

# Lincoln cops' app up for download

By ZACH PLUHACEK / Lincoln Journal Star | Posted: Wednesday, August 24, 2011

Maybe you're curious about that run-down house across the street -- the one that, by all appearances, just has to be a hive of Lincoln's underworld.

Or maybe you want to scope out your college-age daughter's new neighborhood after visiting her for dinner and getting a good look at the folks in the downstairs apartment.

Either way, if you have an iPhone or Android mobile device, you're covered.

A free application available for both systems offers users a driving view of crime in the Capital City by way of a GPS-enabled map that pinpoints recent incidents involving the Lincoln Police Department.



A free app available for iPhone and Android allows users to view Lincoln crime on a GPS-enabled map. (JORDAN PASCALE / Lincoln

The app, developed by University of Nebraska researchers, is the same software being tested by about 75 Lincoln police officers, although the public version is "scrubbed quite a bit to protect sensitive information," said Public Safety Director Tom Casady, who started the project when he was chief of the Lincoln Police Department.

The police version -- nicknamed P3I, for Proactive Police Patrol Information -- shows registered sex offenders, suspected gang members, people with warrants and broadcasts, parolees and detailed incident reports.

The public version includes only basic incident reports, which can be narrowed to windows of time.

Casady, known for his tech-forward approach to police work, has used the same description for the app both in interviews and on the iPhone app store: "This is a game-changing technology in policing."

NU developed the app in consultation with the police department. The project is funded by a federal grant.

Casady said he hopes the same software can someday be used by other public entities -- probation and parole systems, for example.

"I think we're obviously just scratching the surface."

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