



**WILL PI CONFERENCES
ALSO BECOME A
COVID-19 CASUALTY**

**DOCUMENTING
YOUR
INVESTIGATION**

**SECURITY DESIGN
CONCEPTS FOR
MULTI-CLIENT
PROJECTS**

SECURITY Design Concepts

for Multi-Client
Projects





BY **ANTHONY LUIZZO**

Since terrorism hit our shores some twenty years ago, protection advocates have come to the stark realization that simply recommending gates, locks and alarms may not always solve the crime problem. This is especially true when the protection specialist is called upon to devise protection strategies for multiple clients with similar and/or diverse crime-risk issues. Of course, the installation of the age-old trio of security devices listed above will always be needed, but the practitioner's mindset must shift from a single client security mentality to a multi-client philosophy. Some examples of multi-client projects include gated residential communities, commercial strips, and industrial parks to name a few. How then does the protection specialist tackle these types of assignments? The process begins like most diagnostic pursuits begin; a security specific needs assessment (security survey) is commissioned. The security assessment provides a roadmap for the diagnostician to follow when piecing together project parameters. Security surveys come in different types; choosing the right survey to snugly fit your client's specific needs is central to getting the job done. Further information on the various types of surveys can be found in three articles penned by the undersigned and featured in *PI Magazine*: "The Security Survey: An Investigative Tool - Part I": Issue 156 pp.28-30 - 2018; "The Security Survey Part II": Issue 159 pp. 22-25 - 2018, and "The Many Faces of the Security Survey" – Issue 173 pp.16-19 – 2021.

To get the job done right, cost considerations are always on the front burner. Finding cost-effective low budget security measures that can do the job are not hard to find, especially if you know where to look for them. Simply put, if there is a cheaper way to protect something without breaking the piggybank, use it. Further information on low-cost security fixes can be found in a recent article I penned: "Squeezing the Most from your Security Dollar" – *Texas Investigator Magazine*: pp. 30-32 – 2018.

PIECING TOGETHER A PROTECTION STRATEGY

Whether designing a security program for a residential complex, a commercial center or industrial park, the following enhancement strategies might be extremely helpful.

- Establishing a security advocate program
- Reaching out to local law enforcement for free proactive crime prevention programming
- Encouraging in-house employees to actively participate in the company's internal thievery initiatives
- Enacting financial incentives to thwart internal thievery
- Initiating an in-house security and safety bulletin showcasing security/safety deficiencies
- Architecture and crime control
- Erecting low-cost security technologies (signage, mirrors, in-house CCTV) in crime prone locations
- Formulating network security programming

SECURITY ADVOCATE PROGRAMMING

A security advocate is a person (employee) who is charged with keeping a watchful eye over incoming pedestrian traffic. Oftentimes, security advocates are used to effectively control incoming and outgoing pedestrian traffic in business facilities.

The security advocate has a simple task: to "challenge" unknown individuals by simply asking a very simple non-threatening question: "Can I help you?" The secret to effectively employing security advocates is to strategically position their desks in areas that offer direct oversight of high trafficked access and ingress portals.

CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMMING

Looking back to yesterday! Great Britain is considered the world leader in fostering the modern crime prevention proactive security model. In the mid-18th century Sir Henry Fielding, a British magistrate and criminologist, is credited with helping to organize today's proactive crime control approaches. In 1971, the United States, via a Law Enforcement Assistance Administration grant awarded to the University of Louisville, founded the National Crime Prevention Institute. Since 1971, thousands of police agencies have instituted crime prevention programming within

their departments. Sundry programming offered gratis by most larger police agencies include but are not limited to:

- Security survey preparation (commercial, residential, institutional entities)
- Safety and security lectures
- Neighborhood watch programs
- Property marking and etching programs

Further information on the evolution of crime prevention programming can be found in an article authored by the undersigned, "What is Proactive Security" – Internal Auditing Report, Vol. 2. No. 6, Warren Gorham & Lamont /

RIA Group {Reuters} Thomson Publications – December 2001.

FINANCIAL INCENTIVES TO THWART INTERNAL THEIEVERY

Many more forward-thinking businesses have formally established in-house "hot lines" to report internal thievery. It would also be an excellent idea to contact your local police department and ask them to conduct internal thievery workshops for company employees.

INAUGURATING A SECURITY/SAFETY BULLETIN

Publishing a periodic bulletin highlighting protection-related deficiencies, crime trends, hazardous conditions, and other cautionary security-related directives for dissemination to all company employees.

ARCHITECTURE AND CRIME CONTROL

Proposing architectural initiatives that help deter criminal behavior is a wise and cost-effective way to influence criminal behavior. Whilst I was a member of the NYPD's Crime Prevention Division, I was asked to perform a security assessment for a large trucking firm in the borough of the Bronx, New York. As I scoped the job, I noticed that there was a long line of tractor trailers awaiting entry to deliver and/or pick up freight. As I sat and watched, many of the truckers needed to use the facility's rest room. When I asked the facility manager where the restrooms were located, he said that both male and female facilities were located inside of the inner bowels of the complex. As such, truckers needed to walk through the shipping, receiving and storage areas to use the facilities. *This immediately raised a red flag with me, since collusion between warehouse staff and outside trucker is an odd couple affiliation to be avoided!*

My solution to this problem was a simple architectural fix: build a restroom facility near the entrance – thus totally removing the collusion dilemma. Being ever mindful of the costs associated with this architectural construct -- and knowing that there were no food markets in the immediate area – I recommended to management to build a vending machine rest area complex near the front entranceway. To make a long story short, the company followed my recommendations and soon thereafter the vending machine operation led to a full-blown snack bar/sandwich restaurant operation. This obviously helped pay for the construction costs and ultimately gave the firm a profitable revenue stream as well. Security can be a money-making endeavor!

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LOW-COST SECURITY TECHNOLOGIES

Oftentimes, installing concave mirrors, signage, lighting, CCTV, and alarm devices in high-crime prone locations such as elevators, stairwells, parking facilities, and walkways helps to deter criminal activity. Additionally, retrofitting exterior and interior access portals with secondary locking devices helps to further bolster security.

NETWORK SECURITY PROGRAMMING

Quite a different mindset is at work when setting out to design a network security project. Some examples of security networking projects that I personally worked on whilst I was a member of the NYPD include:

The problem: muggings at public bus stops

The solution: if the existing bus stop is located at an intersection with a traffic signal, have the municipal agency responsible for traffic light synchronization perform a study to ascertain high pedestrian activity periods and reconfigure the synchronization schematic to concentrate traffic stoppage thereat. If the bus stop is not located at an intersection with a traffic signal, ask to have it moved to one that does.

The problem: street muggings, car thefts and vandalism at infrequently traveled intersections

The solution: two quick solutions came to mind:

1. Improve the street lighting,
2. Modify traffic flow from a one-way to a two-way thoroughfare. This redirection of traffic often increases volume and adds additional eyes and ears to the area in question.

The problem: business district crime

The solution: beyond many standard security fixes, such as installing alarm systems and the like, a wise strategy to follow here is to ask the local police agency to establish a mounted police presence. Mounted police patrolling is being used in many industrial areas as an excellent crime deterrent strategy.

The problem: rooftop commercial burglaries adjacent to an elevated transit system

The solution: we had rooftop lighting and store address painted on each store rooftop along the entire 3-mile commercial center / train line and asked the municipal transit agency to instruct their train personnel to be aware of any rooftop criminal activity and to immediately report crime incidents to 911. Additionally, we asked the transit authority to install signage on all trains advising passengers that if they witnessed any rooftop criminal activity to immediately call the local 911. The crime problem subsided. (This strategy would really work more

efficiently today since we all have personal hand-held phones at our disposal.) *This program was called "Operation Bright Light" and was in effect on the Brighton Beach Line in Brooklyn, New York.*

The problem: commercial store robberies

The solution: we equipped all 150 stores with portable radios that were linked directly with the local security patrol agency and local police satellite station. The crime problem subsided. *This program was called "Operation Mobile Connect" and was in effect in Jamaica Queens, New York.*

The problem: commercial store break-ins on a commercial strip

The solution: we equipped all 50 stores in the commercial center with alarm systems which were directly connected and monitored 24/7 by a local home and hospital for the aged. Some of the storeowners had existing alarm systems, but many did not because they could not afford the monitoring fees. The program was a success in two very distinct ways. First, criminal incidents were substantially reduced; second, all alarm monitoring fees paid to the home and hospital became tax deductible contributions to the nursing home for their help in monitoring the systems. A great example of community crime prevention linking commercial and institutional facilities into a crime fighting network. *This program was called "Operation Alarm Connect" and was in effect in the Kingsbridge Road section of the Bronx, New York.*

LOOKING TO TOMORROW

Security diagnosticians need to move beyond the target hardening philosophy of gate it, lock it, and/or alarm it. Today's diagnostician needs to learn to think outside of the proverbial box and seek enhancement fixes that link all segments of the residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional communities. Criminology virtuosi who labor in the environmental model of criminology know that both the individual committing the crime and the environment in which the crime is committed are linked. They instinctively know that crimes are committed when three conditions exist: desire, ability, and opportunity. Yes, the harden it, alarm it, lock it, protection axiom is important, but having a broader perspective is key to finding that sweet spot - where all sectors of the residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional communities' benefit. Protection advocates who are afraid to take chances will never dwell in network security land. These special few security visionaries should be called institutional treasures and welcomed into the security fold. I am not saying that the more conventional security spe-

cialist is a relic from the past; I am saying that protection professionals need to be thermostats not thermometers.

Looking at security from 30 thousand feet – diagnostic security prognostication is the art of the possible, and simply putting a band-aid on a problem is not sufficient – it needs to be treated and cured! **PI**

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