



“I’d like to have these in all of our high schools. With the budget cuts and the fact that we just don’t have enough police officers this is the next best thing. It doesn’t take the place of an officer, but it’s a heck of a nice complement.”

Charles J Hurley
Interim Chief of Police,
Miami-Dade Schools Police Department
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SCHOOL SECURITY: STAYING SAFE

CUSTOMER: Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Florida USA

CHALLENGE: Make schools safer; keep students away from illicit activities.

RISKS: Vandalism; fighting; trespassing, loitering, bullying, gambling.

SITUATION

Like many other school districts throughout the country, trespassing, gambling, fights and vandalism are among the problems facing the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. With one of the largest school districts in the country, Miami-Dade has more than 300 schools and not enough manpower to watch over all the schools, around the clock. Many of the schools were equipped with traditional video surveillance technology to help reduce crime and other incidents, but it wasn’t enough. They needed a solution that would work with their existing technology and staff to help make the schools safer.

SOLUTION

At Miami Northwestern Senior High School, ObjectVideo and its partner, Phoenix IVS, provided a comprehensive solution that uses video analytics technology to convert video to data in real-time through the detection, classification and tracking of activities. The system, embedded with ObjectVideo OnBoard, automatically detects potentially suspicious behavior and sends real-time alerts to security, eliminating the need for constant human monitoring of video footage. The system alerts authorities to security threats in real time, responds to and deters threats, acts on visual intelligence, monitors broader areas with less manpower and creates the perception of having a much larger police presence. Alerts are sent to school authorities both during and after school hours if a potentially illicit event is occurring, such as someone trying to enter school grounds at night or on the weekends. The system allows authorities to prevent problems before they occur, rather than waiting to react to graffiti or a school fight once it’s already in progress.

BENEFITS

The system has significantly reduced illicit behavior at the school. The number of serious incidents at Miami Northwestern Senior High School fell 34 percent in the 2007-08 school year. Miami-Dade Schools have decided to widen the use of the video analytics security technology. It is currently being installed in new schools that are getting new surveillance systems, and the administration is committed to pushing it out throughout the district over time.