

Video Surveillance System Transforms a Mid-Sized City into a Model of Progress



BOSCH

Invented for life

Industry:

City Center Monitoring

End User:

Lancaster Community Safety Coalition

The Lancaster Community Safety Coalition is a nonprofit organization formed to prevent crime in the nation's oldest inland city - Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The organization's mission is to enhance public safety and the quality of life in Lancaster by engaging the community and advancing current crime prevention strategies. The Coalition uses a three-pronged approach - environmental design, community mobilization and technology - to aid police in protecting the city.

Business Objective:

The Coalition looked to spearhead the installation of a surveillance system to monitor public spaces. When the city planned to upgrade its traffic signal communications from copper to fiber optics, the Coalition worked with city engineers to ensure the fiber optic network could also support a video system. In addition to the infrastructure, the Coalition required reliable cameras that could withstand various weather conditions and vandalism while delivering excellent image quality.

Solution:

Now, Bosch AutoDome and EnviroDome pan-tilt-zoom cameras are spread throughout the city, streaming video over more than 100 miles of fiber optic strands to the Coalition's monitoring center.

Coalition employees - civilians hired for their knowledge of the city and their commitment to its safety and growth - monitor live video from the cameras 16 hours per day. Using a Bosch Allegiant Control System and an IntuiKey keyboard that controls the PTZ cameras, employees can switch between video streams from each of the cameras and hone in on suspicious activities or crimes in progress up to three or four blocks away.

Live monitoring is considered by Coalition executives to be an important strength over systems in other cities around the world. Video is monitored during peak times of police and criminal activity, and the Coalition will increase the hours monitored when extra vigilance is required, such as during large or high profile events scheduled in the city.



Lancaster is on the cutting edge with more cameras than any city in Pennsylvania.

The Coalition's monitoring facility has a direct line to the city's center for 911 calls for times when police need to be immediately dispatched to an area. Coalition employees can even send live video to flat-screen monitors in the emergency center to help the dispatchers communicate more effectively with officers patrolling the streets or arriving on a scene.

Video is recorded on Bosch digital video recorders.

Result:

The video helps aid police during investigations. In a recent incident, officers used surveillance camera video to find and arrest a suspect soon after a shooting occurred. This same feat took 1,600 hours in a previous case that was similar in nature.

The system and the overall work of the Coalition have also helped to revitalize the city of Lancaster.

"There is a link between crime reduction and growth," said Joseph Morales, COO of the Coalition. "Our citizens no longer perceive downtown as a high crime area, which has helped bring more people into the city from suburban areas."

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