



Cambridge Police Department BridgeStat

October 1st, 2010



Introduction

The Cambridge Police Department is proud to announce our new BridgeStat program. This program, released on the first Friday of every month, is designed to share information with the public and combat crime in the city.

BridgeStat, similar to the CitiStat program used in New York City, is a multilayered dynamic approach to crime reduction, quality of life improvement, and personnel and resource management. Police personnel meet to devise strategies and tactics to solve problems, reduce crime, and ultimately improve quality of life in their community. Similar systems are in use in other major cities including Washington, DC, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Austin, San Francisco, and Baltimore.

Through the new BridgeStat program, the Cambridge Police Department will produce a monthly public report to the community on current police priorities in terms of crime, traffic, and disorder issues in the city.

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



Cambridge Police BridgeStat

A Review of Current Crime Index & Target Crimes

CURRENT CRIME REVIEW

BridgeStat - September 2010



Part I Stats: Violent Crime

Crime	January 1 – September 19				4 Week Snapshot		
	2009	Avg	YTD	Change	7/26-8/22	8/23-9/19	Change
Murder	2	1	0	-100%	0	0	0%
Rape	22	22	24	+9%	3	2	-50%
Robbery	126	122	94	-23%	13	15	+15%
-Commercial Robbery	15	23	13	-43%	0	1	+100%
-Street Robbery	111	99	81	-18%	13	14	+8%
Aggravated Assault	187	185	184	-1%	21	15	-29%



Part I Stats: Property Crime

Cambridge Police BridgeStat

Crime	January 1 – September 19				4 Week Snapshot		
	2009	Avg	YTD	Change	7/26-8/22	8/23-9/19	Change
Burglary	315	384	312	-19%	36	63	+75%
-Housebreaks	256	304	250	-18%	29	57	+97%
-Commercial Breaks	59	80	62	-23%	7	6	-14%
Larceny	1752	1798	1771	-2%	228	201	-12%
-Larceny from Building	228	281	264	-6%	31	38	+23%
-Larceny from MV	680	691	560	-19%	60	54	-10%
-Larceny from Person	228	236	240	+2%	20	22	+10%
-Larceny from Residence	126	138	137	-1%	13	24	+85%
-Larceny of Bicycle	221	193	300	+55%	81	49	-40%
-Shoplifting	269	260	270	+4%	23	14	-39%
Auto Theft	156	178	123	-31%	24	23	-4%



Crime in Cambridge: 1/1/2010 through 9/19/2010

- Overall, the violent and property crime index for the first 8 ½ months of 2010 have **decreased 5%** when compared with the same time frame in 2009.
- Property crime has fallen by **4%** and Violent incidents are down **10%** when measured against 2009 figures.
- Robbery (-23%), Burglary (-19%), and Auto Theft (-31%) are all registering **substantial declines** from 2009 totals.
- Since the last BridgeStat in August, robbery rose slightly (15%) – because of *two additional incidents*, and **burglary soared by 75%**, with the majority of the increase traced to **three emerging housebreak patterns**.
- Two areas of concentrations in **recent BridgeStat** meetings, the target crimes of larceny from person and larceny of bicycles, appear to have leveled off. Larceny of bicycle was **down 40%** compared to the previous month.

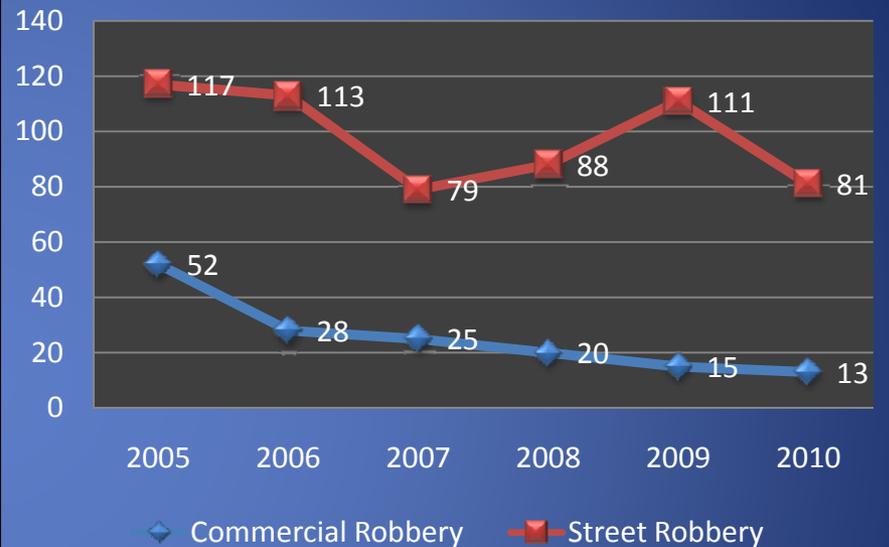


Robbery

No Pattern

-23%

- **Total Robbery** dropped from 5 year average of 122 incidents YTD to 81 incidents in 2010 to register a 23% decrease.
- **Commercial Robbery** is down 43% so far in 2010, from 23 incidents to 13, with one commercial robbery occurring in the past two months.
- **Street Robbery** has recorded a 18% decline from the 5-year average.
- We have seen a major decline in street robbery in 2010 for Cambridgeport, Peabody and East Cambridge.





Street Robberies

What can we do?

Police Response Strategy:

- Cambridge Police, in collaboration with other area departments, were successful in **identifying the spree involving six related incidents** that occurred on 9/5-9/6.
- Cambridge Police have been in contact with the other departments to share suspect info and discuss ongoing strategies to identify a suspect in these crimes and prevent further incidents from occurring.
- **A coordinated response was developed that included Cambridge and Somerville Police deploying overtime units in the areas of the crimes** in the days following and through the weekend of September 11th & 12th.
- **There have not been any similar incidents** reported in Cambridge or Somerville since 9/6.

Citizen Response Strategy:

- Citizens are asked to take the following precautions to protect themselves from become victims of robberies:
 - **Walk or jog with a known companion**
 - **Walk or jog in a familiar area**
 - **Be especially careful when walking or jogging in a secluded area**
 - **Be especially aware when walking or jogging after dark**
 - **Walk or jog facing the traffic**
 - **If followed, go to the nearest house and call the police**
 - **Wear bright colored clothing to improve your visibility**
 - **Carry a pepper spray or a personal safety alarm device**
 - **Vary your route**
 - **Do not wear headphones when walking or jogging**
 - **Always be aware of your surroundings.**
 - **Keep Alert!**
 - **Walk or jog away from bushes where someone could hide**
- **For more info, visit <http://bit.ly/cMUz7v>**

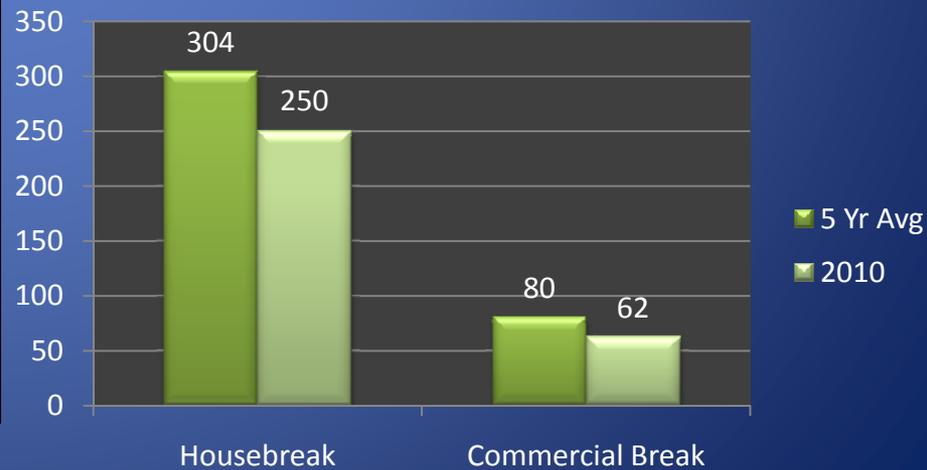
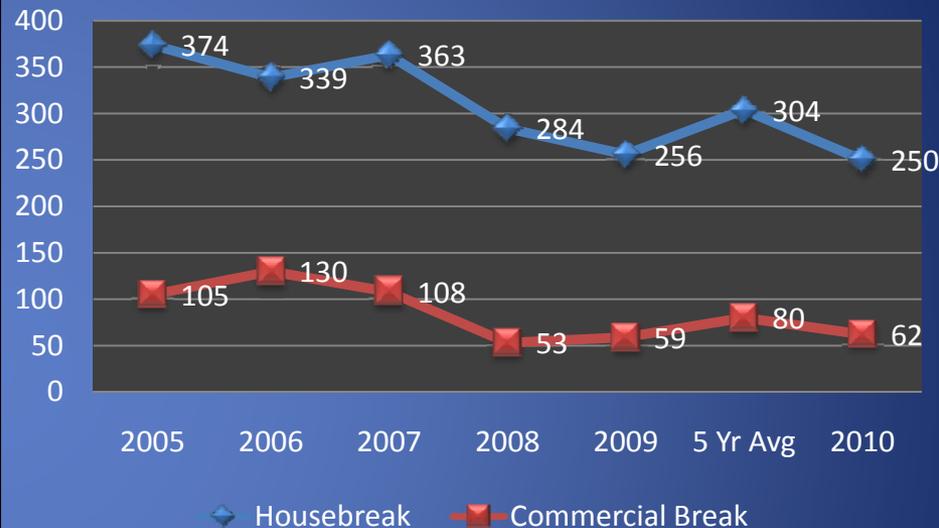


Burglary

Patterns

-19%

- **Total Burglary**, the combination of residential and commercial burglary, decreased by 19% when compared to the 5 year average.
- **Housebreaks** have recorded a significant decline (down 18%) on 5-year average, but skyrocketed 97% over the previous month. Three patterns were identified at the end of August and analysis of previous 4th quarters portends to possible increases.
- **Commercial Breaks** is a target crime that is down 23% with no discernible patterns at the present time. Regional series of breaks into convenience stores with cigarettes and lottery tickets the target has not surfaced in Cambridge.





Housebreaks

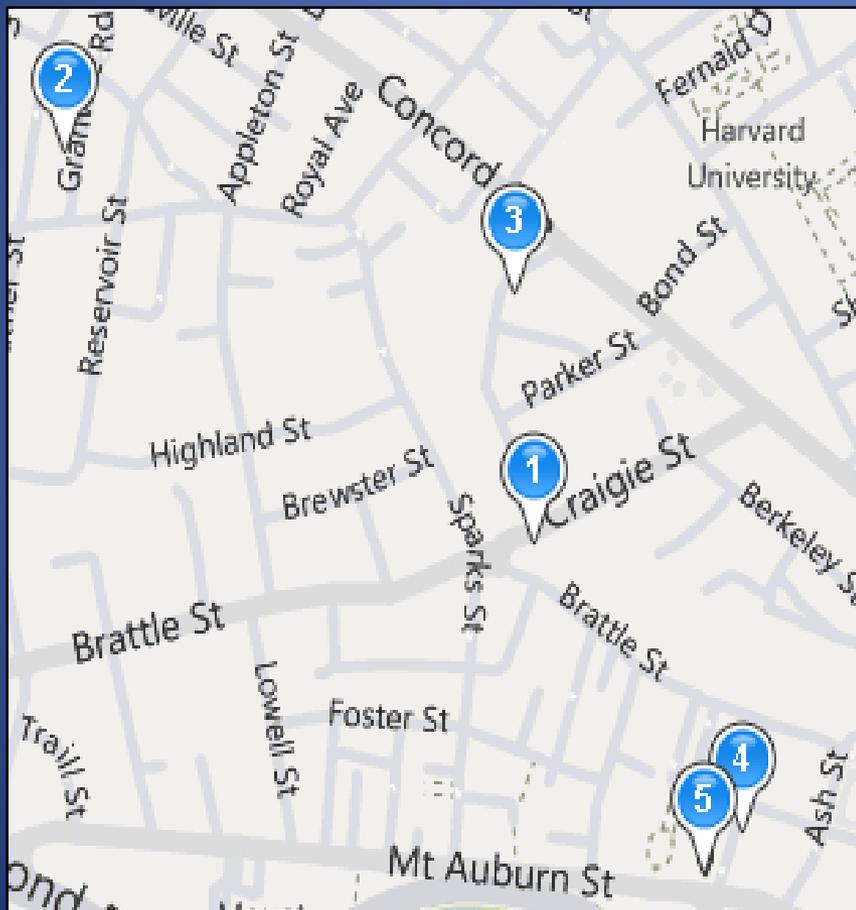
- There have been 6 fewer housebreaks YTD than the same time period in 2009 and currently 54 incidents under the 5-year average.
- Housebreaks **increased (+97%)** over the previous months total. The following patterns have emerged:
 - **West Cambridge** – five weekend, daytime housebreaks since side 7/28, *may be cooling* – last break on 9/15.
 - **Peabody** – ongoing since 8/20 – eleven daytime incidents.
 - **Mid-Cambridge** – eleven tightly clustered incidents since 9/7 – possibly ongoing since late August.



West Cambridge

Weekend Housebreaks – Pattern Identified

Pattern was identified in July has cooled, nothing since 9/11/10.



- **Daytime late week/ weekend housebreaks since 7/28.**

- Window entry (either broken windows or cut screens).

- Targets:

- Laptops, cameras, drill, backpacks, and purses.

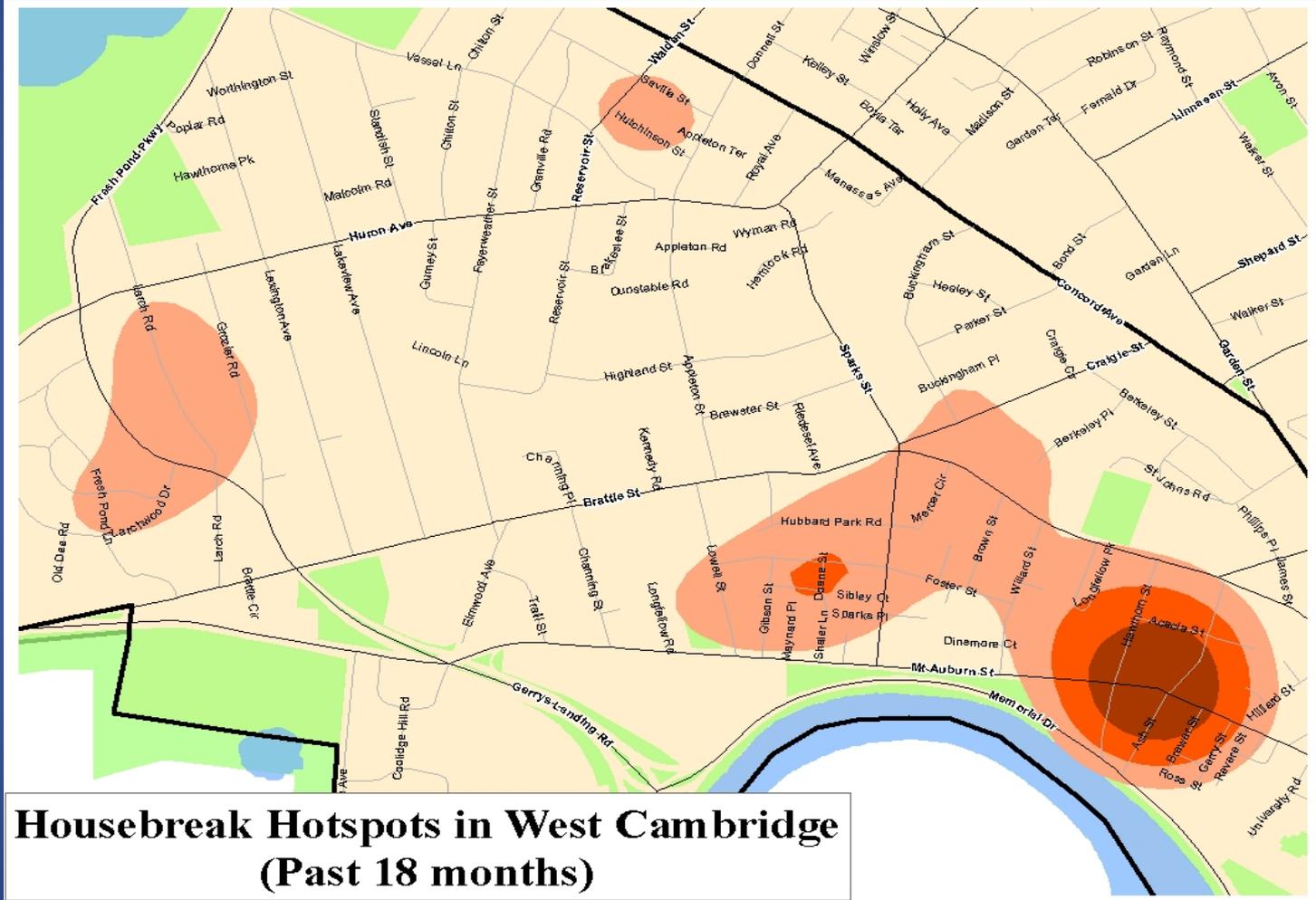
- **May be related to the housebreak series in Peabody.**



West Cambridge

Historical Hotspots

Cambridge Police BridgeStat

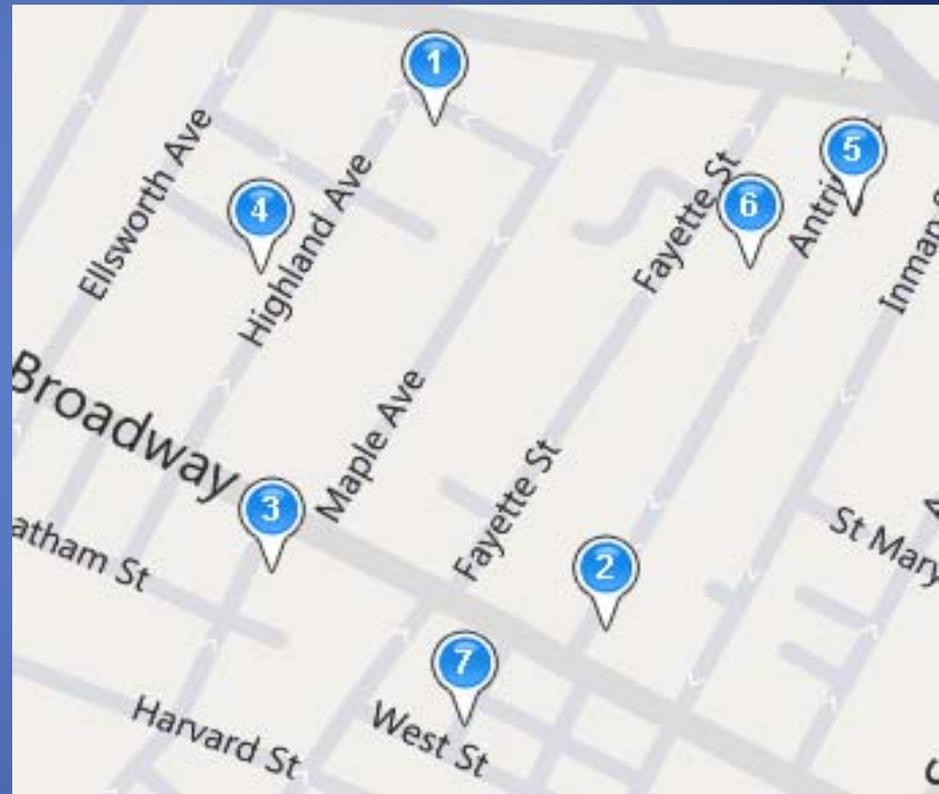




Mid-Cambridge

Housebreaks– Current Pattern

- Multiple housebreaks since 9/7 within a few blocks in Mid-Cambridge.
- Main point of entry is through forced windows (front, side and rear).
- Targets:
 - Laptops, electronics
- **Weekends - General time frame: 12PM and 8PM.**

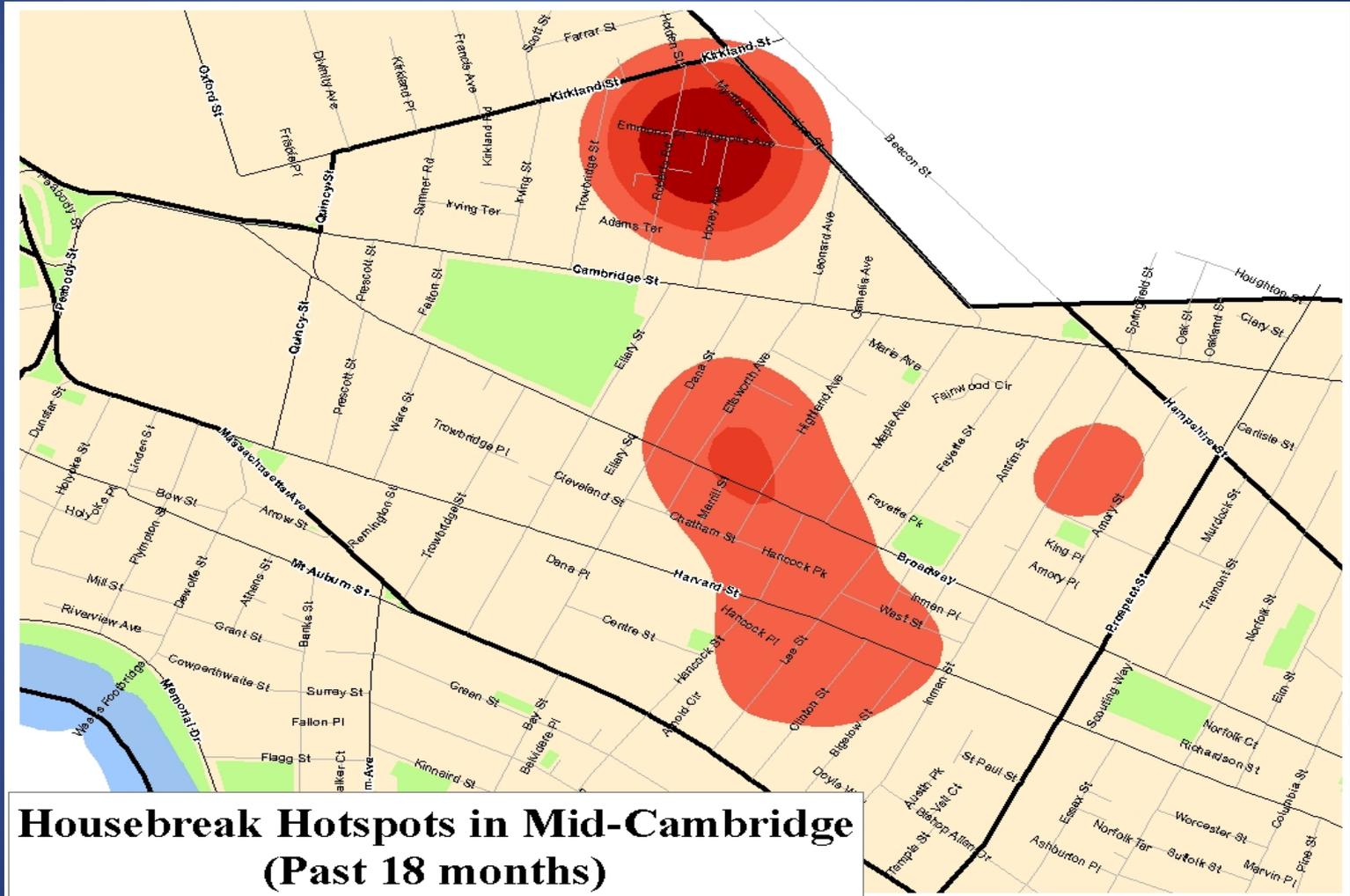




Mid-Cambridge Housebreaks

Historical Hotspots

Cambridge Police BridgeStat

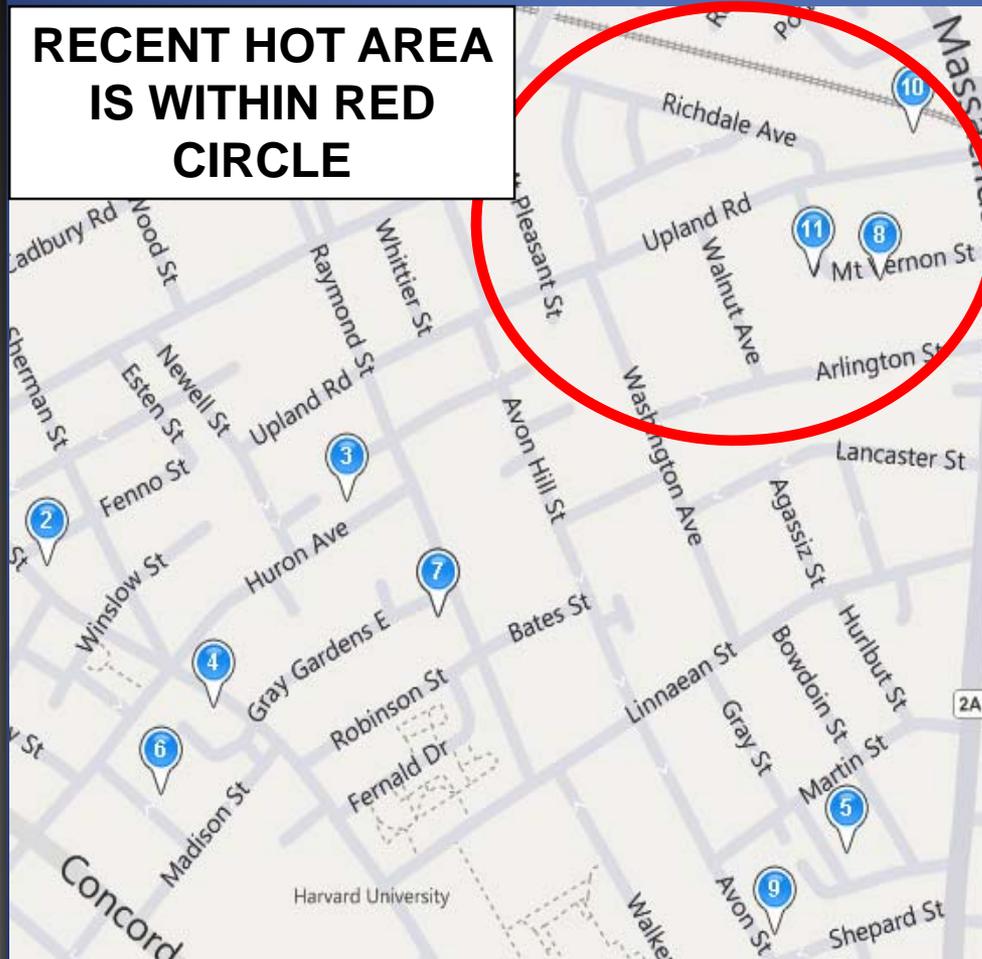




Peabody

Housebreaks– Current Pattern

**RECENT HOT AREA
IS WITHIN RED
CIRCLE**



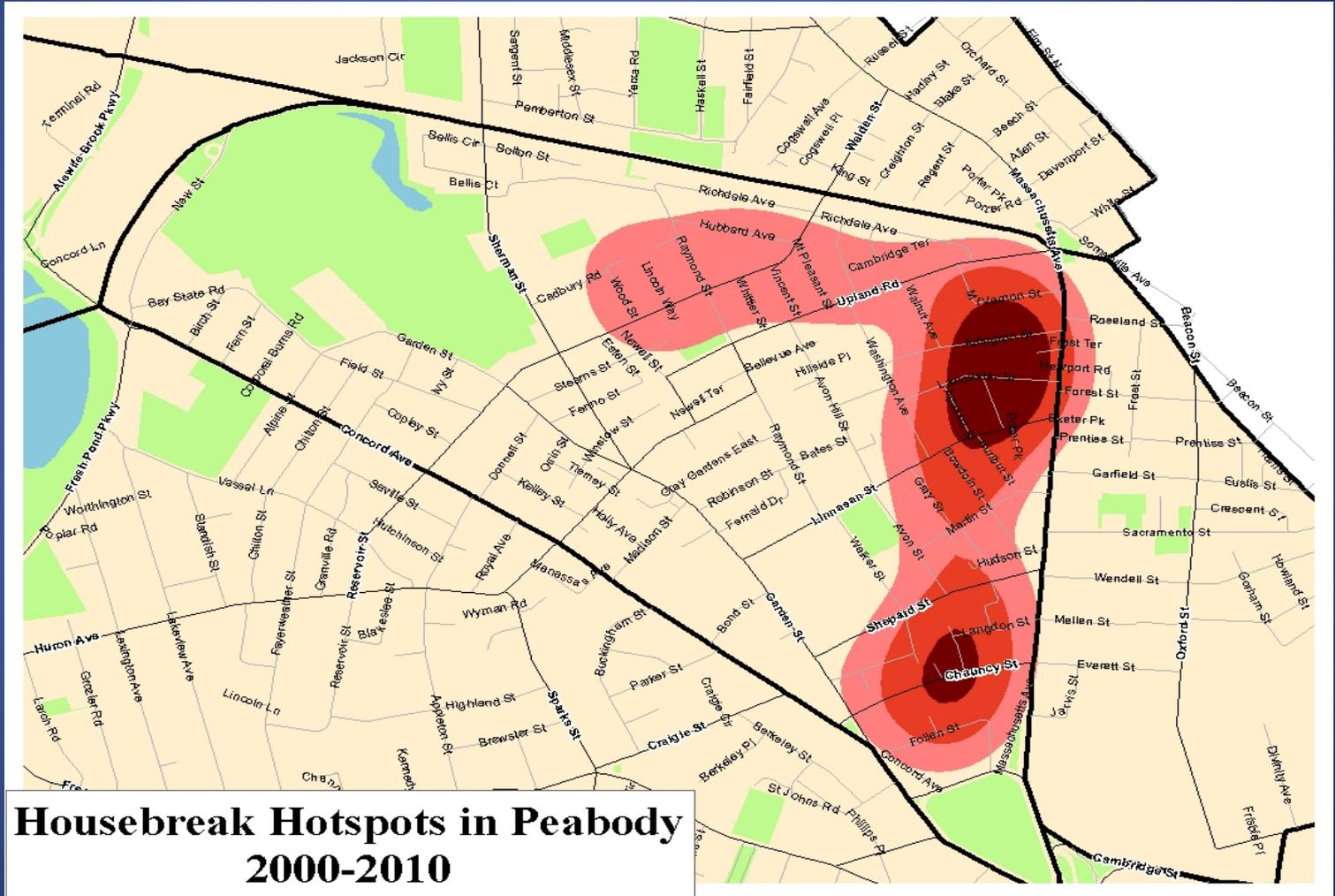
- Multiple housebreaks in Peabody since 8/17.
- Entry by forcing doors or cutting side window screens.
- Targets:
 - Jewelry, silverware and laptops.
- No definite time frame, although more likely between 1PM and 7PM



Peabody Housebreaks

Historical Hotspots

Cambridge Police BridgeStat





Housebreaks

What can we do?

Police Response Strategy:

- Utilizing statistical information provided by our Crime Analysis Unit:
 - Deployed Patrol Units, bike units and Major Crime Units to saturate high-incident neighborhoods.
 - **Saturation Patrol strategy** deployed during the affected time periods. No housebreaks were reported during this time. However, there was a dramatic increase in housebreaks in Somerville near the Cambridge border during the weekend of 9/25 & 9/26. This appears to have displaced housebreaks to Somerville.
- Deployed resources for a door-to-door campaign in the Antrim Street area.
 - Officers knocked on doors and left information sharing tips on how to protect themselves and their property.

Citizen Response Strategy:

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

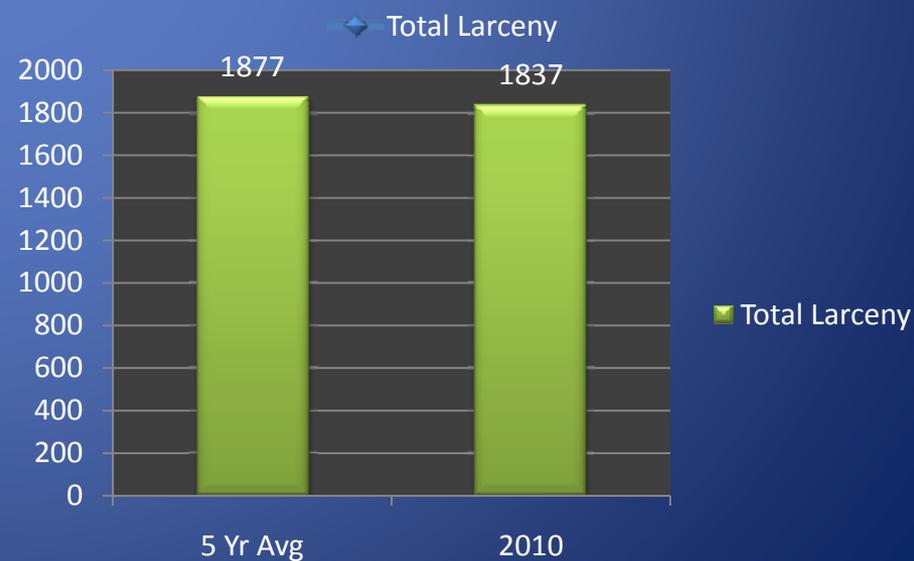
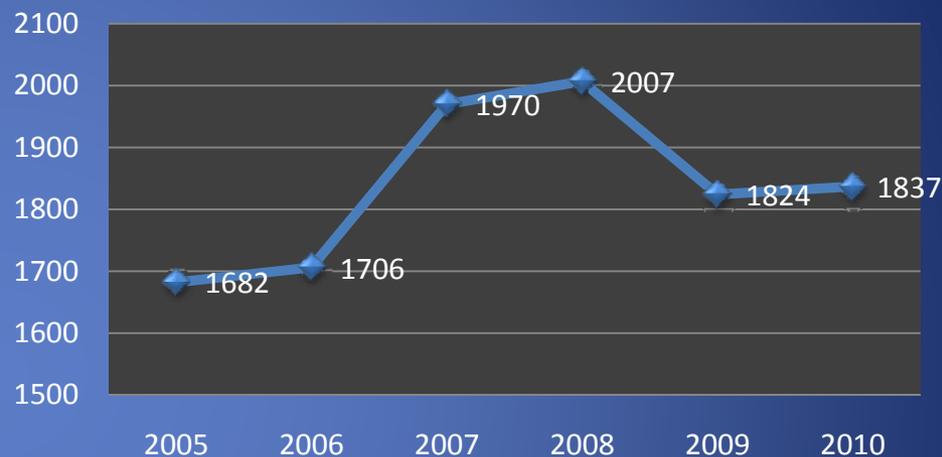


LARCENY

No Patterns

-2%

- Overall, larceny has decreased by 2%.
- The only larceny type with a dramatic increase:
 - Larceny of Bicycles **+55% (YTD)**
 - During the 4 week period since identifying strategies to respond to the increase in bicycle thefts we have seen a **decrease of 40%**.
- Other Larceny Crimes:
 - Larceny from MV **-19%**
 - Larceny / Building **-6%**
 - Larceny /Resid. **-1%**
 - Shoplifting **+4%**



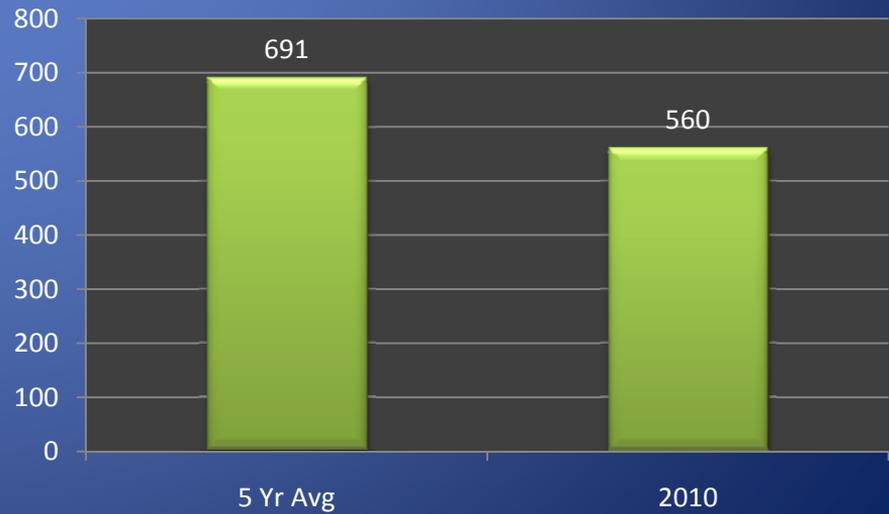
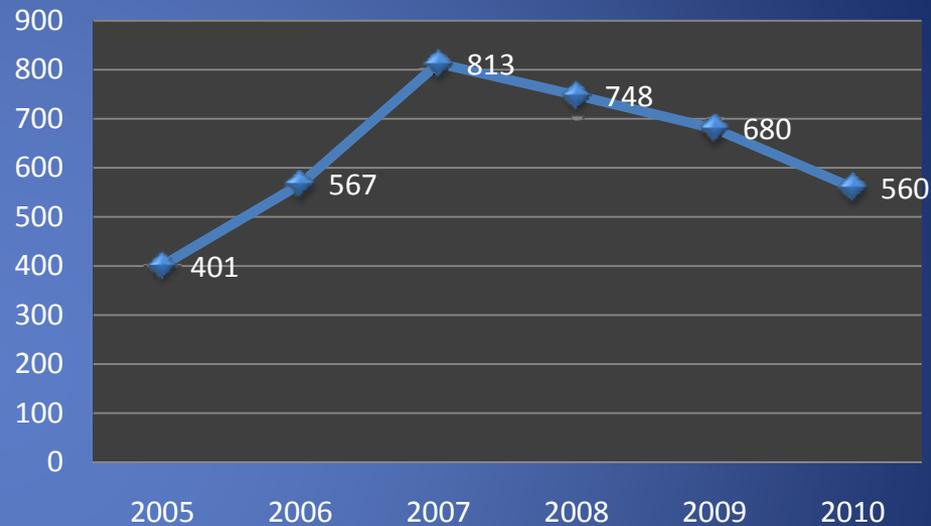


LARCENY: *from MV*

No Patterns

-19%

- Larceny from MVs are down 19%.
- There are no patterns at the present time – past month 10% reduction from previous 4 weeks.
- **Potential 4th Quarter Hot Spots:**
 - *Parking lots on 1st and 2nd along Binney in East Cambridge*
 - *Albany & Vassar*
 - *Allston/Brookline in C'Port*
 - *Avon Hill in Peabody*



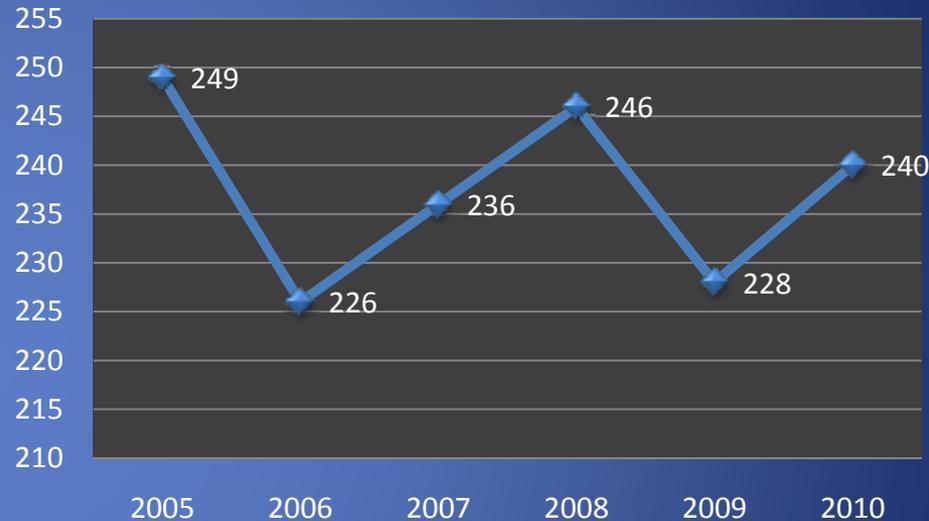


LARCENY: *from Person*

No Patterns

+2%

- Has been exceptionally quiet since BridgeStat directed strategies employed at the beginning of the Summer **(up 17% at that time)**.
 - Five unrelated incidents reported in Harvard Square since the end of July.
- The expected increase in this crime at the start of the school year has not materialized.
 - Extra attention will be given to Harvard Square on Saturday afternoons through the end of October





LARCENY: *from Person*

- Police strategy of multiple park & walks during peak time frames appears to have eradicated problem.
 - Still needs to be monitored throughout the fourth quarter in Harvard Square with festivals and Holiday season approaching.

Harvard Square Larceny from Person



Citywide Larceny from Person



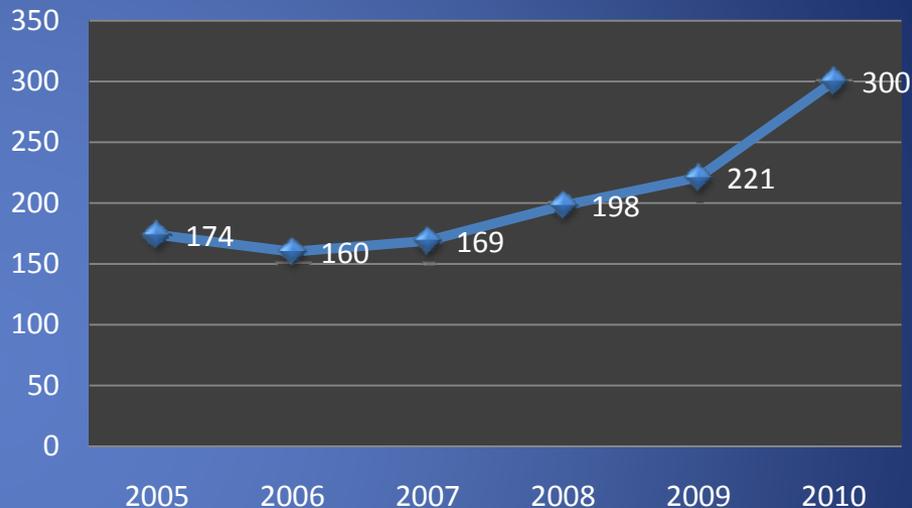


LARCENY: *of Bicycle*

No Patterns

+55%

- After recording a 70% increase when comparing July with similar time frame in 2009, larceny from bicycles has **declined 40%** when measured against the previous 4-week total
 - 32 fewer incidents.

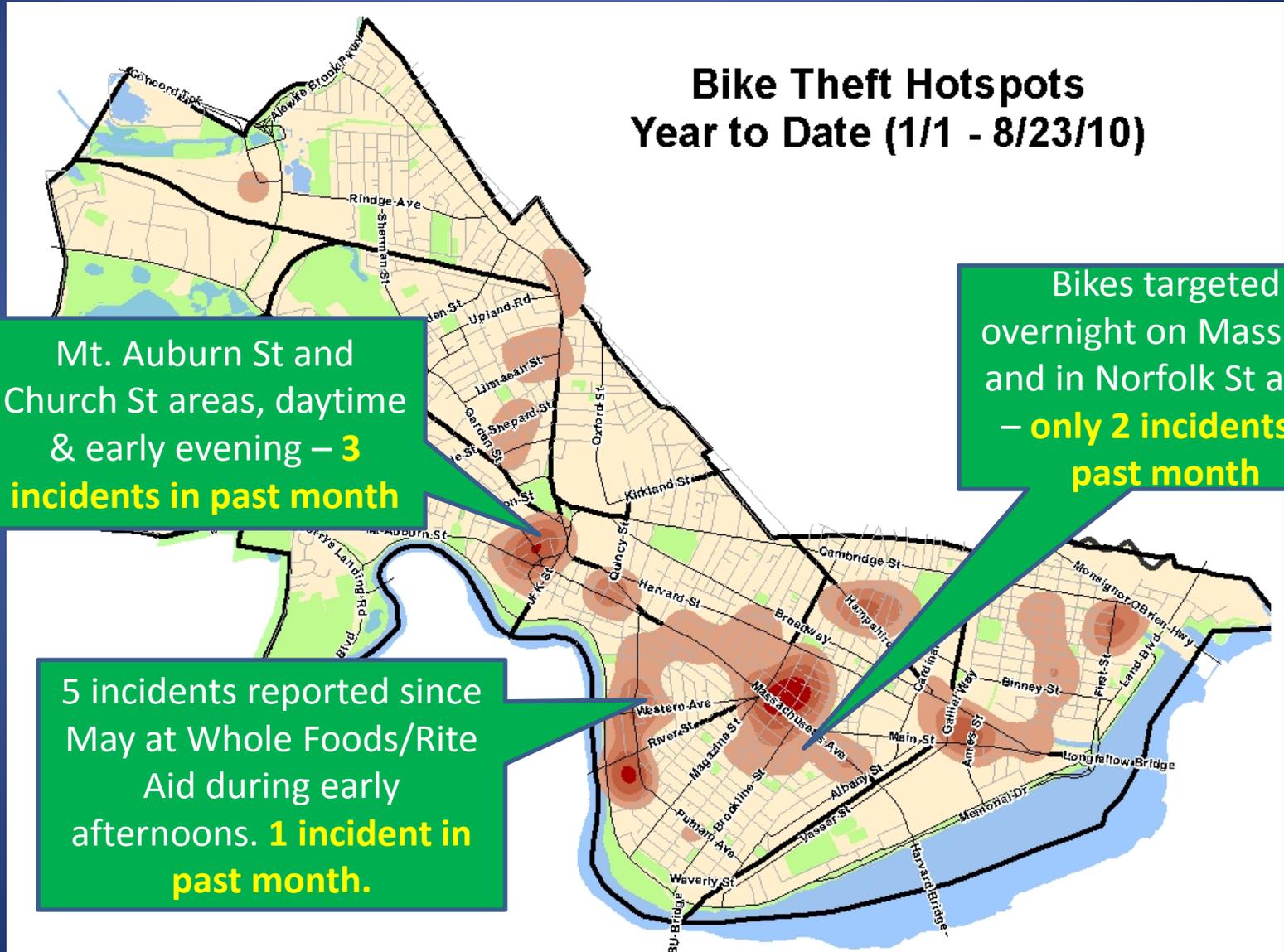




LARCENY: *of Bicycle*

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Bike Theft Hotspots Year to Date (1/1 - 8/23/10)



Mt. Auburn St and Church St areas, daytime & early evening – **3 incidents in past month**

5 incidents reported since May at Whole Foods/Rite Aid during early afternoons. **1 incident in past month.**

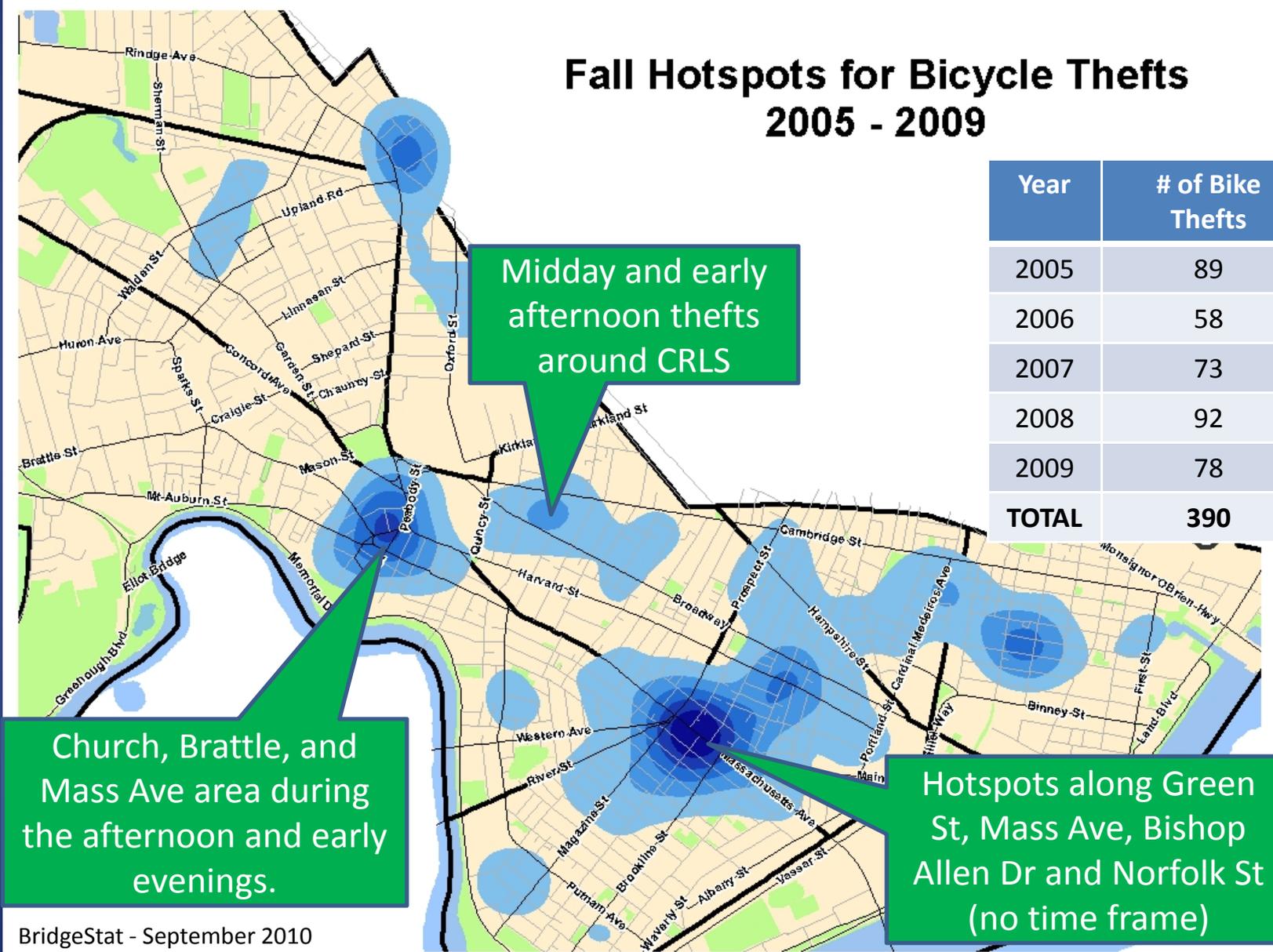
Bikes targeted overnight on Mass Ave and in Norfolk St area. – **only 2 incidents in past month**



LARCENY: *of Bicycle*

Cambridge Police BridgeStat

Fall Hotspots for Bicycle Thefts 2005 - 2009



Year	# of Bike Thefts
2005	89
2006	58
2007	73
2008	92
2009	78
TOTAL	390

Church, Brattle, and Mass Ave area during the afternoon and early evenings.

Midday and early afternoon thefts around CRLS

Hotspots along Green St, Mass Ave, Bishop Allen Dr and Norfolk St (no time frame)



Hot Spot Forecasts:

4th Quarter Housebreaks

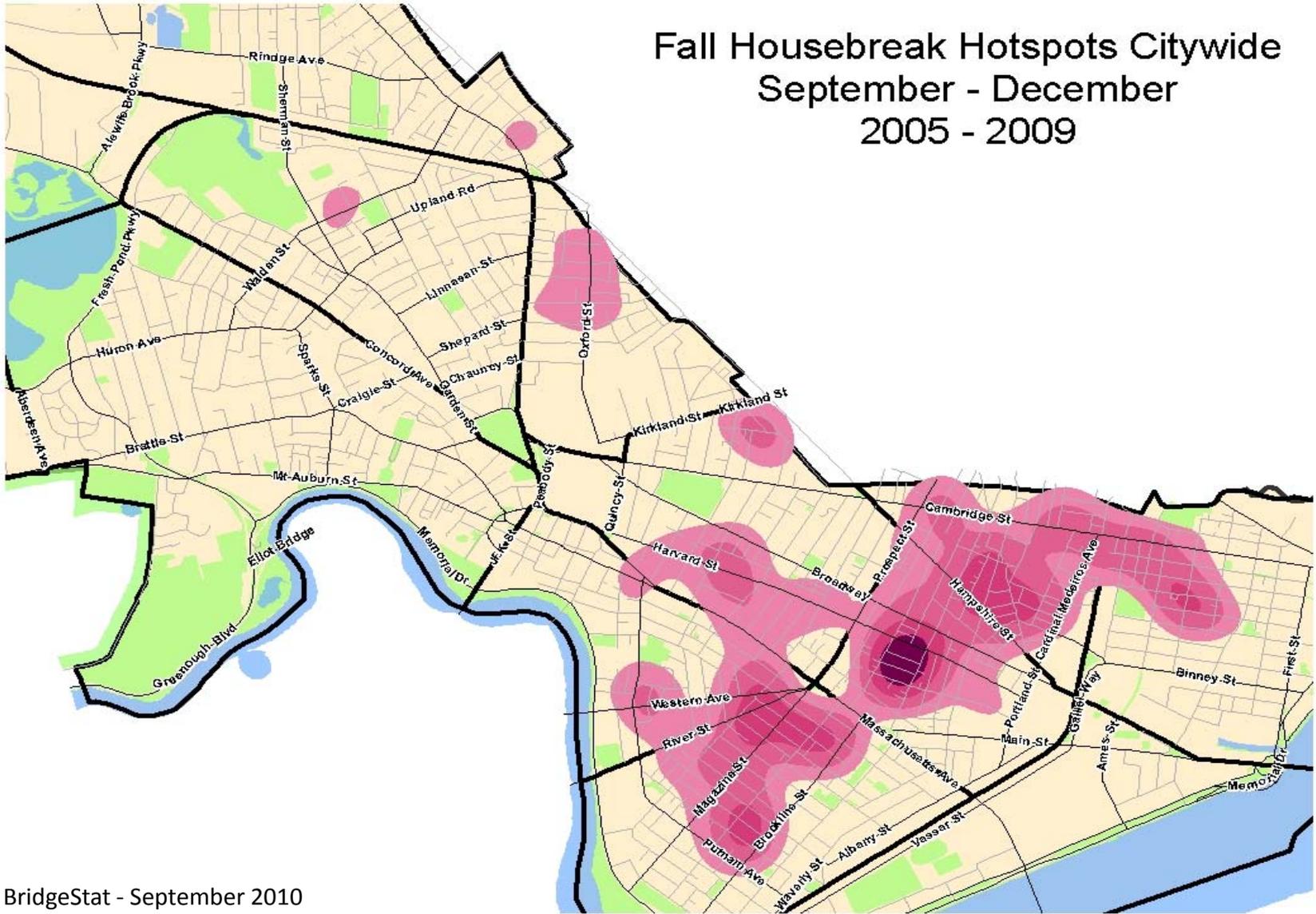
- The recent surge in housebreaks, (**97% increase over the previous month**), and the identification of three active patterns, is an indication that the trend for this crime is to increase in Cambridge each year between September and the pre/post Holiday seasons.
- In working to become a more **proactive and predictive police force**, we have conducted an extensive review of seasonal housebreak patterns and trends that have resurfaced during the 4th quarter of each year.
- **The following hot spots were identified:**



Housebreak Hot Spots:

4th Quarter Projections

Fall Housebreak Hotspots Citywide
September - December
2005 - 2009



BridgeStat - September 2010

Cambridge Police BridgeStat



Persistent Problem Pattern:

4th Quarter Daytime Housebreaks in Mid-Cambridge

- Significant daytime housebreak patterns (30 to 50 incidents) were identified in Mid–Cambridge
 - During the fourth quarters of the years 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2006, and 2008
- A pattern of late-week (Thursday-Saturday) activity between 11AM and 3PM has been established as a solid time frame for these breaks.
- Known offenders have been identified as possible suspects in the early stages of these patterns.
- Multiple dwelling apartment buildings are the prime target.



Persistent Problem Pattern:

4th Quarter Daytime Housebreaks in Peabody

- **Four distinct patterns** identified in this area during the 4th quarters since 2004.
- A pattern of activity between **Thursday and Saturday** has been established as a solid time frame for these breaks.
- Known offenders have been identified as possible suspects in the early stages of these patterns.
- Multiple dwelling apartment buildings are the prime target.



Persistent Problem Pattern:

4th Quarter Weekday Daytime / Weekend Night Housebreaks in Peabody

- This pattern has resurfaced **six times** in the pre/post holiday season since 2000.
- The pattern is **not active at the present time**.
- This pattern forms a tight cluster between Franklin, Brookline, Pleasant and Chestnut Streets in Cambridgeport.
- Solid time frames are established on late weekday afternoons (**Wednesday and Friday**) and between **8PM and 1AM** on weekend nights.
- An eclectic mix of homeless and professional burglars work the area.



Questions?

- BridgeStat is a work in progress and will evolve over time to include more detailed information.
- We welcome all questions, comments, and suggestions.
- Please direct your feedback to:
BridgeStat@CambridgePolice.org
- For more detailed analytical reports, please refer to the Publications page on our website:
http://www.cambridgema.gov/CPD/publications/crime_2010.cfm