

Mobile Device App Revolutionizes Police Work

Lincoln, Neb.

June 14, 2011

10/11 News

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Lincoln Public Safety Director, Tom Casady is in San Diego Tuesday, unveiling his Proactive Police Patrol Information application, or P3i.

While many people use location-based services apps to find a nearby restaurant, police officers are using the same technology to locate sex offenders in a neighborhood or a man with arrest warrant.

Casady worked with UNL to design and build the program. It was funded through a grant from the National Institute of Justice.

Officers first began using the program on May 4. P3i is now in the hands of 60 Lincoln Police officers, who are using the application on four different devices: iPhones, iPads, Motorola Xoom tablets and Droid2 smart phones. The application can also be used on laptops.

"P3i works the same way as many other location-based service apps. It's a map-based application that displays the police points of interest around you, based on your current coordinates." Casady said.

The map moves with you as you walk or drive, and the points simply stream towards you as the map scrolls. With a simple tap of your finger, officers can view case files, records and pictures. The program is linked to LPD's record management system.

Officer Katie Flood calls the program a "game changer." She says now an officer knows exactly who lives in a neighborhood as they drive down the street. Flood said it will make an officer's job safer. The program also shows recent crimes in the area, which will help police connect crimes and do other police work quicker.