



Top 50 U.S. city's government turns to Coalfire for CISO services and a formal enterprise security program

AT A GLANCE

A top 50 U.S. city's government lacked a chief information security officer (CISO) and a formal enterprise security program. Thus, the municipality decided to hire a virtual CISO and construct a formal enterprise security program.

CHALLENGE

At a top 50 U.S. city's government, day-to-day security operations were left to IT infrastructure and operations personnel. This situation resulted in security activities being conducted in an ad-hoc manner, with the Internet serving as the primary knowledge resource for securing information assets. The city subsequently became a victim of multiple security breaches.

The CIO realized it was time to pay more attention to the security of the city's information and related assets. The municipal government started its search to find a worthy cybersecurity partner to help identify, prioritize, and address its security concerns. Coalfire was selected based on experience in addressing similar challenges, a structured approach and methodology, and high-caliber cybersecurity leaders and professionals.

APPROACH

In 2015, Coalfire was engaged to assist with the evaluation of the current state and subsequent development and operationalization of an enterprise security program.

Coalfire provided a strategic leader to act as the city's CISO who would direct and oversee the delivery of an effective governance, security, and risk management program. The initial tasks included identifying and classifying the government's information and related assets and defining a mechanism for securing those assets based on their value and sensitivity for the long term.

The success of the initial project led to the client's retention of Coalfire on a year-to-year rolling contract to provide an interim CISO and continue the operationalization of the enterprise security program. Coalfire also developed a formal enterprise security program aligned to the NIST Cybersecurity Framework (NIST CSF) covering the people, processes, and technology of the

city's enterprise security environment. The formal enterprise security program also introduced consistent vulnerability scanning and penetration testing to proactively identify weaknesses. Coalfire's honed approach helped the city move from no security to a program that proactively monitors and mitigates risks.

RESULTS

The city has realized significant results from Coalfire's efforts. Leadership now has visibility into its overall security posture. Security vulnerabilities have been reduced significantly, proactive scanning and penetration tests are in place, and risk identification as a means of further reducing residual risk continues. The city recognizes significant value from Coalfire's services and continues to engage Coalfire on a year-to-year basis.

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About Coalfire

Coalfire is the cybersecurity advisor that helps private and public sector organizations avert threats, close gaps, and effectively manage risk. By providing independent and tailored advice, assessments, technical testing, and cyber engineering services, we help clients develop scalable programs that improve their security posture, achieve their business objectives, and fuel their continued success. Coalfire has been a cybersecurity thought leader for more than 16 years and has offices throughout the United States and Europe. Coalfire.com