

"GST CrimeMap has revolutionized how I conduct analysis.

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Lorie Velarde, Crime Analyst, Garden Grove PD



No crystal balls: Garden Grove Crime Analyst Lorie Velarde relies on persistence, the ability to multi-task and the latest technology to forecast crime occurrences.



Tackling Crime with Technology

Garden Grove Police Department
GST CrimeMap

Garden Grove PD Crime Analyst Lorie Velarde mixes old-fashioned intuition and persistence with high-tech tools to help officers clear cases.

In an interview with PSJournal, Velarde talks about how technology has helped the department's crime analysis unit utilize its time more efficiently and more effectively.

PSJournal: What do you feel is the role of the crime analyst?

I think that a crime analyst has many roles, depending on the agency and its needs. Analysts are researchers who cull through many different sources, select the best data, perform analysis, and produce a product that gives information to those who need it. Our department has made it a priority for our analysts to conduct analysis rather than spend most of our time retrieving data. Officers can perform many retrieval functions and even crime mapping themselves using GST CrimeMap Lite. This gives our analysts more time to concentrate on analysis, rather than data retrieval. Our analysts' primary responsibility is to forecast future crime occurrences, provide investigative leads, and assist in the deployment of resources.

PSJournal: Describe a case in which crime analysis played a role in solving.

We recently had a subject indecently expose himself to two girls who were on their way home from school. Beyond the physical description of the suspect, there was little information to investigate. No other crimes like this had occurred in the area, and the report was bound to be filed and forgotten unless another crime did occur. After reading the details of the report, I became convinced that the subject lived in the area. I used GST CrimeMap to sort through our arrest database. By entering the physical description of the suspect, I was able to reduce the number of suspects in the area who had been arrested to a short list. On this list was a subject who had been previously arrested for indecent exposure. This subject's picture was shown to the victims, and they positively identified him as being the suspect who exposed himself to them. The suspect was arrested for this crime.

PSJournal: Garden Grove uses GST CrimeMap. How has having such a tool helped in your work?

GST CrimeMap has revolutionized how I conduct analysis. Rather than taking hours, complex analyses take only minutes. Because analyses can be done faster, more intelligence can be gathered in a shorter period of time, which further refines our end product and makes it more meaningful. GST CrimeMap allows our analysts to see data in new ways, and trends that were not seen before become apparent. GST CrimeMap has helped us to arrest suspects and solve several crimes, and it is my primary tool in conducting crime analysis

