

**Business Area #4:
Central Square**

Boundaries: the Conrail Railroad, Erie Street, Fairmont Street, River Street, Howard Street, Western Avenue, Pleasant Street, Green Street, Sellers Street, Bigelow Street, Doyle Way, Inman Street, and Broadway

Major areas of Business/Retail/Industrial Concentration include: shops, offices, restaurants between 200 and 830 Massachusetts Avenue, offices on Bishop Allen Drive, restaurants on Green Street, establishments between 770 and 910 Main Street, and City Hall

*Central Square*

Larcenies from buildings decreased by 28% in the Central Square business district in 2008. This decrease can be attributed to reductions in multiple categorizations of this crime-type: thefts from health clubs, inside jobs (thefts committed by employees/former employees), thefts from business offices, store counter thefts, and thefts of employee property from back rooms of retail establishments. Despite the drop in the theft of employee property, however, this crime remains an area of concern for retail establishments in the 500 to 700 blocks of Mass Ave. • For the third consecutive year, **commercial robberies** remained relatively low in Central Square. After recording 14 robberies in 2005, Central Sq saw a combined total of 11 incidents for 2006 through 2008. All three of the robberies in 2008 were at banks in the 600 block of Mass Ave. A serial robber was arrested and charged with two of the crimes. • The numbers for **commercial burglary** remained relatively unchanged for 2008 in Central Square, with only one additional incident reported. Although there were no commercial break patterns identified in Central Square this year, the overall trend indicated that unprofessional smash-and-grab breaks at restaurants between 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. was the top temporal and premise type series established. • There was a 10% increase in **larcenies from persons** in Central Square in 2008. This increase can be attributed to pickpockets targeting diners in cafes, restaurants, and coffee shops between 500 and 700 Massachusetts Avenue. Professional thieves preyed on female victims who left purses hanging over the backs of chairs in coffee shops. Another type of professional thief prowled bars on Friday and Saturday nights, stealing unattended items such as coats, cell phones, and purses. • A high percentage of the **shoplifting** arrests in the Central Square business district were at grocery and drug stores. Suspects listing their address as local shelters made up the majority of the arrestees for this crime.

CRIME	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Larceny from Building	82	87	72	100	72
Larceny from Person	86	98	102	89	98
Commercial Burglary	49	15	37	16	17
Commercial Robbery	8	14	4	4	3
Shoplifting	78	119	107	102	63
Fraud/Flim	88	79	79	75	74
Flam/Counterfeiting					