

One officer for CAPROP Unit assigned as the coordinator for the License Plate Recognition program.

Based on NIBRS data used in a year 2000 analysis, 57.08 percent of stolen motor vehicles are recovered in the first day and 79.43 percent are recovered during the first six days, which indicates that the first few days after the theft are critical in recovering stolen vehicles. The longer the vehicle is in the possession of the criminals, the less the chance of recovery. (FBI National Press Office, Crime in the United States, 2000). Other agencies had reported the use of license plate recognition (LPR) technology increased the efficiency and productivity of officers by auto scanning license plates and reducing the need for individual file checks.

The Saint Paul Police Department Auto Theft Unit introduced the use of license plate recognition (LPR) technology in June, 2008 as a means of applying proactive crime prevention and intervention methods to the addressing the city's auto theft problem, to accomplish quicker recovery of stolen motor vehicles, to address gang issues related to the crime of auto theft, to utilize the combined resources of the Auto Theft Unit and the community policing districts and to improve communications with district officers. The LPR program was purchased and is managed by the Auto Theft Unit. The Auto Theft Unit, in turn, trained LPR Operators in each of the three community policing districts so that the LPR systems could be used where the impact would be the greatest. In addition, an LPR system was later deployed in October, 2008 with the department's Parking Enforcement Officers (PEO's) to address an ever-increasing number of scofflaw violators.

From June 15, 2008 to December 12, 2008 there were seventy-one (71) stolen vehicles recovered in the community policing districts using the LPR system. One-hundred thirteen (113) scofflaw vehicles were located and towed in the expansion of the program to addressing scofflaws. One missing person was identified. According to December, 2008 Stat-Map data, auto thefts declined 16.1% for the year.

### Duties

The officer assigned to the Auto Theft Unit as the coordinator for the LPR program will administer and oversee the LPR program. The LPR officer will act as a coordinator between the community policing districts and the Auto Theft Unit for all LPR activity, and also act as a liaison between the operators and the technical support functions of the department's Systems Unit and the LPR contractor to address technical problems or issues that may arise. The LPR officer will be responsible for training community policing district members, and PEO's, as operators of the LPR system; documenting that training; maintaining records identifying approved LPR details and their results; ensuring appropriate documentation of significant incidents and arrests that are related to LPR usage; assisting other investigative units with LPR data requests and maintaining the LPR Data Query Log.

## Measurement

Daily, weekly, and monthly crime reports reviewed to evaluate geographic deployment of the LPR systems and effectiveness of action taken to address problem.

Bi-Weekly evaluation of crime trends and crime/behavior patterns and dissemination of said analysis to community policing districts to apply resource optimization.

The effectiveness and efficiency of the officer will be tracked through:

Number of LPR Operator training sessions conducted.

Number of roll-calls attended delivering information on the LPR system and program.

Number of trend/pattern bulletins issued to LPR Operators.

Number of in-unit LPR deployments.

Quarterly reporting of LPR statistics (stolen recoveries, scofflaws, missing persons, etc.).