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# New sign to shine light on crime (with video)

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Posted: Friday, April 27, 2012 4:33 pm | Updated: 10:47 am, Mon Apr 30, 2012.

By Mauricio J. Cuellar Jr

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## New digital sign

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camera or surveillance, then post that image on the sign. That way we can inform the public and warn them as a situation develops, and to be on the lookout for individuals connected to a crime that just took place," Ramirez said. "Anytime you can increase the communication between officers and the public, it is a very powerful tool for law enforcement."

by mauricio J. Cuellar Jr.  
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Drivers moving through San Diego this week saw more than just a historic courthouse at the center of town. A new digital sign was placed in front, with the latest information on what is happening in Duval County.

The sign, purchased four weeks ago by the Duval County Sheriff's Department was delivered and brought online this week. The sign was purchased for \$14,000 through the department's drug forfeiture fund, and will aide law enforcement not only in their public awareness efforts, but also in the apprehension of fugitives, officials said.

"Our options are open, anything having to do with meetings, public relations," Chief Deputy Jose Martinez III said. "Keeping the public aware of things happening in the community, instead of coming by the sheriff's office, can see it outside."

Martinez said the fact that it is placed on it's own trailer, means the sign could be see one day in San Diego, then the next somewhere in Benavides or Freer. The sign is easily moved using the department's patrol vehicles, and the sign's message can be changed as frequently as needed through a small laptop unit that controls the digital output.

Duval County Sheriff Romeo Ramirez said he sees the sign as a powerful law enforcement tool, when it comes to apprehending fugitives, or putting notices out on missing individuals and crimes that have taken place throughout the county.

"We can take an image, something that is occurring on

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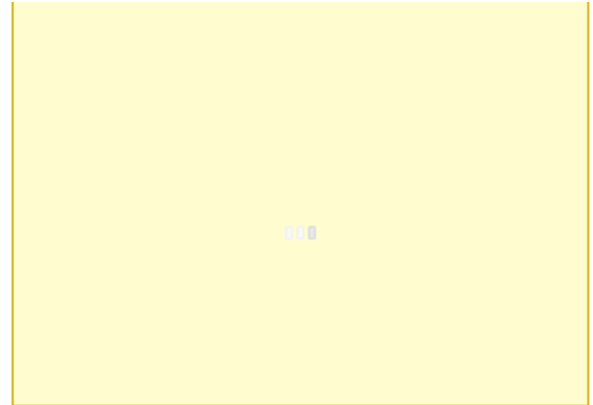
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