

CASE STUDY

Pawleys Island ALPR cameras help nab sex offender

Pawleys Island, South Carolina, USA

Serious about ALPR. Serious about Service.



Customer Profile

Pawleys Island, South Carolina, is a town of approximately 100 year round residents in Georgetown County. The town covers 1 square mile, and is protected by seven sworn officers which cover the 3.8 mile barrier island, its beaches and surrounding waters with three 4x4 vehicles, an all-terrain vehicle and a personal watercraft.



Background

Pawleys Island, SC might be a small town with only 100 full time residences, but that doesn't prevent the Pawleys Island Police Department from providing the same top notch 24-hour protection coverage as its larger neighboring communities. Smaller communities suffer from criminal activity just as larger, more populated cities. With the mission of the Pawleys Island Police Department being to preserve the public peace, prevent crime, detect and arrest violators of the law, and protect life and property, Police Chief Michael Fanning embraced his proactive mindset to get ahead of the communities problems and specifically transient crimes.

Solution

Pawleys Island Police Department, while a small agency, is very forward-thinking when it comes to technology. After much research and time, the department invested in four state-of-the-art static automatic license plate recognition (ALPR) cameras and joined forces with the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED). SLED maintains a statewide license plate data system using NDI-RS's back-office software, the Vehicle Intelligence Server and Communications Engine (VISCE) to aid in their crime prevention initiatives.

The Story

A 73-year-old Conway man - already on the state's Sex Offender Registry - was arrested after allegedly exposing himself to an 11-year-old girl on Pawleys Island in April. She was approached by a man in a white pickup truck who asked her for directions to "Main Street" while performing the act in her presence, as stated in the police report. The young girl rode her bike home and told her father what happened at which time he went looking for the suspect and called 911.

Result

Chief Michael Fanning checked the data from the license plate recognition cameras installed by the town last year and matched the truck to the Conway man. Pawleys Island police were able to obtain the license tag number of the man's truck and notified area law enforcement agencies to be on the lookout for the vehicle. The camera records showed the man drove onto the island around 5 p.m. and headed off at 5:27, but turned around when he spotted the girl. Without the system, Fanning said the man probably would not have been caught. "There are a lot of white GMC pickups," he said. The man was also charged by Horry County Police with failing to register his vehicle. If he had, Fanning said, the camera system would have alerted police when the man drove on the island. Horry County deputies located Beckett and placed him under arrest, the report states.

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