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Sony Surveillance Cams Get Arrests in Chicago Suburb

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The city of Burbank, Ill. (pop. 28,000) has installed a new video surveillance system using 22 Sony SNC-RX Series IP network security cameras to aid the police department in crimefighting.

Since the November 2008 upgrade, images captured by the cameras have helped police make more than 13 arrests and recorded evidence for use in more than 45 cases in the Chicago neighbor. <

The cameras are programmed to patrol and move from position to position automatically to assist officers with 24/7 video monitoring in the control room.

“It’s like having an additional 22 sets of eyes at your fingertips,” said Burbank Police Captain Joe Ford. “It is a force multiplier, enabling us to see areas not currently being patrolled while officers are concentrating on other assignments. Our ultimate goal is to enhance our law enforcement function with all the tools available, combining good police work with advanced technology.”



The observation desk at the Burbank (Ill.) Police Department

Ford said the cameras’ presence has already proven to motivate those accused of crimes to plead guilty due to the irrefutable evidence the video provides, saving the criminal justice system valuable time and resources.

Video captured on the cameras is transported via Firetide HotPort 6000 wireless mesh nodes to centralized aggregation points. Motorola 58600 point-to-point bridges link the mesh nodes with the Burbank Police Station, transferring the images at Ethernet data rates up to 300 Mbps to network video recorders.

Waypoint Consulting of Chicago designed and engineered the system, selecting the pan-tilt-zoom multi-codec SNC-RX530N/W and SNC-RX570N network cameras.

“In addition to their phenomenal reliability, what sold us on these cameras was the SNC-RX570N’s 36X zoom lens with its 122.4 millimeter focal length,” said Jim Trofimuk, owner and principal of Waypoint Consulting. “It makes accurate facial recognition and license plate reading possible from a distance of up to 500 feet. The image quality is outstanding and continues to impress anyone who sees it.” <

The SNC-RX530N/W and SNC-RX570N cameras offer 360 degrees of endless panning and rotation for precise capture of any object surrounding the camera, and use H.264 compression. The department has up to 30 days of data storage capacity.

The cameras have been installed at numerous outdoor locations including city hall, bus stops, public parks, schools and shopping center parking lots. The SNC-RX570N serves as the primary outdoor camera due to its extensive focal length. The RX530N/W’s lower lux rating makes it ideal for lower lighting day and night positions such as parks and pathways.

The city is reviewing locations for additional cameras and is building partnerships with local businesses to expand its presence in commercial locations.

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Sony IP-based network security products www.sony.com/security



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The night view from a Sony surveillance cam