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CAMBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Public Information Office

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Cambridge Police Announce New Community Safety Initiative *The Cambridge Alert Network featuring “Text-A-Tip”*

The Cambridge Police Department is launching *The Cambridge Alert Network*, a new interactive way to keep the community connected and informed through optional e-mail or text message public safety alerts. The new initiative will also enable the public to report suspicious activities easily through the Text-A-Tip program.

Interested persons can sign up for *The Cambridge Alert Network* via a dedicated Web page link on the Police Department Web site, www.cambridgepolice.org. Through this Web site, Cambridge Police will provide information to help maintain and improve community safety. Subscribers can sign up to receive alerts from the Police Department via e-mail or as a text message to a cell phone. They can also opt to receive neighborhood only or citywide alerts, as well as surrounding city alerts, such as Boston.

The other component of this new technology is the “Text-A-Tip” program, which will enable the public to submit anonymous tips to the Police Department about suspicious activity via text messaging. **While this is not a replacement for dialing 911 in an emergency**, this technology will allow interested persons to communicate potentially helpful information through a simpler method.

Users must send the text message to CRIMES (274637). The text message must start with “Tip650” followed by the message. Tip650 is a specific code that has been assigned to Cambridge. When police receive the message, they can respond via text message to the tipster, who will have a randomly assigned ID number. The Cambridge Police Department will not maintain information about the identity of the individual reporting the information.

For questions about the Alert Network, please contact the Cambridge Police Department’s Public Information Office at 617-349-3237.