

# **SECTION V**

## **SPECIAL REPORTS**

---

- **DOMESTIC CRIMES**
- **HATE CRIMES**
- **JUVENILE CRIMES**
- **SCHOOL CRIMES**
- **CHA CRIMES**
- **TRAFFIC ANALYSIS**
- **LEARN TO PROTECT YOURSELF**

THE FOLLOWING IS AN OVERVIEW  
OF SPECIAL CRIME CATEGORIES  
FOR THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE



# DOMESTIC CRIME

Domestic crimes include all offenses committed against family members, spouses and ex-spouses, roommates, and romantic partners and ex-romantic partners. Underreporting is a serious problem when it comes to domestic crimes (domestic violence experts estimate that the police department receives a report for only 33 percent of domestic crimes), so the reliability of these figures is uncertain.

In 2008, there were a total of 774 incidents between individuals with a domestic relationship. For a breakdown of domestic crimes by relationship, see the next page. As stated earlier, domestic crime is often underreported. One of the most common reasons is that the police are **not** always the first to be called in domestic cases, as is typically the case with other crime types. Victims of abuse often seek assistance from a local battered women's shelter, a court, a hospital, or a friend before calling the police.

The majority of domestic calls that Cambridge officers do respond to involve loud arguments, classified as "**domestic disputes.**" In 2008, these calls made up 48% of all domestic reports. While not technically a crime, these domestic disturbances can still be a form of abuse, and they may escalate into more serious offenses if they go unaddressed.

**Domestic violence** is the most serious type of domestic crime. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, these crimes take many shapes and "...may include emotional abuse, economic abuse, sexual abuse, using children, threats, using male privilege, intimidation, isolation, and a variety of other behaviors used to maintain fear, intimidation and power" (<http://www.ncadv.org/problem/what.htm>).

While domestic violence is commonly thought of as violence against women, men and children also commonly fall victim. Domestic violence crosses all socio-economic, racial, ethnic, religious, sexual orientation, and age boundaries. What analysis has identified, however, is that the police respond to more calls in communities where individuals live in close quarters, and where neighbors contact the police for assistance.

The most common type of violent domestic incidents reported in Cambridge involves **simple assaults**—assaults without a weapon and with no serious injuries. This category accounted for 20% of all domestic incidents in 2008. Aggravated assaults made up an additional 11%.

CATEGORICAL BREAKDOWN OF DOMESTIC INCIDENTS*	Total Reports*	% of Total Domestic Reports
Dispute/Disturbance with No Physical Abuse	371	47.9%
Simple Assault	156	20.2%
Aggravated Assault	84	10.9%
Violation of a Restraining Order	61	7.9%
Threats to Commit a Crime	39	5.1%
Housebreak	13	1.7%
Harassing or Obscene Telephone Calls	11	1.4%
Larceny	8	1.0%
Rape/Attempted Rape	7	0.9%
Malicious Destruction of Property	6	0.8%
Indecent Assault	5	0.6%
Harassment	4	0.5%
Street Robbery	2	0.3%
Kidnapping	2	0.3%
Driving Offense	1	0.1%
Forgery	1	0.1%
Child Endangerment	1	0.1%
Trespassing	1	0.1%
Arson	1	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

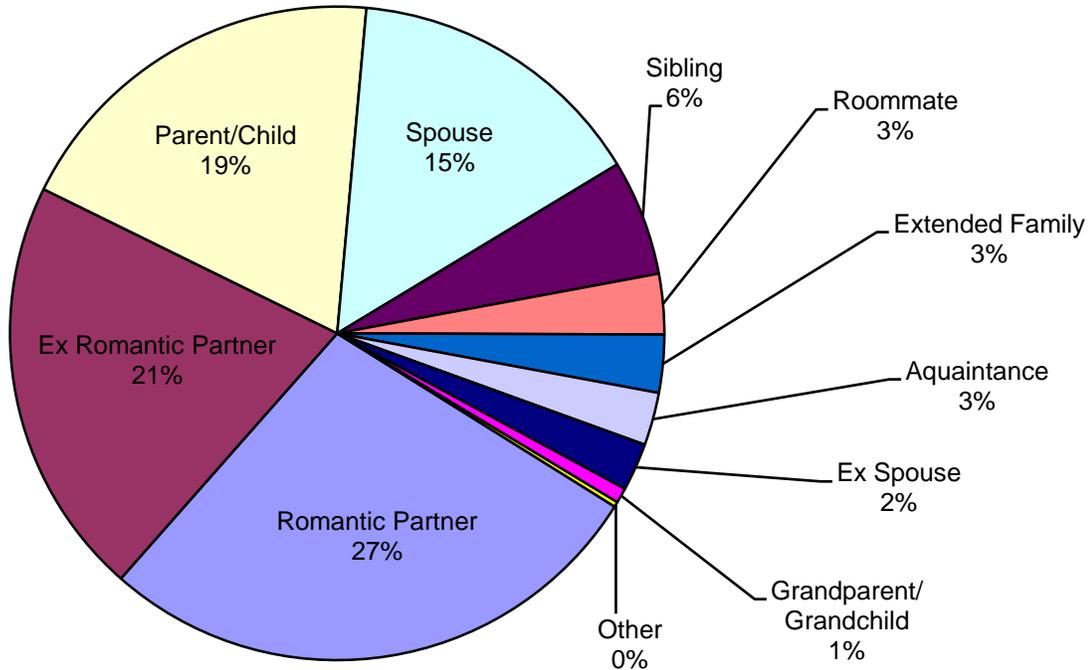
\*Due to classification changes and submission of NIBRS data to the FBI, the totals for index crimes and domestic crimes may vary slightly.

## DID YOU KNOW?

In 2002, The National Crime Prevention Council, better known as the "McGruff, Take A Bite out of Crime" program, recognized the Cambridge Domestic "Violence-Free Zone" as one of its top "50 Strategies to Prevent Domestic Crimes." Selected from thousands of programs sponsored by the most progressive non-profits, law enforcement agencies, and grassroots community groups, the Cambridge initiative was singled out for its long-term citywide approach to preventing the nation's fastest-growing crime. "Here in Cambridge, we decided to involve the entire city government in a ten-year campaign to influence how people think of and act on domestic violence," said Nancy Ryan, Director of the Women's Commission. "With the support of the City Manager, the Cambridge Health Alliance, the Police and School Departments, we have begun to work with employees and community groups to challenge the acceptance of violence in families and relationships."

For more information regarding domestic violence, please go to <http://www.cambridgepolice.org>.

## Domestic Crime by Relationship Type, 2008



### **WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

You are not alone, but please understand that domestic abuse generally gets worse and occurs more frequently when victims do not seek help. There is help available, either through the Cambridge Police Department's Domestic Violence Unit or through a local battered women's shelter. At the very least, seek help from a family member or friend, and create a safety plan for you and your children.

#### **IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS:**

Cambridge Police Department's Domestic Violence Unit..... 617-349-3371

#### **Shelters:**

- Transition House (*shelter in Cambridge*)..... 617-661-7203
- Renewal House (*shelter in Boston*) ..... 617-566-6881

#### **Counseling:**

- Respond (*shelter in Somerville*)..... 617-623-5900
- Dating Violence Intervention Program(*teen dating violence*)617-868-1650

#### **Legal Services:**

- Community Legal Services Center .....617-661-1010
- Cambridge/Somerville Legal Services.....617-603-2700

#### **Children who have witnessed domestic violence and/or victims:**

- The Guidance Center.....617-354-2275

**Elder Abuse Services and reporting**.....800-922-2275

**The Network/La Red**.....617-742-4911

**Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project**.....800-832-1901

### **WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE AN ABUSER**

Learn to recognize your behavior for what it is. If you assault your spouse, romantic partner, children, or other family members, you need to seek help.

Likewise, if you insult, threaten, blame, feel you need to control your spouse or romantic partner, or destroy things during arguments, you should seek assistance. Your behavior may escalate into violence.

#### **THERE IS HELP FOR MEN WHO ABUSE:**

- Emerge..... 617-547-9879
- Common Purpose..... 617-522-6500

Both of these services provide counseling and treatment for abusers.

#### **Remember:**

- You are responsible for what you say or do.
- Your spouse or partner did not make you hit her or him.
- You can change the way you act.
- There is no excuse for abuse.

# UNDERSTANDING THE SYSTEM

## POLICE RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CALLS

An incident occurs



911 (police) is called



A police/incident report is taken



→If the victim is assaulted and the batterer is at the scene, s/he is arrested.



The case is assigned to the Detective Unit

\*\*If the report is taken during the day, a night detective is assigned and if the report is taken during the night, a day detective is assigned.



## APPLYING FOR A RESTRAINING ORDER

### Between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.:

During these times, a restraining order must be applied for at the Third District Court in Medford, Ma. This type of restraining order is called a Temporary Restraining Order and is good for ten days.

### After 5:00 p.m. on a Friday night, on the Weekend, or on a holiday:

During these times, a restraining order must be applied for at the Cambridge Police Department. This type of restraining order is called an Emergency Restraining Order and is good until the next court business day, usually a Monday or the day after a holiday.

## ONCE THE RESTRAINING ORDER IS ISSUED

In order for the restraining order to be in effect, it has to be served in hand to the defendant. If the Temporary Restraining Order is not served it can be continued for another ten days.



Once one appears in court for the Temporary Restraining Order, the order can be granted for a year.



Once the year is up, one may have the restraining order granted for another year or ask to be granted a Permanent Restraining Order that will remain in effect indefinitely.

## GOING TO COURT

Once a detective is assigned to the case, s/he will file for a hearing or for a complaint in court:

\*During a hearing, the defendant and the victim will be in the presence of a clerk magistrate. The detective assigned to the case will start the hearing by reading the police report that was taken and disclose any crucial information that was given to them in reference to the case. The victim will give their story, followed by the defendant. The clerk magistrate will decide whether there is enough to go forward with the complaint. This step is only for misdemeanor crimes, if it is a felony charge, it will automatically go to the next step.

\*When a complaint is made, the defendant will appear in front of the judge. The judge will hear the victim's story and the defendant's before deciding if there is enough to go forward with an arraignment.

\*During the arraignment, the judge will determine whether there is enough to charge the defendant with any crime(s). The defendant will have a 58A hearing that will determine whether s/he is a threat to society. If not, s/he will be released, but if so, s/he will be held until the trial date.

\*The trial will be either by jury or bench and if the defendant is found guilty, s/he will have a sentencing hearing and then be sentenced. Once s/he is in jail, the victim in the case can be asked to be notified of a release date or other information they would want to know regarding the defendant, such as programs they are participating in.

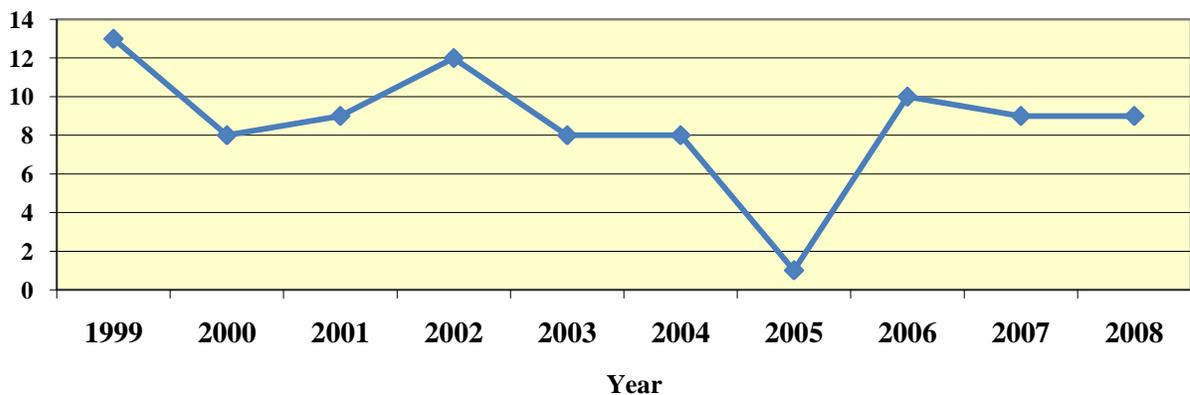
# H A T E C R I M E S

The Hate Crimes Statistics Act of 1990 was enacted on April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1990, requiring the Attorney General to collect data on crimes exhibiting racial, ethnic, religious, or sexual prejudice. "Hate Crime" is the common term for federal and state Civil Rights Violations. Hate crimes include any crimes principally motivated by hatred of another because of race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, handicap status, or gender. *All hate crimes would still be crimes even if the bias motivation were absent*; therefore, each hate crime listed below is also tallied elsewhere in this report.

**There were nine hate crimes reported in Cambridge in 2008. What follows is a chronological synopsis of those events.**

1. In January, an employee at a bookstore on JFK St received six letters depicting obscene, racist, and sexually biased materials from an unknown suspect.
2. A gay dating service reported that employees received threatening phone calls for two days in March.
3. In April, a house was egged and the victims believed that it occurred because they were the only family of color in the neighborhood.
4. At the end of April, a victim was called demeaning sexual terms by two unknown suspects while on Mass Ave.
5. A known suspect was in a liquor store in May and repeatedly referred to the workers as a racial slur and threatened to come back and harm them.
6. For an extended period of time, a juvenile reported being harassed by another juvenile who called her racial slurs whenever she visited a relative on Lambert St.
7. In August, a bank employee asked a suspect to leave the entranceway and was called racial slurs as the suspect aggressively got in his face.
8. In September, a victim at the Alewife train station was shoved and racially intimidated by a suspect unknown to her.
9. In mid-September, a cab driver stopped at a red light was approached by a motorist from the car next to him. Without provocation, the suspect shattered the victim's passenger window while yelling racial epithets at him.

**Hate Crime Incidents from 1999-2008**

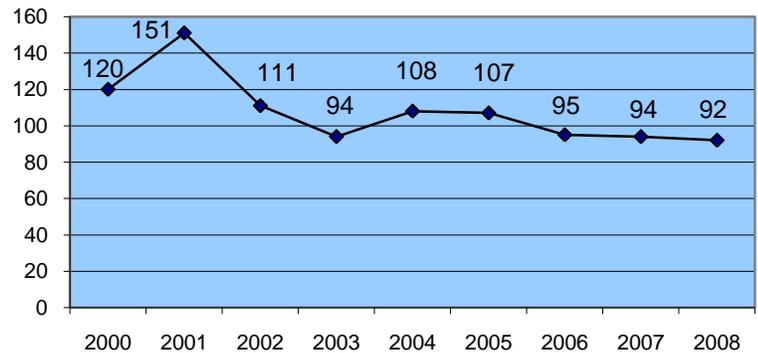


# JUVENILE CRIME

Juveniles, *offenders aged 16 and under*, made up approximately 6% of the total arrests in Cambridge between 2000 and 2008 (ranging from 5% to 7% each year). The number of juvenile arrests for all offenses during this time frame peaked in 2001 at 151 arrests and reached 92 arrests in 2008.

On average, shoplifting tends to be the crime for which the most juveniles are arrested each year, as the chart below shows. This year was no different with 25 juvenile shoplifting arrests, which was nearly double the number of any other type of crime. Other crimes that consistently have high juvenile arrest numbers are street robberies, assaults, and larcenies.

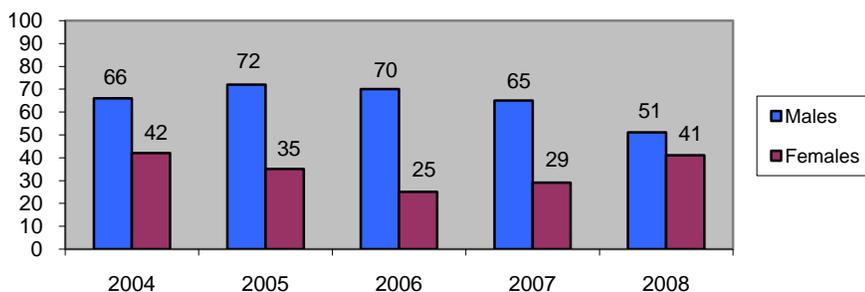
**Number of Juvenile Arrests by Year (2000-2008)**



Part One Crime Totals 5-Year Review (2004-2008)	Juvenile Arrests
<b>Violent Crimes</b>	
Street Robbery	52
Aggravated Assault	41
Rape	1
Commercial Robbery	1
Homicide	0
<b>Total Violent</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>Property Crimes</b>	
Shoplifting	81
All Larceny Offenses*	63
Housebreak	31
Commercial Break	4
Auto Theft	3
<b>Total Property</b>	<b>182</b>
*Larceny types include larceny from building, from motor vehicle, from person, of bicycle, from residence, of license plate, of services, and miscellaneous larcenies.	

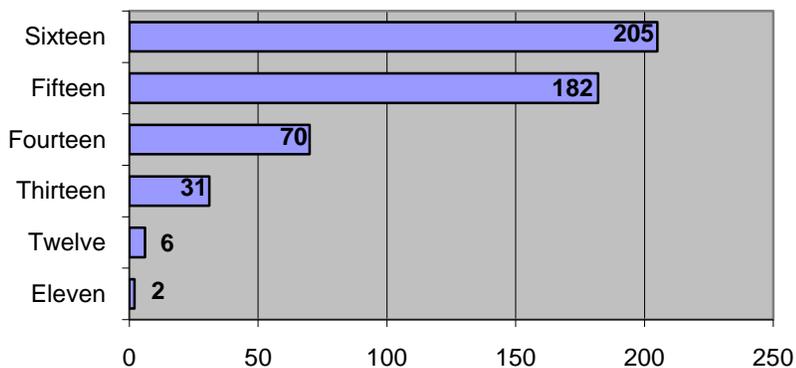
Other Offenses, 2004-2008	
Child in Need of Services	50
Simple Assault	38
Drugs	29
Receiving Stolen Prop.	22
Malicious Destruction	20
Disorderly	13
Gun Violations	12
Misc. Offenses	11
Driving Offenses	9
Trespassing	8
Indecent Assault	4
Threats	1
Liquor Possession/Sale	1
Drinking in Public	1
Indecent Exposure	0
Arson	0
Peeping & Spying	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>219</b>

**Number of Arrestees by Sex and Year  
5-Year Review, 2004-2008**



Approximately 55% of the juveniles arrested in Cambridge in 2008 were male, compared to 77% of adult arrestees. These numbers for 2008 are slightly below national totals, as roughly 70% of juvenile arrestees nationally each year are male. The graph to the left breaks down the numbers of juvenile arrestees per year by sex between 2004 and 2008.

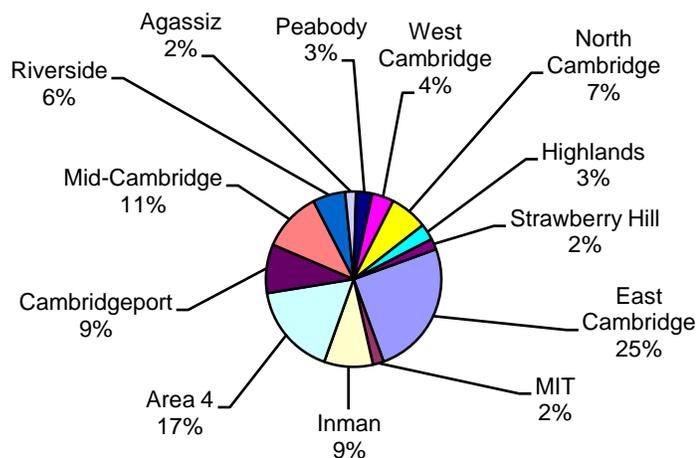
### Number of Juvenile Arrestees by Age at Arrest 5-Year Review, 2004-2008



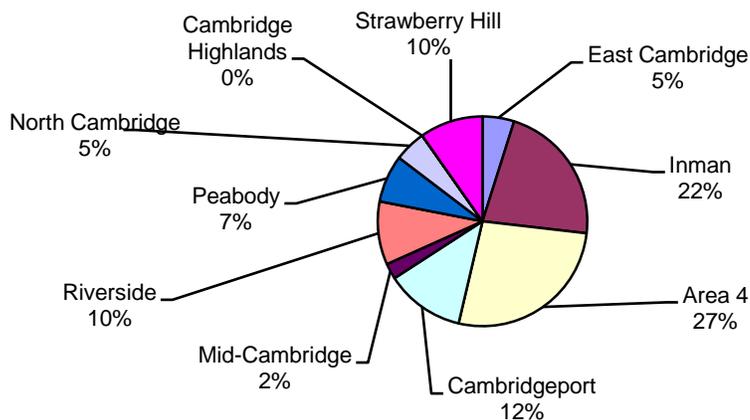
Forty-one percent (41%) of the juveniles arrested between 2004 and 2008 were 16 years old at the time of their arrest, making it the most common age of an arrested juvenile. Juveniles at 15 years of age were close behind with 37% of the arrests. No arrests of children under the age of 11 were made in the past five years.

The majority of arrests took place in East Cambridge, which logically follows given that the CambridgeSide Galleria accounts for a high number of shoplifting arrests. The graph to the right breaks down the percentages of arrests of juveniles per neighborhood of offense over the past five years.

### Juvenile Arrests by Neighborhood of Offense 5-Year Review (2004-2008)



### Cambridge Juvenile Arrestees in 2008 by Neighborhood of Residence



A little less than half (45%) of the juveniles arrested in 2008 were Cambridge residents. Of these, Area 4 was the most common neighborhood of residence, followed by Inman/Harrington and Cambridgeport.

## GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF “SCHOOL\*” CRIMES IN 2008

School	Larc. from Build.	Larc. from Person	Vandalism	Simple Assault	Harass./ Threats	Street Rob.	Drugs	Agg. Assault	Larc. Of Bike	Larc. from MV	Comm. Break	Total
<b>Baldwin School</b> <i>28 Sacramento St.</i>	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3
<b>Cambridgeport School</b> <i>89 Elm St.</i>	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	5
<b>Andrew Peabody School</b> (Formerly the M.E. Fitzgerald School) <i>70 Rindge Ave.</i>	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	7
<b>Fletcher-Maynard Academy</b> <i>225 Windsor St.</i>	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	4
<b>Graham &amp; Parks School</b> <i>44 Linnaean St.</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Haggerty School</b> <i>110 Cushing St.</i>	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
<b>King Open School</b> (Formerly the Harrington School) <i>850 Cambridge St.</i>	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
<b>Kennedy - Longfellow School</b> <i>158 Spring St.</i>	4	1	1	2	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	12
<b>MLK, Jr. School</b> <i>100 Putnam Ave.</i>	2	0	2	2	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	10
<b>Morse School</b> <i>40 Granite St.</i>	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
<b>Tobin School</b> <i>197 Vassal Ln.</i>	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
<b>CRLS High School</b> <i>459 Broadway</i>	11	4	4	1	0	1	8	2	2	0	0	33
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>91</b>

\*Please note that these numbers indicate crimes that have taken place on Cambridge Public School property.

# CRIMES REPORTED ON CAMBRIDGE HOUSING AUTHORITY PROPERTY

## JANUARY 1, 2008 TO DECEMBER 31, 2008

Property	Agg. Assault	Simple Assault	Robbery	Drugs	Burg.	Auto Theft	Larc. Res.	Vandal.	Threats/Harass.	Trespass	Indecent Assault	Domest. Disp.	R.O. Viol.	Arson	Total
15 Ware	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2 Chestnut	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20 Chestnut	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 Centre	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8-10 Lancaster	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	9
87 Amory St.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
116 Norfolk St	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
118 Trowbridge	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
12 Prince St.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
120 Pleasant St.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2353 Mass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
244 Hampshire St.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
41 Concord	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45 Linnaean	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
88 Hancock St.	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Aberdeen House	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Burns Apts.	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Corcoran Pk	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	0	0	7	0	0	16
Fairmont Apts.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hingham St.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jackson Gardens	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	5	1	0	10
Jackson St.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Jefferson Park	4	7	0	2	2	0	2	3	5	0	1	12	0	0	38
JFK Apts.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LBJ Apts.	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	8
Lincoln Way	3	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	9
Lopez St.	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Manning Apts.	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	5
Miller's River	1	0	0	0	2	0	4	2	5	0	0	2	0	0	16
Newtowne Ct	5	3	3	0	1	1	1	3	2	0	0	12	0	0	31
Putnam Gardens	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	5	0	0	5	4	0	19
Putnam School	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
River Howard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Roosevelt Towers	0	3	0	0	0	2	1	4	4	0	1	12	1	0	28
Russell Apt.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
St. Paul's	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Truman Apts.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Washington Elms	3	3	0	2	1	0	1	5	3	0	0	11	1	0	30
Willow St.	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Woodrow Wilson Ct.	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>252</b>

# A Strategy to Reduce Traffic Accidents at “Hot Spot” Intersections



In 2008, The Cambridge Police Department embarked on a pro-active strategy of creating a high-visibility police presence and directed special enforcement effort to combat accidents at dangerous intersections in the City.

Utilizing historical data and state-of-the-art spatial and temporal analysis of vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian accidents, five hot spot clusters were targeted with the primary objective of improving traffic safety in these areas.

This report is an attempt to give a detailed and accurate portrait of the time spent and resources utilized in this initiative, as well as a thorough evaluation of the results.

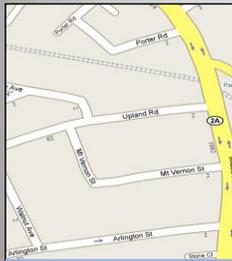
## Cambridge Police – Strategic & Tactical Approaches to Traffic Safety -2008

- **The Process** – How the CPD mines various data sources to establish the where, when and why of the scheduling of traffic enforcement initiatives and how we measure those results.
- **The Planning Stage** – Through the incorporation of historical data and up-to-date spatial and temporal analysis of vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian accidents – five hot spot clusters were targeted for enhanced traffic enforcement.
- **The Patrol Strategy for 2008** – To create a heightened presence in accident hot spots utilizing a variety of units to saturate areas that were determined by the analytical review. The action - specialized traffic officers, regular patrol, and bicycle officers were deployed to attack these areas at times of chronic offenses.

### Overview – Data – Driven Strategy

- Attempt to give a detailed and accurate portrait of the time spent and resources utilized in traffic enforcement around high accident (vehicle, pedestrian, bicycle) locations.
- Traffic enhancement activities measured: Directed patrols, Motor vehicle stops, Citations issued, Unit Hours expended in the areas.
- Evaluate the results of the strategy – was there a reduction in accidents at these locations.

## Five Hot Spot Intersection Clusters Selected for High Impact Traffic Enforcement in 2008



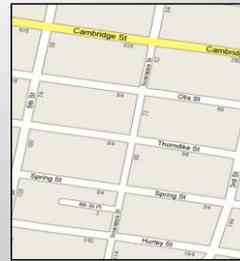
### **Porter Sq Area**

- Mass Ave & Upland
- Mass Ave & Cameron
- Mass & Churchill



### **Harvard Sq Area**

- Garden St & Mason
- Garden St & Mass Ave
- JFK & Mt Auburn
- Eliot & JFK
- Mass & Peabody
- Eliot & Mt Auburn



### **East Cambridge**

- Cambridge & 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Binney & 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Spring & 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Gore & Third
- Camb & Medeiros



### **Lower Mass Ave**

- Mass Ave & Vassar
- Mass Ave & Albany
- Mass & Amherst
- Main & Portland

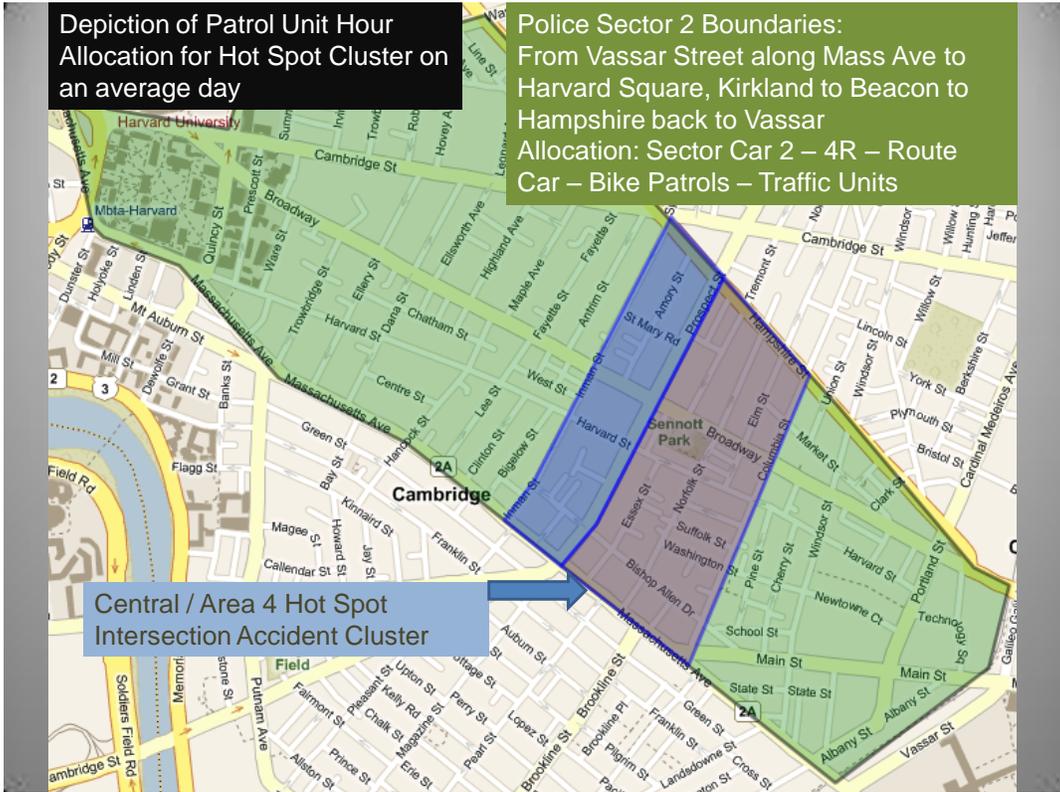


### **Central / Area 4 Cluster**

- Mass & Norfolk
- Mass & Pearl
- Prospect & Broadway
- Columbia & Broadway
- Hampshire & Prospect

## Strategic and Tactical Measurements on High Accident clusters

- Using a data-driven model, 4,516 directed patrols accounting for 2,258 Patrol Unit Hours were assigned to the five hot spot intersection clusters for high impact traffic enforcement in 2008.
- A similar approach for allocating enforcement resources produced 7,492 motor vehicle stops netting 2,497 Patrol Unit hours in the hot spot clusters.
- The combined total of directed patrols and motor vehicle stops in the selected enforcement areas in 2008 was 4,755 Patrol Unit hours.
- 3,784 Citations (17% of the citywide total in 2008) were issued in the selected enforcement areas
- The 4,755 Patrol Unit hours expended in the cluster areas converts to 13.1 hours per day (full calendar year) directly related to traffic enforcement. This number expands to 22 hours for a typical day. (see explanation next two slides)



Patrol Unit	Strategy	Total	Time Expended
Sect. Car 2	MV Stops	8	2h 40 minutes
4R - Rover	MV Stops	2	40 minutes
Traff. Units	MV Stops	4	1h 20 minutes
Bike Units	MV Stops	2	40 minutes
Sect. Car 2	Dir. Patrol	2	1 hour
4R - Rover	Dir. Patrol	2	1 hour
Traff. Units	Dir. Patrol	3	1h 30 minutes
Bike Units	Dir. Patrol	1	1 hour
			<b>*9.3 hours directed patrol enforcement in cluster area</b>

**Depiction of Patrol Unit Hour Allocation for Hot Spot Cluster on an average day**

**\* 5.5 hours increases to 9.3 hours by factoring in Sundays, (2AM to 6AM Daily), weather days, and 3 holidays**

## Results of the Strategy

- The combined total (avg. from 2000 to 2007) of accidents in the targeted areas fell from 198 per year to 94 incidents in 2008 – a 53% reduction.
- All five high accident intersection clusters that received strategic impact traffic enforcement in 2008, recorded major reductions when compared to their average totals for the decade: *East Cambridge* – (-32%); *Mass Ave / MIT* – (-44%); *Harvard Square / Periphery* – (-58%); *Mass Ave / North Cambridge* – (-81%); *Central / Area 4 Triangle* – (-57%)
- Many of the chronic Top 20 high accident intersections registered major reductions in 2008: Amherst & Mass (-62%); Mass & Peabody (-70%); Prospect & Broadway (-62%) Mass & Norfolk (-68%); Hampshire & Prospect (-70%)

## Analysis of the Strategy

- The three chronic high accident intersections where the most citations were issued all registered significant incident reductions in 2008: *Eliot & Mt Auburn* (734 citations , accidents fell from average of 6 to 1 in 2008, *Prospect & Broadway* (641 citations, accidents fell from average of 15.75 to 6 in 2008, *Hampshire & Prospect* (390 citations, accidents fell from average of 10 to 3 in 2008).
- The two high accident clusters that were allocated the most selective enforcement Patrol Unit hours recorded significant declines in accidents in 2008 : *Central / Area 4 Triangle* (2035 PUH – 32 fewer accidents; *Harvard Square* (1107 PUH – 34 fewer accidents)

## Further Analysis of the Strategy

- Close to 55 % of all citations issued in the accident cluster areas were for red light violations. Crosswalks (20%) and Stop sign (15%) made up a major proportion of the cites.
- The top three directed patrol assignments (miscellaneous 36%), crosswalks (21%), red light violations (12%), accounted for close to 70% of this strategic allocation. *(ed. Note – the miscellaneous classification will be discontinued so that data can be captured on more specific assignments in 2009).*
- To better understand the effect of saturated traffic law enforcement in an area, *(the residual effect of 2,035 Patrol Unit Hours in Central / Area 4 – a 45 % decline in housebreaks), new measurement techniques need to be applied.*

Accident Hot Spot Clusters - 2008			TOTAL	UNIT HOURS
86A	Directed Patrol - Accident	Selective Enforcement for High Accidents	490	245
86B	Directed Patrol - Bicycle	Selective Enforcement for Bicycle violations	128	64
86C	Directed Patrol - Crosswalk	Selective Enforcement Assignment for Crosswalk violations	937	468.5
86M	Directed Patrol - Miscellaneous Traffic Assignment	Selective enforcement for traffic issues not specifically listed	1624	812
86P	Directed Patrol - Park Patrol	Directed Patrol for visibility in Parks	156	78
86R	Directed Patrol - Red Light	Selective Enforcement for Red Light violations	537	268.5
86S	Directed Patrol - Speeding	Selective Enforcement for Speeding violations	182	91
86T	Directed Patrol - Trucks	Selective Enforcement for Truck Restriction violations	462	231
	<b>Directed Patrol Totals</b>		<b>4516</b>	<b>2258</b>
	<b>MV Stops</b>		<b>7492</b>	<b>2497</b>
	<b>Total Unit Hours</b>	<b>13.1 Hours per day directly related to traffic enforcement</b>		<b>4755</b>

Central Square / Area 4			A	B	TOTAL	UNIT HOURS
86A	Directed Patrol - Accident	Selective Enforcement for High Accidents	19	56	75	37.5
86B	Directed Patrol - Bicycle	Selective Enforcement for Bicycle violations	14	16	30	15
86C	Directed Patrol - Crosswalk	Selective Enforcement Assignment for Crosswalk violations	227	214	441	220.5
86M	Directed Patrol - Miscellaneous Traffic Assignment	Selective enforcement for traffic issues not specifically listed	303	377	680	340
86P	Directed Patrol - Park Patrol	Directed Patrol for visibility in Parks	156	0	156	78
86R	Directed Patrol - Red Light	Selective Enforcement for Red Light violations	66	172	238	119
86S	Directed Patrol - Speeding	Selective Enforcement for Speeding violations	15	10	25	12.5
86T	Directed Patrol - Trucks	Selective Enforcement for Truck Restriction violations	66	60	126	63
	<b>Directed Patrol Totals</b>		<b>866</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>1771</b>	<b>885.5</b>
	<b>MV Stops</b>		<b>1867</b>	<b>1554</b>	<b>3421</b>	<b>1140</b>
	<b>Total Unit Hours</b>	<b>5.5 average hours per day directly related to Traffic</b>			<b>5192</b>	<b>2035</b>

## Central / Area 4 Cluster

**Area boundaries**  
Columbia to Hampshire to Inman to Green:

**Section A** – Police Response Areas – 501, 411, 406, 409

**Section B** – Police Response Areas – 701, 601, 609, 610

**Patrol tactics measured:**  
Directed Patrols  
MV Stops  
Citations  
Unit Hours

How units were [allocated:](#)

Area analyzed contains six chronic high accident intersections –

Historical analysis indicates this area contains four of the top 10 bike crash locations in Cambridge. They repeat annually in this cluster.

400 to 600 block of Mass Ave is a chronic pedestrian accident intersection

## Central Square / Area 4 High Accident Intersection Cluster

### Area boundaries

Columbia to  
Hampshire to  
Inman to Green:

**Section A** – Police  
Response Areas –  
501, 411, 406, 409

**Section B** – Police  
Response Areas –  
701, 601, 609, 610



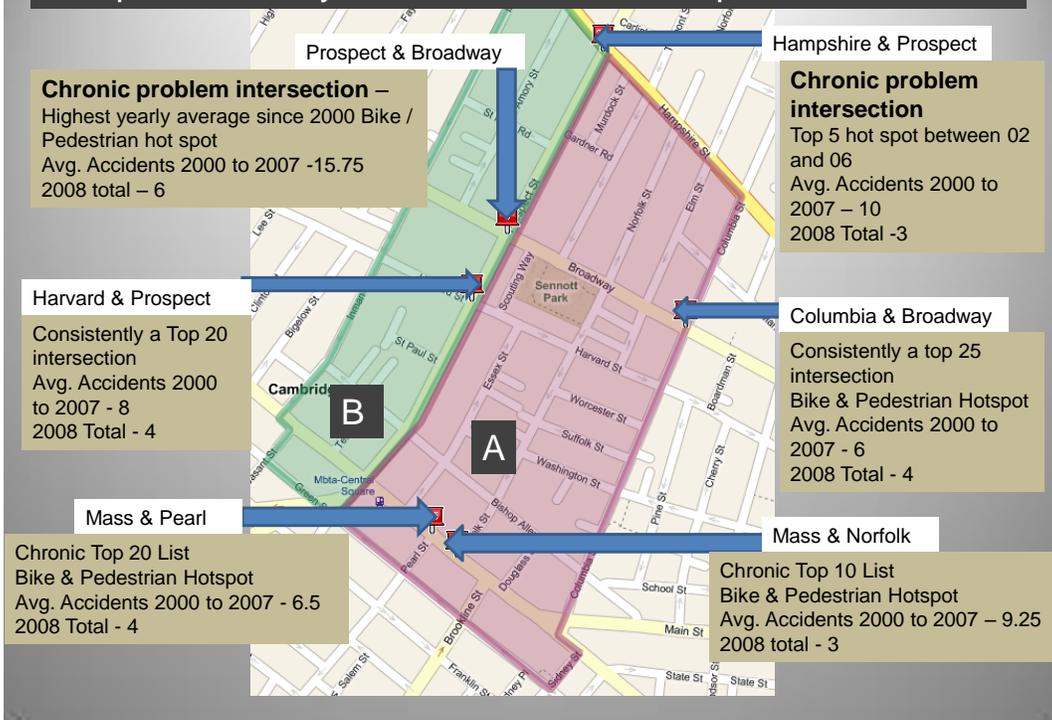
Directed Patrols in  
2008 - 1771 / 895  
Unit Hours

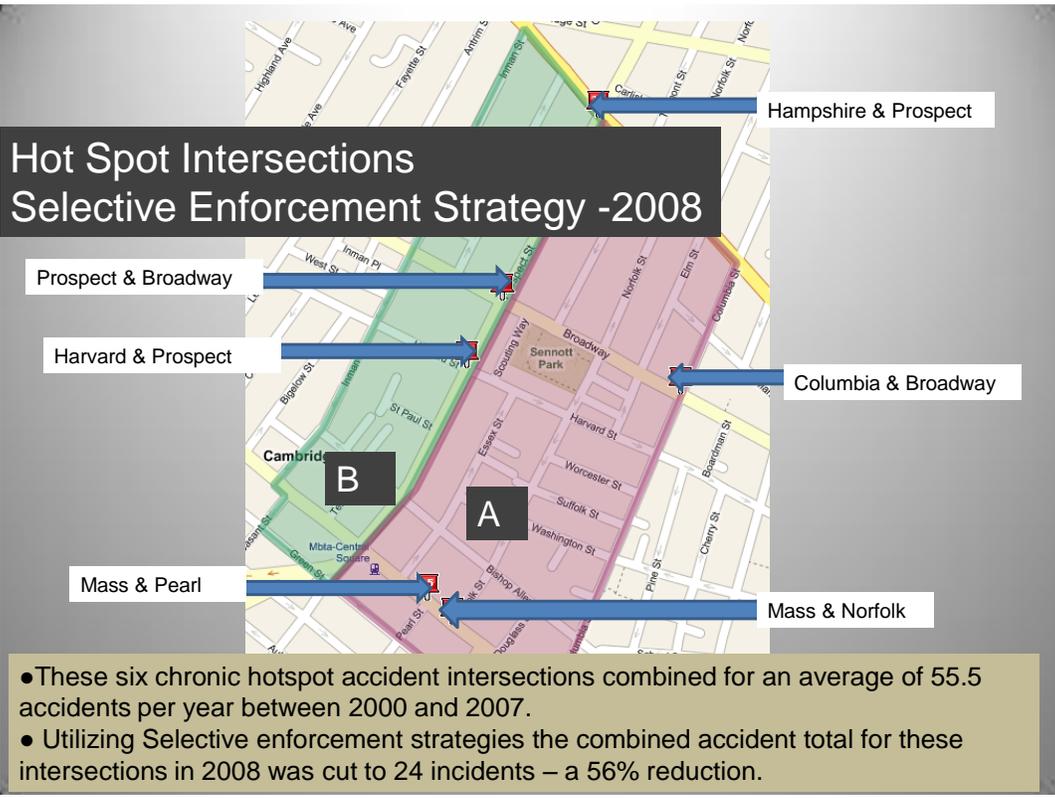
Motor Vehicle  
Stops in 2008 -  
3421 / 1140 Unit  
Hours

Citations issued at  
Top 6 Intersections  
- 1550

Unit Hours directly  
related to Traffic  
control in this area  
in 2008 - 2035 –  
5.5 hours per day

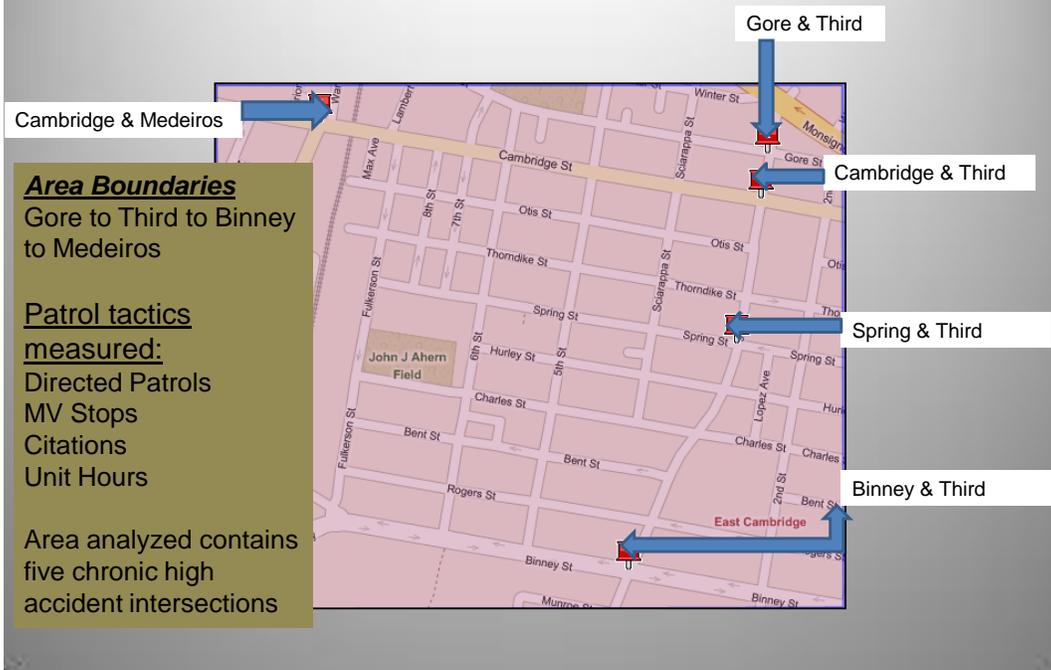
## Comparative Analysis of Accidents at Hot Spot Intersections





East Cambridge Accident Hot Spots			TOTAL	UNIT HOURS
86A	Directed Patrol - Accident	Selective Enforcement for High Accidents	186	93
86B	Directed Patrol - Bicycle	Selective Enforcement for Bicycle violations		
86C	Directed Patrol - Crosswalk	Selective Enforcement Assignment for Crosswalk violations	69	34.5
86M	Directed Patrol - Miscellaneous Traffic Assignment	Selective enforcement for traffic issues not specifically listed	112	56
86P	Directed Patrol - Park Patrol	Directed Patrol for visibility in Parks		
86R	Directed Patrol - Red Light	Selective Enforcement for Red Light violations	77	38.5
86S	Directed Patrol - Speeding	Selective Enforcement for Speeding violations	24	12
86T	Directed Patrol - Trucks	Selective Enforcement for Truck Restriction violations	142	71
	<b>Directed Patrol Totals</b>		<b>610</b>	<b>305</b>
	<b>MV Stops</b>		<b>906</b>	<b>302</b>
	<b>Total Unit Hours</b>	<b>1.8 Hours per day directly related to traffic enforcement</b>		<b>607</b>

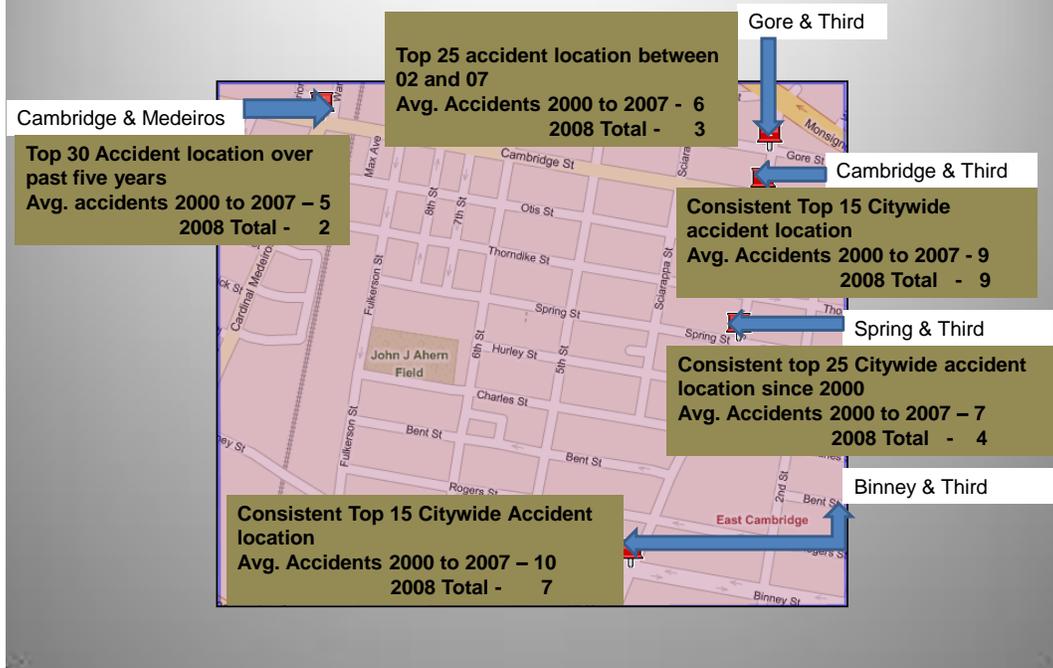
## East Cambridge – Hot Spot Intersections



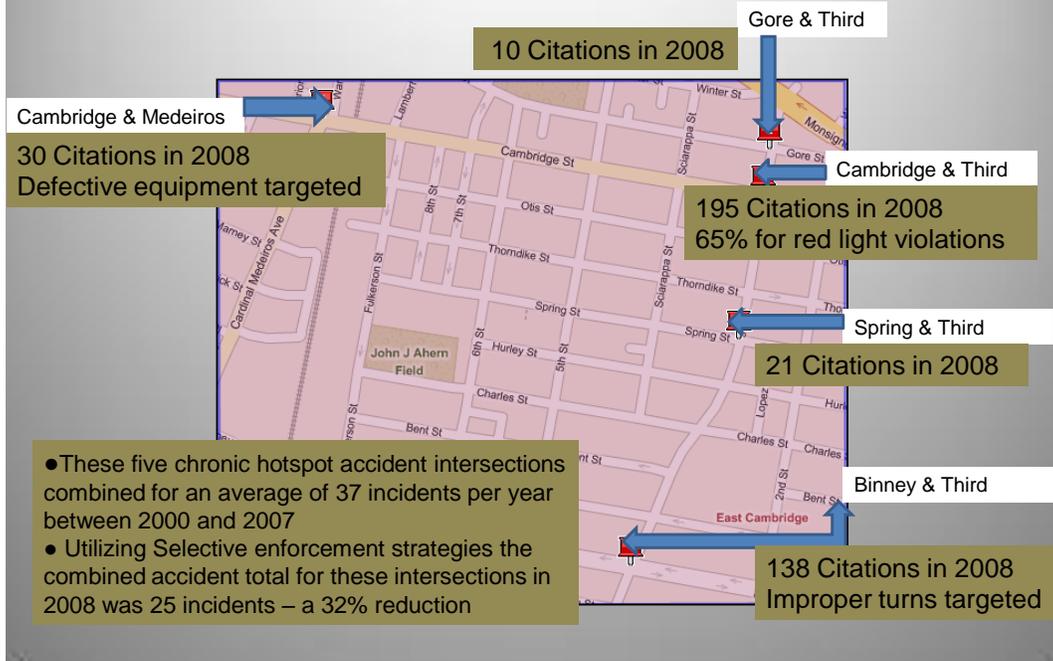
## East Cambridge – Hot Spot Intersections



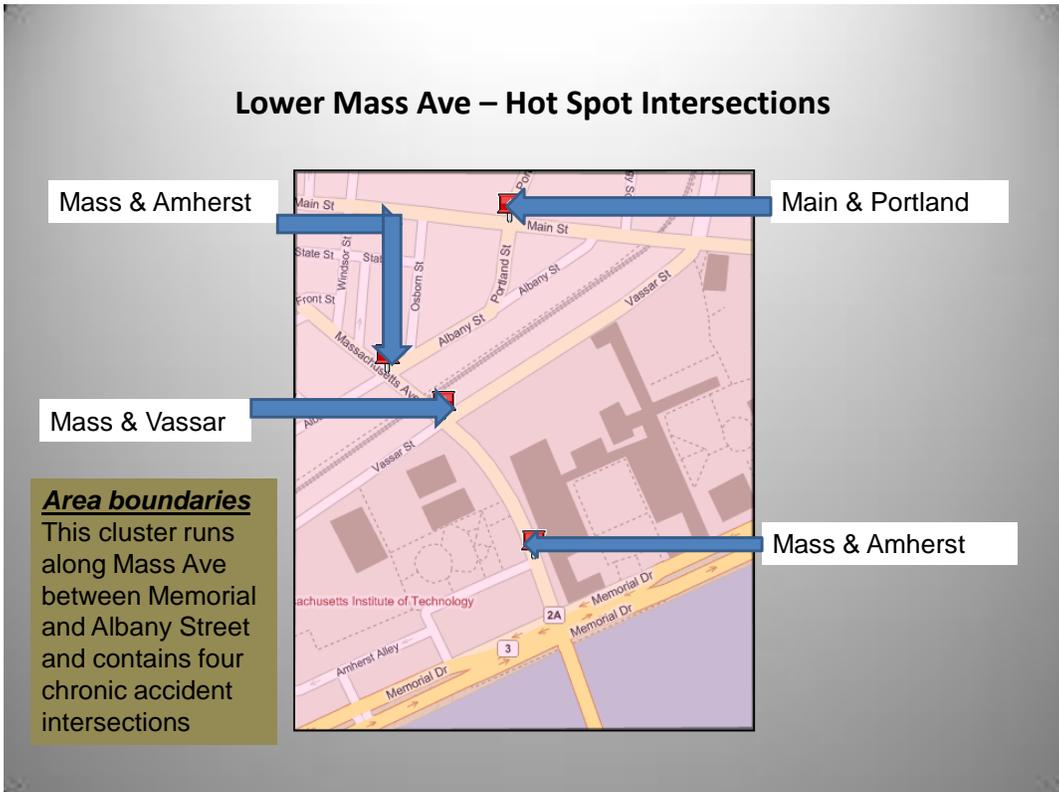
## East Cambridge – Hot Spot Intersections



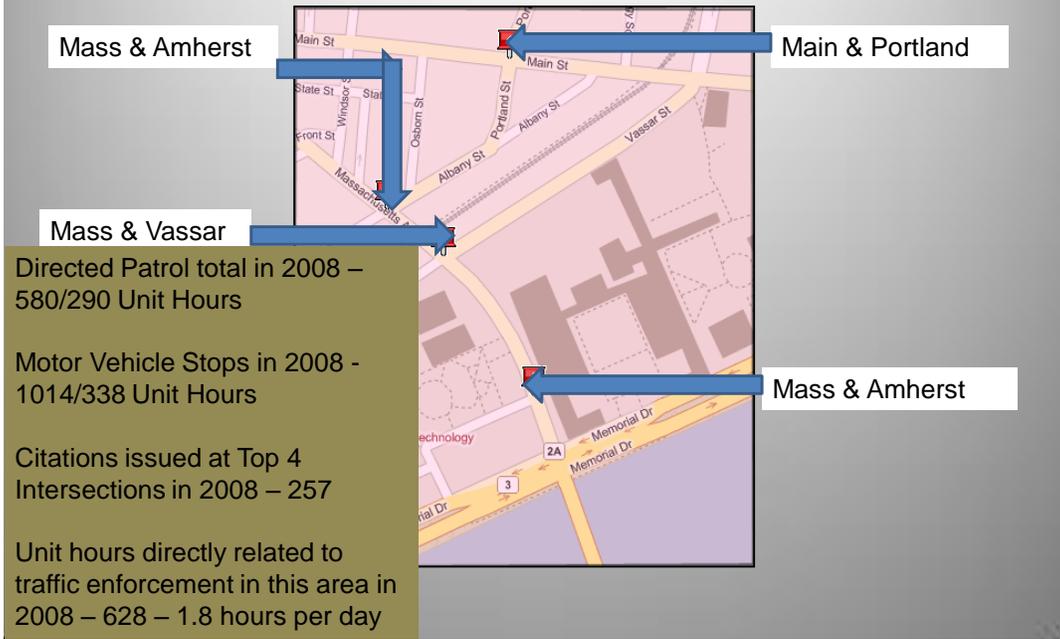
## East Cambridge – Hot Spot Intersections



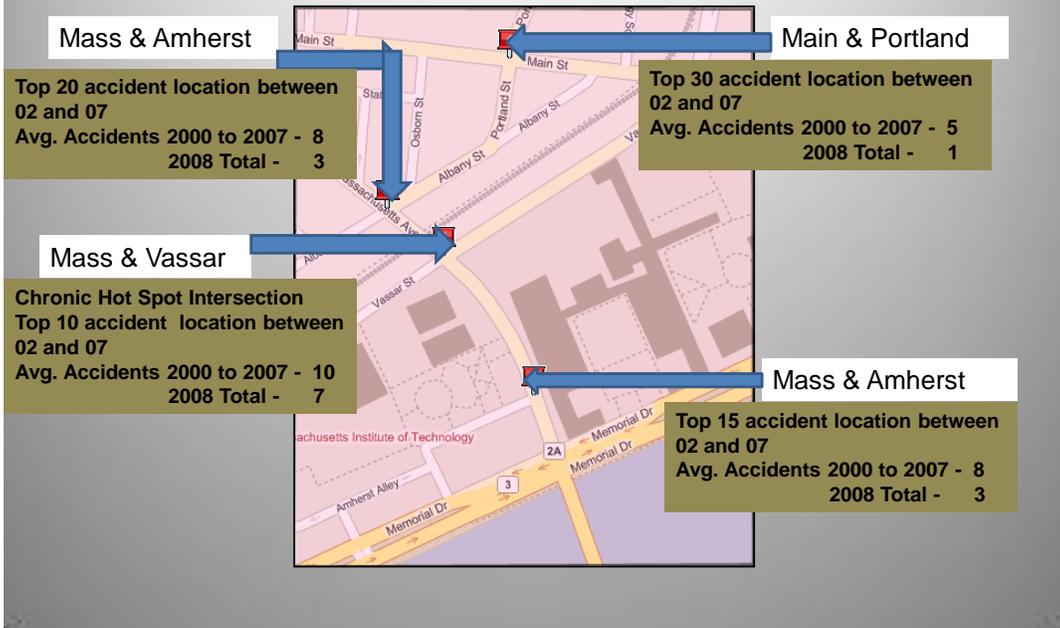
Lower Mass Ave – Accident Hot Spot			TOTAL	UNIT HOURS
86A	Directed Patrol - Accident	Selective Enforcement for High Accidents	130	65
86B	Directed Patrol – Bicycle	Selective Enforcement for Bicycle violations	55	27.5
86C	Directed Patrol – Crosswalk	Selective Enforcement Assignment for Crosswalk violations	15	7.5
86M	Directed Patrol – Miscellaneous Traffic Assignment	Selective enforcement for traffic issues not specifically listed	191	95.5
86P	Directed Patrol – Park Patrol	Directed Patrol for visibility in Parks		
86R	Directed Patrol – Red Light	Selective Enforcement for Red Light violations		
86S	Directed Patrol – Speeding	Selective Enforcement for Speeding violations	87	43.5
86T	Directed Patrol – Trucks	Selective Enforcement for Truck Restriction violations	102	71
	<b>Directed Patrol Totals</b>		<b>580</b>	<b>310</b>
	<b>MV Stops</b>		<b>1014</b>	<b>338</b>
	<b>Total Unit Hours</b>	<b>1.8 Hours per day directly related to traffic enforcement</b>		<b>648</b>



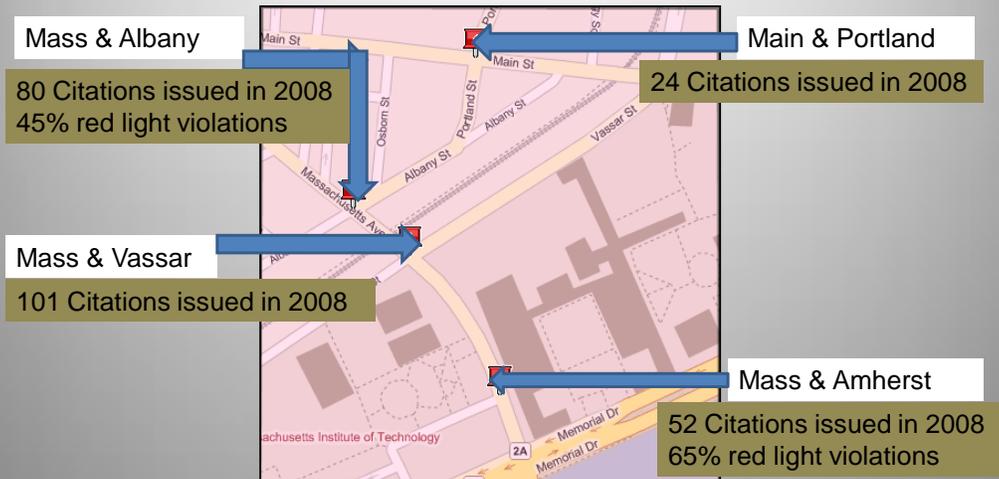
### Lower Mass Ave – Hot Spot Intersections



### Lower Mass Ave – Hot Spot Intersections



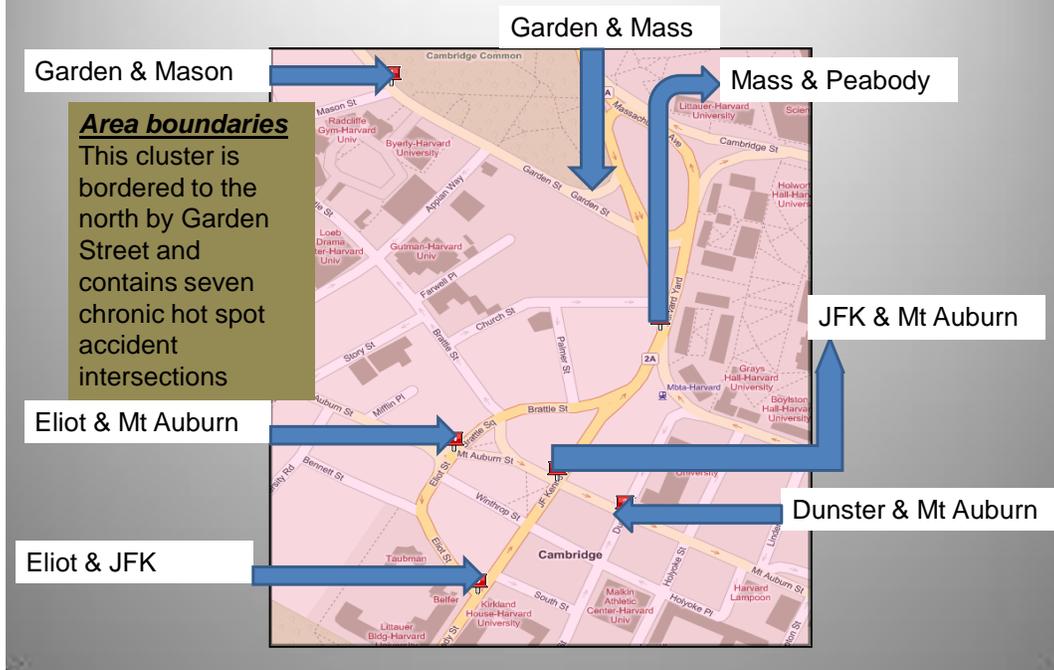
### Lower Mass Ave – Hot Spot Intersections



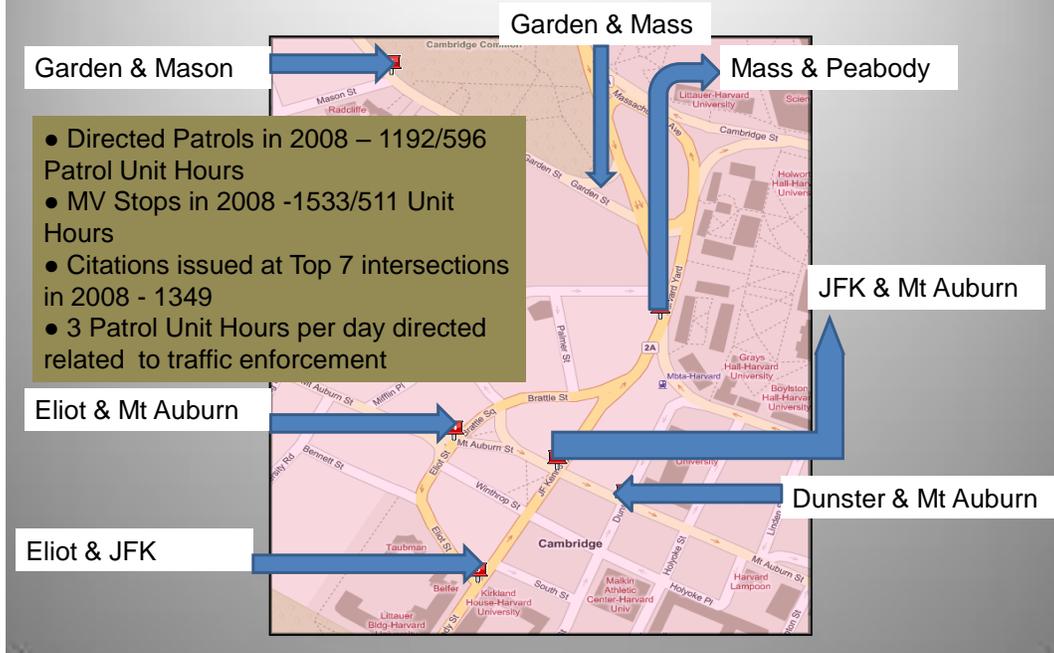
- These four chronic hotspot accident intersections combined for an average of 32 incidents per year between 2000 and 2007.
- Utilizing selective enforcement strategies the combined accident totals for these intersections in 2008 was reduced to 18 incidents – a 44% decline

Harvard Sq. /Peabody – Accident Hot Spot			TOTAL	UNIT HOURS
86A	Directed Patrol - <u>Accident</u>	Selective Enforcement for High Accidents	87	43.5
86B	Directed Patrol – <u>Bicycle</u>	Selective Enforcement for Bicycle violations	28	14
86C	Directed Patrol – <u>Crosswalk</u>	Selective Enforcement Assignment for Crosswalk violations	328	164
86M	Directed Patrol – <u>Miscellaneous Traffic Assignment</u>	Selective enforcement for traffic issues not specifically listed	565	282.5
86P	Directed Patrol – <u>Park Patrol</u>	Directed Patrol for visibility in Parks		
86R	Directed Patrol – <u>Red Light</u>	Selective Enforcement for Red Light violations	142	71
86S	Directed Patrol – <u>Speeding</u>	Selective Enforcement for Speeding violations	32	16
86T	Directed Patrol – <u>Trucks</u>	Selective Enforcement for Truck Restriction violations	10	5
	<b>Directed Patrol Totals</b>		1192	596
	<b>MV Stops</b>		1533	511
	<b>Total Unit Hours</b>	<b>3 Hours per day directly related to traffic enforcement</b>		<b>1107</b>

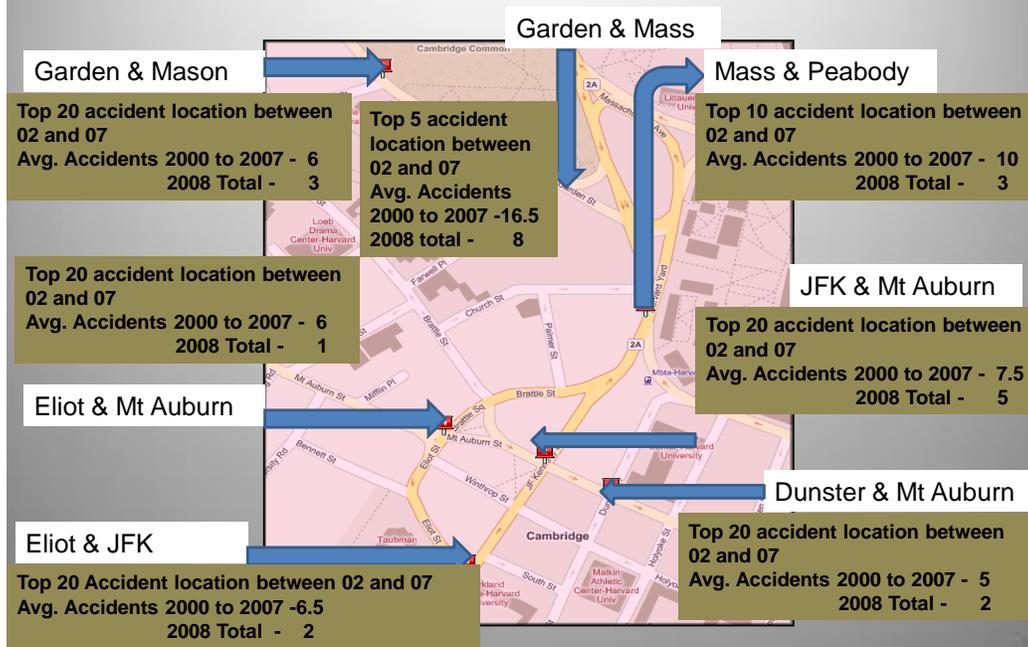
## Harvard Square & Periphery – Hot Spot Intersections



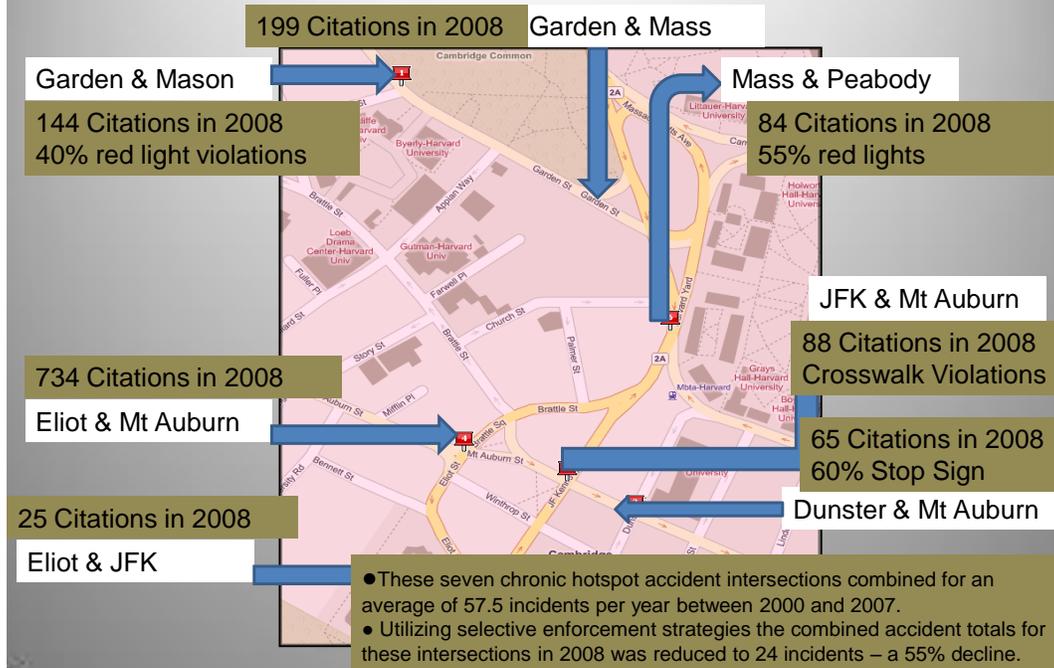
## Harvard Square & Periphery – Hot Spot Intersections



## Harvard Square & Periphery – Hot Spot Intersections

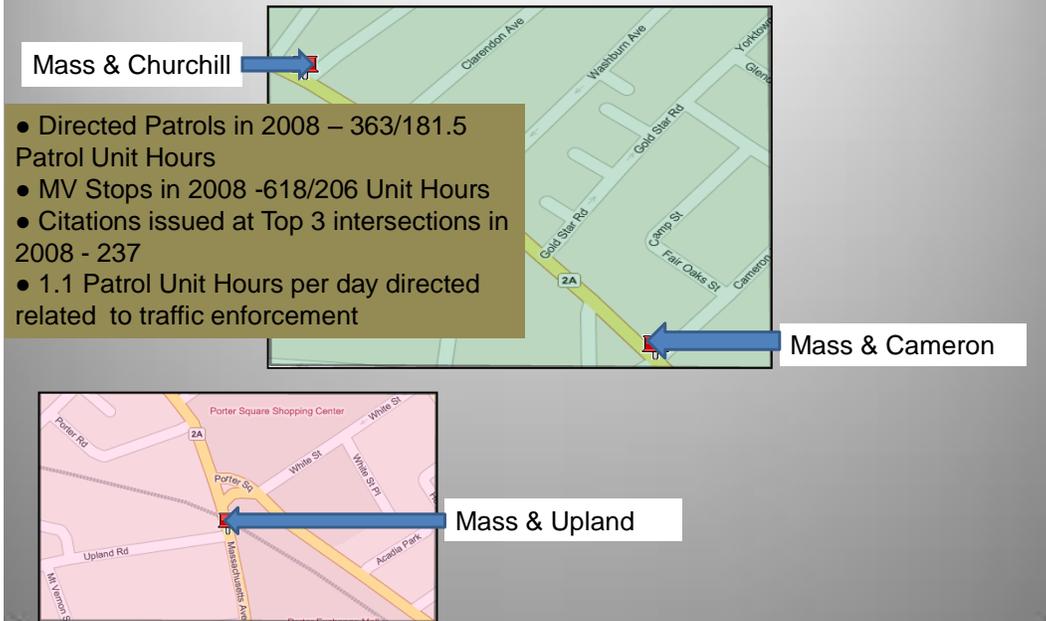


## Harvard Square & Periphery – Hot Spot Intersections

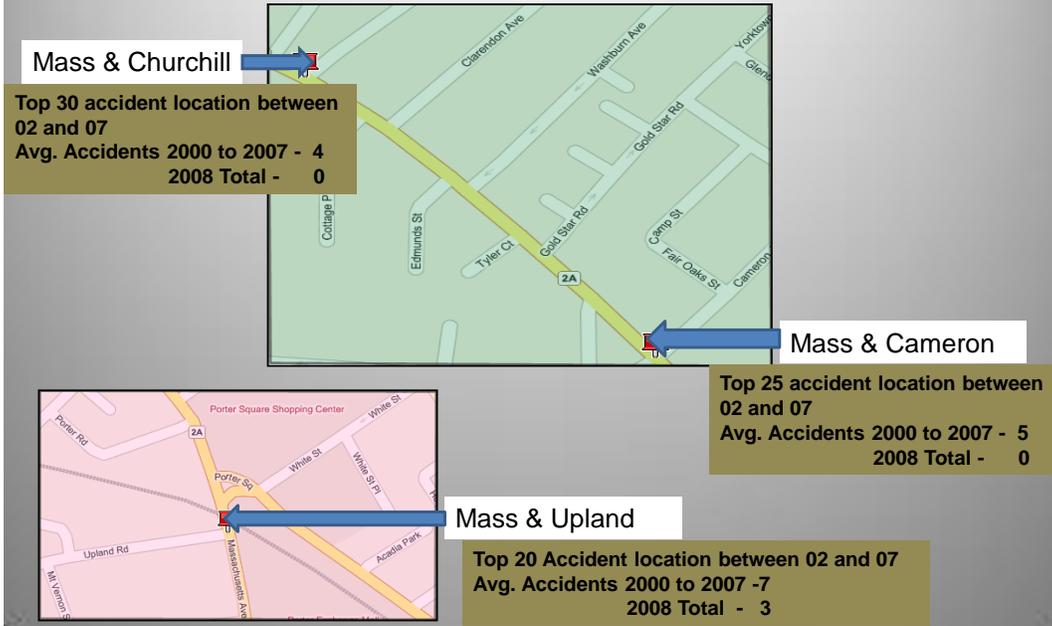


North Cambridge/Mass Ave– Accident Hot Spot			TOTAL	UNIT HOURS
86A	Directed Patrol - Accident	Selective Enforcement for High Accidents	12	6
86B	Directed Patrol – Bicycle	Selective Enforcement for Bicycle violations	15	7.5
86C	Directed Patrol – Crosswalk	Selective Enforcement Assignment for Crosswalk violations	84	42
86M	Directed Patrol – Miscellaneous Traffic Assignment	Selective enforcement for traffic issues not specifically listed	76	38
86P	Directed Patrol – Park Patrol	Directed Patrol for visibility in Parks		
86R	Directed Patrol – Red Light	Selective Enforcement for Red Light violations	80	40
86S	Directed Patrol – Speeding	Selective Enforcement for Speeding violations	14	7
86T	Directed Patrol – Trucks	Selective Enforcement for Truck Restriction violations	82	41
	<b>Directed Patrol Totals</b>		<b>363</b>	<b>181.5</b>
	<b>MV Stops</b>		<b>618</b>	<b>206</b>
	<b>Total Unit Hours</b>	<b>1.1 Hours per day directly related to traffic enforcement</b>		<b>387.5</b>

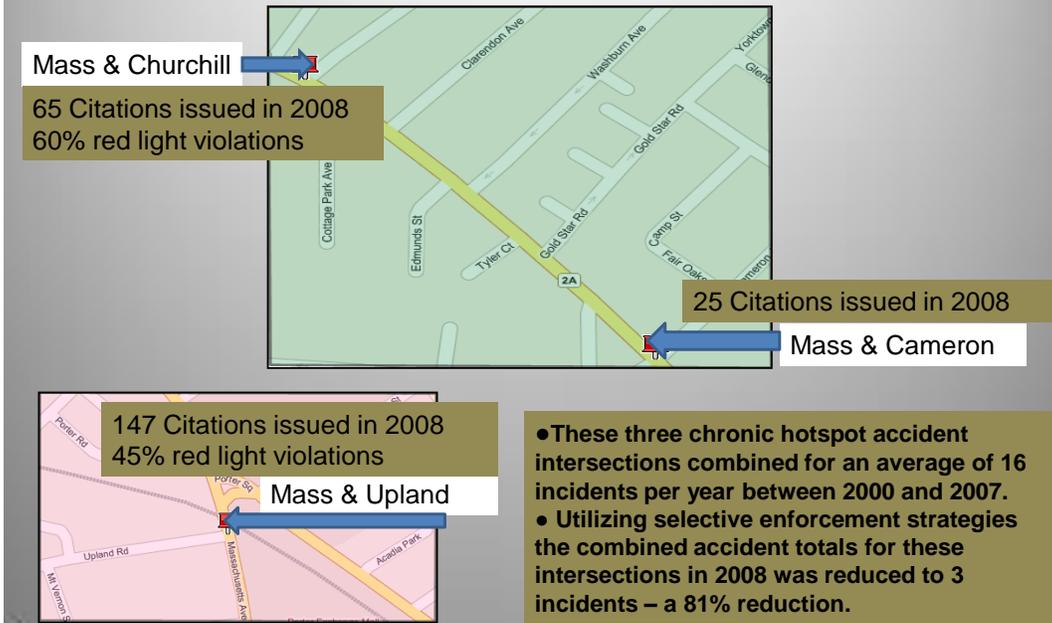
### North Cambridge / Mass Ave Corridor – Hot Spot Intersections

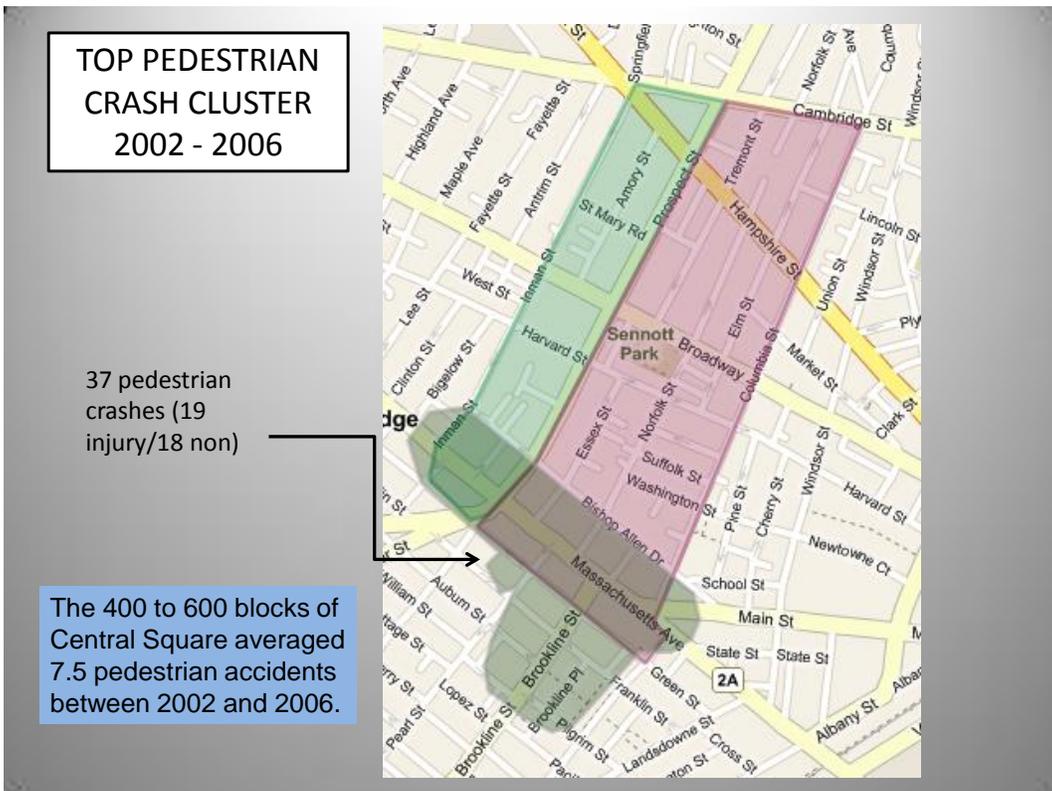
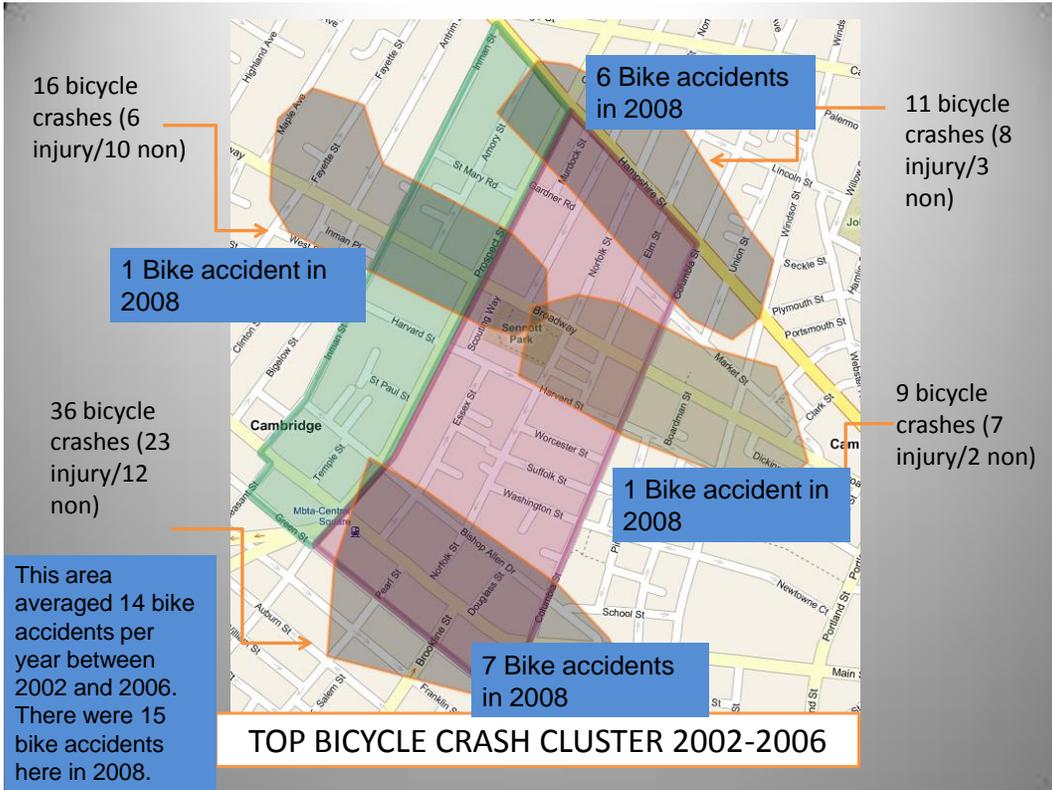


## North Cambridge / Mass Ave Corridor – Hot Spot Intersections



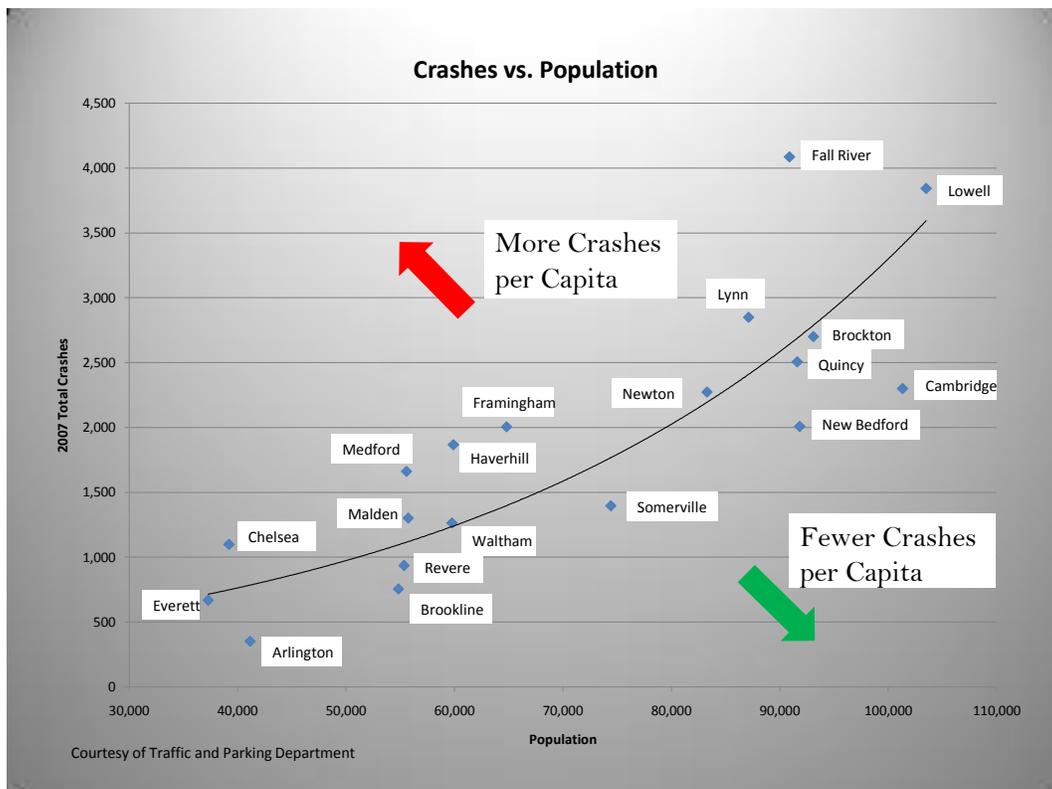
## North Cambridge / Mass Ave Corridor – Hot Spot Intersections



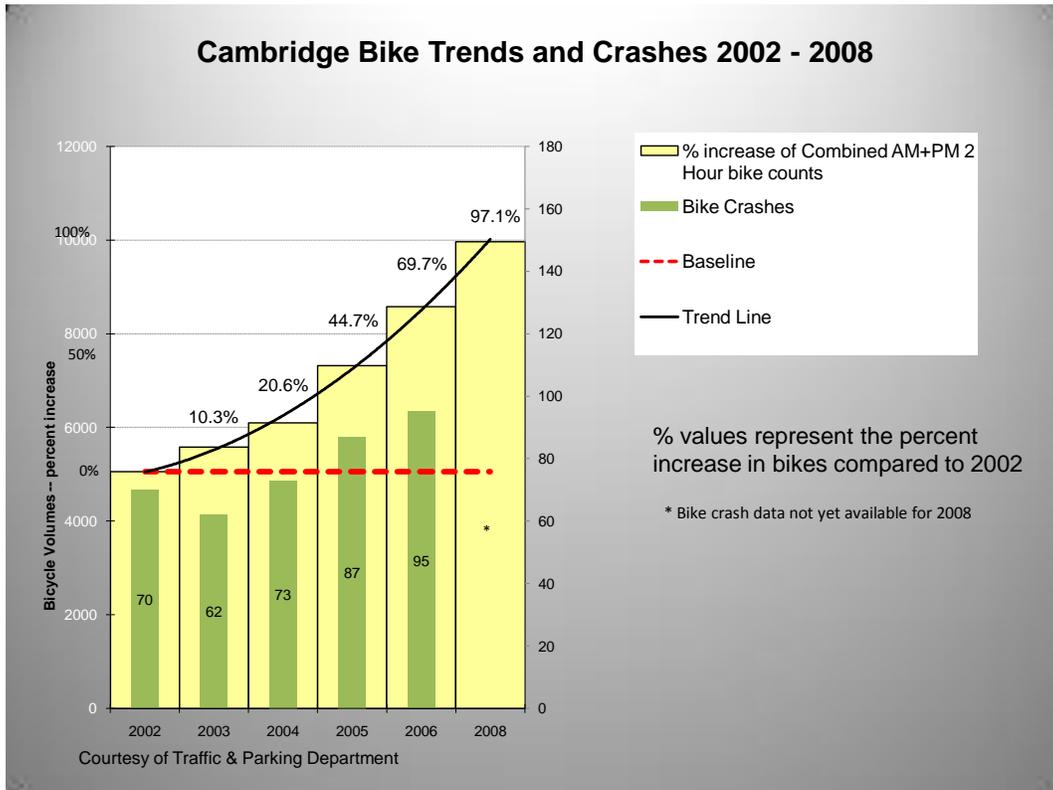


## Overview – Bicycle & Pedestrian Accidents

- Due to the following factors, measuring the effectiveness of Directed and Saturation Patrols at identified bicycle and pedestrian accident clusters is an area of research that needs to be refined.
  - Paucity of numbers for both of these type incidents makes it hard to identify spatial and temporal patterns. Long term trend analysis is a better indicator for areas of selective enforcement.
  - According to Community Development, Cambridge more bicyclists on the road than any other community in Massachusetts.
  - Bicycle volumes citywide increased 97% from 2002 to 2008, Cambridge actively encourages reports of bicycle crashes to Police, which may lead to higher numbers of reported crashes.
  - Recent surveys at crosswalks in Central and Harvard Square indicate rates as high as 700 pedestrians an hour
  - CD cites a comprehensive Safety Programs and Road improvement for target audience –community outreach – enforcement – engineering –education



## Cambridge Bike Trends and Crashes 2002 - 2008



## Future Improvements in Data Analysis and Collection

- Plan for the implementation of a new Traffic database
- Foster partnerships and data sharing between Traffic Unit, Crime Analysis, Traffic and Parking analytical branch and Mass Highways
- Update Hot Spot Matrix with fresh analysis, citizen complaints, and evaluate strategies on a more timely basis
- Consort with Traffic and Parking to compile a comprehensive and detailed analysis of bicycle and pedestrian accidents on a quarterly timetable
- Utilize Police intranet, electronic Roll Call, Daily Crime Bulletin to educate and alert all personnel about ongoing accident patterns and trends

## Future Improvements in Data Analysis and Collection

- Publish Accident data and possible alerts on the Department's Web Page and in the Annual Crime Report
- Conduct a workload analysis to find Patrol Units that could be expending more of their allocated time on selective traffic enforcement strategies.
- Research and study the residual effect on target crimes within an area that has been saturated with traffic enforcement units.
- Conform and meet the guidelines established by the National Model of STATS ( Strategic and Tactical Approaches to Traffic Safety) or **S**top **T**raffic **A**ccidents **T**hrough **S**tatistics.

*The Cambridge Police Crime Analysis Unit would like to thank the Mass Highways Commission and the Cambridge Traffic and Parking Department, with a special tip of the hat to Jeff Parentti, for their assistance in this project.*

# LEARN TO PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST CRIME

Cambridge prides itself in being a safe place to raise a family, participate in the workforce and attend school. Compared to cities of similar size and population nationwide, the crime rate in Cambridge consistently ranks below average in the majority of serious crime categories. (See the National and Regional Crime Comparison for more information, page 12-13). However, crime is a presence and a concern in all large cities and the safety of residents and visitors is of the utmost importance to the Cambridge Police Department. The following tips are provided to help residents, visitors, and business owners learn to protect themselves and their property.

## VIOLENT CRIME

### PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST RAPE

- **Be aware of your surroundings when walking down the street.** Walk briskly and confidently.
- **At night, try to avoid walking alone, particularly after 9:00 p.m.** Stick to main streets with as much car and foot traffic as possible. Avoid public parks, areas with excessive trees and bushes, dark streets and alleys, and other “shortcuts.”
- **Keep an arm’s length away from strangers.** If you think someone suspicious is approaching you or following you, cross to the other side of the street and head for the nearest public place.
- **Know which stores and other public places are open along your route.** Whether walking home, to work, or jogging, try to vary your route frequently.
- **When streets are sparsely populated,** make brief eye contact with people as you pass them.
- **When parking at night, try to park in well-lit spots.** Lock your car door and, when returning to your car, have your keys ready.
- **Never hitchhike or pick up hitchhikers.**
- **Know the full name of each person you date,** his/her occupation, and where s/he lives.
- **Never invite a person whom you have met on the street,** in a bar, or in another public place to be alone with you.
- **If you are a victim of rape, report the crime.** Counseling, shelters, and other services are available for you, and you may prevent another person from being victimized.
- **The Cambridge Rape Crisis Center is available (617) 492-8306.** The Rape Crisis Center supports a 24-hour hotline, support groups, one-on-one counseling, and community education programs. All its services are free.

- **The Cambridge Police Department offers a *Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.)* course** for women seeking to learn how to physically protect themselves against rape and other forms of violence. The course is free and is taught by a certified R.A.D. instructor. For more information, call the Cambridge Police Department’s Community Relations Department at (617) 349-6009.

### PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST STREET ROBBERY

- **Try to avoid walking alone on the street after dark.** If you must walk alone at night, use well-lit roads, with as much car traffic as possible, and walk near the curb.
- **When streets are relatively empty,** make eye contact with everyone you pass, and keep yourself an arm’s length away from them. Walk briskly and confidently.
- **At night, avoid public parks,** vacant lots, and areas with excessive trees and bushes.
- **When waiting for a bus or subway, if the station is deserted,** keep your back against a wall in a well-lit section.
- **When walking to your car at night,** have your keys in your hand and be ready to open the door.
- **Try to avoid using ATMs late at night.** If you must, try to pick an ATM in an attended location, such as a supermarket or mall. At the very least, make sure the ATM is well lit, and be aware of any people “loitering” in the area. Try to avoid going by yourself.
- **At home, before answering the door,** check the peephole or side window to make sure you know your visitor.

- **Keep your doors locked when driving your car.** If someone approaches your car while stopped, be prepared to step on the gas.
- **Don't carry your purse loosely around your shoulder.** Clutch it tightly under your arm or, better yet, avoid carrying a purse and keep a wallet in your pocket instead.
- **Avoid walking with headphones on, as you may not be able to hear someone approaching.**
- **If you *are* robbed, obey the robber's instructions.** Keeping your cash in a separate money clip or pouch will allow you to hand it over without sacrificing your credit cards, identification, and personal papers.
- **Try to memorize your robber's physical features, clothing, motor vehicle, and direction of flight.** Call the police from the nearest available telephone.

## PROTECTING BUSINESSES AGAINST ROBBERY

(This information was found at [http://crime.about.com/od/prevent/qt/prevent\\_robbery.htm](http://crime.about.com/od/prevent/qt/prevent_robbery.htm))

- Have at least **two employees** open and close the business.
- Keep purses and personal valuables locked in desks or lockers.
- Install a robbery alarm.
- **Place a surveillance camera** behind the cash register facing the front counter. Replace videotapes regularly.
- **Vary times** and routes of travel for bank deposits.
- **Don't use marked "moneybags"** that make it obvious to would-be robbers you are carrying money for deposit.
- **Keep a low balance** in the cash register.
- Place **excess money** in a safe or deposit it as soon as possible.
- **Cooperate with the robber** for your own safety and the safety of others. Comply with a robber's demands. Remain calm and think clearly. **Make mental notes of the robber's physical description and other observations important to law enforcement officers.**
- **If you have a silent alarm** and can reach it without being noticed, use it. Otherwise, wait until the robber leaves.
- Be careful, most robbers are just as nervous as you are.
- **Stay alert!** Know who is in your business and where they are. Watch for people who hang around without buying anything. Also, be aware of suspicious activity outside your place of business. Write down license numbers of

suspicious vehicles if visible from the inside of your business.

- **Make sure the sales counter can be seen clearly.** Don't put up advertisements, flyers, displays, signs, posters or other items on windows or doors that might obstruct the view of the register from inside or outside your business. The police cruising by your store need to see in.
- **Try to greet customers as they enter your business.** Look them in the eye, and ask them if they need help. Your attention can discourage a robber.
- **Keep your business well-lit,** inside and outside. Employees should report any burned-out lights to the business owner or manager. Keep trees and bushes trimmed, so they don't block any outdoor lights. Encourage the police to stop by your business.
- Learn the names of the officers who patrol your business.
- **Use care after dark.** Be cautious when cleaning the parking lot or taking out the trash at night. Make sure another employee inside the business keeps you within eye contact while you are involved in work details outside of your building.
- **If you see something suspicious, call the police.** Never try to handle it yourself. It could cost you your life.
- **Handle cash carefully.** Avoid making your business a tempting target for robbers. Keep the amount of cash in registers low. Drop all large bills right away. If a customer tries to pay with a large bill, politely ask if he or she has a smaller one. Explain that you keep very little cash on hand.
- **Use only one register at night.** Leave other registers empty and open. Tilt the register drawer to show there is no money in it.
- **Leave blinds and drapes partially open** during closing hours.
- **Make sure important signs stay posted.** For example, the front door should bear signs that say, "Clerk Cannot Open the Time Lock Safe."
- **If your business is robbed, put your safety first.** Your personal safety is more important than money or merchandise.
- **Don't talk** except to answer the robber's questions.
- Don't stare directly at the robber.
- Prevent surprises; keep your hands in sight at all times. Don't make any sudden moves.
- Don't chase or follow the robber out of your place of business. **Leave the job of catching the robber to the police.**

## PREVENTING ASSAULT

- Check out the tips for preventing rape and street robbery to prevent unprovoked, “street” assaults.
- If you have been abused by, or are in fear of, your domestic partner or spouse, get help. The problem usually becomes worse if it is not addressed. The “domestic crimes” section of this report lists telephone numbers that you or your partner can call to seek assistance.
- Report assault when it happens, even if you do not believe it to be “serious.” Assaults that are not reported cannot be considered by police administrators when they make decisions about how to allocate manpower and funds; if there is a problem with a bar, a household, a school, or

any other place where assaults are likely to happen, *the police need to know about it.*

- Do *not* allow yourself to be drawn into arguments about traffic or parking incidents. Keep calm when behind the wheel of your car. If another driver commits a violation or threatens you, take down his registration information and report it to the police. Hundreds of people are killed each year because of “road rage.”
- Unless they have security forces for that purpose, shop managers and clerks should not attempt to physically detain shoplifters. Most of the “Shop Owner/Patron” assaults began as shoplifting incidents. Instead, get a full description of the shoplifter and call the police. If he refuses to stay, let him go.

## PROPERTY CRIME

---

### PREVENTING AUTO THEFT

(This list is provided courtesy of [Autotheftinfo.com](http://Autotheftinfo.com))

- **Always take your keys.** Never leave them in the car.
- **Always lock your car.**
- **Never hide a second set of keys in your car.** Extra keys can easily be found if a car thief takes time to look.
- **Park in well-lit areas.** Over half of all vehicle thefts occur at night.
- **Park in attended lots.** Auto thieves tend to avoid potential witnesses and prefer unattended parking lots.
- **If you park in an attended lot, leave only the ignition/door key.** If your trunk and glove box use the same key as the door, have one of them changed. Don't give the attendant easy access to your glove box and trunk. Upon returning, check the tires, spare, and battery to insure they are the same as those you had when you parked.
- **Never leave your car running, even if you will only be gone for a minute.** Vehicles are commonly stolen at convenience stores, gas stations, ATM's, etc. Many vehicles are also stolen on cold days when the owner leaves it running to warm up.
- **Don't leave valuables in plain view.** Don't make your car a more desirable target by leaving valuables in plain sight.
- **When parking in a garage, lock the garage door and your vehicle.** By locking both the garage and vehicle doors, the chances of deterring a thief greatly improve.

- **Don't leave the registration or title in your car.** A car thief will use these to sell your stolen car. File the title at your home or office, and carry the registration in your purse or wallet.
- **Vehicle Identification Number (VIN).** Stolen cars/parts are more easily traced when vehicle VIN numbers have been etched on car windows and major parts. ID stickers (<http://www.IDsticker.com>) include VINs and can assist police in identifying your vehicle in the event that it is stolen.
- **Alarms.** Loud warnings sound when doors/hoods/trunks are opened. Optional sensors include glass breakage, motion, tampering and towing. Panic buttons, back-up batteries, flashing parking lights or headlights, and automatic engine disable features are also recommended.

### PREVENTING COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

- **Light all entrances,** including alleys, with vandal-proof fixtures. Leave inside lights on overnight and on weekends.
- **Glass doors** should be made from burglar-resistant glass and should be well lit.
- **Keep weeds, shrubbery, and debris away from doors and windows.** Lock up tools and ladders that could invite a break or make a burglar's job easier.
- **Install an alarm system,** check it regularly, and investigate reasons behind any false alarms. Post a

conspicuous notice that you have an alarm system.

- **Leave empty cash drawers open after hours.** Use a burglar-resistant safe; don't trust a fire safe to keep burglars out.
- **Request a Cambridge Police Department Commercial Security Survey**, which provides a general assessment of the vulnerability of your business. For more information, call (617) 349-3236.

### **PREVENTING RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY**

- **Try "casing" your own home, at night and during the day.** Attempt to gain access to your home when the doors and windows are locked and "secure." Make sure you have some identification on you in case your neighbors call the police.
- **Doors should be made from strong wood or metal and should be locked with a deadbolt.** Install guards on windows that prevent them from being raised more than a few inches.
- If you live in an apartment building that has a main entryway, make sure that security is enforced at the main door. **Never prop open the door or let someone in behind you.** Report residents who do this to your landlord.
- **When you go away**, even for the evening, leave a light or two on (perhaps on a timer) as well as the television or radio.
- Keep a small amount of cash on a table near your main door. If the money is gone when you come home, you will know immediately that someone has been in your residence.
- **Consider buying motion sensor** lights outside your home and out of reach so the burglars cannot unscrew the light. Also, buy variable light timers to activate lights in your home.
- **Request a Cambridge Police Department Residential Security Survey**, which provides a general assessment of the vulnerability of your residence. For more information, call (617) 349-6009.

### **PREVENTING LARCENIES FROM BUILDINGS**

- **Office buildings should develop a comprehensive security policy involving all employees.** The policy should include a prohibition against leaving expensive equipment—particularly laptop computers—unattended. Employees should be encouraged to question suspicious or unfamiliar people, or to report them to the security department.

- **Don't leave expensive personal property in health club lockers.** A better solution is a "fanny pack" or other strap-on carrier that you can keep with you at all times.
- **Retail establishments should provide individual lockers, with locks, for employee property.** Leaving it behind the counter or in a "back room" is an invitation for theft.
- **Take extreme care of your personal property while shopping and dining.** Keep it in sight, and never leave it unattended, not even for a minute.
- **Do not hang purses on the back of your chair**, especially when dining alone as you will not be able to see someone lift it off.
- **Report all thefts, no matter how minor, to the police department.** Greater reporting will allow us to identify and attack patterns and series of crime.

### **PREVENTING LARCENIES FROM MOTOR VEHICLES**

- Use common sense when leaving your vehicle unattended.
- Make sure all valuables are out of sight. If you cannot bring valuables with you when you leave the car, at least move them to the trunk or under the seat where they will not be seen. Leaving expensive items out in the open creates an easy target, attracting thieves that may be casing the area. **This is particularly important with GPS systems, laptops, iPods, and cell phones.**
- **Always remove detachable GPS systems from dashboards and windshields. Make sure to remove the bases as well. And if possible, clean the dashboard or windshield to remove any indication that a GPS system was there.**
- Preventing the theft of car radios is more difficult; some car stereo manufacturers make detachable faceplates or stereos that pull easily from the dashboard, allowing you to take it with you or lock it in the trunk.
- **Parking your car in a driveway or lot** rather than on the street provides some minimal deterrence.

### **PREVENTING BICYCLE THEFT**

- The facts are grim: **no lock will stop a determined bicycle thief.** However, using a lock is better than not using a lock, and you can maximize the protection a lock provides by: 1) using a steel "U" lock rather than a cable lock; 2) locking the *frame* of the bicycle rather than the tire; and 3) locking your bike at a bicycle rack.
- **Register your bicycle with the Cambridge Police Department.** If your bike is stolen and

recovered, it will be easier to find you and return your bicycle. Registration cards are available at the Cambridge Police Department and bicycle shops across the city. Call Community Relations, 617-349-6009, for more information.

- **Removing an essential part of the bicycle, such as the seat or one of the wheels, and taking it with you provides some protection against theft.** *Don't* assume your bicycle is safe because it is in your yard, on your porch, or in your apartment hallway. Bikes should be locked in a secured area, such as a garage or shed.

### **PREVENTING SHOPLIFTING**

- **Greet and serve customers** promptly. Shoplifters do not want your attention.
- **If you suspect someone has “pocketed” merchandise**, engage them in conversation for a few minutes. They may “ditch” the merchandise as soon as you leave them alone.
- **Sales personnel should have a full view of the sales floor area.** Rearrange displays, shelving, and lighting to eliminate blind spots.
- Keep displays neat and tidy.
- Be aware of people wearing loose, baggy clothing, carrying shopping bags or large handbags, or customers under the influence of drugs and alcohol.
- **Request a commercial survey** from one of the Cambridge Police Department’s certified Crime Prevention Officers at 617-349-6009.

### **PREVENTING FRAUD**

- Banks are swiftly replacing standard ATM Cards with “Check Cards”—credit cards that deduct directly from your checking account. These check cards, while convenient, present a security problem. Thieves no longer need your Personal Identification Number (PIN) to use the card; if a thief uses it like a credit card, he can drain your entire account by just forging your signature on credit card slips. If your ATM Card has a credit card logo (such as Visa or MasterCard) on it, it can be used like a credit card. If you do not want this feature, notify your bank and have them send you an ATM-only card.
- Keep your credit card numbers, and the telephone numbers of your credit card companies, at home and work. If your cards are stolen, call these numbers immediately and report the theft.
- Try to avoid carrying more credit cards than you need at one time.
- Never write your ATM card PIN number on the card or on a slip of paper in your wallet or purse.

- Protect your cards against theft in the first place; see the prevention tips under this “Property Crime” section.
- Merchants should implement and enforce a policy of requiring a photographic identification when using a check or credit card.

### **Learn to recognize potential fraud scenarios. Any of the following activities almost certainly involves a scam:**

- Someone approaches you on the street claiming to have found money.
- Any circumstance in which you have to pay money in order to get money.
- Someone comes to your door without notification, claiming to work for the gas company, electric company, water company, or cable company. Always ask for official identification and call the utility company to make sure the identification is valid. Do not let “utility impostors” into your home.
- You receive an unsolicited telephone call from someone offering a great deal on some piece of merchandise.
- You’re notified via mail that you’ve won a prize, but you have to pay money in order to claim it.

### **PREVENT LAPTOP THEFT**

- If a stranger approaches you and offers you a laptop for less than face value, alert the police – the laptop is almost certainly stolen.
- Register the laptop with the company and keep receipts with information, such as serial numbers. If your laptop is stolen and recovered, this information will be essential to reclaim the item.
- **Do not leave your laptop visible inside your motor vehicle.**
- If you run a business, do not give keys out to individuals who do not absolutely need them. As previously mentioned, employees are often the suspects when laptops are stolen from businesses. Also, use cables or other protective measures to keep the machines more secure.

# DIRECTORY

## EXECUTIVE OFFICES

Office of the Commissioner.....  
(617) 349-3377  
Professional Standards.....  
(617) 349-3384

## KEY OPERATIONAL SERVICES:

Personnel Department.....  
(617) 349-3374  
Traffic Department.....  
(617) 349-4365  
Crime Analysis Unit.....  
(617) 349-3390  
Public Information.....  
(617) 349-3237  
Records Unit.....  
(617) 349-3336  
Community Relations.....  
(617) 349-3236  
Identification Unit.....  
(617) 349-3347  
Police Academy.....  
(617) 349-3343  
Property Office.....  
(617) 349-3380

## KEY INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES

Narcotics Unit.....  
(617) 349-3360  
Drug Tip Hotline.....  
(617) 349-3359  
Domestic Violence Unit.....  
(617) 349-3371  
Accident Investigations.....  
(617) 349-3307

Investigations Section.....  
(617) 349-3367

## MISCELLANEOUS

License Commission.....  
(617) 349-6140  
Criminal History Board.....  
(617) 660-4600  
Medical Examiner's Office.....  
(617) 267-6767  
Sex Offender Registry.....  
(978)-660-4600  
Dispute Settlement Center.....  
(617) 876-5376

### **Cambridge Police Department "Alert Network" Text-A-Tip Function**

Send an anonymous text message to  
CRIMES (274637). Begin your text with Tip650 and then  
type your message.

### **Cambridge Police Anonymous Crime Tip E-Mail**

Submit crime tips or suspicious behavior by accessing  
[www.CambridgePolice.org](http://www.CambridgePolice.org), and clicking Anonymous  
Crime Tip E-mail

**CAMBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
125 SIXTH ST.  
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02142  
(617) 349-3300 – 24 HOURS A DAY**