

**BALTIMORE P.D.**

**CASE CLOSED**

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

by Jamie Gregory,  
Contributing Writer



### PELCO CAMERAS HELP CLEAR STRING OF MARYLAND THEFTS

The Pelco equipment had been in use for less than 30 days at Baltimore County's Northwest Hospital Center when it played an instrumental role in ending a four-month string of automobile parts theft.

A series of SUV break-ins and removal of catalytic converters worth up to \$2,000 began last fall in southern Maryland. The crime spree spread throughout the community and even into Northwest Hospital, which reported several similar cases having taken place in its employee parking lots; at the time, they did not have a video security presence.

At the same time, as part of the hospital's expansion, a new, off-campus employee parking lot was built. "Because the new lot was in a somewhat remote location, we wanted to incorporate video surveillance for the protection of staff and property," said Roger Sheets, director of security at LifeBridge Health, the parent company of Northwest Hospital. As such, Spectra IV Series Dome Positioning Systems were installed, feeding video to a DX8000 digital video recorder.

"The system actively monitors, records and stores images for up to 14 days for investigative purposes," Sheets explained. And it was the combination of the image clarity captured by the Spectra camera systems and the image storage features of the DVR that proved especially useful for Sheets and his security team. As the theft of catalytic converters continued to occur in the new parking lot, security personnel were able to analyze the recorded video to determine that the break-ins were occurring between 9 and 10 a.m.

That finding, along with captured video of the thefts in progress, was soon handed over to Baltimore County police, who used it to identify the suspect and eventually resolve the four-month case.

"This demonstrates to our administration as well as to our law enforcement partners the value of video security," Sheets said. Prior to the partnership between police and the hospital security team, no suspects or additional information had been identified.

"The value of property protected by our security system is in the hundreds of thousands of dollars," Sheets said, "but the safety of our employees and others at the hospital is something you can't put a price on. As our current system has shown, having video surveillance and using it effectively is an asset to us and the community."

That combination of protection of life and property at the hospital, constantly monitored by recorded video, is achieved all without additional security personnel - just a little help from Pelco.



#### SUSPECT INFORMATION

NAME  
Baltimore County's Northwest  
Hospital Center

LOCATION  
Baltimore, Maryland

  
**LIFEBRIDGE**  
HEALTH  
Sinai Hospital  
Northwest Hospital Center  
and related subsidiaries and affiliates