

# Case Study

## Lighthouse Point, Florida USA

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### Customer Profile

Lighthouse Point, Florida is part of the Miami Metropolitan Area. Lighthouse Point Police Department is a force of 42 sworn officers and support staff protecting its citizens.



"Lighthouse Point PD must always be focused on preventing criminal elements from violating the peace and safety of those who live in our City." Chief of Police Ross Licata.

### Background

Lighthouse Point, Florida is a small community in northeast Broward County, just on the outskirts of the greater Miami metropolitan area. Home to roughly 12,000 residents, and covering only 2.4 square miles in area, Lighthouse Point enjoys a peaceful and affluent lifestyle with a low crime rate.

This lifestyle is preserved and protected by the Lighthouse Point Police Department (LPPD), a force of 42 dedicated and sworn officers and support staff. "Like every other small community, we must always remember that we are part of something much larger. Crime doesn't know borders, and as part of the Miami Dade/Broward metro area, Lighthouse Point PD must always be focused on preventing criminal elements from violating the peace and safety of those who live in our City," states Chief of Police Ross Licata.

### Solution

As part of its effort to preserve the peace, Lighthouse Point installed a network of twenty-six (26) stationary automated license plate recognition (ALPR) cameras from NDI Recognition Systems. "ALPR has really proven itself in recent years to be a valuable tool for law enforcement. We wanted to bring this technology into Lighthouse Point not only to improve our policing efforts, but also to deter criminals from entering our community," states Commander Michael Oh.



In making its decision to select NDI Recognition Systems as its technology partner, Lighthouse Point PD researched the many systems available on the market. "We looked at all of the major ALPR vendors, and selected NDI for several reasons. We liked the overall capabilities of their product, and knew that they had credibility and good support based on references from other agencies. I thought we were making a good decision then, and now I know it was the right decision," states Chief of Police Ross Licata.



### NDI Recognition Systems

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## Results

Reading over 15 million plates in the first 14 months, the agency has realized significant benefits. "The system reads plates day and night, at all speeds, and with remarkable accuracy," states Commander Mike Oh. "It alerts us to vehicles of interest that we may not have otherwise looked at. It focuses our efforts and makes us very efficient. The alerts provided by the system enable us to proactively set up surveillance on suspect vehicles or interdict and make arrests. But even more valuable is the intelligence gathered by the system. The system is invaluable." Chief Licata adds, "I can definitely say that there are numerous cases that may not have been solved were it not for intelligence employed from the NDI system."

Chief Licata, commenting on the value of the NDI system, states, "The NDI System has undoubtedly improved our policing efforts in Lighthouse Point and enhanced the safety of our officers and the community. As the system continues to demonstrate its effectiveness, my hope and belief is that it will actually deter crime from coming into our community. If criminals know there is a high likelihood of being caught, they will think twice before coming to Lighthouse Point."

## Notable Successes

- » A former employee of a chain of daycare centers was suspected of burglarizing the centers after hours – stealing tuition money left under the doors. The system alerted the agency to the suspect's vehicle entering the area. With this information, officers conducted surveillance on the vehicle and witnessed a burglary in progress. The suspect was arrested.
- » The system led LPPD to a suspect in a series of kayak thefts. Kayaks were being stolen and sold on Craigslist. Using data on the location and timing of the thefts, the agency was able to identify a suspect vehicle and ultimately make an arrest.
- » There were no leads in an arson investigation in which the owner of the property claimed to be in a different location than he was at the time of the incident. The NDI system refuted his alibi, and allowed progress on the case.
- » In another incident, a victim reported their vehicle stolen. Intelligent policing of the data from the NDI system showed the victim's neighbors leaving the city directly behind the victim's vehicle. Subsequent investigation revealed that the neighbors were hired by the victim to dispose of the vehicle for the purpose of insurance fraud.
- » The system alerted the agency to a stolen vehicle entering the City. Officers were dispatched to the area, found the vehicle parked at a residence, and witnessed a burglary in progress. The suspects fled the scene, and the officers lost contact with the vehicle. Due to the network of cameras in the City, another camera in the area quickly located the vehicle, allowing officers to establish a perimeter and make an arrest.



Chief of Police  
Ross Licata

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Investigations Commander  
Mike Oh

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## Facts

- » Over 15 million plates scanned in the first 14 months
- » Over 350 dispatches on alerts
- » Numerous arrests and stolen vehicle recoveries
- » Cases solved:
  - Burglaries*
  - Missing Persons*
  - Auto Thefts*
  - Arson*
  - Larceny*
  - Hit and Run*

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