

4. Crime makes a comeback

And then there was crime.

At mid-year the Boston Police Department reported that serious crimes had increased in Allston Brighton by 9 percent during the first half of 1998 versus 1997. That bucked the overall trend in Boston, which showed that serious crime had decreased in the city by 11 percent over the same time period in 1997.

The biggest increases were in larcenies and attempted larcenies, including car-breaks, according to Allston-Brighton Police Capt. William Evans. There were three murders in 1998. All three are still unsolved, and are under investigation by the Boston Police Homicide Department. The most recent murder, that of transsexual Rita Hester in her [REDACTED] apartment on Nov. 28, prompted vigils, benefits and rallies in her memory.

Despite the crime log from police, 77.4 percent of Allston-Brighton residents reported feeling somewhat safe or very safe when they went out alone at night, following the first half of 1998.