

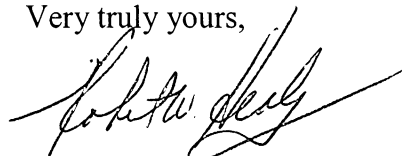
As a result of these robberies with a high potential for violence, the Police Department implemented a three – phase approach to prevent future street robberies and identify possible suspects. First, the patrol division implemented directed uniform patrols in the targeted areas to provide increased deterrence through high visibility. Secondly, on duty personnel from the Investigations Section, supplemented by overtime personnel, conducted surveillance in these areas. Thirdly, the Community Relations Unit issued neighborhood crime alerts describing the area of concerns and the known physical description of the suspect.

After nearly a month of high visibility patrol and plain-clothes surveillance, two major arrests were made and two distinct street robbery patterns were eradicated on Valentine's Day weekend. On Sunday, February 16th, undercover patrols were saturating the Garden Street area of the Peabody neighborhood. In the prior week, there had been two robberies of middle-aged men walking alone in the early evening. Both victims had been stabbed. The suspect descriptions were identical. The surveillance and saturation patrol strategy proved fruitful. A twenty-year old male from Somerville and a juvenile from Malden were arrested for a housebreak on Huron Ave. The suspects were carrying knives similar to the weapons described in the stabbing incidents. The juvenile was subsequently identified by one of the robbery victims. The juvenile was arrested and is currently under psychiatric evaluation.

One hour prior to the Huron Ave arrest, the patrol division was making another major apprehension. Four suspects, all Area 4 residents between 18 and 20 years of age were arrested for robbing two Central Square shoppers as they were entering a vehicle on Pearl Street. The Investigations Unit is working to link this quartet of suspects to as many as eight robberies in Area 4 and Cambridgeport dating back to the last week in December of 2002.

Since the two arrests on February 16th, 2003, street robberies have been sporadic in nature, low in number, and with no discernible pattern development. The patrol division and investigation section will continue to monitor the various communities with on duty personnel. The three-phase response will remain in place as re-emerging patterns surface.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec



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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager *Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager*

March 17, 2003

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 03-13, regarding a report on recent car jackings and hold-ups in Cambridge, Police Commissioner Ronnie Watson reports the following:

There have been a total of 25 street robberies reported in Cambridge from January 1, 2003 to February 20, 2003. Since 1997, the City has averaged 22 street robberies for this seven-week period at the start of the year.

A statistical spike in street robbery was first identified during the final ten-days of 2002. However, the incidents were scattered throughout Area 4 and Mid-Cambridge and the suspect descriptions were disparate and the crimes appeared to be random in nature. The New Year started quietly. There was not a single street robbery recorded in Cambridge during the first eight days of 2003.

A twenty - five year old East Cambridge resident was arrested for robbing a patron at a Windsor Street ATM on the night of January 9th, 2003. There were three other robberies in Area 4 during the second week of January that were possibly related. In these series of incidents, four suspects were working in consort using strong –arm tactics and on two occasions brandished a handgun to rob their victims.

Between January 17th and January 20th, there were three incidents near Inman Square where the perpetrators commandeered the victim's vehicle at gunpoint. Two of the incidents were committed three days apart on Tremont Street and the description of a juvenile male with an old handgun pointed to the same suspect. Further investigation revealed that the incident on Cambridge Street was not connected to the Tremont Street crimes. Crimes of this nature are rare in Cambridge. Over the past four years, there have been ten incidents where the victim's vehicle has been stolen by force.

S-83

Consent Agenda #4

Awaiting Report Item Number 03-13,
regarding a report on recent car
jackings and hold-ups in Cambridge.

In City Council March 17, 2003

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