



CLARKSTOWN TOWN HALL & POLICE DEPT PROVIDING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR VISITORS AND RESIDENTS

Clarkstown, New York is located 25 miles north of midtown Manhattan. It encompasses approximately 41 square miles and includes the hamlets of Bardonia, Central Nyack, Congers, Nanuet, New City, Rockland Lake, Valley Cottage, West Nyack, all of the Village of Upper Nyack, and portions of the Villages of Nyack and Spring Valley. Presently, Clarkstown is ranked the second-safest place to live among 300 communities with populations topping 75,000 people by Morgan Quitno Press.

Clarkstown is governed by a Town Board consisting of a Supervisor and four Council members, and is serviced by its own 171 member police department. Both the Clarkstown Town Hall and Police Department put community safety at the top of their priority list. Both entities worked with Advanced Video Surveillance, a local security integrator, to install a G4S Technology Symmetry™ Security Management System to secure their premises.

The Clarkstown Police Station installed Symmetry Professional to secure its main building as well as a police substation in Palisades Mall about six miles away. The access control system grants access to police officers and civilian employees while restricting residents to public areas of the station. Inside the main building all 171 officers have access to the firing range to fine tune their shooting skills, however only Captains, the Range Officer and the Critical Incident Response Team (CERT) are allowed access into the adjoining room that contains additional fire arms and ammunition. Limiting access allows the Police Department to better manage its assets. Pelco cameras monitor the town jail and holding cell area located in the basement of the police department where prisoners are brought to the jail via the underground garage.

Escorts swipe their card to enter and exit the jail area.

Cameras also monitor holding cells, hallways and the large Symmetry Professional controlled prisoner elevator. The elevator transports prisoners from the jail area in the basement to the courtroom on the third floor. The escorting officer presents his keyfob to call the elevator. The elevator unloads people onto the third floor into a holding area, a room with bars near the courtroom where prisoners wait their turn to enter the courtroom.

“The Symmetry system controls the elevators and monitors prisoner transport while keeping the public out,” said Advanced Video Surveillance’s Vice President, Michael Riotto. Most staff have access to a small room to place evidence into specified lockers. Once the evidence is surrendered to the evidence room, through an additional set of doors, it is considered property of the evidence room and in lockdown mode. Only the Chief of Police, Captains and the Evidence Officer have access rights into the locked down evidence room.

“We made the evidence room a separate “company” within the police department according to Symmetry standards,” said Access Security Coordinator, Dan Novotny. “We did this so the regular office staff couldn’t enter unless given specific access. It’s worked out well.”

The Police Department front and side doors are monitored by cameras and the police have access to all outside doors. Civilian employees are granted access at the front door.



"We are very pleased with the accountability the system provides"

"We check the reports regularly to see who tries to gain access into the wrong doors, for example, into the firing range. We then question them as to why they wanted access," said Novotny.

"We are very pleased with the accountability the system provides the police station," said Novotny. "If someone loses their keys, we run the keyfob ID number to identify whose keys they are. And if there is an alarm, we find out who is missing. It's easy to pull up numbers and search. We can easily discover someone trying to get into the wrong door and further refine our search by date and time. It's very user friendly."

The Police Department also manages 12 commuter lots or "park and rides" throughout the 41 square miles. Cameras are stationed at each of the lots which are in turn monitored by the dispatch department on a large plasma TV.

The Town Hall uses its Symmetry Professional with Symmetry Video/Edge Network Video Server (ENVS®) to control all its doors and monitor employees. PTZ cameras monitor the parking lot and perimeter of building. Inside, the main hallways are monitored. All meeting rooms have been upgraded to Symmetry Video and Symmetry ENVS to help reduce the chance of disruptions or disorderly conduct during town hall meetings and public gatherings. Incidents have occurred in other municipalities, and the Town board thought it was wise to monitor the meeting rooms for this reason. Sensitive and highly emotional topics are often discussed during town hall meetings, and the cameras will record all activity.

"Although it's rare when incidents occur, once in a while something may get stolen or tempers may flare," said Riotto. "Now the Town Hall can revert back to the Symmetry Video system for suspicious purposes. Eight cameras monitor two meeting rooms providing full coverage of the rooms. Attendees are aware they are in place."

Town Hall doors are scheduled to lock and unlock at specific times of the day. However, when the Town Hall public meeting rooms are utilized by community organizations and local government, the maintenance staff controls the doors for late meetings and locks up when the meeting is over.

Maintenance access is limited to unlocking the main doors for the public. All other doors are on a preset schedule that is easily programmed into the system.

The IT Department operates as their command center and monitors system traffic on large plasma screens. The Network Administrator and his staff are readily available if there is an incident, and manage Symmetry on an everyday basis.

Advanced Video Surveillance, the installing security integrator, understands that customers rely heavily on security management systems and need to make sure they are operating properly at all times. Since 1992, Advanced Video has been working hard to earn and keep their customer's business. Advanced Video specializes in the installation and service of access control, video surveillance, intercom and intrusion systems. They will customize a security system to meet a customer's exact needs and integrate all components so they work together to increase their effectiveness and ease of use.

"We use our ID cards for numerous situations; this year we started issuing out ID cards for our licensed massage therapist within the Town of Clarkstown," said Network Security Administrator, Bob Paul. "During the event of an emergency or off peak business hours, some employees are issued an ID access card which allows them to gain access to the building. Symmetry Professional allows us to view who has been granted or denied access to the building which then allows us to adjust their access level. If need be, we can check our cameras which correlates to the time when they were either granted or denied access."



G4S Technology
www.g4stechnology.com