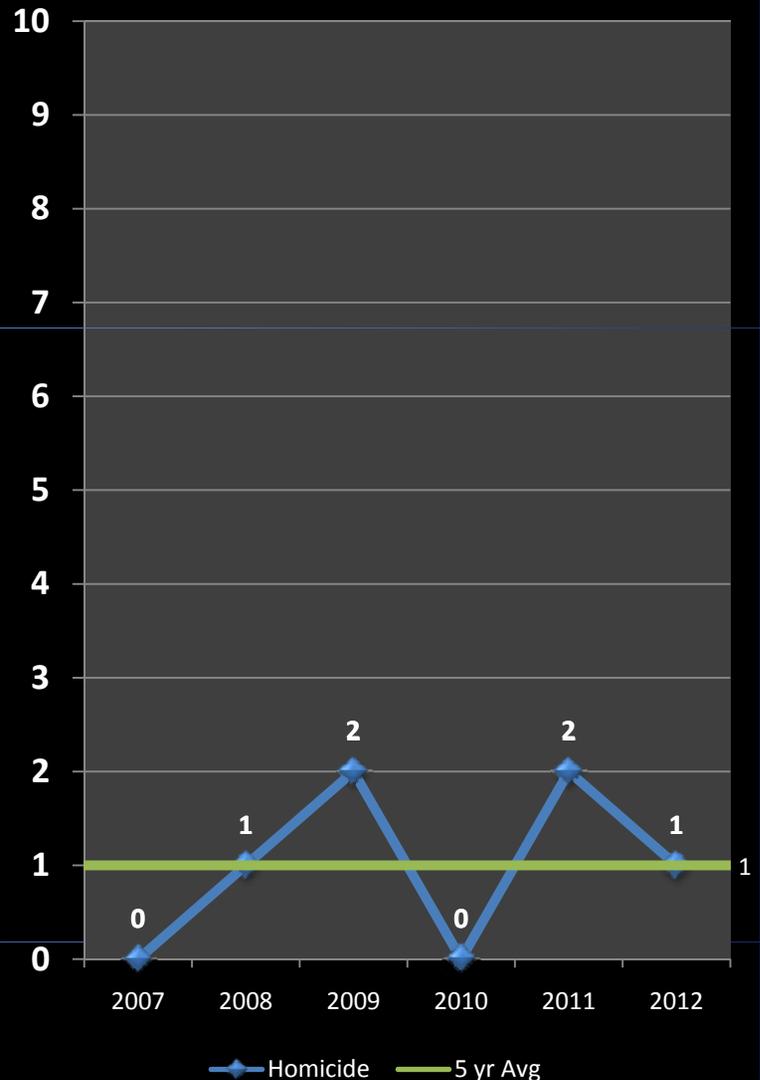
Previous Year

\*IN -CAL

5 Year Average

\*IN -CAL

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





# RAPE

No Patterns

- Over the first 11 months of 2012, there have been 26 rapes reported in Cambridge, the same number that was recorded during this time frame last year. There were 2 rapes reported in Cambridge in November. 25 of the 26 rapes in Cambridge for 2012 were categorized as **non-stranger incidents**. A blitz scenario rape in late April remains under investigation at the present time.
- Both of the rapes that were committed in Cambridge during November were categorized as acquaintance scenarios. The victim either knew or had a prior relationship with the assailant in each of these cases. Although not related in any way, both of these incidents involved very young victims and the cases have been assigned to the Mass. Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program.

### Rape Trends in the United States in 2011:

- There were an estimated 83,425 forcible rapes reported to law enforcement in 2011. This estimate **was 2.5% lower than the 2010 estimate and 9.5% and 12.4% lower than the 2007 and 2002 estimates, respectively.**
- The rate of forcible rapes in 2011 was estimated at 52.7 per 100,000 female inhabitants.
- Rapes by force comprised 93.0% of reported rape offenses in 2011, and attempts or assaults to commit rape accounted for 7.0% of reported rapes.

## Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

**-67%**

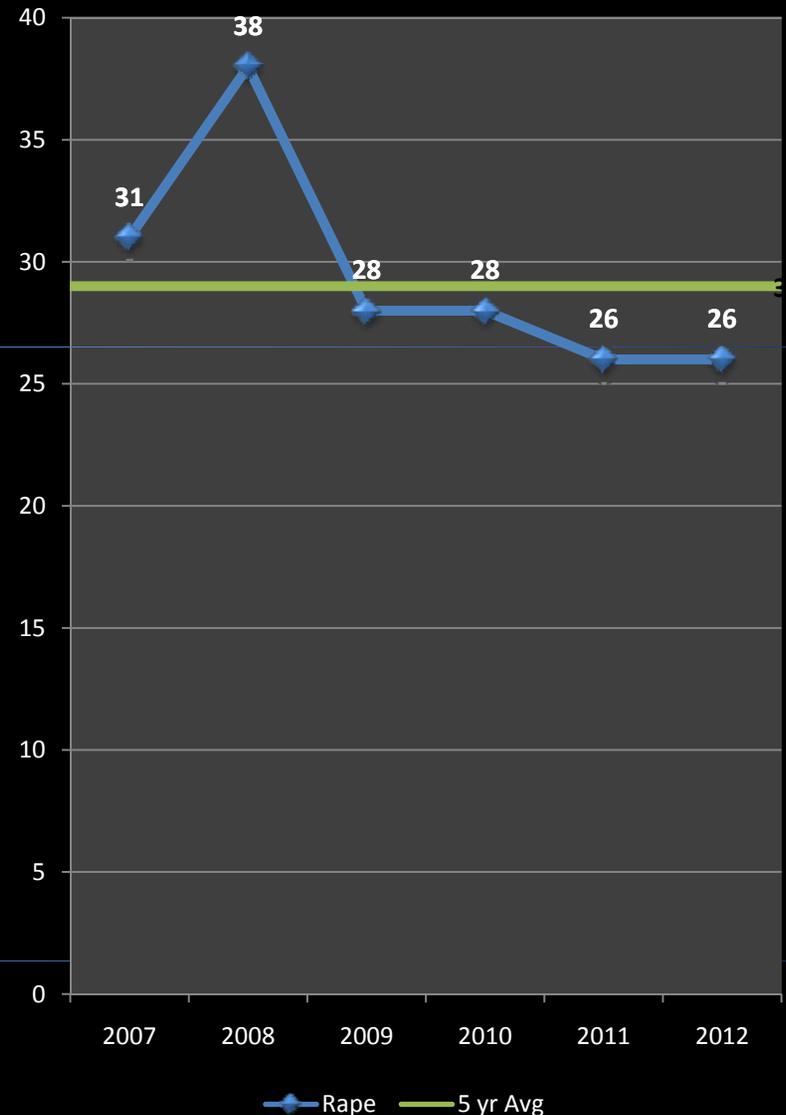
Previous Year

**0%**

5 Year Average

**-10%**

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





# AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

## No Patterns

- When compared to the first 11 months of 2011, aggravated assaults have decreased by 4%, with 10 fewer incidents counted during the same time frame in 2012. When measuring this violent index crime against the 5-year average for January through November, there has been a slight drop of 3%, with 8 fewer incidents below the projected average of 244 assaults. Over the past 4 weeks, there was a dramatic decline in the number of aggravated assaults reported – down from 30 crimes in October to 9 incidents in November.

### Aggravated Assault Trends in the United States in 2011:

- In 2011, there were an estimated 751,131 aggravated assaults in the nation. The estimated number of aggravated assaults in 2011 declined 3.9% when compared with data from 2010 and 15.7% when compared with the estimate for 2002.
- A 10-year comparison of data from 2002 and 2011 showed that the rate of aggravated assaults in 2011 dropped 22.1% in the nation.
- 26.9% were committed with personal weapons such as hands, fists, or feet. Slightly more than 21% (21.2) of aggravated assaults were committed with firearms, and 19.1% were committed with knives or cutting instruments.

### Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

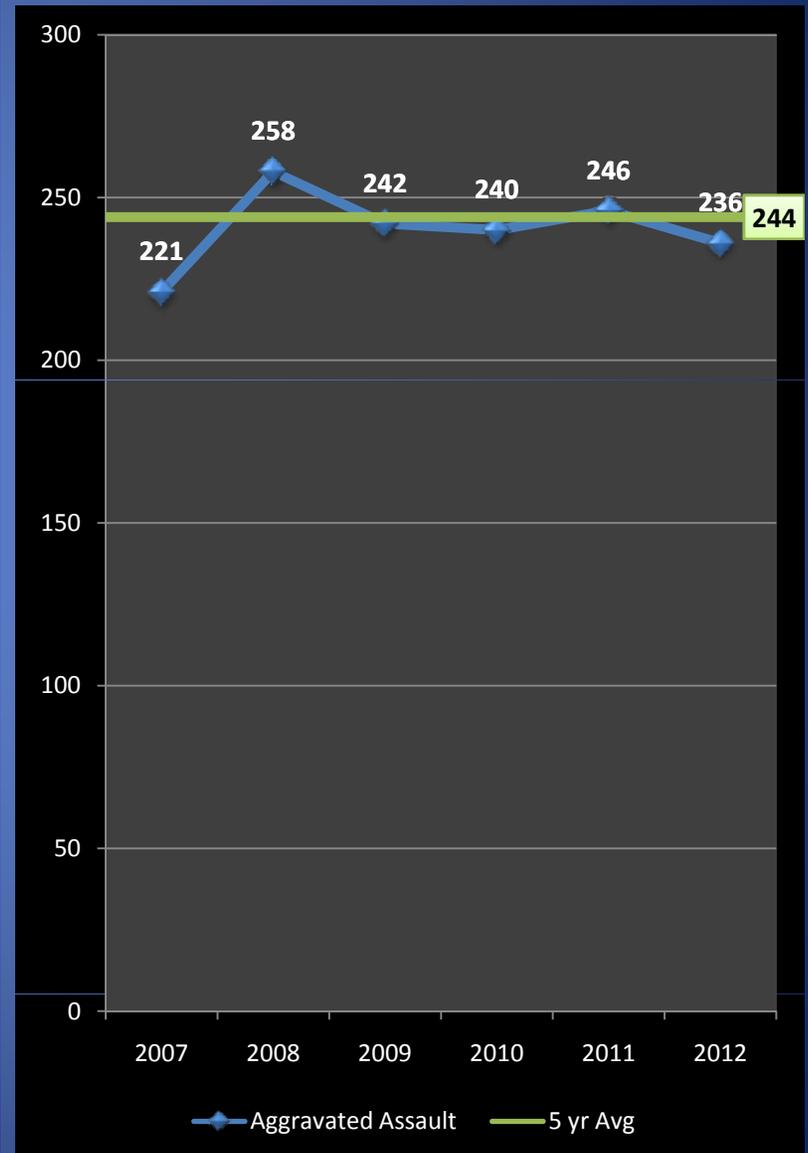
**-70%**

Previous Year

**-4%**

5 Year Average

**-3%**





## Aggravated Assault Breakdown by Scenario Type: November of 2012

Scenario	Total	% of Total	Synopsis
Domestic	3	33%	Breakdown by Neighborhood: 2 in Area 4, the other was on the edge of the Inman Neighborhood In 2 of the incidents, the altercations were between romantic partners, a fight between siblings involved a hospitalization of the victim in the other case.
Bar Fights / Alcohol Related	1	11%	The only bar fight in November was in Central Square. The incident involved an altercation between bouncers at a club and rowdy patrons at closing time on a Saturday night. Two arrests were made .
Homeless	1	11%	A homeless individual was assaulted with a rock at a makeshift shelter along the railroad tracks in Cambridgeport.
Acquaintance	4	44%	Two of these assaults occurred in Area 4 and two were in the Inman Neighborhood. In two of the incidents, the victims were juveniles who knew their assailants.



# ROBBERY

*No Patterns*

- The 5-year average for overall robbery in Cambridge for the first 11 months of the year is 146 incidents. From January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 3<sup>rd</sup> of 2012, 115 robberies have been recorded to post a 21% decrease below the projected total. The 115 robberies reported in Cambridge in the first 11 months of 2012 represents twenty four fewer robberies than during the same time period in 2011, which translates to a 17% decrease.
- Street robberies have fallen 18% when measured against the 5-year average and decreased 8% when compared to the 2011 total for the first 11 months of the year, with 9 fewer incidents reported.
- After only registering 14 street robberies in Cambridge during the warm weather months of July and August, this violent index type increased for the second month in a row, jumping from 11 incidents to 15 crimes in October. That trend reversed in October only four street robberies were reported, down 67% from previous month.
- Over the first 11 months of 2012, there have been only 16 commercial robberies reported (**48% decline**). This list includes 7 banks and 4 drug stores, 2 gas stations and 3 clothing stores. Arrests have been made in 5 of the 7 bank robberies.

## Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

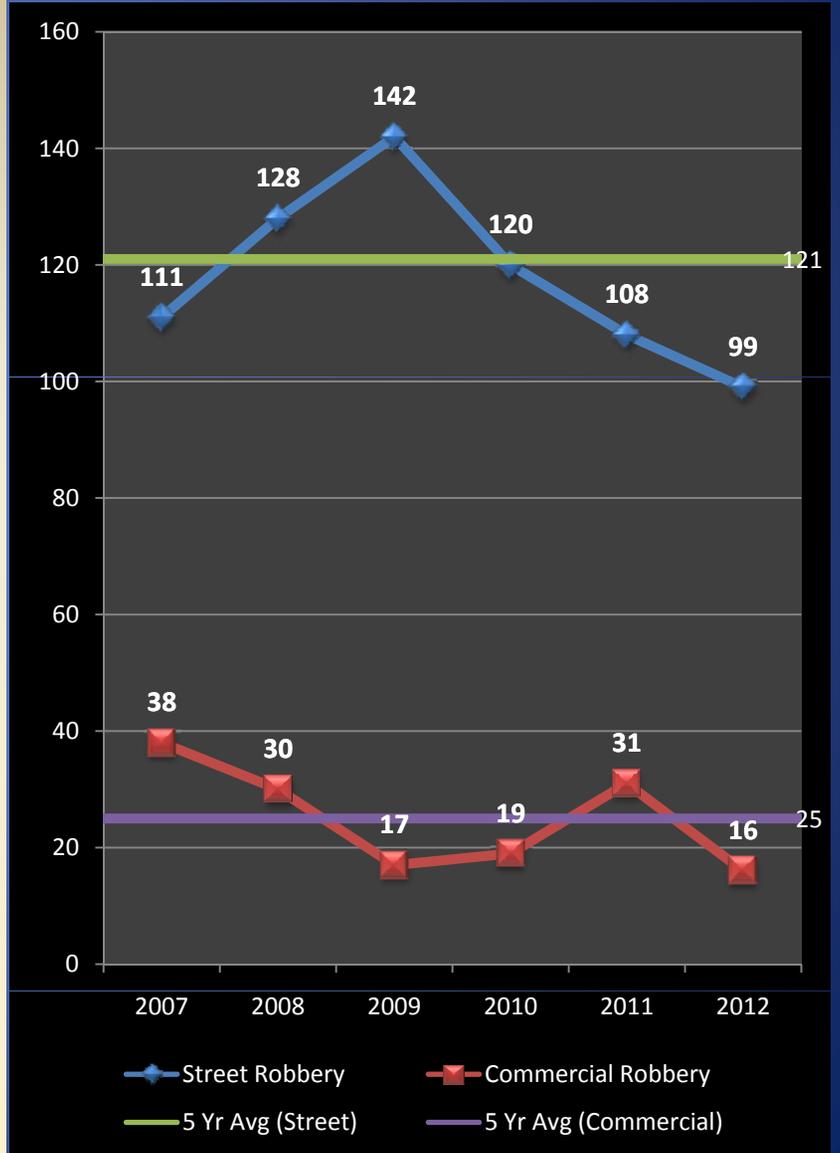
**-62%**

Previous Year

**-17%**

5 Year Average

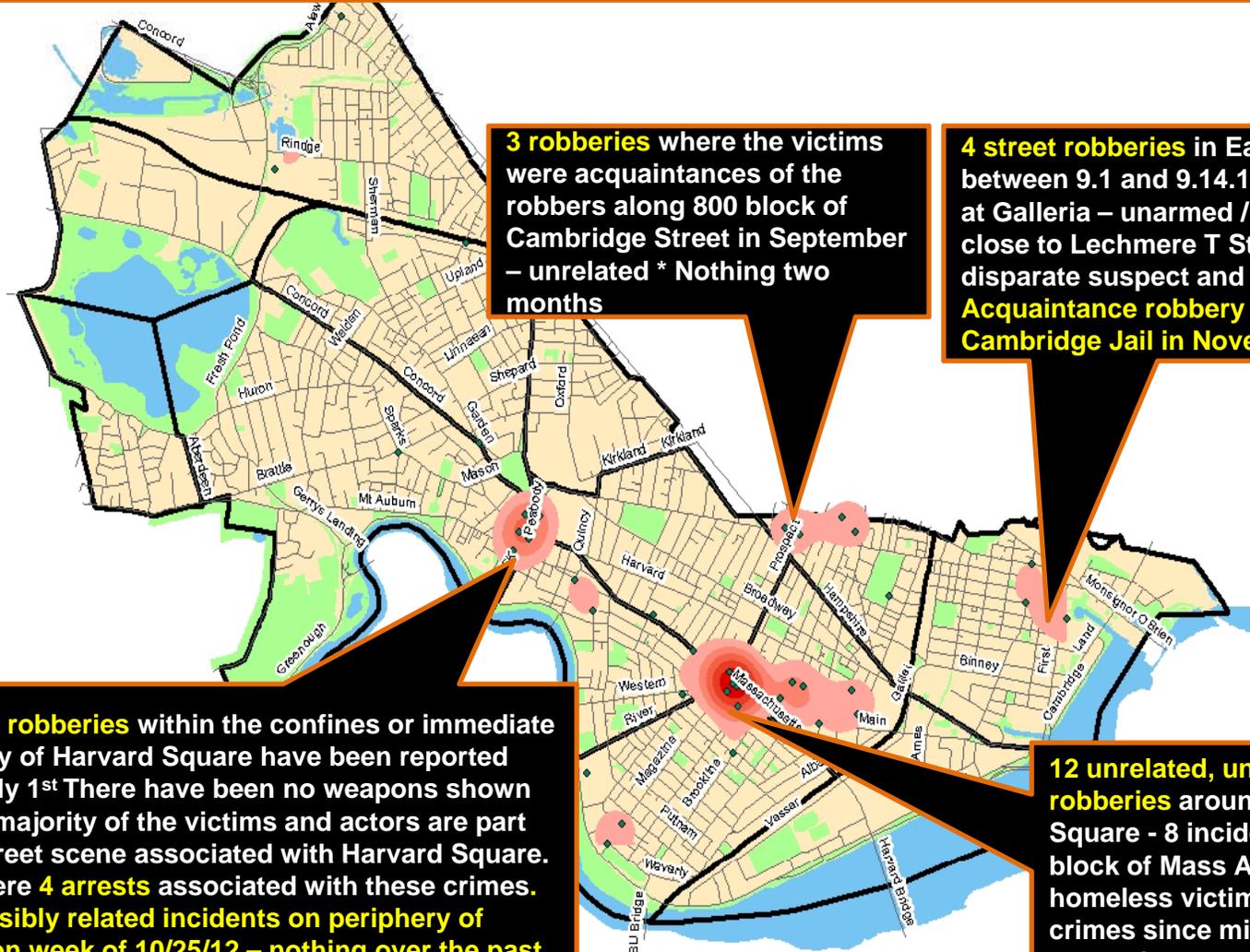
**-21%**





# Street Robberies in Cambridge: September 1<sup>st</sup> to December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012

The number of street robberies in Cambridge for the third quarter were exceptionally low. July and August combined registered 14 crimes. During September and October that number rose to 26 incidents. However in November, street robberies nosedived 67% with four scattered, unrelated incidents reported.



**3 robberies** where the victims were acquaintances of the robbers along 800 block of Cambridge Street in September – unrelated \* Nothing two months

**4 street robberies** in East Cambridge between 9.1 and 9.14.12. 2 incidents at Galleria – unarmed / unrelated... close to Lechmere T Station with disparate suspect and M.O. **Acquaintance robbery near Cambridge Jail in November**

**10 street robberies** within the confines or immediate periphery of Harvard Square have been reported since July 1<sup>st</sup> There have been no weapons shown and the majority of the victims and actors are part of the street scene associated with Harvard Square. There were **4 arrests** associated with these crimes. **Two possibly related incidents on periphery of Square on week of 10/25/12 – nothing over the past 6 weeks**

**12 unrelated, unarmed robberies** around Central Square - 8 incidents in the 600 block of Mass Ave involving homeless victims. 8 of these crimes since mid- September producing 3 arrests. **Two in November –one in lower Cambridgeport**



## Commercial Robberies in Cambridge: Year to Date - 2012

Over the first 11 months of 2012, there have been only 16 commercial robberies reported that translates to a **48% decline**. This list includes **7 banks** and **4 drug stores**, **2 gas stations** and **3 retail stores**. Arrests have been made in 5 of the 7 bank robberies.





# Burglary

*No Patterns*

- Total burglary, the combination of residential and commercial burglary, is up 2% when compared to the 5-year average, with 9 additional incidents above the projected total of 450 crimes, and down 7% when compared with last year's total for the first 11 months of the year with 34 fewer burglaries counted. When comparing this property crime with October of 2012, a 3% increase was registered (one additional incident was recorded in November).
- Commercial burglary has dropped 13% when compared with the first 11 months of 2011, with 10 fewer incidents counted, and has dropped 13% when measured against the 5-year average. The 70 commercial burglaries in 2012 have been scattered throughout the City with no patterns identified.
- Analysis of housebreak activity in Cambridge over the first 11 months of 2012 indicates that approximately 70% of all the housebreaks in Cambridge in 2012 have been clustered in 4 pattern areas: Area 4, West Cambridge / Peabody, East Cambridge and Cambridgeport / Riverside. 3 of the 4 areas ([Area 4](#), [Cambridgeport, East Cambridge](#)) have shown marked decreases over the past 2 months. The sporadic housebreaks during October that were a problem in West Cambridge have dissipated over the past month.

## Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

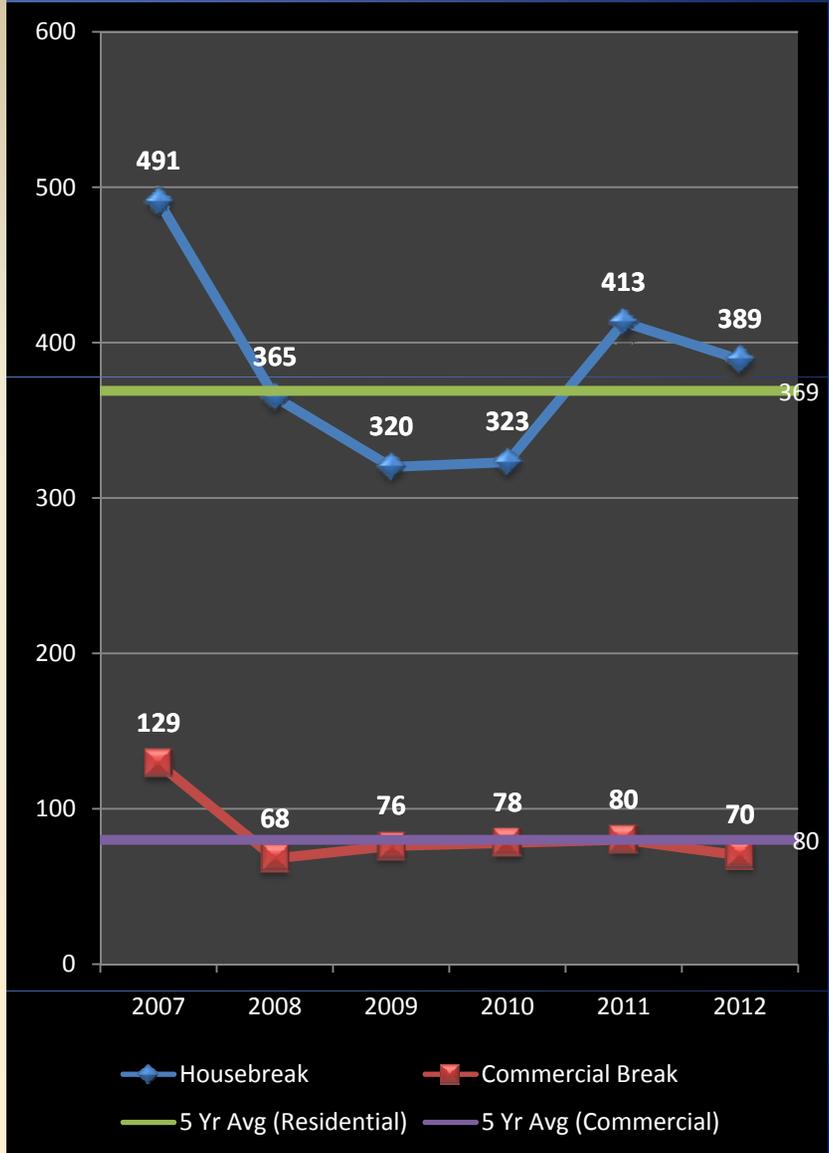
Previous Year

5 Year Average

**+3%**

**-7%**

**+2%**





# Housebreak Pattern Areas in Cambridge in 2012

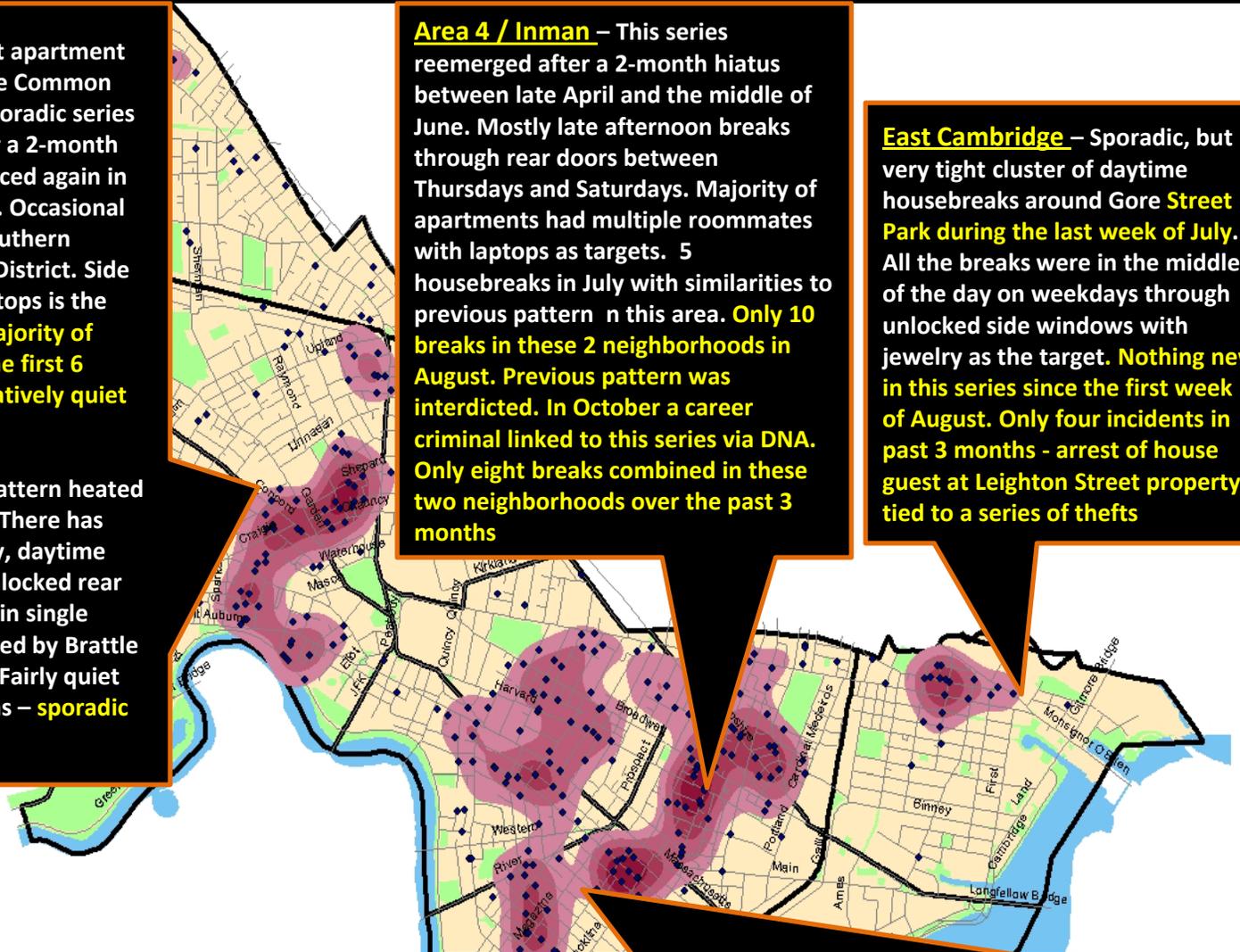
There are no active housebreak patterns at the present time

**Peabody** – Multiple unit apartment buildings near Cambridge Common have been involved in sporadic series since early in 2012. After a 2-month hiatus, this pattern surfaced again in the second week in June. Occasional daytime breaks in the southern portion of the Avon Hill District. Side window entries with laptops is the target of the thieves. **Majority of incidents here were in the first 6 months of the year – relatively quiet over past 4 months.**

**West Cambridge** - This pattern heated up in the middle of July. There has been a series of weekday, daytime housebreaks through unlocked rear doors and side windows in single family residences bordered by Brattle and Mt Auburn Streets. Fairly quiet over the past two months – **sporadic incidents in November.**

**Area 4 / Inman** – This series reemerged after a 2-month hiatus between late April and the middle of June. Mostly late afternoon breaks through rear doors between Thursdays and Saturdays. Majority of apartments had multiple roommates with laptops as targets. **5 housebreaks in July with similarities to previous pattern in this area. Only 10 breaks in these 2 neighborhoods in August. Previous pattern was interdicted. In October a career criminal linked to this series via DNA. Only eight breaks combined in these two neighborhoods over the past 3 months**

**East Cambridge** – Sporadic, but very tight cluster of daytime housebreaks around Gore **Street Park during the last week of July.** All the breaks were in the middle of the day on weekdays through unlocked side windows with jewelry as the target. **Nothing new in this series since the first week of August. Only four incidents in past 3 months - arrest of house guest at Leighton Street property tied to a series of thefts**



**Cambridgeport / Riverside** - From the middle of June to early in July, there was a series of late night housebreaks in close proximity in these neighborhoods. The majority of the incidents were between midnight and 5AM. 2 juveniles who are residents of these neighborhoods were linked to this series via fingerprints. **This pattern has been downgraded and there was very little activity in July. A new pattern surfaced at the end of August and with arrests of a crew of juveniles from Boston only sporadic incidents have been reported here over the past 12 weeks.**



# Housebreaks

## What can we do?

### Police Response Strategy:

- Cambridge Police have deployed extra patrols to the affected areas in order to combat the recent increase in housebreaks.
- CPD is also utilizing plainclothes officers and detectives in the affected areas.
- Several arrests have been made.



### Citizen Response Strategy:

- Citizens are asked to take the following precautions to protect themselves, their homes, and their belongings from burglaries:
  - Try “**casing**” your own home.
  - **ALWAYS lock your doors and windows.** Many housebreaks have occurred through open windows or unlocked doors.
  - **Leave a light on** when you leave.
  - Install motion sensor lights.
  - **NEVER** prop open the door or let someone in behind you.
  - **Be vigilant.** If you suspect suspicious activity, please report it to the police immediately by calling **617-349-3300**.
  - **Document serial numbers** of all electronics and take pictures of all valuables.
  - **Request a Residential Security Survey** from the Cambridge Police Department. For more info, please call **617-349-3236**.
- For more info on how to protect yourself from housebreaks, visit [www.CambridgePolice.org/SafetyTips](http://www.CambridgePolice.org/SafetyTips).



# LARCENY

## Emerging Patterns

- Overall, **larceny increased by 4%** when compared with the first 11 months of 2011 and dropped slightly (-4%) when measured against the 5-year weighted average.
- The increase in larceny from motor vehicles (+11%) can be attributed to a surge in thefts during the snowless First Quarter of this year when compared with the first 3 months of 2011 when there were 70 inches of snow on the ground. Despite a 25% drop in car breaks from October to November, Mt Auburn St and Brattle St have remained the hot spots.
- Larcenies from persons citywide rose stayed the same in the last four weeks. **However, crime type is up 17% when compared to last year and up 10% when compared to the 5-year average.** The majority of these thefts (35%) have taken place in Central Sq from restaurants and bars later in the evening.
- So far this year, there have been 351 reported bike thefts in Cambridge, which is in line with the 352 reported through this time frame in 2011. No patterns exist at the present time.

### Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

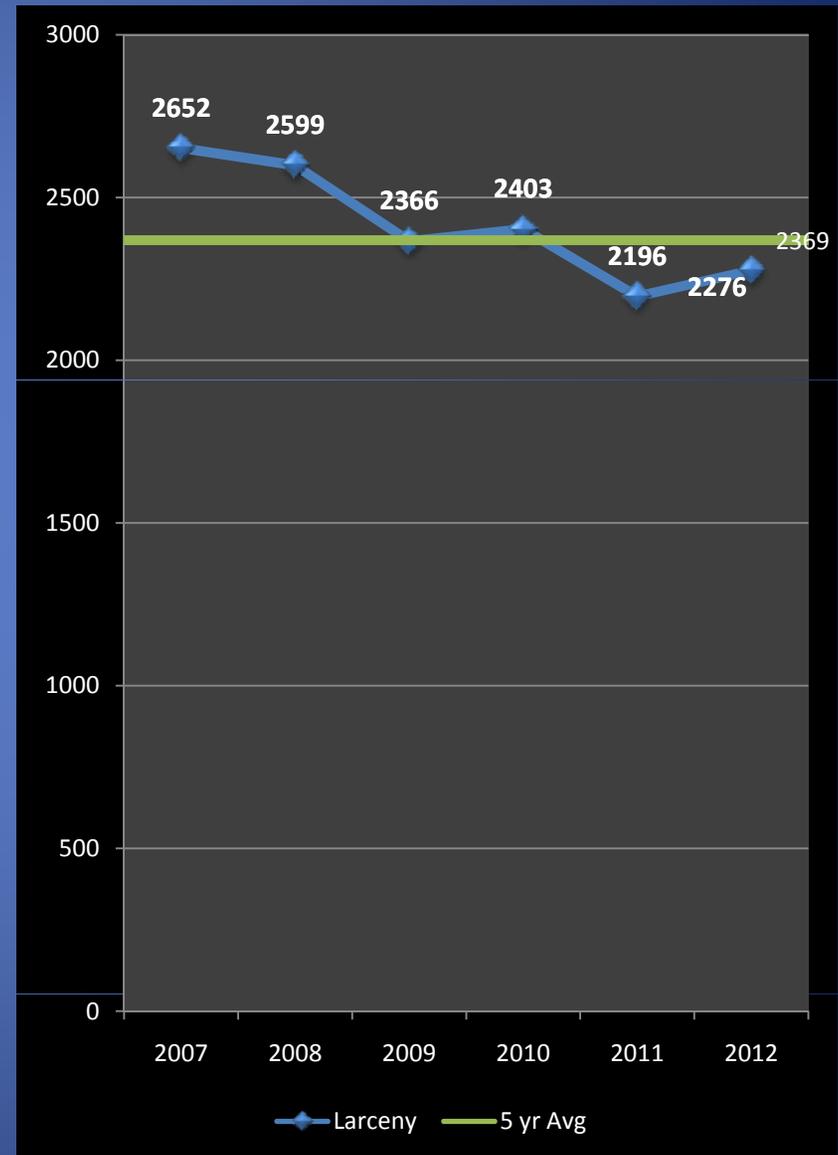
**-13%**

Previous Year

**+4%**

5 Year Average

**-4%**





# LARCENY: *from MV*

*Emerging Patterns*

## Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

**-25%**

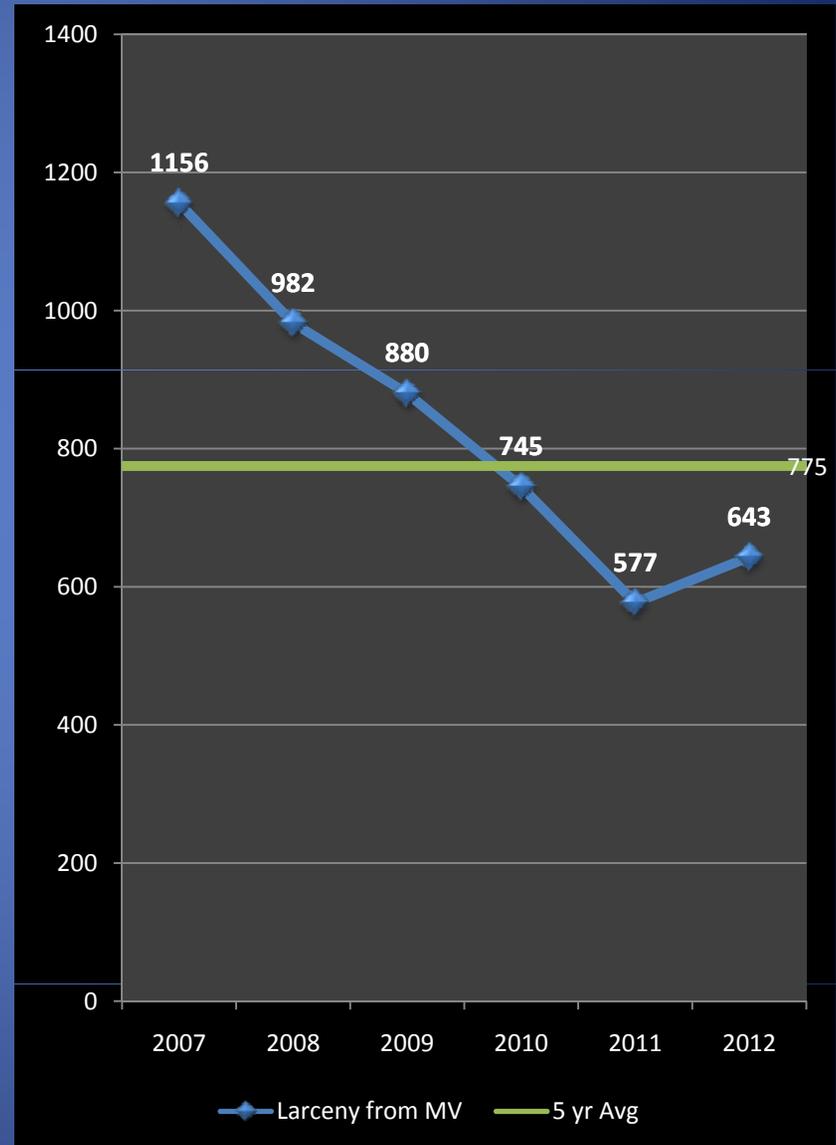
Previous Year

**+11%**

5 Year Average

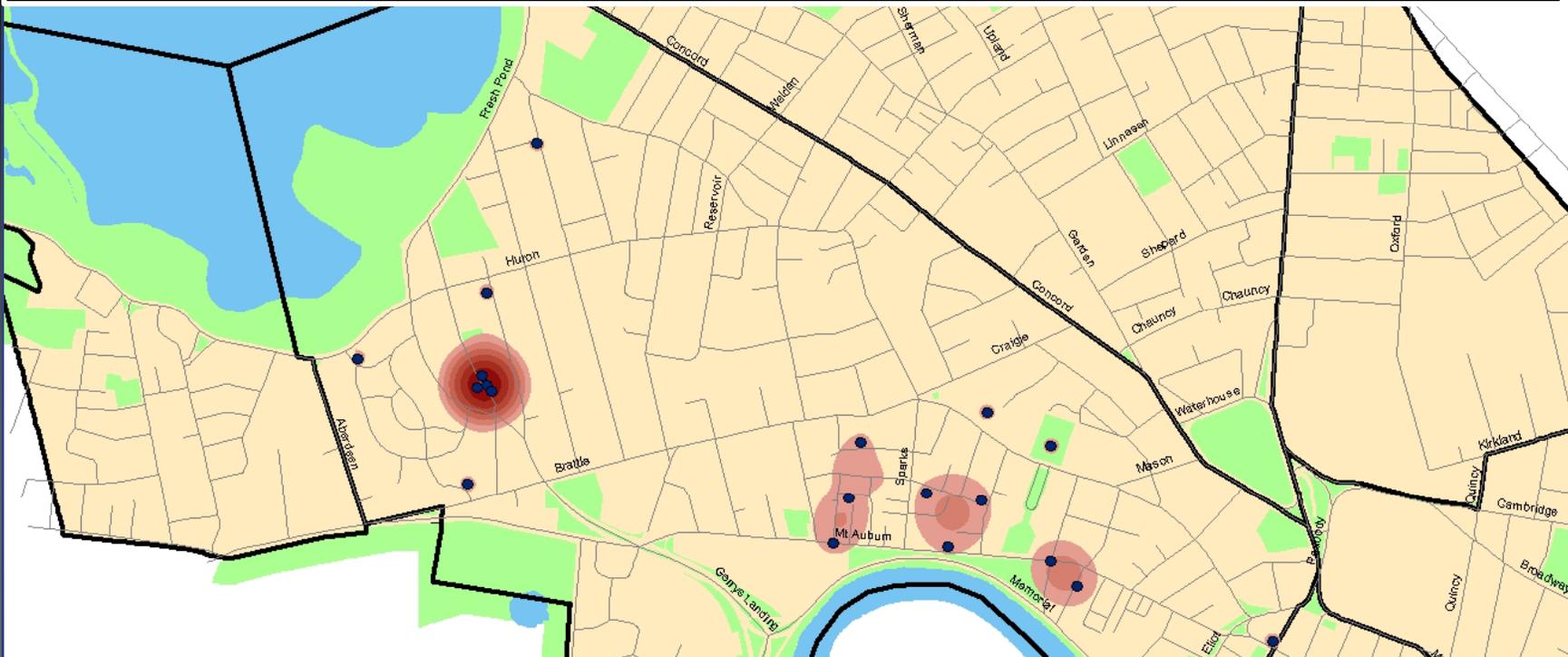
**-17%**

- Larcenies from MVs are up 11% when compared with the first 11 months of 2011, with 66 additional thefts recorded. The majority of this incline can be attributed to a 75% surge when compared to the first 93 days of last year when the streets of Cambridge were under 70 inches of snow cover.
- Larcenies from motor vehicles have declined **17%** when compared with the 5-year average, with **132 incidents below** the norm for the first 11 months of the year. When measured against the previous 4 weeks, thefts from MVs fell by 25% with 16 fewer incidents than in October of 2012.
- The area of West Cambridge in close proximity to the 100 to 200 blocks of Mt Auburn and Brattle Streets has been the major hot spot for this crime in the City over the summer and into the fourth quarter. This area, along with the neighborhoods that border Central Square (Area 4, Mid-Cambridge, Cambridgeport, and Riverside), accounted for nearly 70% of thefts from cars over the past 4 months.





Nearly 25% of the LMVs on a Citywide basis over the past two months **(31 thefts)** occurred in West Cambridge. 2 hot spot clusters identified. Long term trend in the 100 to 200 block of Mt Auburn & Brattle Streets. New series identified in the Larches over the past week.



**Long term Problem Area - 46 LMVs since July** – trend is of incidents on Thursday through Sunday nights on last halves between 1AM & 3AM. High percentage of thefts involve smashed windows. Sporadic weekday incidents on side streets, Foster, Hawthorne, Ash late in afternoon. New series emerges on the night of October 25<sup>th</sup> in the Larches – 5 car breaks on last half – four on Larch on 89, 82, 77, and 81 and another on Larchwood Drive. Scavenger breaks – rifling the glove box – loose change and pills the target. 2 Hispanic males, juveniles observed in area at twilight on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October. Directed patrols and undercover surveillance are effective in curtailing this activity in November – an arrest is made – but there are still occasional thefts in the pattern area during the identified time frame.



# Larceny from Motor Vehicles

## *What can we do?*

### Police Response Strategy:

- Cambridge Police are focused on prevention of these crimes by increasing officer visibility in targeted areas.
- Citizens are encouraged to take the proper precautions to protect their vehicles and their belongings by doing everything possible to not make their vehicles easy targets.



### Citizen Response Strategy:

- Citizens are asked to take the following precautions to protect themselves, their vehicles, and their belongings from theft:
  - **Make sure all of your car doors are locked when you leave your vehicle.**
  - **Take extra care when out doing your shopping.**
  - **If you are approached by a suspicious person while you are in your vehicle, sound your horn to attract attention.**
  - **NEVER LEAVE VALUABLES EXPOSED IN YOUR CAR.**
    - If you must leave packages or valuables in your car, **place them in the trunk of under a blanket to conceal them**
  - Visit our website for more tips to keep your vehicles and belongings at [www.CambridgePolice.org/SafetyTips](http://www.CambridgePolice.org/SafetyTips)



# LARCENY: *from Person*

*No patterns*

- When compared to the first 11 months of 2011, larcenies from persons are up 17%. The 5-year average for this larceny type averages around 305 incidents through the end of November of each year. With 334 recorded incidents over the first 11 months of 2012, a 10% increase over the projected total was recorded.
- The majority (35%) of these types of thefts over the past 2 months have taken place in Central Square. The scenario for the majority of these thefts were the theft of cell phones and wallets from victims who were out at bars between the hours of 8 p.m. and midnight. They often leave their belongings unattended while dancing or socializing and return at the end of the night to find them stolen.
- There have been nine thefts at the Galleria Mall during the past 4 weeks. Four happened while people were distracted by shopping and 3 were in the food court. Victims inadvertently put something down to browse and then realized their phone or purse was no longer beside them. The majority of these crime are occurring between 5:00PM and 7:00PM.
- A career criminal from Boston has been connected to a series of thefts from elderly shopper's purses while they were in supermarkets in Cambridge. This suspect may have hit seven times between late October and early December.

## Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

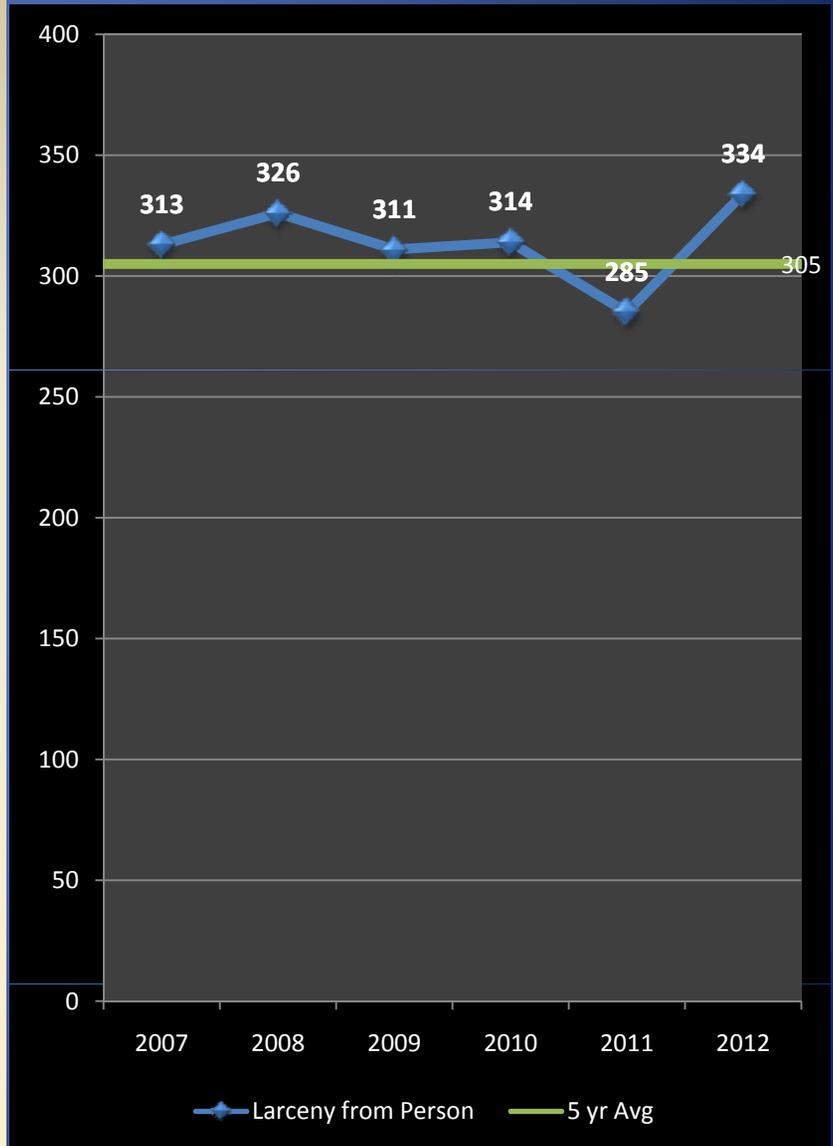
0%

Previous Year

+17%

5 Year Average

+10%





# LARCENY: of Bicycle

No Patterns

- Just as bike ridership drops in the Fall, so does the rate of bicycle thefts. The 5-year weighted average of bike thefts for the first 11 months of the year is 325 incidents. Through December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012, there have been 351 bikes reported stolen, which is 8% above the norm. There has been one more bike stolen, 352 to 351, when comparing the first 11 months of the year with 2011.
- For the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive month, bike thefts decreased considerably in November. When compared to the previous 4 weeks, this crime fell 46% from 24 thefts to 11. We observe this decline every Autumn as the weather becomes colder.
- Top Neighborhoods Year-to-Date for Thefts:**

Neighborhood	Total	% Citywide
Cambridgeport	62	18%
East Cambridge	40	11%
Riverside	39	11%
Mid-Cambridge	39	11%
West Cambridge	35	10%

## Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

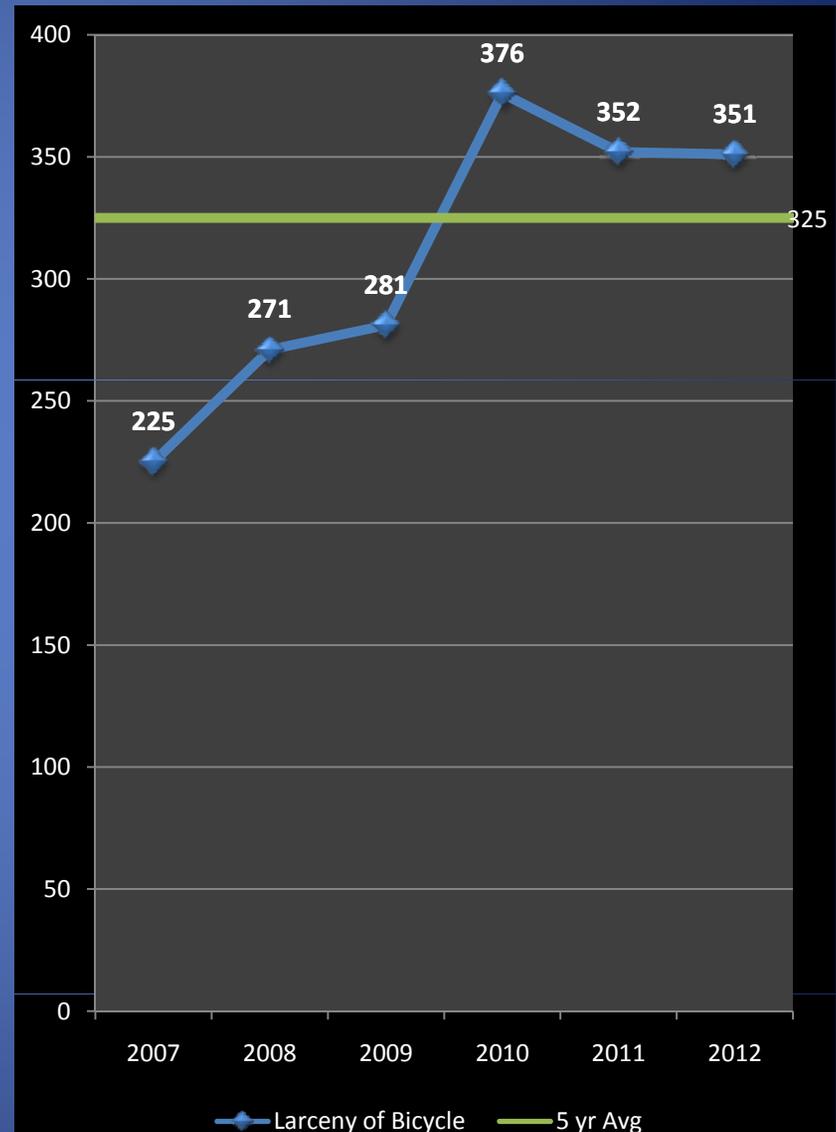
**-46%**

Previous Year

**0%**

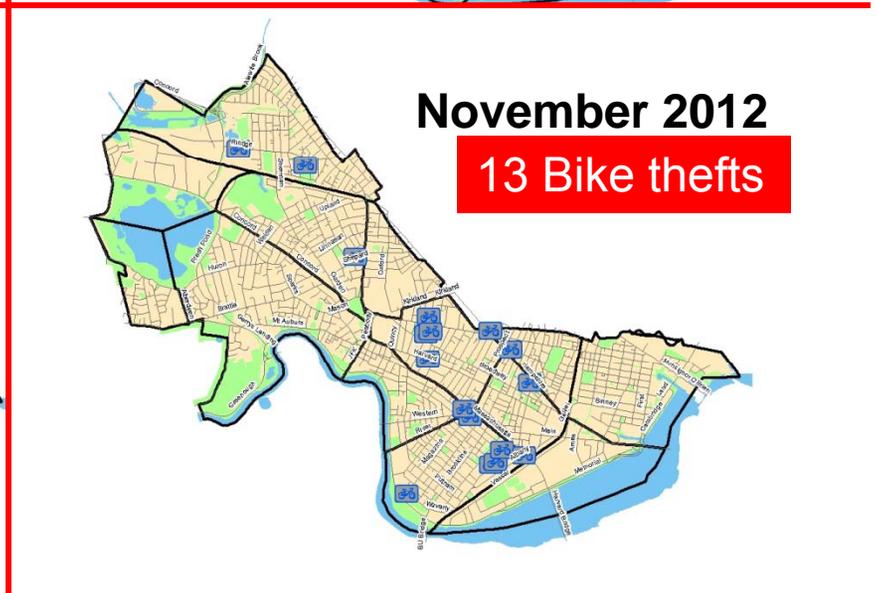
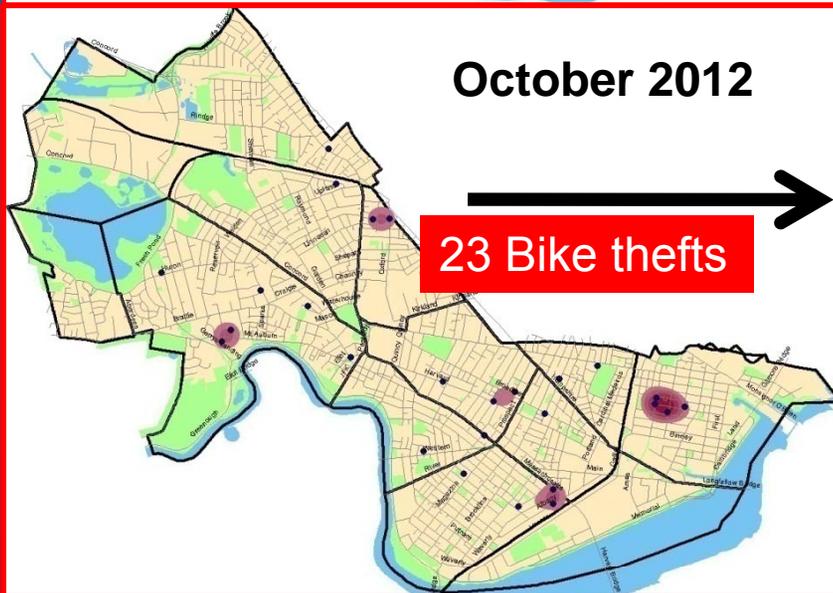
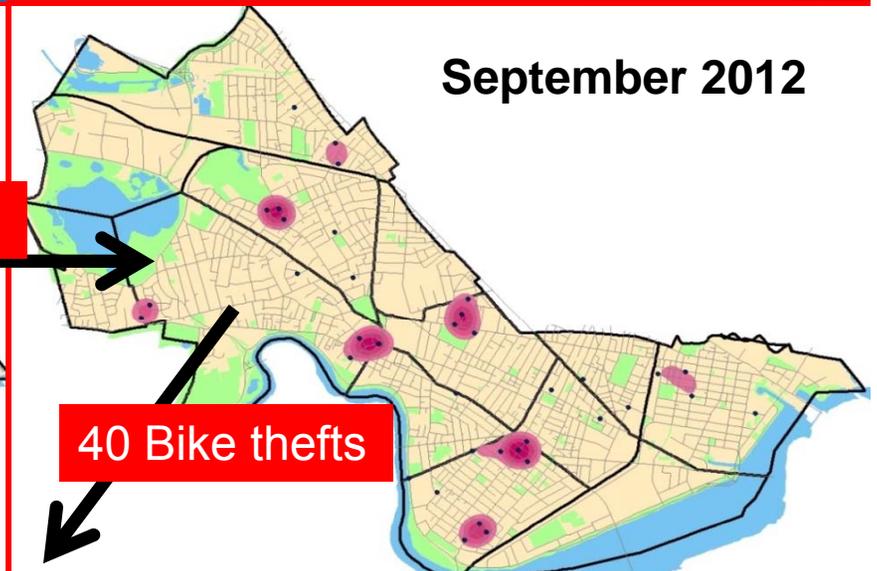
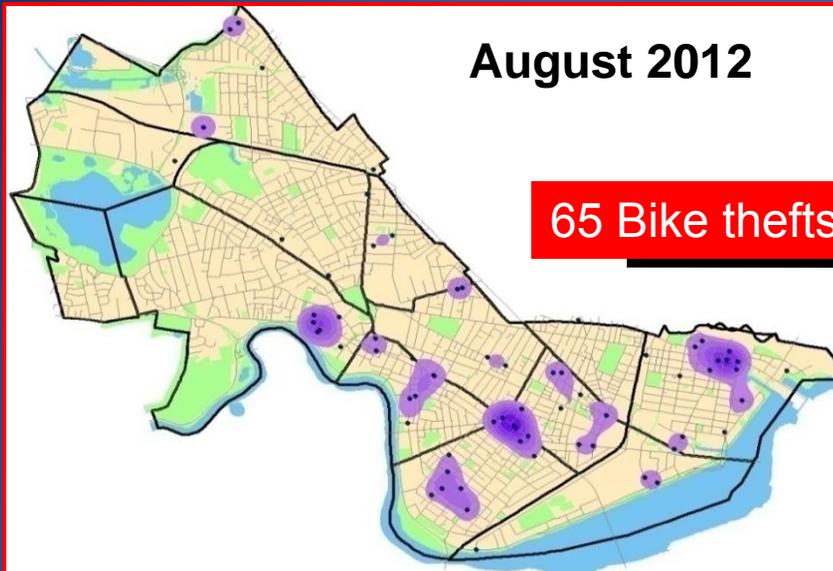
5 Year Average

**+8%**





# Bicycle Theft Hotspots in Cambridge: August – November, 2012



Bike thefts continue to drop across the city as the weather cools. Even the consistent hotspots across the third quarter in Central & Harvard Squares virtually disappeared this month. Only East Cambridge had a notable concentration of incidents in October, and those thefts were spread across the early and middle part of the month in the area of Sciarappa St, Fifth St, and Sixth St - sporadic incidents near Central Square in November.



# Larceny of Bicycles:

## *What Can We Do?*

### Police Response Strategy:

- Bicyclists stopped for infractions will be reminded to use lights when biking at night, wear helmets under the age of 16, and other safety tips to promote safer biking in the city.



### Citizen Response Strategy:

- Bicyclists should document serial number of bicycle in case lost/stolen.
- For more information about bicycle safety, proper locking, and what information to keep on file, visit: [www.CambridgePolice.org/CommunityResources](http://www.CambridgePolice.org/CommunityResources).
  - Click on the “Bicycle Safety and Registration” link.
- Stores should be vigilant in recording serial numbers and customer information on sales.
- Universities should encourage students to register their bikes and distribute information on the correct locking procedures.



# AUTO THEFT

*No patterns*

- The projected 5-year weighted average assigned to auto theft for the first 11 months of the year is 175 incidents; there were only 117 vehicles reported stolen through Decemeber 3<sup>rd</sup> of this year, translating to a substantive 33% decline. When measured versus the same time period in 2011, there were 27 fewer auto thefts counted and a 21% decline posted.
- Ten auto thefts were reported in November, up 43% from the previous four weeks. In the June and July BridgeStats, there was a regional trend of the theft of scooters and motorcycles. These incidents have slowed down with the colder weather and none of the 10 in the past month involved scooters or motorcycles. Boston Police made a number of arrests of scooter and motorcycle thieves. There is a possibility that a substantial number of the stolen motorcycles were being chopped and sold for parts.
- Year to date, only 42% of stolen motor vehicles have been recovered.

## Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks

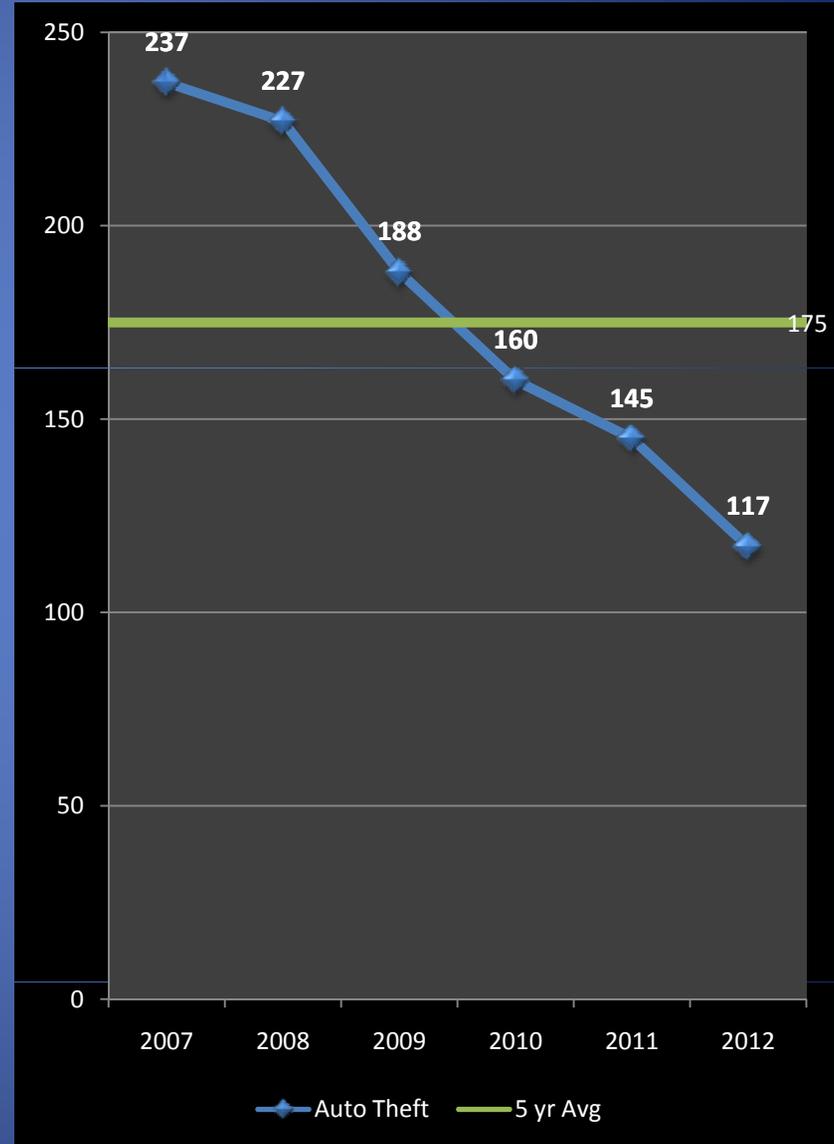
**+43%**

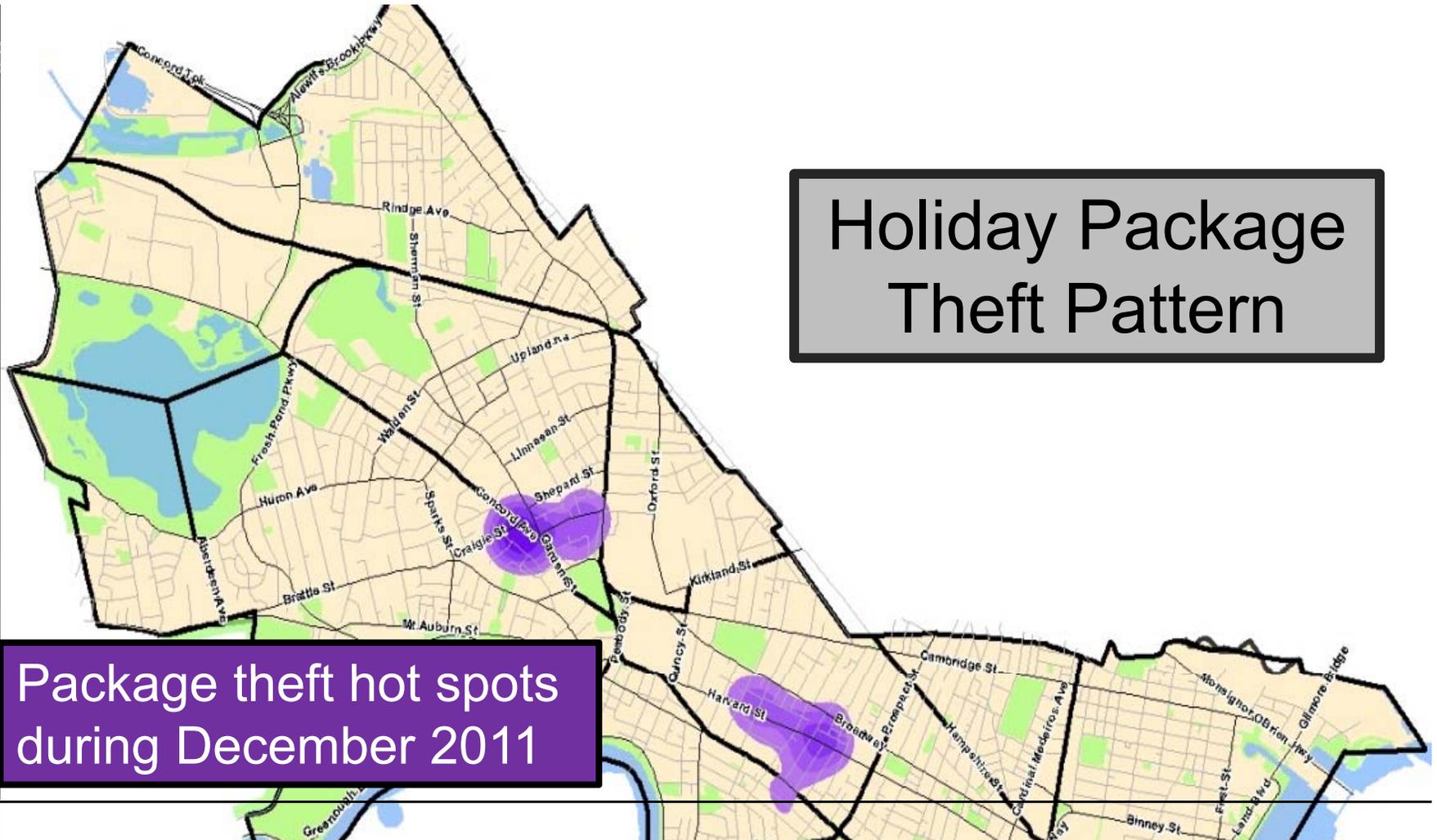
Previous Year

**-19%**

5 Year Average

**-33%**





# Holiday Package Theft Pattern

Package theft hot spots during December 2011

In 2011, starting 2 weeks prior to Christmas, there were 30 reports and subsequent arrests in an ongoing pattern of thieves following FEDEX/UPS trucks delivering merchandise purchased over the internet. This pattern usually surfaces every holiday season but last year it continued through the first month of the year and was prevalent throughout Eastern Mass. Multi-unit buildings on Harvard, Chauncy, Mass Ave and Concord Ave were targeted. The majority of the thefts occurred between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM. Arrests of career criminals, invariable substance abusers, were made by Cambridge, Somerville, Medford, and Danvers police.

*See Prevention Tips*



## CAMBRIDGE POLICE SHARE TIPS TO HELP RESIDENTS PROTECT THEIR MAIL & PACKAGES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

*The Cambridge Police Department would like to remind citizens to take extra care this time of year when having mail and packages delivered to their residence. Please review the following tips to help protect yourself and your belongings.*

### **Protect Incoming Mail and Packages:**

- Promptly Retrieve Your Mail: The United States Postal Inspection Service strongly recommends that you pick up mail from your mailbox as soon as possible after delivery.
- If you can't pick up your mail each day, ask a trusted friend or neighbor to do it for you. The U.S. Postal Service can also hold your mail if you'll be traveling during the holidays.
- Report Mail Theft: Approximately 40 percent of the arrests made by Postal Inspectors last year were related to mail theft.
- Report incidents to the Cambridge Police Department immediately by calling 617-349-3300.





# Questions?

- Our detailed 2011 Annual Crime Report is now available on our [website](#). *The 2011 Annual Crime Report was recently awarded first place in the statistical report category by the International Association of Crime Analysts.*
- We welcome all questions, comments, and suggestions.
- Please direct your feedback to:  
[BridgeStat@CambridgePolice.org](mailto:BridgeStat@CambridgePolice.org).
- To review previous editions of BridgeStat, visit our website at [www.CambridgePolice.org/BridgeStat](http://www.CambridgePolice.org/BridgeStat).