



## **Video Surveillance with Pivot3 Storage Reduces Crime in New Jersey**

### ***Pivot3 Works with Paterson Police Department to Protect Video Evidence***

#### **Background**

The Paterson Police Department in Passaic County, New Jersey, has to deal with a variety of criminal behavior that can result in loss of personal property, injury and even death. Paterson is the third largest city in New Jersey with a population of 160,000, and is an important hub of domestic and international commerce for the East Coast of the United States. In a novel approach towards providing increased protection for its citizens, the City of Paterson and its Police Department joined forces with the business community to deploy high-definition video surveillance cameras throughout a city-designated Urban Enterprise Zones.

These Urban Enterprise Zones (UEZs) cover some 45 percent of the city's neighborhoods that are most directly linked to the thriving commercial activity. The goal for the police department's 24/7 video surveillance system is to prevent potential crimes from happening and to identify and capture those accused of specific criminal behavior through the use of strategically located video cameras.



#### **The Challenge**

The Paterson Police Department is responsible for protecting the property and lives of the citizens of Paterson and also for providing a visual deterrent to crime by having active patrols and officers on the streets. The challenge was to increase the reach and effectiveness of the limited police officers with a comprehensive surveillance plan. The Paterson PD had a successful track record of using video surveillance at the city jail and court house, so the idea of expanding the use of the surveillance technology to put additional "eyes" on the streets was a logical extension that got strong internal support.

Working from a grant through the UEZ Program, the Paterson PD teamed with the City to map out how an advanced video surveillance system using wireless cameras, large-scale storage and intuitive video application software could increase the protection of the business community by making better use of the officers on patrol and speeding responses to calls for assistance.



## The Solution

“There are a lot of new rules and regulations that govern the storage and maintenance of video that will be used in legal proceedings,” said Angel Perales, sergeant at the Paterson Police Department. “We must protect the chain of evidence at all times and Pivot3, through its reliable storage solutions has become our partner in making that happen.”

For this deployment, 36 high-resolution cameras are installed on select intersection stop light cross bars and on specific utility poles with strategic vantage points of the most “at risk” retail and commercial locations. With their tilt-directional and 32X zoom capabilities, the cameras provide a unique visual panorama of the city’s streets and sidewalks. The cameras are controlled by video management software provided by Insight Video Net, a California company that concentrates on mobile surveillance systems requiring strict control over stored video to eliminate any possible tampering with saved evidence. The cameras are linked to a centralized control room within the Paterson Police Department where the Pivot3 video storage is also located. The Insight Video Net Centralized Management System (CMS) maintains a “chain of

custody” so that stored video from fixed or mobile cameras is stored directly to the Pivot3 storage and can be admitted in a court of law.

“After the video surveillance system was installed, the police department became responsible for its operation and maintenance,” said Perales. “It made sense to be under our operation since we were the department charged with patrolling and monitoring the streets of Paterson. Properly used, video surveillance can add hundreds of dependable eyes to our police force to ensure that the officers are dispatched to actual crime scenes and are protected once they arrive.”

In order to handle the large amount of storage required for the high-resolution cameras, the Police Department deployed 36 Terabytes of Pivot3 High-Definition Storage. The Pivot3 solution provides 24/7 availability, high bandwidth and scalable capacity. It is also a solid investment for the department since additional capacity can be added easily in the future if more cameras are added or if longer video retention times are needed. It was also important for the large-scale storage to be intuitive to use, so that it did not require any additional people or skills.

Another area of concern for the Paterson Police Department is that its video files must be adequately protected and stored in such a manner that they are undisputable evidence admissible in court. “When we were introduced to the Pivot3 storage system, we were impressed with its ability to store video and to be automatically protected in case of a system error. Pivot3’s own failsafe operational nature gives us confidence that our video is safe and that it will be there when we need it,” said Sergeant Perales. “It is like having a dependable partner to back you up all the time. In addition, the Paterson PD must store its video for a minimum of 45 days. The three Pivot3 Databanks that are presently installed can easily handle this requirement.”

The Pivot3 High-Definition Storage system provides high availability by eliminating any single points of failure with any of the components. The RAIGE architecture ensures continuous data access in case of network failures, drive failures, and even the failure of an entire Databank. Because video data is distributed over the clustered IP SAN, data is protected even if a Databank fails. Finally, the system dynamically rebuilds failed components without user intervention, so that the police department could continue monitoring crime instead of storage.