Guatemala City CSI

The Right Security Platform at the Right Time

Technology used to address both Traffic Safety and Crime Issues.

Key Features

SecurOS Enterprise
Video Analytics
License Plate Recognition
Distributed Architecture

Background

Guatemala City is the capital and largest city in Guatemala. Among other things, it is well known for its excellent collections of Pre-Columbian art. It has also consistently made the list of being one of the most dangerous cities in Latin America as well as having a high incidence of traffic fatalities.

However, governmental authorities in the country are taking steps to address violent crime and traffic problems. One of the ways that they are doing that is through the use of hundreds of IP video surveillance cameras throughout the city. This includes the use of cameras with SecurOS License Plate Recognition (LPR) software from iTM.

In addition to monitoring problem intersections as well as being used for general security purposes around the city, SecurOS LPR software was recently used to track down murder suspects involved in various assaults and carjackings throughout the city.

Homicide Suspects Tracked Through LPR

There had recently been a rash of carjackings and violent assaults in the city, several of which resulted in the victims being killed. These crimes occurred in various areas of the city and usually at night.

The perpetrators, however, were unaware that 350 video surveillance cameras equipped with SecurOS LPR software from iTM had been installed at various points throughout the city. Because of this, authorities were not only able to capture the plate numbers of some of the suspects involved, but actually captured some of the homicides on video.

This invaluable forensic evidence allowed them to track and capture many of the suspects, in some cases within hours.

Traffic Safety Issues

Another ongoing issue in Guatemala City is traffic safety. Authorities have also been able to address that in part with SecurOS LPR. Municipal employees do not work past 8pm in the city. Drivers are aware of this, and this has resulted in a lot of reckless driving and accidents after hours.

However, SecurOS LPR has been able to capture everything from hit and run drivers to those running red lights and various others kinds of violations. This has put drivers on the defensive, as there is an awareness of these electronic eyes watching them, regardless of the time of day.

The Results

Guatemala City, like many other urban centers around the world, has been impacted by the global economic downturn of the last few years. With a limited budget for law enforcement staff, video surveillance technology is helping close the gaps that might otherwise exist due to hiring constraints. There is also the simple fact that no matter how much staff one deploys, officers cannot be everywhere all the time. The automated features of video surveillance in combination with LPR provide layers of security that the human element cannot.

The city is actively making plans to expand the number of cameras equipped with SecurOS LPR software over the next few months.

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