



Tray Theft Case Study

STOP Theft of Returnable Plastic Containers

Miami, FL 2016

Losses Leading to Investigation

Over **210,000** Plastic Trays and Crates Stolen

Losses Valued over Losses Valued at **\$1.5 Million**



Evidence Gathered & Given to Police

Consistent Police Reports Filed for Missing Plastics

Trend recording of regions/locations frequently stolen from with dates

Initial visual and video surveillance collected by private investigator



Police Action

LE organizes point-person for interaction with private investigators

Police conduct visual, video surveillance of theft of crates as well as drop points

Raids authorized arresting over 20 thieves, discovering thousands of pounds of reground plastic, and recovering trays of local distributors



Top 3 Lessons from the Investigators

“Utilizing private investigators, especially ones with law-enforcement experience, can aid in developing police relationships”

“Utilizing rewards programs for your employees can help identify specific areas where theft occurs”

“Maintain regular communication with police and prosecutors due to the amount of time cases can often take”



Press Coverage

<https://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/Crime-Bust-Underway-in-Miami-Dade-374112101.html>

