



# SIMPLIFIED PROCESSES AND INSTANT DATA ACCESS PUT MORE OFFICERS IN THE FIELD

## Vandalia Police Department (OH)

Sworn officers: 30

Civilian employees: 38

Up until late last year, the records room at the Vandalia Police Department in Vandalia, Ohio was a busy place. According to Rich Hopkins, Vandalia City's communications manager, it was the area where officers would have to go in order to make copies of reports, file those reports and then pull them back out for investigations. That is until the department implemented a new, unified software solution to replace the multi-system setup the agency said it had cobbled together over the years.

## SIMPLIFYING ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS AND REPORT WRITING

The Vandalia Police Department adopted the Spillman Flex software system for its ease of use and intuitive layout for new users, Hopkins said. The new software allows officers in the field to quickly accomplish tasks, including scanning driver's licenses into the system. All of the information is instantly pre-populated into the correct fields and uploaded into Flex, keeping everything in one place and preventing misspellings of names, addresses and other important data, a problem that was often inevitable when an officer had to manually type or write down the information. According to

Hopkins, this new, faster process of entering information simplifies every aspect of report writing for Vandalia officers and ensures information received from leads is more accurate and can assist personnel throughout the investigative process.

Hopkins also mentioned that if you could ask a Vandalia police officer for one of their least favorite aspects of their job, paperwork would be near the top. This is often because filing reports and uploading evidence is a time-consuming process that prevents them from being



out in the community, he said. Flex has minimized time spent on paperwork and administrative tasks, allowing more officers to remain on the streets and keep the city safe..

The new system also helps Vandalia officers manage their digital evidence, such as photographs. Using Flex, officers can now upload photos taken at an incident directly into the single, centralized database. Previously, an officer had to submit the camera card to an evidence technician or property clerk for them to upload the photographs and then return the card to the correct camera. According to Lieutenant Dan Swafford, this convoluted process added more moving parts to each officer's workload and wasted precious time.

Vandalia officials said another key benefit for officers using the new Flex system is that they no longer have to submit written reports for supervisor approval. Reports can now be entered electronically and anyone with authorized access will be able to view it, resulting in both more efficient workflows and reduced paper waste.

The simplified reporting process and ability to directly upload digital evidence has allowed officers to cut a lot of time and effort and speed up the time it takes for an officer or administrator to complete their job responsibilities.



## PUTTING DATA TO BETTER USE

The new system's single, centralized database makes the growing volume of collected data searchable, enabling officers and other department officials to easily find names, addresses and other system records relevant to the incident. Flex's ability to assist detectives with investigations is perhaps one of the system's largest advantages, Hopkins said. That's because for the first time, a vast amount of information is literally only a few mouse clicks away.

According to Lt. Swafford, a feature that really puts the power of the software package into perspective is being able to enter a name, address or badge number and quickly see a visual representation that ties all of the information together. Flex's Visual Involvements® capability visually connects any related record across the system,

allowing personnel to interactively explore the connections between names, addresses, vehicles and other incident records.

"There's just so much information and it links us to other people, other addresses where they may have stayed." Lt. Swafford said.

Spillman Flex stores all inputted data and organizes it in a way that is easier to search for and read than was previously available with handwritten records, according to Hopkins. It is now easier than ever for officers to file their reports and get back on the road, patrolling the streets and keeping citizens safe. Lt. Swafford said officers are getting more comfortable with the new system and are excited to put all of its capabilities to good use.





## INCREASING TIME SPENT IN THE COMMUNITY

According to Hopkins, the speed of the new system, combined with how easy it is to learn, is completely changing how Vandalia officers and administrators complete their daily job responsibilities. These changes are already being reflected back in the community as fewer officers are stuck behind desks, writing and filing reports.

“The bottom line is that the Spillman [Flex] software package makes it easier for police officers to do their job,” said Hopkins. “And it keeps them out of the records room and on the streets, where they can do the most good.”

## KNOW WHAT MATTERS, WHEN IT MATTERS

We build software for mission-critical environments where every second matters. Spillman Flex and other applications in our CommandCentral software suite unify data and streamline workflows from call to case closure in order to put your information to better use, improve safety for critical personnel and restore your focus on the communities you serve. Backed by a trusted, 90-year veteran with proven public safety leadership, our suite is transforming the public safety experience with a focus on evolution, not revolution, in order to help you digitally transform your operation.



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