

CONNECTING PROPERTY CRIME PATTERNS ACROSS COUNTY LINES WITH LEADSONLINE + CELLHAWK

AGENCY TYPE

Sheriff's Office

AGENCY SIZE

850 employees, 440 sworn officers

AGENCY NEED

A flexible investigative platform that helps detectives connect suspects, stolen property, and location data across complex property crime investigations while supporting cross-jurisdictional collaboration and courtroom-ready case presentation.

PRODUCT OFFERING

- **LeadsOnline™** to instantly search across 2 billion transactions from secondhand businesses.
- **CellHawk™** for cell phone location analysis and IMEI comparison.

RESULTS AT A GLANCE

- Connected burglaries across multiple counties using shared digital evidence.
- Identified suspects through cell phone and pawn transaction data.
- Recovered stolen, sentimental property for victims.
- Supported successful arrests in a multi-county burglary investigation.

ABOUT THE VOLUSIA SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Volusia Sheriff's Office serves one of the largest counties in Florida, encompassing residential neighborhoods, commercial corridors, and rural communities connected by major interstates. With a growing population and a vibrant crossroads for the region, the agency faces the challenge of managing a steady volume of property crimes that often require investigators to identify patterns spanning jurisdictions.

CHALLENGES

Property crime cases often begin with limited information and evolve over time. Burglaries may occur at multiple locations using similar methods, while suspects attempt to stay under the radar by crossing jurisdictional lines. Victims may not realize the full scope of what was stolen, particularly when crimes involve cash, jewelry, or other easily resold items.

For detectives, identifying these patterns and tying them to specific suspects requires the ability to analyze location data, compare digital identifiers, and connect stolen property to real-world transactions, often across multiple agencies and databases.

SOLUTION

Volusia invests heavily in investigative technology to support detectives at every stage of an investigation. By providing access to tools such as **LeadsOnline** and **CellHawk**, the agency equips investigators with the ability to build context quickly, test investigative theories, and collaborate beyond county boundaries.

Together, these tools allow detectives to layer pawn and secondhand data with cell phone records and visual timelines, transforming individual incidents into a comprehensive investigative picture.

CONNECTING BURGLARIES THROUGH DATA

For Detective Aleece Patel, a General Crimes Detective with the Volusia Sheriff's Office, property crime investigations often hinge on recognizing when separate incidents are actually connected.

In one investigation assigned in late 2024, Patel responded to a burglary at Bravo Supermarket in DeBary, where two suspects entered through an AC vent and targeted a jewelry store inside the business. "They were able to take over \$100,000 worth of valuables and cash," Patel explains.

Less than a month later, a similar burglary occurred at a nearby Family Dollar store, involving the same method of entry.

USING CELLHAWK TO CONFIRM A COMMON THREAD

To determine whether the burglaries were connected, Patel turned to **CellHawk** to analyze cell phone records from each scene. By comparing tower dump data from both locations, **CellHawk** revealed a single device present during both incidents. "**CellHawk** showed me that I had the same IMEI at both locations during the burglaries," Patel says. That shared IMEI became the critical link, ultimately leading Patel to one of the suspects.

LEADSONLINE REVEALS THE SCOPE OF THE CRIME

Patel also used the suspect's phone number to expand the investigation using **LeadsOnline**. "I took that phone number and I was able to look it up in the **LeadsOnline** database... It showed that he had sold over 20 pieces of the stolen jewelry."

Using pawn transaction records and images, Patel worked to recover stolen items for the victim. "I was able to get some back for my victim that were very sentimental to her and her family," she says.



"When I get a case, I do utilize LeadsOnline a lot. That's usually what I start off with first... The database is very easy to use. It's easy for me to navigate."

Detective Aleece Patel
Volusia Sheriff's Office

The data also revealed that the same suspects were connected to similar burglaries in multiple counties.

"While using **LeadsOnline**, I saw that there were similar cases in Port Saint Lucie, Lee County, Brevard County... Same M.O.," Patel says.

COLLABORATING ACROSS JURISDICTIONS

With evidence spanning several counties, Patel coordinated with other agencies to share information and compare leads.

"We were able to work together, me and the other detectives," she says. "And ultimately, they were arrested."

For Patel, that collaboration is one of the most valuable aspects of the platform. "**LeadsOnline** has helped me with cross collaboration. It all started with **LeadsOnline**."

TURNING INVESTIGATION INTO IMPACT

For Patel, solving the case represented a major professional milestone early in her detective career. "That was one of my big milestones. I was a baby detective when it came out."

The impact was personal as well. Patel was able to return sentimental and irreplaceable jewelry to the victim. "I was able to personally give her back a ring and three gold pendants that belonged to her grandmother. It was nice to be able to give her a little bit of the peace that she was missing."

A BROADER IMPACT ON PROPERTY CRIME INVESTIGATIONS

By combining **LeadsOnline** and **CellHawk**, Patel connects crimes that might otherwise appear unrelated, supports collaboration across agencies, and delivers meaningful outcomes for victims. And, as she puts it, "it just makes my life as a detective so much easier."