

## **HOMETOWN NEWS**

### **Computer program helps officers make arrests**

By Linnea Brown

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Staff writer

JUPITER - The Jupiter Police Department is testing two new software programs in patrol car laptops to improve accuracy and speed when making arrests.

Developed by Jupiter resident and retired law enforcement Lt. John Landry, the Traffic and Criminal Statute Identification programs allows police to quickly determine which criminal statute is appropriate for any situation.

The programs are designed to replace the heavy criminal law books that police typically keep in their patrol cars and refer to when determining a reason for an arrest.

Police must link a crime or violation to a statute to make an arrest, and if an officer chooses the wrong one, the charges are often dropped.

Designed to be as accessible as possible, officers using the software in their patrol cars do not actually have to type anything.

Instead, both programs are controlled by mouse. Officers respond yes or no to a series of questions that become increasingly specific until the appropriate statute is identified.

"With this software, you press a button, type in a keyword and bam, the (charge) is right there, rather than searching through an entire book," said Jupiter Police Sgt. Scott Pascarella. "We hope this will eventually take the place of our manuals."

The first of its kind, the traffic-related infraction software was installed on all of the department's vehicle computers in late July. The criminal infraction software is expected to arrive in mid-August.

"This provides officers with specific elements of crimes, as well as sub-sections of Florida state statutes that are applicable to the offense that they're charging someone with, or an investigation," Sgt. Pascarella said.

"It's particularly helpful with traffic-related offenses, because if we're not specific (enough), traffic citations are returned to us. This software is going to help eliminate problems with that."

The software is custom-built, compatible with any computer and updated annually to reflect specific state criminal laws.

Less costly than traditional statute books, a software subscription for the program would cost an average local police department - such as Jupiter or Palm Beach Gardens - between \$2,000 to \$3,000. That would outfit every officer's computer, priced at about \$25 per person.

However, because Mr. Landry donated the program to JPD, it is currently being used free of charge.

"It's my understanding that if we choose to keep it and subscribe, we would be provided with any updates to the statutes as the (laws) change," Sgt. Pascarella said. "But since we're getting to use the program for free (in the meantime), it's beneficial and positive for all of us."

The program's creator, Mr. Landry, 42, started his full-time law enforcement career with the Tequesta Police Department, serving as a police officer from 1994-97.

He also worked as a detective and trainer for the Juno Beach Police Department, and recently retired from his work as a lieutenant and criminal investigator for the Florida Department of Financial Services' fraud division.

A doctoral student at Capella University in Minnesota, he initially created the program two years ago as part of his studies.

"I wanted to do something to help police officers, and I wanted to make a difference," he said. "I'm just happy to be making their jobs easier."

In March, he formed Ten-8 Software Solutions with a business partner to develop and launch the product.

His partner, an active-duty narcotics agent with a local police department, asked to remain unnamed due to the nature of his work.

The first complete version of CSIP for Florida law enforcement agencies is scheduled for release in Jan. 1, 2008.

Sgt. Pascarella said he's not sure how long the testing period will last, but so far, officers seem to be satisfied with the results.

Fellow JPD Officer Michael Lilienfeld agreed.

"I've found it to be very informative," he said. "It also provides you with a list of fines associated with the individual traffic infractions, so it makes (the process) a lot faster."

As a long-term goal, Mr. Landry hopes to have a version of CSIP custom-built for every state in the U.S. within five years.

The JPD's use of the software is also set to be featured in the October issue of "Law Enforcement Technology," a nationwide magazine for police administrators.

Other agencies are interested in purchasing it, as well. Mr. Landry has upcoming presentations planned for agencies that include Palm Beach Gardens and West Palm Beach. The Haines City, Davenport and Melbourne Village police departments have all already placed orders for the software.

In lieu of looming budget cuts due to property tax reform, the company is also matching any agency's price of statute books, Mr. Landry added.

The program is also an educational tool.

Mr. Landry donated CSIP to the Palm Beach County School District for use in its high school criminal justice magnet program, and said he will give a free subscription to any high school or college library that wants it.

For college students, Mr. Landry developed an academic version to supplement a criminal law textbook, contracted through Thomson/Wadsworth publishing company.

Mr. Landry, who has a master's degree in criminal justice administration, is also an adjunct professor at Palm Beach Community College in Palm Beach Gardens. He specializes in criminal justice, crime scene investigations, homeland security and counter terrorism.

For more information, call (561) 352-1922 or go to [www.ten-8software.com](http://www.ten-8software.com).

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