

CASE STUDY

Daytona Beach, Florida USA

Serious about ALPR. Serious about Service.



Customer Profile

Daytona Beach is the principal city in the Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach Florida Metropolitan Statistical Area, home to nearly half a million people. Daytona Beach is visited by 8 million people each year, and is protected by the more than 250 sworn officers and support staff of the Daytona Beach Police Department.



Background

Daytona Beach, Florida is known as the World's Most Famous Beach, and is enjoyed by 8 million visitors each year. Located on the east coast of Florida, Daytona Beach features 23 miles of white sand and balmy weather. In addition, Daytona Beach is internationally known for hosting some of the largest motorsports events in the world. Its 67,000 citizens make up part of the nearly 500,000 residents of the Daytona Beach metro area. The sheer number of visitors to the area, along with residents, means that Daytona Beach faces its share of crime, including burglaries, robberies, and other offenses. The city is protected by more than 250 officers of the Daytona Beach Police Department, as well as administrative and support staff.

Solution

With the large local population and the high volume of visitors to the World's Most Famous Beach, the Daytona Beach Police Department relies on every tool available to fight crime. One such tool is automated license plate recognition (ALPR) cameras and software provided by NDI Recognition Systems (NDI-RS). The department maintains two stationary ALPR cameras along a major roadway, as well as two vehicles with mobile ALPR equipment. "I love this system," says Crime Analyst Jackie Flory. "I can't even begin to tell you how many cases we've solved by using it."



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Results

Installed in 2001, the stationary cameras generate more than 3600 license reads each day, and it's this information that Flory uses to investigate criminal activity. The cameras have been instrumental in solving all types of cases, including burglaries, bank robberies, hit and runs, and more. The cameras read plates 24 hours a day, capturing both plate information and a photograph of the vehicle. The NDI-RS VeriPlate Intelligence Server and Communications Engine (VISCE) allows Flory to analyze the data, query the database for individual and partial plates, review the photographs, and provide that information to investigators.

Notable Successes

- » While investigating a rash of car burglaries, a DBPD officer surprised an individual who sped away from the officer. Based on the officer's description of the vehicle and partial tag identification, Flory was able to locate two possible matches. After investigating the vehicles, officers were able to locate and arrest the burglary suspect, who was charged with 70 counts of car burglary.
- » An investigation into a bank robbery in the neighboring community of Ormond Beach, Florida identified a personalized tag from a suspect vehicle. Witnesses described the vehicle as having no hubcaps. However, Flory ran the tag through the VISCE system and found pictures of the vehicle both before and after Christmas, and the later pictures showed the vehicle with brand-new hubcaps, suggesting the owner bought new hubcaps as a present. Using this information, investigators were able to obtain a confession, resulting in four counts of bank robbery against one suspect, and one count against a second suspect.
- » Several grocery stores had been robbed in the Daytona Beach area. Store surveillance pictures were used to identify the year, color, and model of the vehicle used in one of the crimes. Flory pulled tags from the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) database, and matched those tags against tags in the VISCE system. By examining photos of cars captured by the ALPR camera, Flory was able to match the car in the surveillance photo by the faded paint on the roof and hood of the car. She was also able to match the suspect's driver's license photo to his photo from the surveillance picture. He was subsequently charged with five counts of robbery.



"I love this ALPR system. By combining the data we get from our cameras with witness statements, surveillance footage, DMV databases, and information uncovered by investigating officers, we've been able to solve numerous crimes with it."

Jackie Flory, Crime Analyst,
Daytona Beach Police Department



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