

# MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE (1500-1900 block)

## *Business Area #8: Massachusetts Avenue Corridor*

**Boundaries:** bordered by Kirkland Street, the Somerville Line, the B&M Railroad, Sherman Street, Garden Street, Waterhouse Street, Massachusetts Avenue, and Cambridge Street

Major areas of Business, Retail, and Industrial concentration include: retail shops, restaurants and offices between 1540 to 1880 Massachusetts Avenue, businesses and offices on Garden, Sherman and Oxford Streets.



*1500-1900 Massachusetts Avenue*

**Larcenies from buildings** decreased by 10% in the Mass Ave Corridor in 2008. The typical scenarios for these types of thefts in this business district involve wallets stolen from health clubs, personal property snatched from dormitories and classrooms at Lesley College, and unattended cell phones pilfered at recreation areas and public parks. • There was no repeat of the smash-and-grab **commercial burglary** pattern that hit retail establishments in the 1600 to 1800 blocks of Mass Ave in 2007. Commercial burglary declined 67% and registered its lowest total for the Corridor in a decade. • Since 2001, the Corridor has consistently averaged three **commercial robberies** annually. There were four commercial robberies in this area in 2008. Two of the robberies were at a local bakery and were cleared with the arrest of an ex-employee. The other robberies were at a bank in the 1700 block of Mass Ave and remain under investigation. • For an area with such a high concentration of retail establishments and pedestrian activity, the total of only two **shoplifting** incidents in 2008 is remarkable. • **Larceny from the person** increased by three incidents to post a 16% increase for the area in 2008. Almost 50% of these larcenies in the Corridor occurred in restaurants and cafes in the 1600 to 1700 blocks of Mass Ave. The arrest of a professional pickpocket from Boston in the spring helped interdict an emerging pattern. Historically, professional dippers have avoided the Corridor and worked Harvard and Central Squares instead.

CRIME	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>Larceny from Building</b>	46	52	25	29	26
<b>Larceny from Person</b>	15	12	19	19	22
<b>Commercial Burglary</b>	10	16	8	15	5
<b>Commercial Robbery</b>	3	2	2	3	4
<b>Shoplifting</b>	2	3	7	5	2
<b>Fraud/Flim Flam/Counterfeiting</b>	35	35	36	48	37