

# *City of Cambridge Police Department*

*Office of the Chief of Police*

HEADQUARTERS

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
5 WESTERN AVENUE, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139



TELEPHONE  
(617) 498-9300

October 18, 1982

Mr. Robert Healy  
City Manager  
City Hall  
795 Mass. Ave.  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Bob:

In response to the City Council's order, I have enclosed a report on crime in Central Square. Although there were several notorious robberies over the last few months (for example, at the Panache Restaurant) the overall trend in serious crime, compared with last year, is down. We are, however, continuing to make arrests in the area.

Sincerely,

Anthony G. Paolillo  
Chief of Police

AGP/rh

Enclosure

OFFICE OF THE  
CITY MANAGER

OCT 20 2 44 PM '82

RECEIVED

## RECENT CRIME IN CENTRAL SQUARE

The overall weekly crime rate in Central Square has remained constant over the last four months. In addition, it is virtually the same rate as the corresponding period last year:

June 1, '81 - October 10, '81 = 269 offenses

June 1, '82 - October 10, '82 = 265 offenses

There are, however, trends in specific types of crimes committed in the four month period. Five types of crimes showed gradual reductions in volume from June to October: street robbery, commercial robbery, assaults, apartment breaks and commercial breaks. Increases were recorded for three types of crimes: larcenies, auto theft and vandalism.

Central Square is defined, for the purposes of this report, as the area outlined on the attached map. It is that group of city blocks bounded on the north by Bishop Allen Drive, on the east by Lafayette Square, on the south by Franklin Street and on the west by the YMCA.

A crime by crime breakdown for the area listing "hot spots", best time frames for this type of incident, and overall profile for the Central Square area follows:

1. Street Robbery: The Central Square area averages 3 to 5 street robberies per month. These are usually committed on the side streets off the Square (Prospect, Western, River, Brookline). These crimes occur late at night with the highest preponderance on weekend nights. There has been no appreciable increase in street robberies in this area over the 4 month period surveyed. However, areas that are close to the Square (Washington Elms, Upper Cambridgeport and Riverside) suffer higher rates than anywhere in city for street robbery.

2. Commercial Robberies - Central Square averages 25 commercial robberies per year. The majority are committed in establishments along Mass. Ave. Once a business has been hit the odds are that it will be victimized again. These robberies are sporadic and fall in no particular day or time frame. No appreciable increase in past few months has been recorded.
3. Assaults - The area averages about 3 per month. The majority are among individuals who know each other; and are either liquor, drug or domestically-related. There are very few stranger-to-stranger assaults.
4. Commercial Breaks - Over the past 4 months there have been only 13 commercial breaks in Central Square. This represents a 100% decline when compared with the same period last year. For the year commercial breaks are down 55% in this area. Weekend nights between midnight and 5AM is the likeliest time frame for their occurrence.
5. Larcenies - The increase in larcenies in the year can be attributed to the major pattern sweeping the city at this time. Cars in parking lots along Bishop Allen Drive and on side streets off the Square are being broken into. Stereo systems are a favorite target. This crime occurs both during the daytime and nighttime with Thursday and Fridays the favorite days.
6. Auto Theft - This crime has also increased in Central Square. Side streets and parking lots are hardest hit.
7. Overall Synopsis - Crime remains stable around the Square. Reductions in the more serious street crimes have continued throughout year. Major problem seems security of vehicles in city lots and side streets around Square.

A complete breakdown of crime by street location follows:

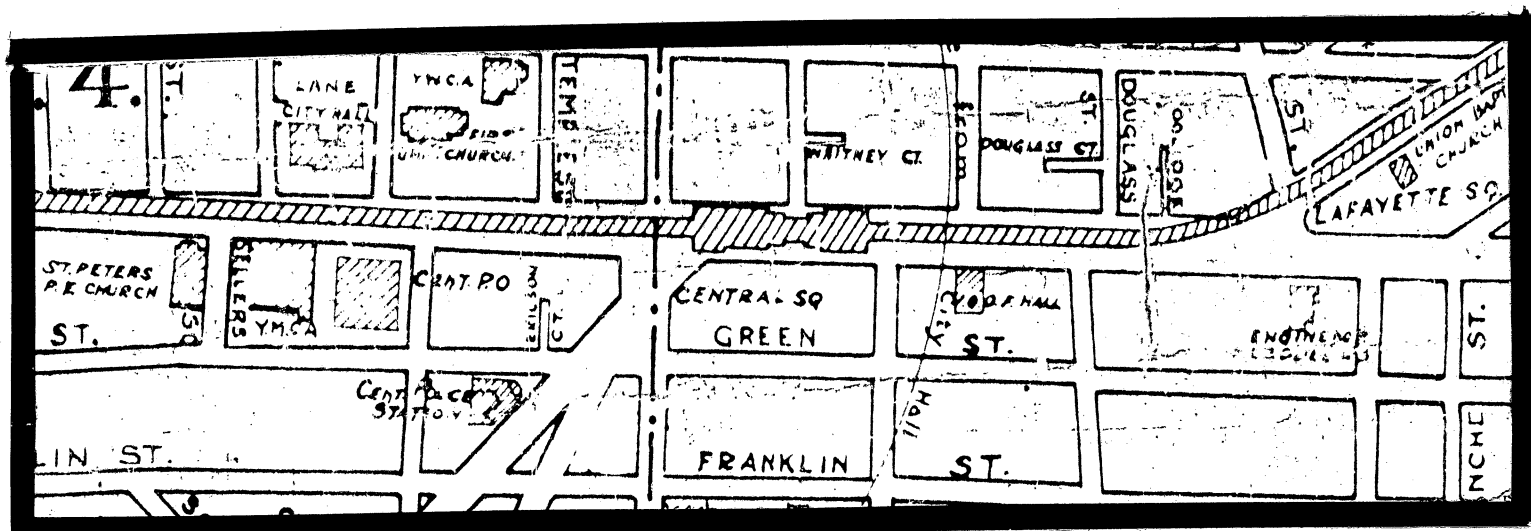
# Total Incidents Central Square

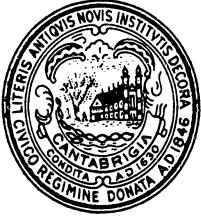
June 1, 1982 to October 10, 1982

June 1, 1981 to October 10, 1981

| <u>Crime</u>       | <u>Total</u> | <u>Arrest Total</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Arrest Total</u> |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Murder             | 1            | 0                   | 0            | 0                   |
| Street Robbery     | 14           | 5                   | 22           | 8                   |
| Commercial Robbery | 5            | 2                   | 8            | 3                   |
| Assaults           | 20           | 10                  | 22           | 14                  |
| Apartment Breaks   | 19           | 3                   | 21           | 15                  |
| Commercial Breaks  | 13           | 3                   | 26           | 7                   |
| Larcenies          | 97           | 21                  | 86           | 20                  |
| Auto Theft         | 26           | 4                   | 11           | 1                   |
| Forgery            | 5            | 5                   | 6            | 5                   |
| Fraud              | 3            | 2                   | 1            | 1                   |
| Vandalism          | 15           | 2                   | 13           | 2                   |
| Drug Violations    | 7            | 7                   | 4            | 4                   |
| Disorderly Persons | 6            | 6                   | 11           | 11                  |
| Traffic Violations | <u>34</u>    | <u>34</u>           | <u>38</u>    | <u>38</u>           |
|                    | 265          | 94                  | 269          | 119                 |

AREA ANALYZED FOR IMPACT OF CRIME ON CENTRAL SQUARE





## CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139  
Tel. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
ROBERT W. HEALY  
City Manager

October 25, 1982

To the Honorable, the City Council:

With reference to City Council Order No. 3 of  
September 27, 1982, I transmit herewith report from  
Anthony G. Paolillo, Chief of Police, relative to  
crime in the Central Square Area.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy  
City Manager

RWH/b

Re: report on crime in the Central Square  
area.

In City Council,

October 25, 1982

10/25/82

Report Placed  
on  
- File -