

**ADDITIONAL MATERIAL
REGULAR MEETING**

MAY 24, 2022

**SUBMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION**



MONICA CEPERO, County Administrator

115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 409 • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 • 954-357-7362 • FAX 954-357-7360

DATE: May 18, 2022
TO: Broward County Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Monica Cepero, County Administrator 
RE: City of Coral Springs Police Department License Plate Recognition or Video Surveillance Systems

During Commissioner Briefings, several questions arose as to how the City of Coral Springs Police Department utilizes their Law Enforcement Surveillance (LES) systems, such as License Plate Recognition and Video Surveillance.

As a result of these questions, the County requested 5 years of disaggregated data on the number and types of traffic stops initiated, crimes that the LES systems helped solve, number of suspects that were apprehended/prosecuted, and number of missing persons found. The county also asked if any violence ensued as a result of the apprehension of any of the motorists or other actions associated with the use of the LES systems.

For your review, attached is the response received from the City of Coral Springs Police Department, distributed as additional material to Item #47(2).

Attachment



From: Nicholas Mazzei <nmazzei@coralsprings.org>

Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 12:03 PM

To: Brunner, Scott <SBrunner@broward.org>; Brad McKeone <BMcKeone@coralsprings.org>

Cc: Bea Slone <bslone@coralsprings.org>

Subject: RE: Law Enforcement Surveillance System Statistics

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Scott,

I wanted to reply with some of the information that you asked for. I will say that some of what you asked for is not data that is collected. There isn't a single day where the LPR system doesn't alert us to a stolen vehicle or license plate coming into the city. I can attest that the LPR and surveillance system has been a tremendous help in solving crimes in the city of Coral Springs, including the heinous crimes described below.

2015 – Homicide - CSPD officers responded to an address where a female was shot and killed in her bed. Her son ended up being a suspect. He denied that he was in Coral Springs at the time of the murder. LPRs put his vehicle in the city at the time of the murder. Ultimately he was arrested for the first degree murder of his mother. LPRs were just a piece of the puzzle that helped put this case together. Without the LPR placing him in the time and place of the homicide, this crime may not have resulted in an arrest.

2021 – Home invasion robbery where multiple shots were fired in a neighborhood. LPR cameras were able to identify the suspect vehicle following the victim home. All suspects arrested. Without the LPRs getting the tag of the suspect vehicle, law enforcement would only have a vague description of the suspect vehicle. Most likely, no suspects would have been identified nor arrested.

2019 – Homicide – CSPD officers responded to an address where a male was shot and killed in his driveway. Investigation revealed that he was followed home from a bank. LPR cameras identified the victims vehicle being followed by the suspect. Suspect arrested. Another random act of violence. Without LPR cameras this case goes unsolved.

2020 – Grand Theft – During the height of Covid, a tractor trailer was stolen out of the Coral Springs Industrial park. The trailer contained latex gloves and was valued at \$200,000. LPR and surveillance cameras identified the stolen truck with the suspects vehicle behind the truck. Two people were ultimately arrested.

These are some of the major cases that LPR and surveillance cameras were instrumental tools in solving the case. The number of stolen vehicles that are identified via LPR which resulted in arrest are too numerous to tally. We don't have any data where the LPRs led to a violent confrontation. Police tactics have changed over the past few years to reduce the number of violent encounters and mitigate police chases. Many times, there is no attempt to contact the "suspect" vehicle until it arrives at its

destination because the suspect has no idea that the police are on to them. In the cases where the suspect becomes aware that law enforcement is on to them and they decide to flee, departmental policy is to let them go and turn the opposite direction.

It is worth noting that the above cases and the successes that we have had have been accomplished with very few LPRs and surveillance cameras in place. Imagine the successes if this MOU gets approved and all of the law enforcement agencies have the ability to deploy LPR cameras. In law enforcement, there is always a chance that a criminal will decide to become violent when contacted by the police. This would happen with or without the use of LPR systems. The LPR systems gives police the advantage as we will now know when the criminals are in the area and we can take the precautions necessary to mitigate the risk to the public, the officers, and the suspect. As far as Coral Springs is concerned, these will NEVER be used for enforcement. (speed traps, red light cameras, etc) and only for investigations and apprehending criminals. The only people that need to be worried about the LPR systems are those that prey on society and are actively committing crimes.

Thanks,
Nick



Lt. Nicholas Mazzei #724

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