



# Cambridge Police Department BridgeStat

December 3<sup>rd</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.

Beginning iterations of BridgeStat include information relating to historical trends, a breakdown of crimes by type, strategies the Cambridge Police are deploying to deal with crime patterns that have been identified, and tips for how citizens can protect themselves and help reduce crime in Cambridge. This version contains more detailed information about future patterns we expect to see so that both police personnel and members of the community can be informed and prepared in order to deal with these possible scenarios.



*Cambridge Police BridgeStat*

A Review of Current Crime Index & Target Crimes

# **CURRENT CRIME REVIEW**



# Crime in Cambridge: 1/1/10 to 11/29/10

- Overall, the violent and property crime index for the first forty eight (48) weeks of 2010 remain relatively unchanged but with 10 fewer incidents (-0.3%) when compared with the same time frame in 2009.
- There have been 13 additional **property crimes** in 2010 to record a **.4% increase** when compared with last year. **Violent incidents** are down **6%** when measured with the 2009 figures.
- Robbery (-17%), Auto Theft (-27%), and Burglary (-19%) are all registering **substantial declines when compared with the 5-year average for these target crimes.**
- Since the October release of BridgeStat, there were 6 additional housebreaks over the previous 4 weeks, with sporadic breaks along the Somerville border and an emerging daytime series in Area 4.
- Two major street robbery patterns were interdicted with arrests since the October release of BridgeStat. The **major increase** monitored since the October release has been an increase of **19% in larceny from motor vehicles**. The majority of this spike can be attributed to a **seasonal pattern on the periphery of Harvard Square.**



# Part I Stats: Violent Crime

Crime	January 1 – November 29				4 Week Snapshot		
	2009	Avg	YTD	Change	10/5-11/1	11/2-11/29	Change
Murder	2	1	0	-100%	0	0	0%
Rape	28	29	29	0%	0	1	+100%
Robbery	158	164	136	-17%	20	18	-10%
-Commercial Robbery	17	30	18	-40%	3	1	-67%
-Street Robbery	141	134	118	-12%	17	17	0%
Aggravated Assault	239	235	239	+2%	22	15	-32%



# Part I Stats: Property Crime

Crime	January 1 – November 29				4 Week Snapshot		
	2009	Avg	YTD	Change	10/5-11/1	11/2-11/29	Change
<b>Burglary</b>	383	486	<b>394</b>	<b>-19%</b>	24	<b>31</b>	<b>+23</b>
-Housebreaks	310	388	<b>318</b>	<b>-18%</b>	21	<b>26</b>	<b>+24%</b>
-Commercial Breaks	73	98	<b>76</b>	<b>-23%</b>	3	<b>5</b>	<b>+67%</b>
<b>Larceny</b>	2328	2423	<b>2356</b>	<b>-3%</b>	198	<b>189</b>	<b>-5%</b>
-Larceny from Building	293	357	<b>349</b>	<b>-2%</b>	37	<b>28</b>	<b>-24%</b>
-Larceny from MV	870	906	<b>736</b>	<b>-19%</b>	58	<b>72</b>	<b>+19%</b>
-Larceny from Person	304	311	<b>307</b>	<b>-1%</b>	30	<b>27</b>	<b>-10%</b>
-Larceny from Residence	165	175	<b>171</b>	<b>-2%</b>	11	<b>12</b>	<b>+9%</b>
-Larceny of Bicycle	276	251	<b>372</b>	<b>+48%</b>	26	<b>20</b>	<b>-23%</b>
-Shoplifting	335	326	<b>336</b>	<b>+3%</b>	28	<b>23</b>	<b>-18%</b>
-Miscellaneous Larceny	85	96	<b>85</b>	<b>-12%</b>	8	<b>7</b>	<b>-13%</b>
<b>Auto Theft</b>	186	218	<b>160</b>	<b>-27%</b>	19	<b>12</b>	<b>-37%</b>



# Part I Stats: Totals

	January 1 – November 29		
	2009	2010 YTD	Change
<b>Violent Crime Total</b>	427	404	-6%
<b>Property Crime Total</b>	2897	2910	+0.4%
<b>Total Part 1 Crimes</b>	3324	3314	-0.3%



# Major Crime Review

Cambridge Police BridgeStat

- **Pattern Arrest: Two males with a knife targeting males walking alone in Brookline, Boston and Cambridge** – During the early morning hours of November 3rd, members of the Cambridge Police Department, U.S. Secret Service, Massachusetts State Police, Somerville Police, Brookline Police, Harvard University Police, MIT Police, and Boston University Police **worked jointly to arrest armed robbery suspect Santony Joseph, 23, of Malden.**
  - Connections between this arrest and up to five of the robberies in the Harvard University periphery are a possibility.
- **Pattern Arrest: Armed Robberies in Harvard Square** – At approximately 2:05 AM on November 13<sup>th</sup>, **Kai Robert Kruger, 21, of Cambridge** was arrested for the Armed Robbery of three individuals on Brattle Street as well as for Assault with Intent to Murder after firing a gun at a Cambridge Police Officer during a brief foot pursuit as a result of the robbery.
  - Links between Kruger and other incidents around the Square are a high probability.
- **Pattern Dissipated: Purse Snatchings** – Females walking alone in the Mass Ave Corridor. This pattern surfaced between 10.9.10 to 10.25.10. The anatomy of the pattern was a single male preying on woman walking alone in the Mass Ave corridor between Harvard & Porter Squares. All the victims were females between 20 to 30 years of age. The suspect approached from behind and snatched the victim's purse or cell phone. There were five incidents. In two of the crimes the victim was talking on the phone.
  - **No activity in this pattern since the end of October.**

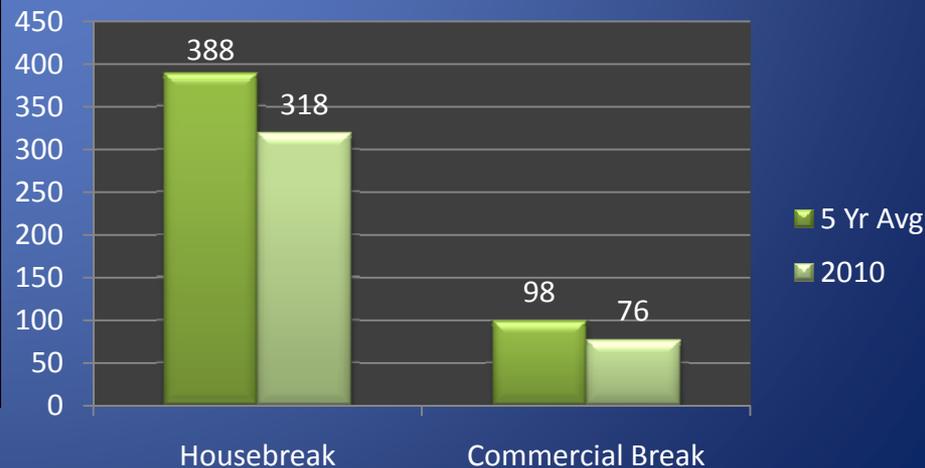


# BURGLARY

Sporadic Patterns

-19%

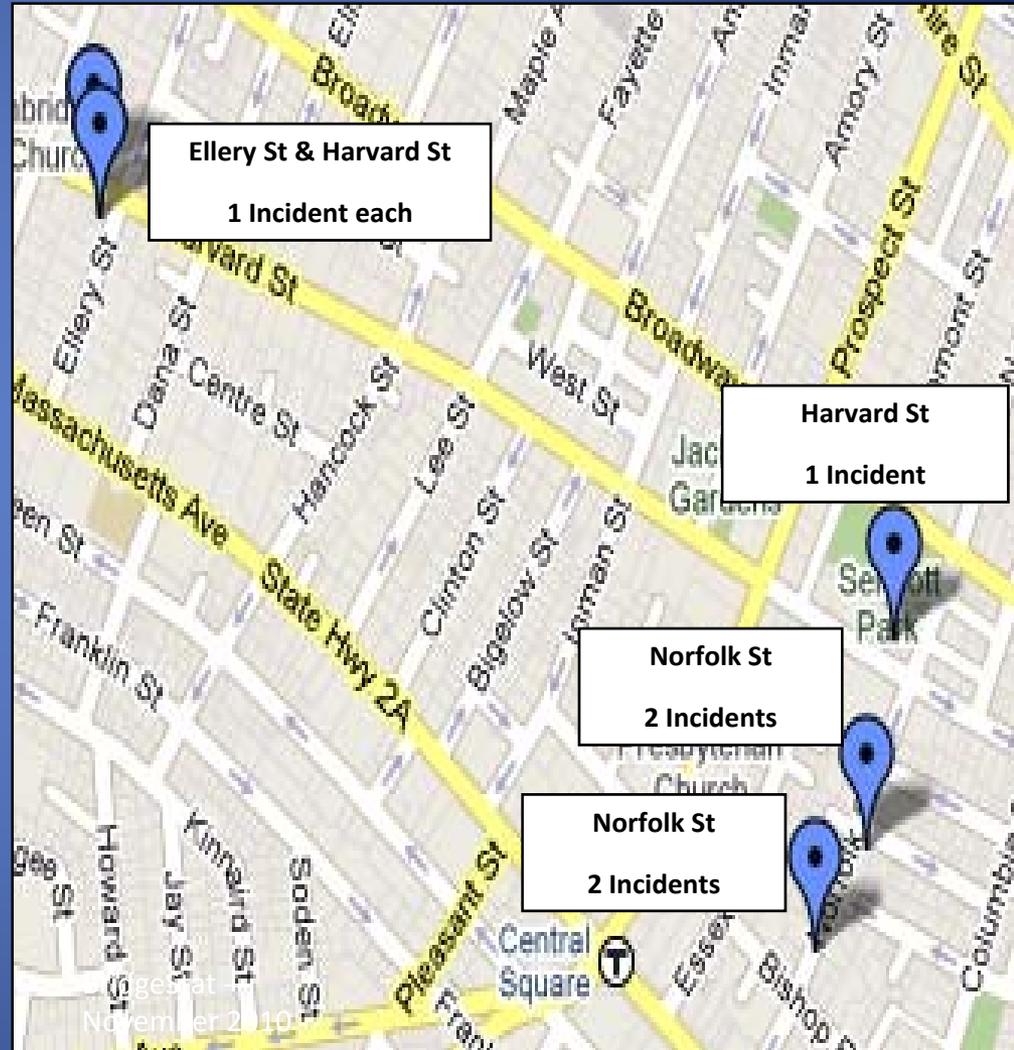
- **Total Burglary**, the combination of residential and commercial burglary, **decreased by 19%** when compared to the 5 year average.
- **Housebreaks** have recorded a **significant decline (-18%)** on the 5-year average. There was, however, a small spike of six incidents when compared with the previous four week period and we are currently monitoring a series of daytime breaks in Area 4 and paying close attention to Somerville border.
- **Commercial Breaks** are **down 23%** with no discernible patterns at the present time. There has been a regional church break pattern in Boston for the last two months but nothing has been seen in Cambridge.





# Sporadic Housebreak Pattern – Area 4

- On 11/23, two breaks occurred within the time frame as those on 11/17 & 11/18, with a similar suspect description.
- Both breaks occurred while the victims were home and the doors to the apartments were unsecured.
- **Suspect described as a black male, medium-dark complexion, clean cut, 30-40, 6'2", thin.**





# Housebreaks

## *What can we do?*

### Police Response Strategy:

- Cambridge Police are coordinating and sharing information with Somerville Police to help mitigate recent housebreaks along the Cambridge/Somerville border.
- CPD is continually monitoring housebreak activity across the city
  - Will deploy extra resources if increases are seen in specific areas.

### 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 and your home from housebreaks, visit <http://bit.ly/biEdvk>

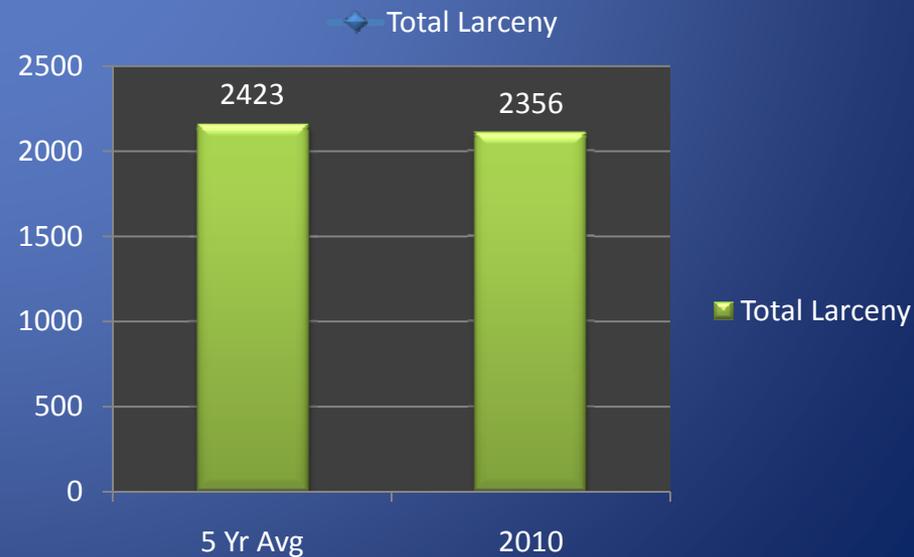
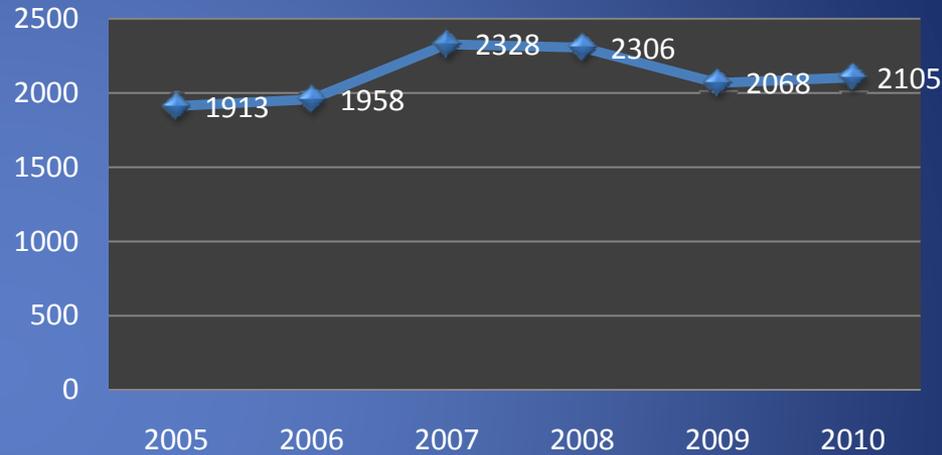


# LARCENY

No Patterns

-3%

- Overall, larceny has **decreased by 3%**.
- The only larceny type with a dramatic increase has been:
  - Larceny of Bicycles **+48%**
- Other Larceny Crimes:
  - Larceny from MV **-19%**
  - Larceny / Building **-2%**
  - Larceny /Resid. **-2%**
  - Shoplifting **+3%**





# LARCENY: *from MV*

Emerging Pattern

**-19%**

- Larceny from MVs are **down 19%** when compared with the 5-year average.
- The pattern identified in the Memorial Drive parking lot appears to have been eradicated with the arrest of a suspect.
- ***A current pattern is connected to a seasonal series we have observed on the periphery of Harvard Square during the fourth quarter in the past.***





# Harvard Square LMV Pattern

Since 11/1, there have been 16 larceny from motor vehicle reports around Harvard Square.

- All except 2 have been by breaking a window and typical items stolen:
  - GPS, laptops, cell phones, iPods.
- There was similar pattern last December.
- Time frames:
  - Fri & Tue**
    - 2:00AM – 4:30AM
  - Wed & Sat**
    - 2:00PM – 4:00PM





# Larceny from Motor Vehicle

*What can we do?*

## Police Response Strategy:

- Cambridge Police are **focused on prevention** of these crimes by **increasing officer visibility in targeted areas**.
  - CPD may also be deploying **plain-clothes officers for surveillance** in key areas in an effort to catch and apprehend suspects in the act.
- CPD has also produced a useful pamphlet containing **Holiday Shopping Safety Tips** to prevent the “Grinch” from stealing peoples’ holiday items left unattended in their vehicles while shopping in malls, etc.
  - This pamphlet can be accessed on our website at [http://www2.cambridgema.gov/CityOfCambridge\\_Content/documents/Pamphlet\\_HolidaySafety\\_FINAL2.pdf](http://www2.cambridgema.gov/CityOfCambridge_Content/documents/Pamphlet_HolidaySafety_FINAL2.pdf)
  - Copies are also available at the front desk of the Cambridge Police Department on 125 Sixth Street.

## Citizen Response Strategy:

- Citizens are asked to take the following precautions to protect themselves, their vehicles, and their belongings from theft:
  - **During this holiday season, take extra care when out doing your shopping.**
  - When shopping at malls, try to **park your vehicle in a well-lit area.**
  - Many malls and stores have security personnel, if you feel uneasy, alert security immediately.
  - Make sure all of your car doors are locked when you leave your vehicle.
  - 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 in your car, **place them in the trunk of under a blanket to conceal them**
  - Visit our website for more Holiday Shopping Safety Tips:  
[http://www2.cambridgema.gov/CityOfCambridge\\_Content/documents/Pamphlet\\_HolidaySafety\\_FINAL2.pdf](http://www2.cambridgema.gov/CityOfCambridge_Content/documents/Pamphlet_HolidaySafety_FINAL2.pdf)

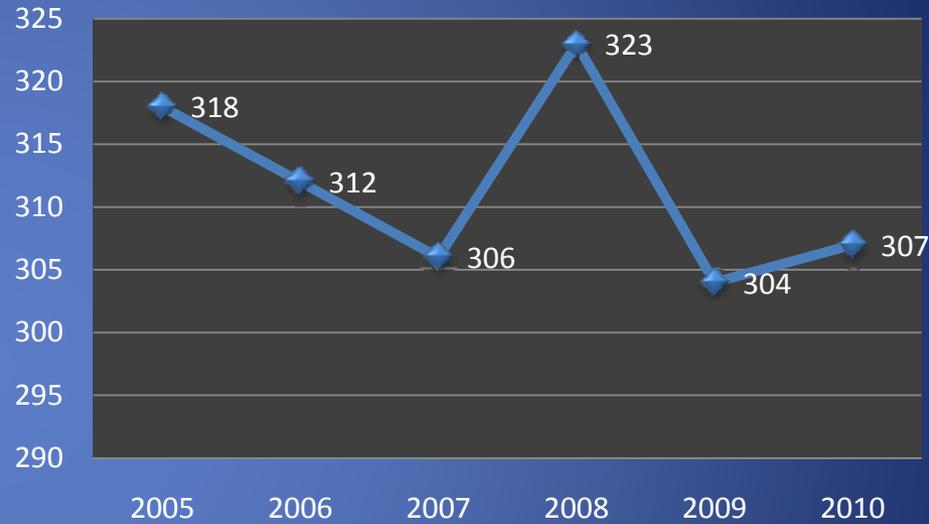


# LARCENY: *from Person*

No Patterns

-1%

- This has been exceptionally quiet since BridgeStat-directed strategies employed at the beginning of the Summer (**up 17% at that time**).
- As expected, with the increase in weekend festivities in Harvard Square on the first three weekends of October there has been an increase in dipper activity in the area, with 10 incidents over the past two weekends. There has also been a slight uptick in thefts from unattended items in bars near closing times.



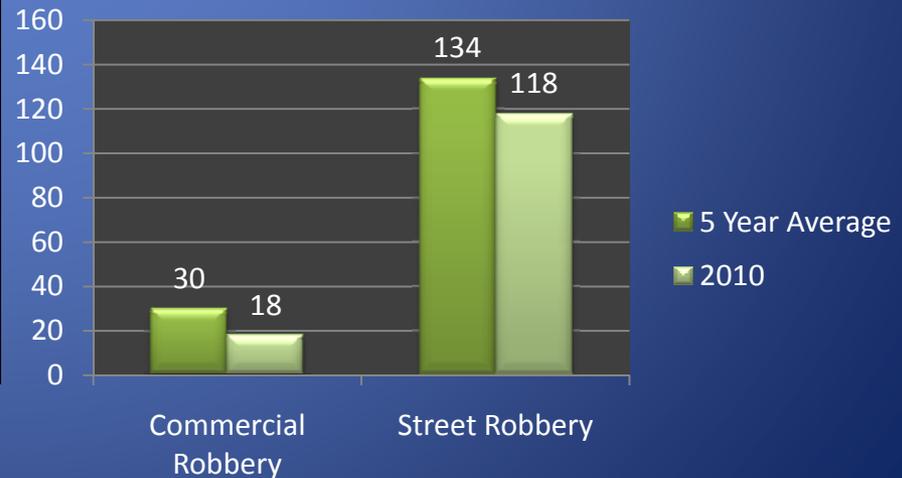
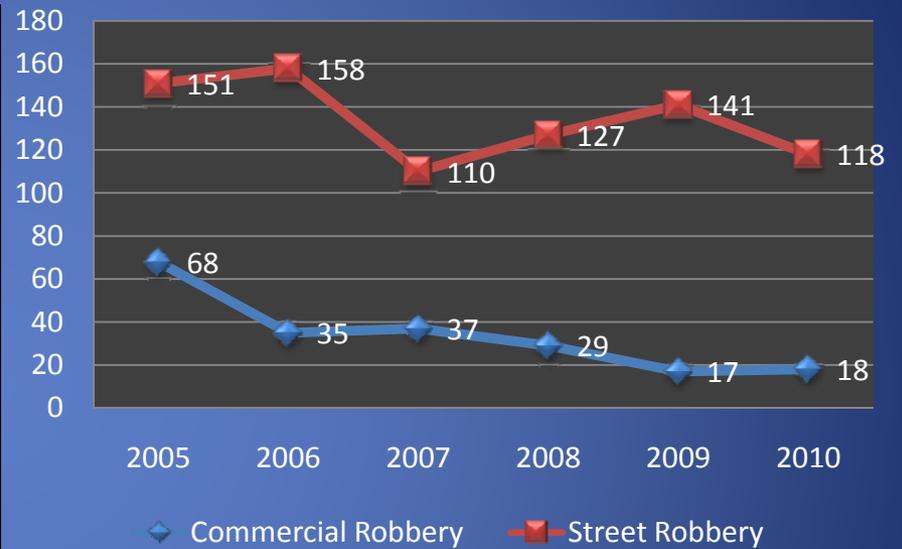


# ROBBERY

No Patterns

-17%

- **Total Robbery** dropped from a 5 year average of 164 incidents YTD to 136 incidents in 2010, registering a **17% decrease**.
- **Commercial Robbery** is down **40%** so far in 2010, from 30 incidents to 18. Only four bank robberies have occurred this year, with arrests in all four of the incidents. Cell phone stores have been a primary target in the region.
- **Street Robbery** has recorded a **12% decline** from the 5-year average.





# Potential Street Robbery Hot Spots – 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter

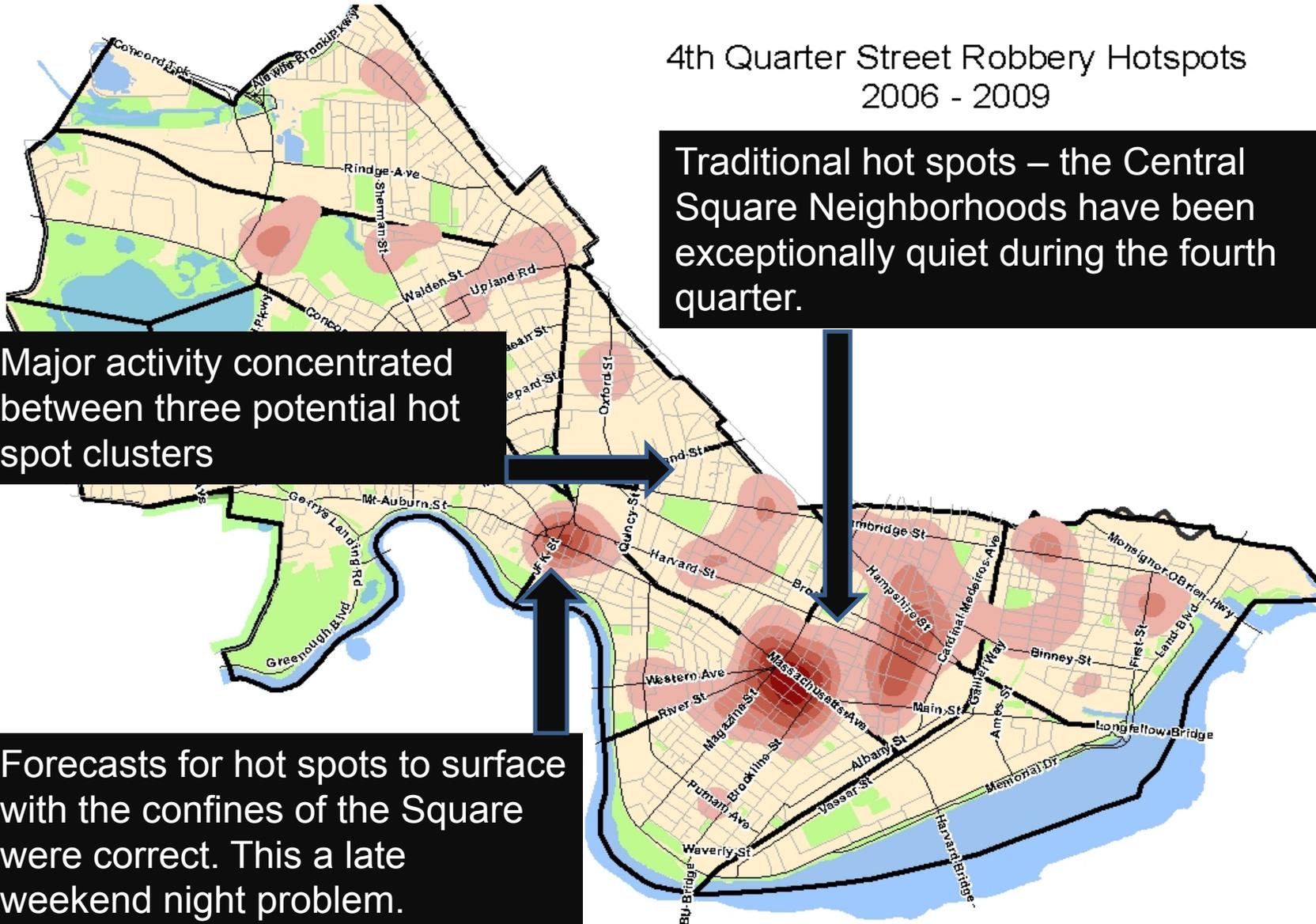
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4th Quarter Street Robbery Hotspots  
2006 - 2009

Traditional hot spots – the Central Square Neighborhoods have been exceptionally quiet during the fourth quarter.

Major activity concentrated between three potential hot spot clusters

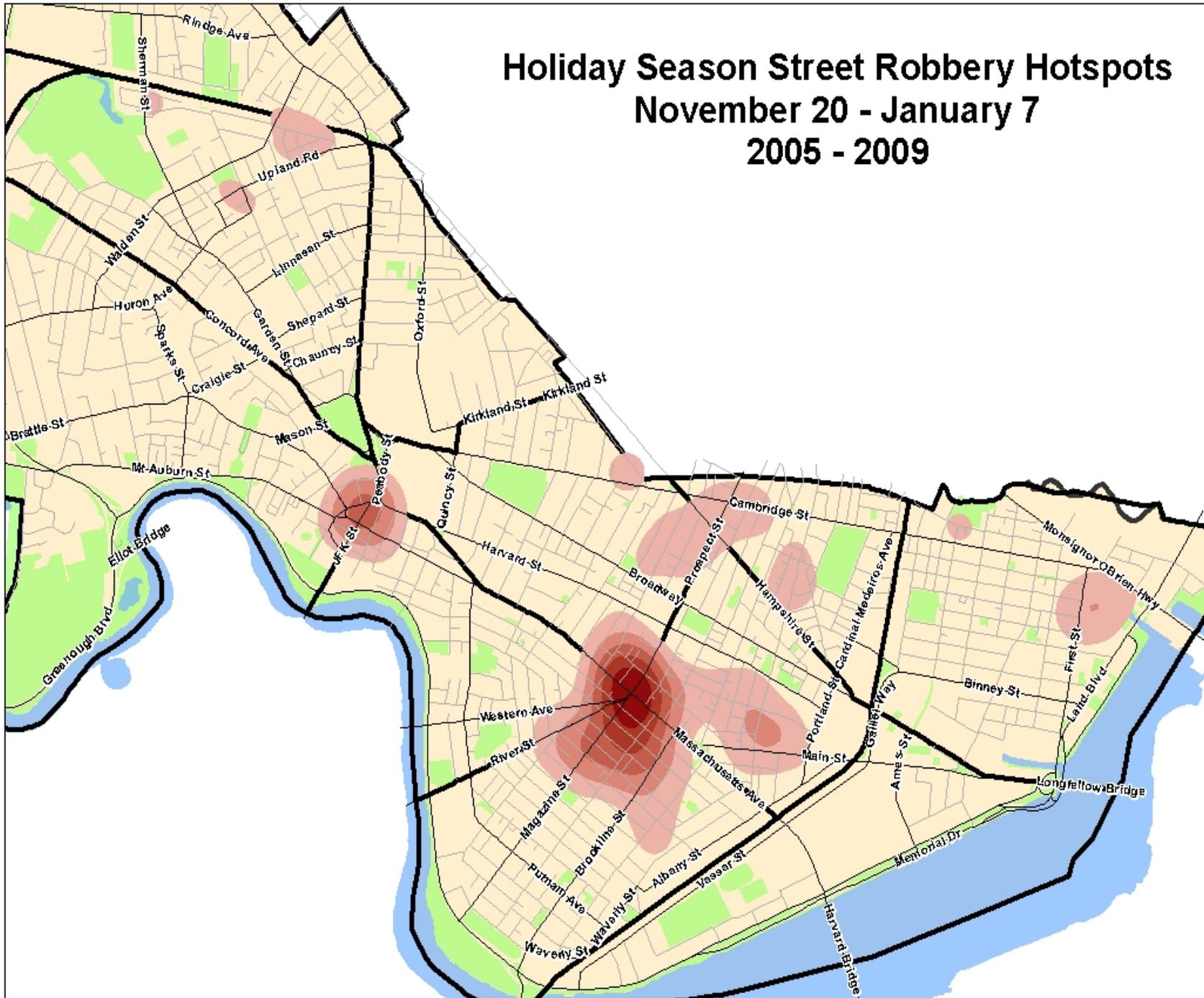
Forecasts for hot spots to surface with the confines of the Square were correct. This a late weekend night problem.





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# Holiday Season Street Robbery Hotspots November 20 - January 7 2005 - 2009

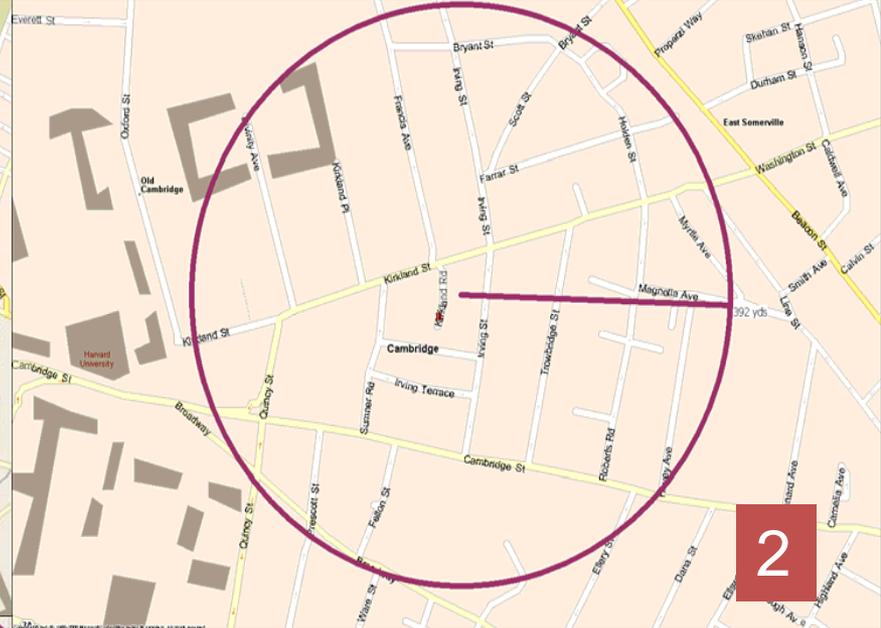
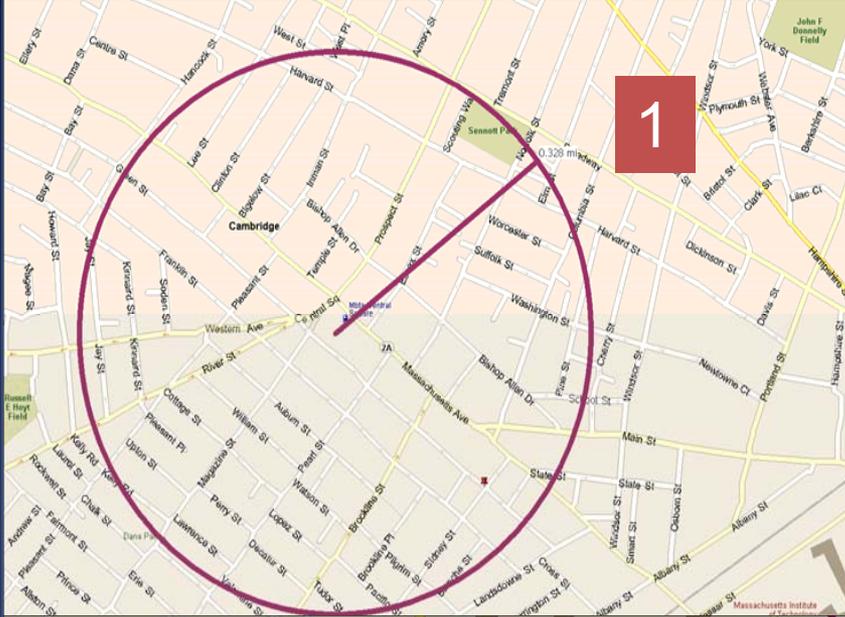




# Holiday Pattern: Street Robbery Hotspots

Thursday through Saturday Nights: 11PM to 1AM

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#1 Central Square Periphery bordered by Sidney, Harvard, Lee and Erie Streets

#2 Kirkland Triangle – bordered by Cambridge Street, Quincy Square and the Somerville Line

#3 Harvard Square – bordered by Cambridge Common, Eliot, Mill, and Bow Streets



# Street Robberies

## *What can we do?*

### Police Response Strategy:

- Cambridge Police will be **increasing visibility in the defined areas** to help prevent the holiday pattern from emerging by:
  - **Placing extra patrols and resources in the affected areas.**
- **CPD shared this information with local universities** so that they can inform their students and deploy their resources accordingly.
- **CPD is asking holiday shoppers to be extremely vigilant this time of year.**
  - If something doesn't seem right or feels out of place, it probably is.
    - Get inside or call police immediately.

### Citizen Response Strategy:

- Cambridge Police would like to remind people that if approached and asked for your belongings, **DO NOT RESIST** – the robber wants your valuables, not you.
- Police also ask residents to take the following precautions when walking at night:
  - Be aware of your surroundings at all times and trust your instincts.
  - Always walk with a friend or in a group when possible.
  - Walk with confidence. Keep your head up to observe your surroundings and don't look down at the ground.
  - If you feel you are being followed, show you are suspicious – turn to look at the person. It sends a clear message that you will not be taken by surprise.
  - Do not wear ear buds, headphones, or listen to music when walking alone.
  - If someone is following you, cross the street and vary your pace.
- Don't let the "Grinch" steal your holidays by following the Holiday Shopping Safety Tips available on our website at:

[http://www2.cambridgema.gov/CityOfCambridge\\_Content/documents/Pamphlet\\_HolidaySafety\\_FINAL2.pdf](http://www2.cambridgema.gov/CityOfCambridge_Content/documents/Pamphlet_HolidaySafety_FINAL2.pdf)



# Holiday Season – Bank Robbery Trends

## Bank Robberies during the Holiday Season (Thanksgiving to New Years)

- Over the past 10 years, Cambridge has averaged slightly higher than 1 Bank Robbery during the Holiday season per year.
- Recent history replicates this trend with **a single bank robbery in each of the holiday seasons between 2006 and 2009.**
- **Last year a series of bank robberies surfaced in the middle of November** in Greater Boston (4 in Brookline, 9 in Boston in one week). Although many of the incidents were related, the spike in bank robberies was the work of multiple suspects.
  - **To combat this trend, CPD instituted a series of park & walks at high priority banks during specific time frames of high probability hits.**
    - **This tactic worked:** While the region was hit hard with robberies, none were recorded in Cambridge.
- **So far in 2010, there have been 4 bank robberies reported in Cambridge, with arrests made in each of these the cases.**
- This holiday season, CPD will be reaching out to high-priority banks and alerting them as well as adding extra patrols at these locations to deter crimes.



# 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)