

# Cambridge Police Department BridgeStat

October 2021

Produced by the Crime Analysis Unit



### Part I Total Crime

An analysis of serious crime statistics for the first ten months of 2021 reveals an increase of 6% in the Part One index total for Cambridge when compared with the same time period in 2020. Over the first 43 weeks of this year, there were 2,160 serious crimes reported in the City. Through November 1<sup>st</sup> in 2020, the combined total for Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny & Auto theft was 2,030 incidents,130 fewer than this year. When measured against the five-year average, a slightly higher escalation of 7% in the crime index has been recorded.

Further analysis of the crime totals between January 1<sup>st</sup> & November 1<sup>st</sup> of 2021 indicates that violent crimes recorded a minor 5% uptick when compared with last year, and property crimes crept upward 7% with 119 additional crimes reported when compared with the first ten months of 2020. The violent crime breakdown in the City so far in 2021 consists of one homicide, 22 rapes, 59 robberies, and 171 aggravated assaults.

The 36% escalation upward in larcenies from motor vehicles and the 3% increase in larcenies of bicycles when compared with the first ten months of 2020 have been the key trend indicators fueling the moderate crime rise so far in 2021. These two categories of larceny have accounted for 42% of the total crime index so far in this year.

When reviewing the serious crime totals of October 2021 versus the previous month of September, there has been a measurable decline of 15% in the number of index incidents, with 35 fewer crimes reported.

	4 Week Snapshot		Year to Date			Five Year		
	9/7/21 - 10/4/21	10/5/21 - 11/1/21	Change	2020	2021	Change	Avg	Change
Total Violent Crime	27	23	-15%	242	253	5%	250	1%
Total Property Crime	205	174	-15%	1788	1907	7%	1760	8%
Total Part I Crime	232	197	-15%	2030	2160	6%	2010	7%



# Part I Property Crime

Analysis of property crime totals for the first ten months of 2021 indicates a 7% increase when measured against the 2020 totals and an 8% uptick above the five-year average, with 119 additional incidents above the total through November 1<sup>st</sup> of last year and 147 additional crimes above the 1,760 forecasted for this time period.

Multiple property crime categories recorded significant increases when measured against the first ten months of 2020, most notably a 36% jump in larceny from motor vehicles, fueled by a regional pattern of the thefts of catalytic converters, and a 37% hike in bike thefts above the 5-year average, which has been a persistent problem throughout the Covid period.

	4 Week Snapshot		Year to Date			<u>Five Year</u>		
	9/7/21 - 10/4/21	10/5/21 - 11/1/21	Change	2020	2021	Change	Avg	Change
Burglary	14	18	29%	166	172	4%	181	-5%
Commercial Break	1	7	600%	52	68	31%	44	55%
Housebreak	13	11	-15%	114	104	-9%	138	-25%
Larceny	172	147	-15%	1549	1629	5%	1492	9%
Larceny (Misc)	8	5	-38%	34	47	38%	35	34%
Larceny from Building	11	12	9%	105	110	5%	176	-38%
Larceny from MV	30	26	-13%	272	369	36%	244	51%
Larceny from Person	10	5	-50%	77	80	4%	122	-34%
Larceny from Residence	25	24	-4%	294	298	1%	222	34%
Larceny of Bicycle	76	55	-28%	525	543	3%	397	37%
Larceny of Plate	1	1	0%	9	22	144%	16	38%
Larceny of Services	0	0	IN-CALC	3	4	33%	13	-69%
Shoplifting	11	19	73%	230	156	-32%	267	-42%
Auto Theft	19	9	-53%	73	106	45%	87	22%
Total Property Crime	205	174	-15%	1788	1907	7%	1760	8%





### Part I Violent Crime

For the first ten months of 2021, there were 253 violent crimes recorded in Cambridge, 11 incidents (+5%) above last year's total of 242 and three incidents (+1%) above the number forecasted for the 5-year average through November 1st of this year.

There have been 59 robberies registered in the first ten months of 2021. Ten of these incidents have been categorized as commercial and 49 classified as street incidents, to record a 9% increase when compared with 2020. Twenty-two rapes have been reported so far in 2021, the exact number counted for this time period last year. There have been 171 aggravated assaults recorded over the first 43 weeks of 2021, six above the number reported in 2020. The 2021 total also currently represents a 7% rise above the 160 assaults forecasted for this time period.

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.

	4 Week Snapshot		Year to Date			Five Year		
	9/7/21 - 10/4/21	10/5/21 - 11/1/21	Change	2020	2021	Change	Avg	Change
Homicide	0	0	IN-CALC	1	1	0%	1	0%
Rape	1	2	100%	22	22	0%	23	-4%
Robbery	9	5	-44%	54	59	9%	66	-11%
Commercial Robbery	0	0	IN-CALC	9	10	11%	17	-41%
Street Robbery	9	5	-44%	45	49	9%	50	-2%
Aggravated Assault	17	16	-6%	165	171	4%	160	7%
Total Violent Crime	27	23	-15%	242	253	5%	250	1%



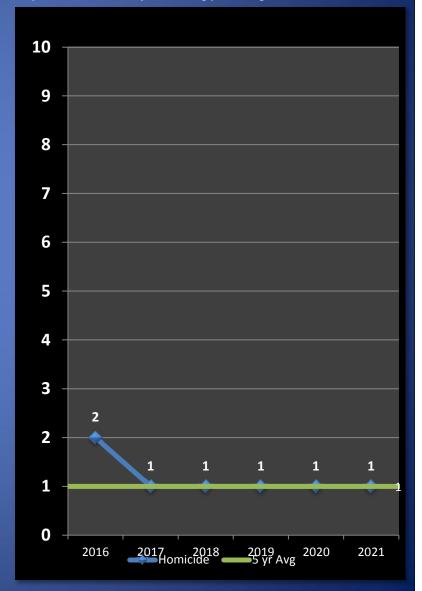
### MURDER

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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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.



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





### **RAPE**

### No Patterns

- Twenty—two rapes were reported during the first ten months of 2021, matching the number reported during the same time frame last year. The current total is one less than the five-year average of 23.
- The sexual assaults so far in 2021 have been classified as eight domestic situations, eight involving acquaintances as the predator, five 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\***

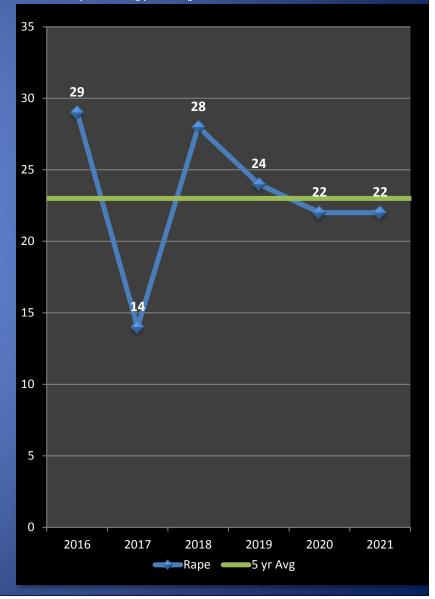
Last 4 Weeks Previous Year 5-Year Average

+100%

0%

-4%

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





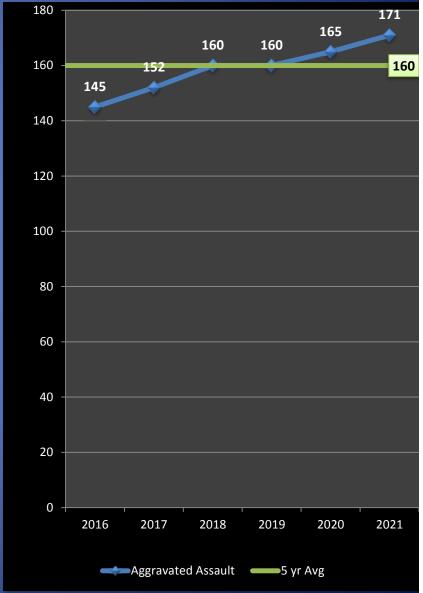


### AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

### No Patterns

- The aggravated assault total for the first ten months of 2021 was six incidents (+4%) above the total for the same time period in 2020. The total of 171 aggravated assaults reported over the first ten months of the year was 11 crimes (+7%) above the 160 incidents forecasted for the five-year average.
- The 171 aggravated assaults reported through November 1<sup>st</sup> of 2021 were composed of the following classifications: 35 unprovoked scenarios; 31 domestic altercations; 30 altercations between acquaintances; 16 traffic & parking related assaults; 12 assaults between individuals who are homeless; 12 juvenile incidents; 9 psychotic episodes; 6 affrays; 6 landlord/neighbor assaults; 5 shop owner/patron assaults; 3 drug deal assaults; 3 assaults on police officers; 2 bar/alcohol related assaults; and one workplace incident.
- Through November 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, there have been 12 reports of shots fired citywide, seven of which resulted in gunshot wounds (including the fatal shooting on 3/27/21 in North Cambridge). No incidents were reported in September or October. The last shooting in Cambridge was on August 25 in North Cambridge and resulted in the arrests of two former Cambridge males. See maps on slides 9-10 for more info on each of the shootings.
- Through November 1<sup>st</sup> of last year (2020), six 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.



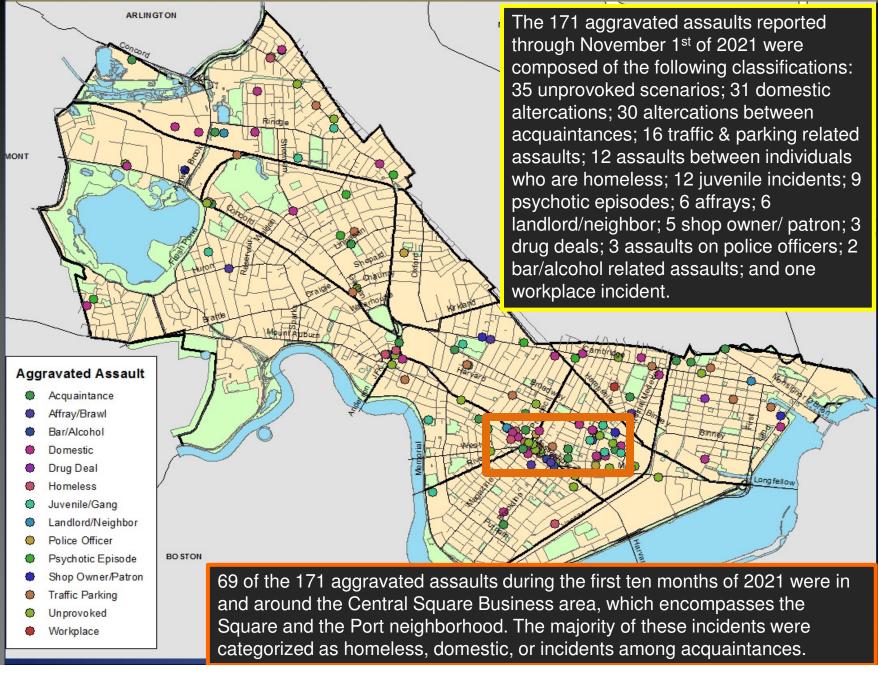


# ambridge Police BridgeStat

October

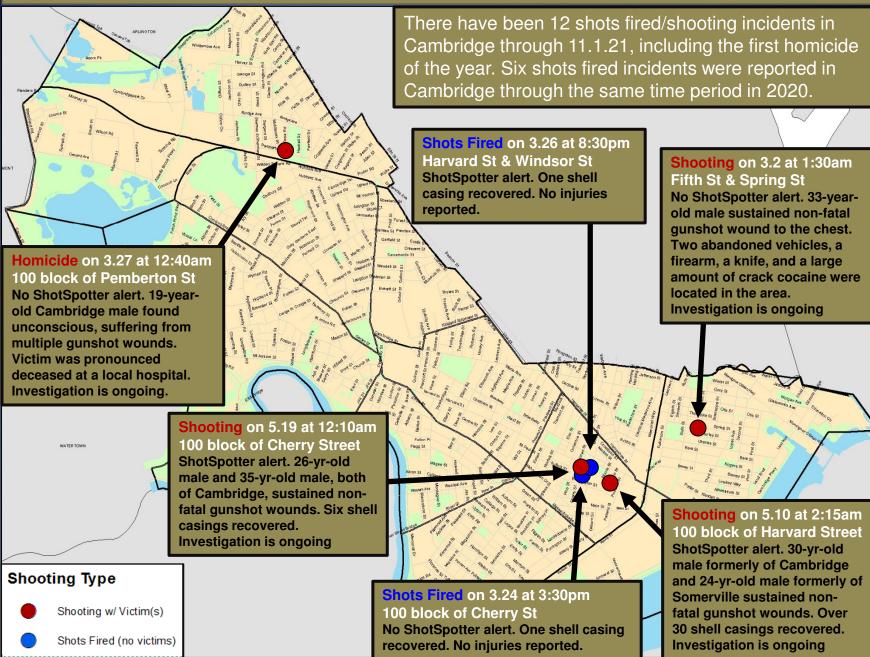
2021

### Geographic Breakdown of Aggravated Assault: 1.1.21 – 11.1.21





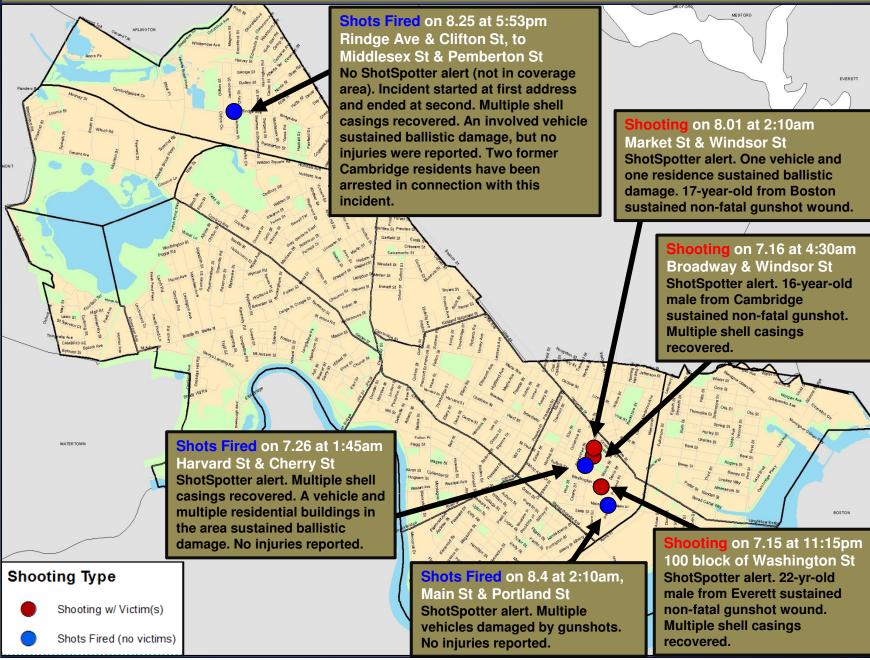
### Shootings & Shots Fired in Cambridge: 1.1.21 – 6.30.21



2021



### Shootings & Shots Fired in Cambridge: 7.1.21 – 11.1.21







### Robbery

No Patterns

- The five-year average for overall robbery in Cambridge for the first ten months of the year is 66 incidents. The total through November 1st of 2021 was 59 crimes, seven incidents (11%) below the number forecasted for that time period. Over the first ten months of 2021, the 59 robberies that were recorded also indicated a 9% increase (five incidents) above the 54 robberies counted for the first same time period in 2020.
- There were ten commercial robberies recorded in Cambridge during the first ten months of this year, one more than was counted during the same time period of 2020 and 41% below the five-year average of 17. There were no commercial robberies reported in September or October, and only three reported since the end of May.
- Over the first ten months of 2021, there were 49 street robberies reported, four above the number that was recorded over the first 43 weeks of last year and one incident (-2%) below the 50 forecasted for the 5-year average. Four of the five street robberies in October were committed late at night in and around the periphery of Central Square and involved individuals who were homeless.

### **Percent Change**

Last 4 Weeks Prev

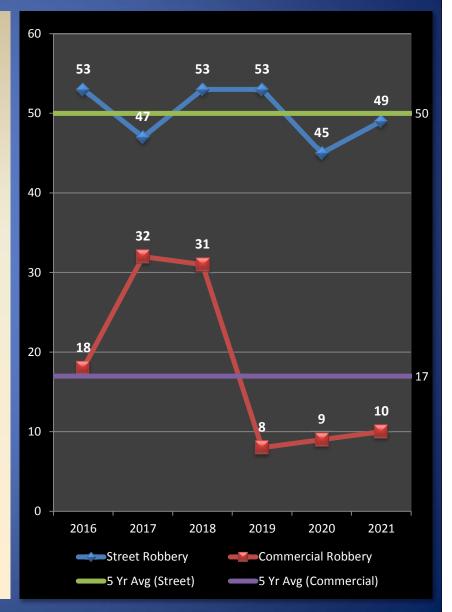
**Previous Year** 

5-Year Average

-44%

+9%

-11%



### Geographic Breakdown of Street Robbery: 1.1.21 – 11.1.21



23 of the street robberies in 2021 have been in—or on adjacent side streets near—Central Sq. These incidents include: Thirteen robberies in the 500-800 block of Mass, nine robberies in the Pearl/Green/Franklin/Pleasant St area, and one robbery on Temple St.



### Burglary

No Patterns

- The property index crime of burglary, the combination of residential and commercial breaks, has recorded a slight increase of 4% in 2021 above the first ten months of last year. When measured versus the five-year average of 181 burglaries, the total of 172 incidents in 2021 indicates a minor decline of nine incidents (-5%).
- 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 31% when compared with the first ten months of 2020 and have surged upward 55% over the forecasted number for the first 43 weeks of the year. A prolific, habitual offender was arrested and linked to multiple commercial breaks throughout the lower half of the City in July; this arrest helped propel a downward surge with only 12 breaks reported in the past 3 months.
- A breakdown of commercial breaks through November 1st of 2021 by business area: Bay Square – 14 (9 over the Summer); Central Square – 13; Harvard Square – 8; Galleria/ East - 7; Inman Square - 6; Alewife - 6; 1500 to 1900 Mass Ave - 5; Kendall/MIT - 5; Cambridgeport/Riverside - 3; and Porter Square - 1.
- Currently, there are no housebreak patterns in Cambridge. For the first ten months of the 2021, a decrease of 9% has been recorded, with 10 fewer crimes reported. Eighty of the 104 housebreaks counted in 2021 have been in the lowerhalf of the City below Harvard Square.

### **Percent Change**

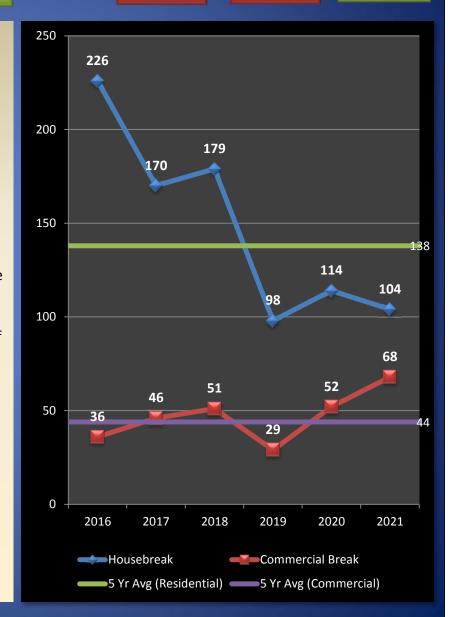
Last 4 Weeks

Previous Year 5-Year Average

+29%

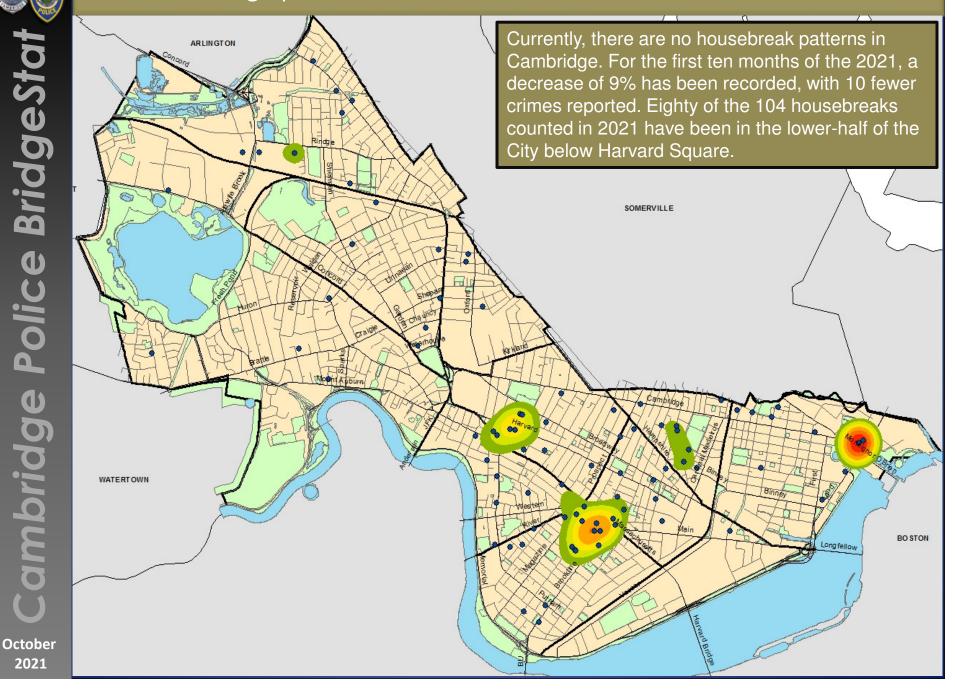
+4%

-5%



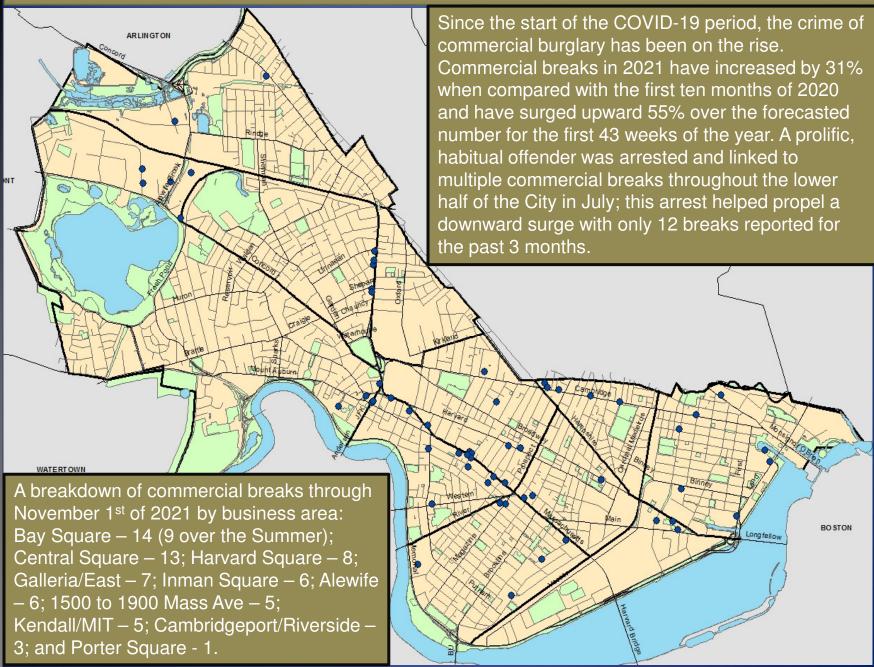
2021

### Geographic Breakdown of Housebreaks: 1.1.21 – 11.1.21





### Geographic Breakdown of Commercial Breaks: 1.1.21 – 11.1.21







### LARCENY

### No Patterns

- Overall larceny through 11/1/21 registered at 1,629 incidents, 5% above the same time frame in 2020. The total of 1,629 larcenies reported year-to-date in 2021 is also 9% above the 5-year average of 1,492 incidents through 11/1.
- The larceny from motor vehicles total for the first ten months of 2021 is 369 incidents, which is 36% above the total for the same time **period in 2020.** The 369 thefts reported also indicates an increase of 125 incidents (+51%) above the number forecasted through the first 43 weeks of 2021. Much of this upsurge can be attributed to the large number of catalytic converter thefts that occurred in January, February and August.
- Through November 1, 2021, there have been 80 larcenies from the person reported in Cambridge, up by 3 incidents (4%) when compared to the same time period in 2020. Although similar to 2020, this is down 34% from the 5-year average of 122, likely due to the pandemic. Central Square has seen the most activity this year with 46 incidents.
- · There have been 110 larcenies from buildings reported through November 1, 2021. This is 5 incidents (5%) above the same time frame in 2020 and 66 incidents (38%) 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 compared to the average.
- Larcenies from residences are up by 4 incidents (1%) through 11/1/21 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 increased volume of deliveries during the pandemic. Package thefts have accounted for 199 (or 67%) of the 298 larcenies from residences in 2021.
- Larceny of bicycles continues to be one of the major property crimes seen in 2021, with 18 more bike thefts reported in 2021 than during the same time frame in 2020 (+3%). Bike thefts are also up 37% (146 thefts) over the five-year average. Cambridgeport has seen the most bike thefts year-to-date with 92 incidents (17% of the citywide total of 543), followed by North Cambridge with 90.

### **Percent Change**

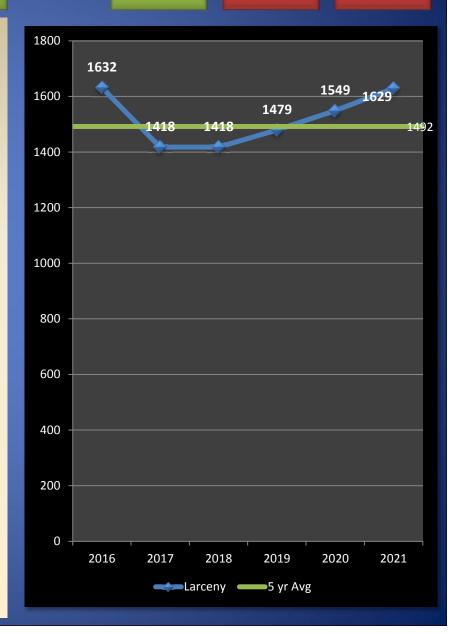
Last 4 Weeks **Previous Year** 

-15%

+5%

+9%

5-Year Average





### **LARCENY From MV**

Sporadic Pattern

- The 369 thefts from cars reported over the first ten months of 2021 reveal an increase of 125 incidents (+51%) above the number forecasted through November 1<sup>st</sup> of 2021. When measured against the total for the first ten months of last year, a 36% increase has been recorded with 97 additional incidents counted. After recording a substantial decrease of 26 incidents in September (-47%), another dip of 13% was reported in October for car breaks.
- The neighborhoods with the highest larceny from motor vehicle totals so far in 2021 are: Mid-Cambridge (68); Cambridgeport (65); Riverside (41); North Cambridge (38); and Peabody (33). The neighborhoods with the lowest totals through the first ten months of this year are the Strawberry Hill and the Highlands neighborhoods with 3 each and MIT with 2.
- Catalytic converter thefts had been a regional issue with Cambridge not experiencing any until a series of thefts were reported primarily in the Cambridgeport neighborhood between January 17-18, 2021. Another surge of thefts occurred in the Inman-Harrington and East Cambridge neighborhoods over the first two weeks of February. After a nearly 3-month hiatus in converter theft activity, a pattern erupted during August with 25 thefts, mostly from Toyota Priuses (2004 to 2009 model years). The majority took place in Mid-Cambridge. Sporadic incidents have been reported over the past two months in Cambridge, while thefts continue in surrounding communities.

### **Percent Change**

Last 4 Weeks

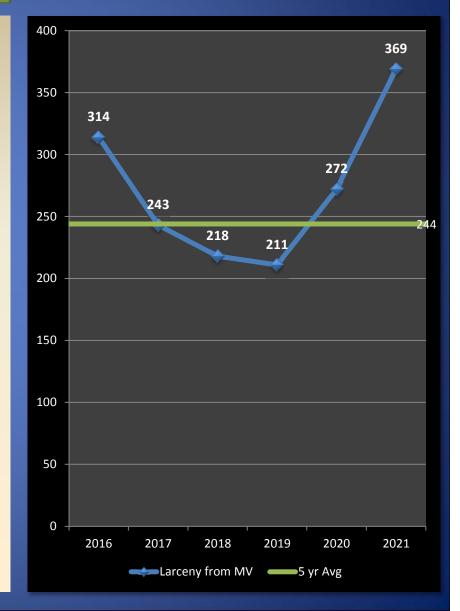
**Previous Year** 

5-Year Average

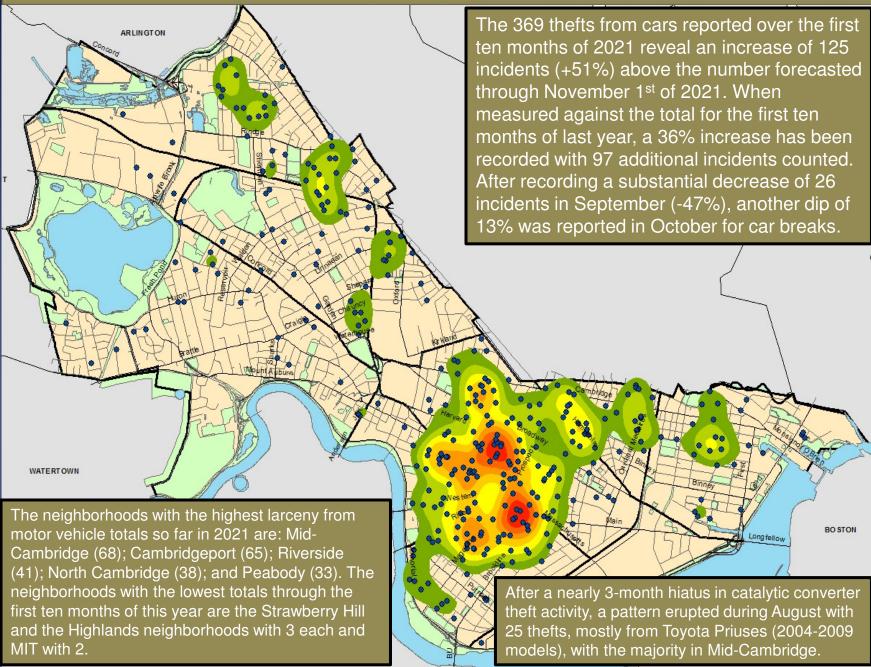
-13%

+36%

+51%



### Geographic Breakdown of Larceny from Motor Vehicles: 1.1.21 – 11.1.21





# No Patterns

### **Percent Change**

Last 4 Weeks

**Previous Year** 

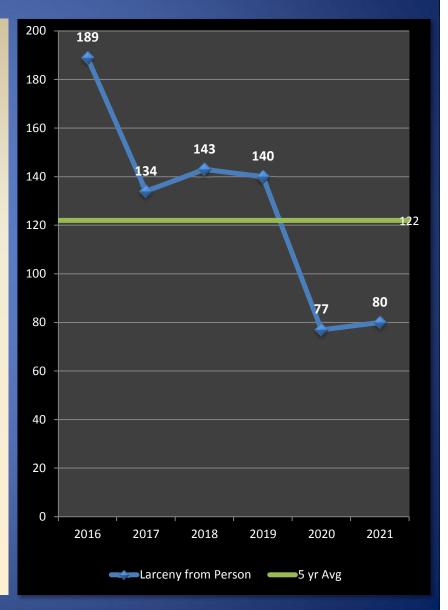
5-Year Average

-50%

+4%

-34%

- Through November 1, 2021, there have been 80 larcenies from the person reported in Cambridge, up by three incidents (4%) when compared to the same time period in 2020. When compared to the 5-year average, there has been a decrease of 42 incidents (-34%). 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 46 incidents, followed by Porter Square with ten. There have only been eight 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 (28) and thefts while shopping (20).
- There have been seven suspects developed for this crime type throughout the first ten 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 followup.

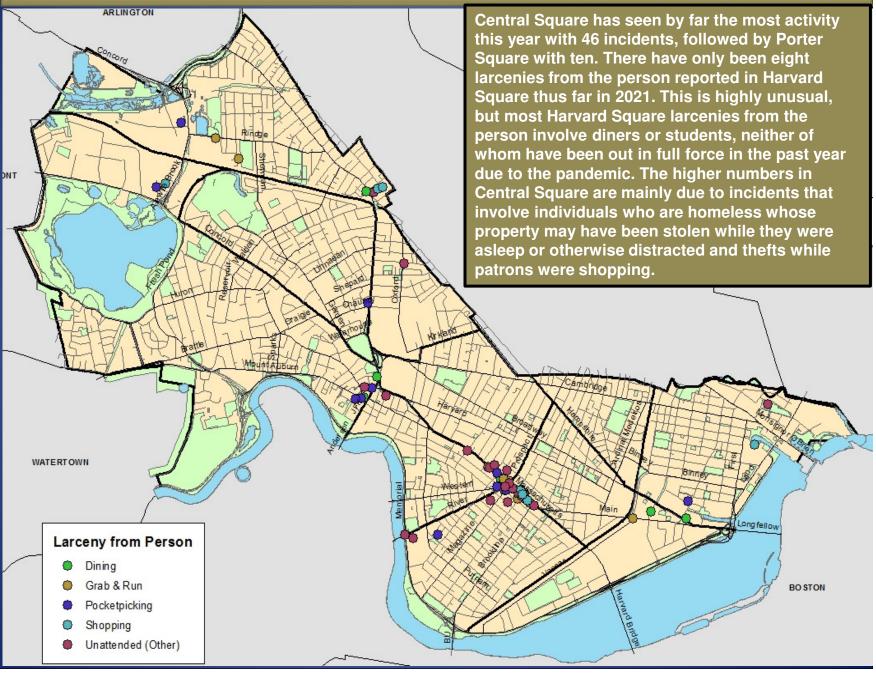


October

2021



### Geographic Breakdown of Larceny from Person: 1.1.21 – 11.1.21







# LARCENY of Bicycle No Patterns

- Bicycle thefts continue to be one of the major property crimes seen in 2021, incurring a 3% increase in 2021 when compared with the same time period in 2020, and up 37% (+146 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 346 of the 543 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 543 bike thefts reported thus far in 2021, 419 (77%) 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 Thefts in 2021

Neighborhood	YTD Total	% Citywide
Cambridgeport	92	17%
North Cambridge	90	17%
Riverside	65	12%
Mid Cambridge	64	12%
East Cambridge	57	10%
Peabody	41	8%

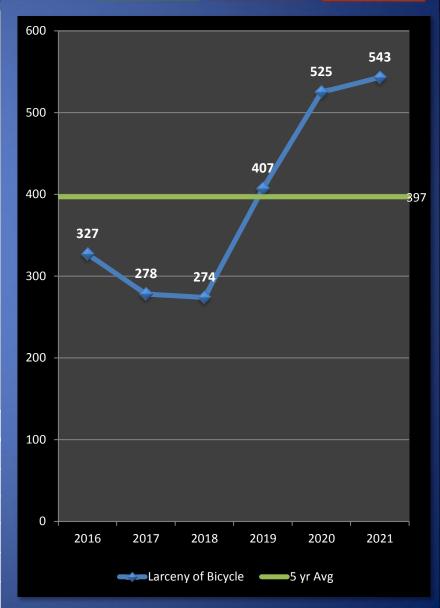
### **Percent Change**

Last 4 Weeks Previous Year

+37%

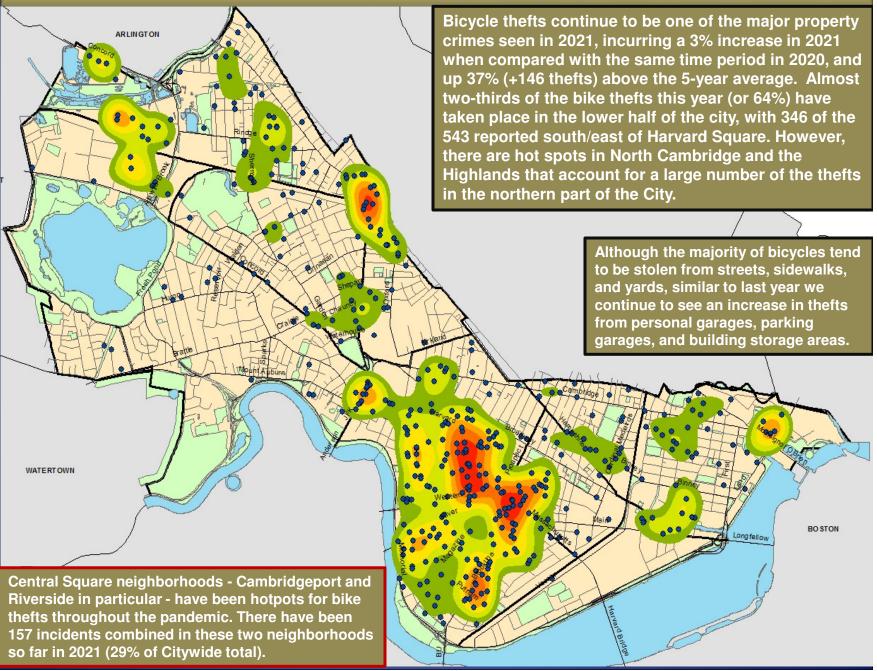
5-Year Average





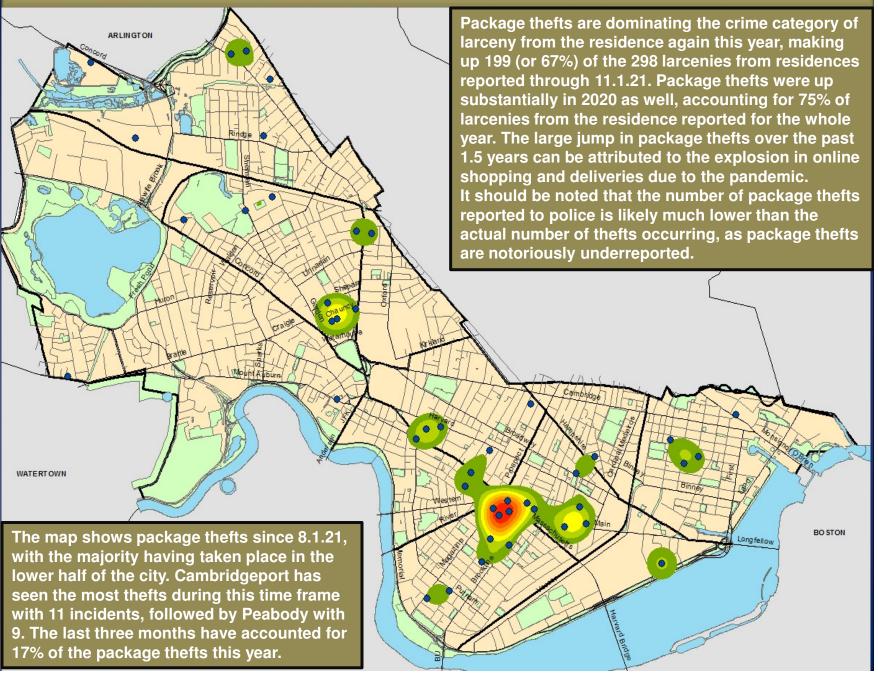


### Geographic Breakdown of Larceny of Bicycles: 1.1.21 – 11.1.21





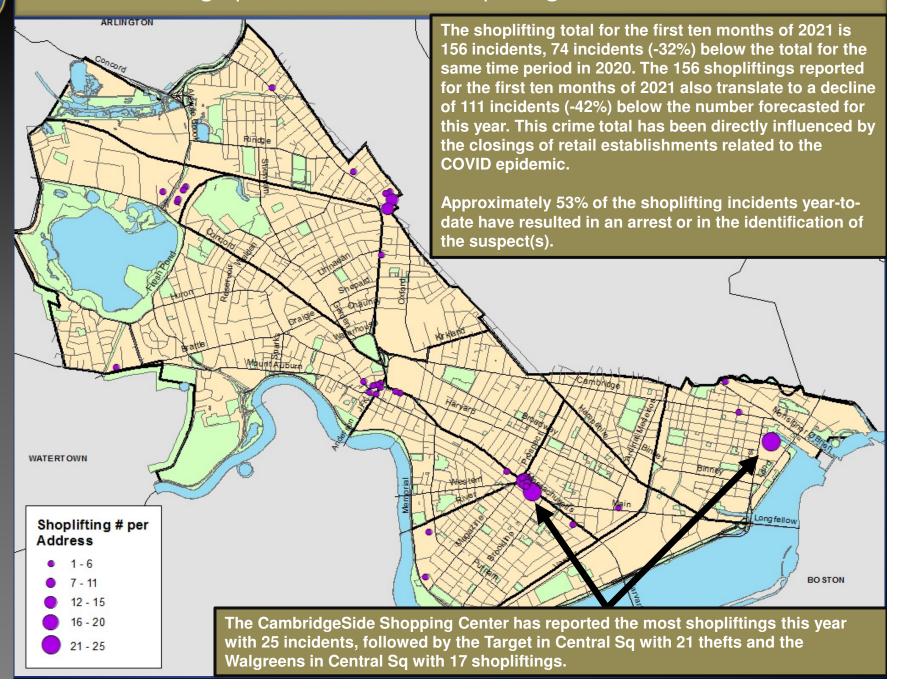
### Geographic Breakdown of Package Thefts: 8.1.21 – 11.1.21



# ambridge Police BridgeStat October

2021

### Geographic Breakdown of Shoplifting: 1.1.21 – 11.1.21







### **AUTO THEFT**

No Patterns

- The projected 5-year weighted average for auto thefts through November 1<sup>st</sup> is 87, and with 106 reported in 2021 during this time, we are experiencing an increase of 22% this year. Auto thefts in 2021 are also up 45% over last year, with 33 additional incidents.
- When comparing the most recent four weeks
   (October) to the prior (September), there was a
   decrease from 19 incidents to 9, or -53%. 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, but this
   trend dropped off in July. The resurgence of two wheeled-vehicle thefts in August attributed to a 300%
   rise over July. However, this trend has dropped off
   with the cooler weather in recent months.
- Eleven of the 106 thefts this year have been reported by auto rental businesses when their vehicles were not returned on time.
- The neighborhoods with the highest auto theft totals are: Riverside 26, North Cambridge 16,
   Cambridgeport 13, East Cambridge and West
   Cambridge 10 each, Mid-Cambridge 8, Agassiz,
   Peabody and The Port 5 each, the Highlands and
   Inman/Harrington 3 each, and MIT and Strawberry
   Hill each have 1.
- There have been 39 auto theft recoveries recorded so far in 2021 (37% of the total stolen).

### **Percent Change**

**Last 4 Weeks** 

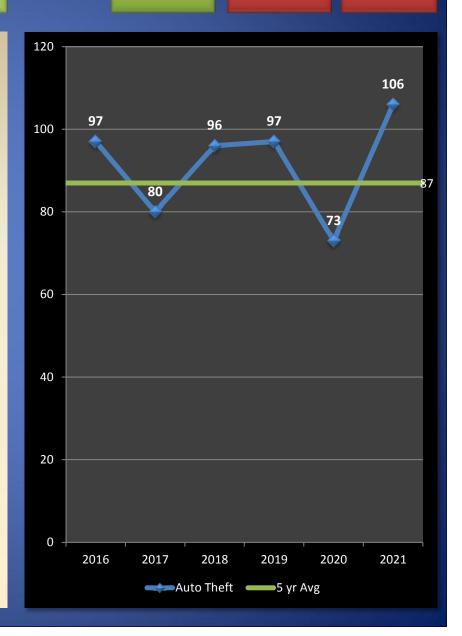
**Previous Year** 

5-Year Average

-53%

+45%

+22%







# **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 <u>@CambridgePolice</u> on Twitter.
- Visit our website at <u>www.CambridgePolice.org</u> 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 <u>www.CambridgePolice.org/MyPD</u>.

### 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

2021