IMMERSIVE

IMPROVING PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY PLANNING

Somerset County uses 360° video to boost awareness, planning and response

Full GPS, ESRI and ArcGIS capabilities help Somerset County prosecutors recreate crime scenes and portray key events with precise location, distance and timing details.

The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office (SCPO) in Somerset, New Jersey, is committed to strengthening law enforcement's relations with the public, enhancing the quality of life for its citizens and ensuring the rights of crime victims while pursuing justice for all.

With this mission in mind, the SCPO is continually looks for cost-effective technological advances that increase public safety and improve operational efficiency.

MAGNATES CAN BE MAGNETS FOR TROUBLE

Home of wealthy industrialists and prominent pharmaceutical companies, Somerset County is often on the frontlines when it comes to public demonstrations and protests. And in today's

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>
> – Chief Ronald Thornburg, Somerset County Prosecutor's Office

unpredictable political climate, public safety and response planning are more critical than ever.

Already operating at peak capacity, SCPO needed a way to acquire more detailed, accurate information of its facilities and infrastructure. It also wanted a better view and understanding of crime-heavy environments and "hotspots" where public demonstrations and events occur.
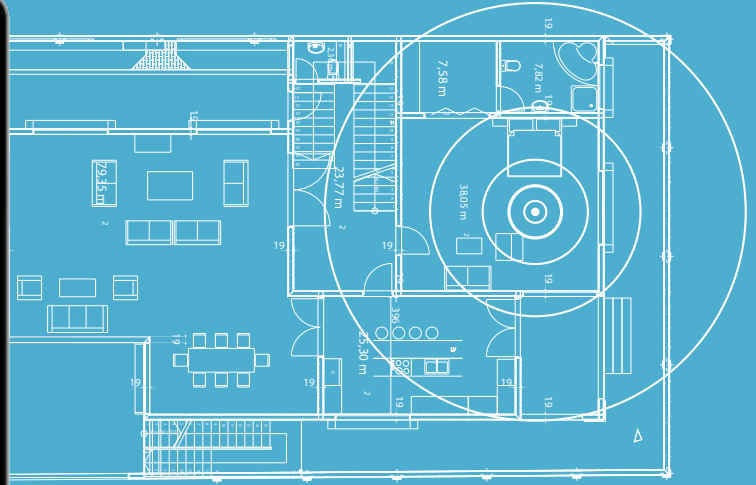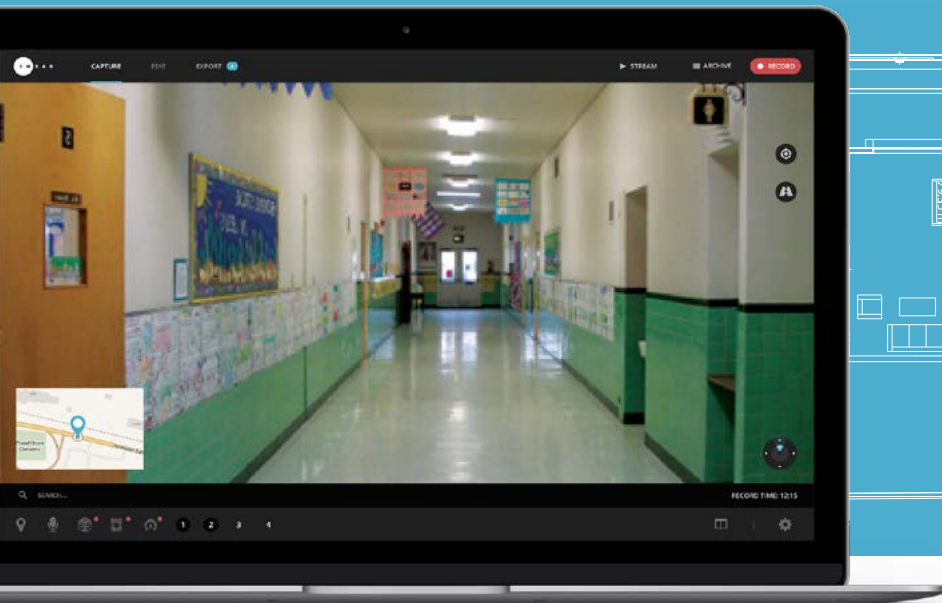
Such information would help county leaders, planners and first responders improve emergency planning, crisis management, live event monitoring, crime surveillance, operations briefing and workforce training. Only one question remained: how to acquire such an inordinate amount of county details and real-time visual information.

A BETTER RECORD OF THE WORLD AROUND YOU

The world leader of end-to-end

360°, full motion, interactive videos, Immersive Media offered the technologies and expertise to improve SCPO's situational awareness, planning and response. SCPO has documented the county's critical infrastructure and roads using an Immersive Media 360SA camera capture system, which collects high-resolution video from every direction simultaneously.

The county also placed 360˚ camera system arrays in key locations for real-time crime surveillance, event monitoring and crowd management. In addition to full viewing control, Immersive Media videos offer full GPS, ESRI and ArcGIS integration capabilities. This gave SCPO leaders precise details related to locations and distances, as well as interactive, 360° visual information.

GREAT YIELDS IN THE GARDEN STATE

Immersive Media technologies aided SCPO on a number of fronts. 360°, interactive videos of county facilities and infrastructure improved preventative security, emergency preparedness and tactical planning. With more accurate details related to chokepoints, access areas, evacuation routes and high-risk environments, county leaders developed enhanced operational plans and make better, faster decisions.

Having Immersive Media cameras in key hotspots helped monitor public events and crime activity. This not only gave an unparalleled, real-time perspective for first responders and law enforcement teams, it also aided the criminal justice process. County prosecutors used the 360° videos in court proceedings as visual evidence and to recreate crime scenes and portray key events. Jurors were virtually placed at the scene, with GPS coordinates and timing details used to determine specific locations, distances or moments in time.

SCPO also utilized the videos for training, simulation and briefing purposes, giving its forces a real-world understanding of situations, locations and procedures before operations commence. Perhaps the most surprising and welcome benefit of Immersive Media technologies was the reduction in SCPO's operational expenses. Because the videos were captured once and in high-resolution detail, less time and money was spent documenting, analyzing, storing and accessing visual archives. County planners, emergency responders, law enforcement teams and prosecutors were more efficient in their day-to-day operations.

"Immersive Media's technology has revolutionized the way our office conducts its operations, approaches incidents and communicates internally, interdepartmentally and within the legal system," said Chief Ronald Thornburg of the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office. "Our investigation efforts are more focused, time is saved and crises are better managed due to the rich quality of visual information Immersive Media videos capture."

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