

## **LCD Display unit transforms New York Police Department floor directory into multimedia info center**

It's hard to imagine a workplace that could have benefited more from an upgrade to their wall display than the New York Police Department's Real Time Crime Center. Until recently, the main visual display at the Center was a black pegboard with white lettering whose sole purpose was to act as a floor directory.

According to NYPD Detective David Rivera, the busy policing Center had many information needs that prompted them to go looking for new solutions. "We needed a way to display crime information as it occurs, as well as to communicate current events, up to date news, weather, and traffic conditions."

In addition to wanting to keep their staff informed of high profile crime events as they occur throughout the city, they also needed "a way to enhance person-to-person communication with officers on their way to patrolling the streets, by displaying upcoming events, high profile visitors to our center, success stories and information about new technologies that would be made available to the Department." They were also motivated in their search by a desire "to show visitors that the NYPD is up to date with the latest in visual technologies."

Clearly, the old black pegboard just wasn't up to the task. The solution they chose instead, designed and provided by Rise Softools, was a custom array consisting of three 30" LCD displays installed in portrait mode, all surrounded by an attractive custom millwork enclosure.

Though the new electronic displays don't take up much more room than the old floor directory did, they now display vast amounts of additional information. "We now have custom display that includes, among other things, a Real Time Crime Ticker, Flash designs showing upcoming events, a live NY1 news channel television feed, and rotating static images of our Floor Directory information," says Detective Rivera.

Reactions to the new technology have been very favorable. "The display is visually appealing. We find that people are always staring or reading the content that we have provided. It seems that everyone derives some information from the display, because they always come back to view more content. We've received comments ranging from 'Cool' and 'WOW' to 'Technology has arrived at the NYPD'."

The displays have clearly sparked their team's imagination as well: "Our Center is now referred to as the Bat Cave and Pre-Crime (*a reference to the high-tech police force in the sci-fi movie Minority Report*)," Detective Rivera says with a smile.