

Safe City Project Restores Ra'anana's Beauty



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Tainted by Spray Paint and Lighters

Ra'anana is one of Israel's most beautiful cities with large parks and gardens, a pristine lake, and a strong reputation for safety. So as you walk through the city, you do not expect to see graffiti-laden walls, burned down playgrounds, and defaced cemeteries, yet this was the reality faced by the city of Ra'anana. Unable to monitor all of the petty crimes in the city, young delinquents were able to freely carry out acts of mischief with no fear of repercussions. The city went in search of a comprehensive answer to end the string of petty crimes, and reaffirm its position as one of Israel's most desirable places to live.

Protection With a Camera

With a broad range of vandalism hotspots, Ra'anana needed a solution capable of remote surveillance, mobile monitoring, and support for multiple cameras. In light of all their needs, the city chose to deploy the SerVision product line. The combination of SerVision's UVG400, CVG, SVG 400, and MVG400 systems enabled municipal authorities to equip the city with complete surveillance coverage. SerVision products feature live video transmission at an exceptionally low bit rate. The units are able to transmit video over 2.5 and 3G cellular networks

and are suitable for deployment in any environment – including remotely located sites and on-board vehicles. They also support advanced event notifications and alerts via email or SMS, and can host large capacity hard drives for local storage of recorded video. Ra'anana Security Officer Moshe Fishman explains, "We required a series of systems to fit our different needs. It was important to be able to monitor our schools, playgrounds, traffic intersections, and cemeteries. The ability to connect to the systems over a cellular network was very important to us."

In total over 250 cameras and 150 video gateways were installed throughout the city. One important implementation of systems was at traffic intersections. The municipality installed UVGs, SVGs, and CVGs at particular intersections where there were frequent accidents and heavy traffic. With the ability to constantly monitor the intersections from a control center, authorities are immediately made aware of any accidents or other violations. A swift response to any incident reduces buildups of traffic. Other locations outfitted with surveillance systems include cemeteries and playgrounds, as well as patrol vehicles with MVGs.

The municipality cooperated with a local cellular operator



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to set up a Virtual Private Network (VPN) to protect the integrity of all data being carried across the network. Each DVR, including those units that are transmitting video feeds and other data over cellular infrastructure, is connected to the VPN, so the City of Ra'anana did not need to create any additional LAN infrastructure. The systems are monitored at a control center using the SVMulticlient software. While the control center is not manned 24 hours a day, certain systems have been configured to generate alarms and notifications in case of any unusual behavior.

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City Watches, Crime Runs

The Safe City project has expanded beyond Ra'anana to seven other districts in Israel: Ma'ale Adumim, Kfar Saba, Petah Tikva, Shoam, Nes Zion, Eilat, and Giv'at Ze'ev. During the first year of project implementation in Ma'ale Adumim, the city reported that incidents of vandalism had been reduced by 50%, and other areas have seen similar results. Along with the reductions in crime, the cities are also seeing a financial benefit. Playgrounds for example can cost upwards of \$30,000 to build, and having to rebuild and repair them is also expensive. If the crimes are no longer taking place, then money does not need to be wasted on repairs and can be allocated to other municipal programs.

Ra'anana has reaffirmed its position as one of the safest cities in Israel. As the vandalism has decreased, focus is again being placed on the city's highlights and, as SerVision systems continue to monitor, that is where it will remain.

SVG400

Secure any commercial site - factory complexes, offices, hotels, warehouses - with the powerful and versatile SVG400. Choose from a range of models supporting 4, 8, 12 or 16 video cameras. All models can stream video over IP networks. If you wish, you can add a USB or PCMCIA cellular or WiFi adaptor to provide wireless video streaming. Connect a computer monitor and keyboard to the unit for on-site viewing of live or recorded video, or use one of SerVision's client applications to view video from a PC, PDA, or cellular phone over the local IP network or the internet.

Built-in software-based video-motion-detection sensors and integrated external sensors let the SVG 400 help you keep abreast of potential threats-on-site. When these sensors detect problems, the SVG 400 automatically sends alerts to connected client applications and notifications via e-mail and SMS. In addition, the units can initiate recording and activate alarms and other devices when sensors are activated.

