



June 10, 2024

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ayanna Pressley
U.S. House of Representatives
402 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Markey, Warren, and Wyden, and Representative Pressley:

I write to respond to your May 14, 2024, letter to U.S. Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) Inspector General Joseph V. Cuffari about SoundThinking’s acoustic gunshot detection technology known as ShotSpotter.

With all due respect, your letter—which we first heard about from media outlets—draws from selected news reports and studies that have been proven incorrect, incomplete or unreliable. While I welcome all interest in our technology, I am concerned that your understanding of ShotSpotter is based on numerous recycled falsehoods and misleading assertions that do not hold up to hard facts and accurate information. I seek to correct that misinformation here, and to invite you to learn more about what we do, why it is important, and the safeguards built into our system.

In this spirit, I invite each of you to visit our Incident Review Center located near Union Station in Washington, D.C., so we can provide a demonstration of our technology and how it assists law enforcement and saves lives.

ShotSpotter was created to help bridge gaps in the 911 reporting system, to help police quickly respond to shooting incidents, to render aid to gunshot wound victims as needed, to enhance evidence collection, to increase the likelihood of arresting assailants and saving victims’ lives, and ultimately to make communities safer places to live, work, and raise families. It does so in a fair and unbiased manner that does not violate individual civil rights.

According to a Brookings Institution study,¹ more than 80 percent of gunfire incidents go unreported to 911. That means gunshot victims may not receive life-saving first aid. Gun crimes may go unsolved, leaving criminals with the propensity to use firearms on the streets and the

¹ “The geography, incidence, and underreporting of gun violence: New evidence using ShotSpotter data,” Jillian B. Carr and Jennifer L. Doleac, The Brookings Institution, April 27, 2016, <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/the-geography-incidence-and-underreporting-of-gun-violence-new-evidence-using-shotspotter-data/>.

law-abiding residents of impacted communities—i.e., the vast majority of the people who live there—continuing to suffer unacceptable levels of violence, fear and, far too often, tragedy.

In incidents where lives may hang in the balance and every second counts, the ShotSpotter system alerts police to virtually all gunfire in a community’s coverage area within 60 seconds. The fast response made possible by this technology ultimately helps save lives, locate suspects, and collect critical evidence.

Here are the demonstrable, indisputable facts:

- (1) ShotSpotter is accurate;
- (2) ShotSpotter is effective; and
- (3) Leaders of communities of color embrace ShotSpotter.

The only bias in this matter lies not with ShotSpotter, but in those opponents who continue to ignore objective facts in favor of their preconceived narratives propagated through false and misleading assertions made to the press and through studies, some of which have been proven incorrect and/or unreliable.

Importantly, we must all give great weight to the more than 170 cities and towns that today turn to ShotSpotter to enhance safety for their residents. Contrary to the letter’s assertions, the best judges of the efficacy and fairness of our technology, and whether it operates without bias, are the leaders and members of the communities that employ it. By that standard of those who live amid violence, ShotSpotter is welcome.

We are proud of the value that ShotSpotter delivers to law enforcement to help address criminal gunfire and save lives. We also acknowledge that our technology may not be a priority for every city, all the time. Some cities may not have a compelling need for what we offer. Other cities may have different priorities. An example of this is Portland, Oregon, which convened a Focused Intervention Team Community Oversight Group (“FITCOG”)—made up of members of the community and clergy—to study the implementation of ShotSpotter technology to address the city’s exponential rise in gun violence. At the conclusion of its review, FITCOG recommended that the city “should invest in the Portland Police Bureau for the use and implementation of ShotSpotter technology as a focused deterrent tool as part of the overarching gun violence response strategy.”² And although Portland did not ultimately act on FITCOG’s recommendation, the group’s recommendation is further confirmation as to the benefits and efficacy of ShotSpotter technology.

While a small number of cities might not renew or extend their ShotSpotter service, far more have renewed and even expanded their coverage. And a few that had chosen not to continue ultimately re-started using ShotSpotter. However, not a single city has chosen *not* to renew because

² Focused Intervention Team Community Oversight Group Official Recommendation on the Implementation of ShotSpotter Technology as a Focused Deterrent Tool to Address Gun Violence in Portland, <https://www.portland.gov/fitcog/documents/fitcog-shotspotter-recommendation/download>.

of alleged civil rights violations or instances of the technology breaching its technical warranty guarantees.

This letter will not address every falsehood in the May 14 letter individually, but, instead, will make clear the three most important facts any policymaker should know about ShotSpotter.

1. ShotSpotter Is Accurate

The ShotSpotter system has a contractually guaranteed 90% accuracy rate for detecting, classifying, and publishing outdoor gunfire incidents, with financial penalties for the company for underperformance. This makes the claim—repeated in the May 14 letter—that our technology was once triggered by a piñata at a birthday party all the more disingenuous. It is the reason that the Boston Police Department (“BPD”) issued a report, covered in *The Boston Herald*, disproving that this event ever occurred.³ We are highly motivated to maintain and improve the system’s accuracy. In fact, though we are contractually committed to a 90% accuracy rate, our actual accuracy rate across all customers is 97%. This is a fact confirmed by independent analyses of ShotSpotter data from 2019 through 2022 across all police department customers by data analytics firm Edgeworth Analytics. Based on this independent analysis, we not only “purport” to accurately detect gunshot incidents, but we also consistently affirm and validate that we do so.

By way of background, ShotSpotter is an acoustic-enabled gunshot detection system that uses an arrayed network of sensors to “listen” for loud, impulsive sounds—pops, booms, and bangs—that may be gunfire, and then pinpoints the point of origination of the sound via triangulation. That sound is then filtered through a computer to dismiss noises that are clearly not attributable to gunfire. The remaining sounds are then immediately sent to, and reviewed by, highly trained acoustic reviewers at ShotSpotter’s Incident Review Centers who play back the recorded sound, analyze the audio waveforms, and assess numerous other points of data to see if they match the typical pattern for gunfire. From there, the acoustic reviewers either publish the incident to police as gunfire or dismiss the sounds as non-gunfire events.

Separately, our forensic personnel can produce detailed analyses that provide invaluable insights into shooting events. It is for this reason courts have admitted ShotSpotter’s forensic evidence in over 340 cases across 24 states, and why prosecutors have prevailed in dozens of *Frye* and *Daubert* challenges. Scores of state and federal judges have assessed ShotSpotter’s reliability under rigorous evidentiary standards.

In keeping with their objective and unbiased expertise, ShotSpotter’s acoustic experts do not “change the source of sounds picked up by its sensors after listening to audio recordings.” This baseless claim, which the May 14 letter recklessly repeats, was **retracted** by the Associated Press and several other news outlets more than two years ago.⁴ It was a falsehood connected to a specific

³ Boston Police records debunk ACLU, critics’ claim that piñata activated ShotSpotter, <https://www.bostonherald.com/2024/05/15/boston-police-records-debunk-aclu-critics-claim-that-pinata-activated-shotspotter/>.

⁴ Clarification: BC-AP Investigation-Tracked story, <https://apnews.com/article/technology-chicago-michael-williams-5b72a8ce3ab55d442c758c6c58eca352>. Also see <https://www.soundthinking.com/press-releases/associated-press-joins-growing-list-of-media-outlets-that-have-retracted-corrected-or-clarified-the-false-claim-originally-published-by-vice-media/>.

court case. Once the news organizations learned the truth—that court records proved that employees did not change the location of gunfire between the real-time alert on the night of the shooting and the later detailed forensic report—the news outlets retracted it. This disproven claim is repeated in your letter.

2. ShotSpotter Is *Effective*

To assert that ShotSpotter is ineffective, the letter cherry-picks data and reports by critics that fit their narrative, disregarding others that prove the narrative to be false. The letter first cherry-picks data purporting to show that ShotSpotter alerts are not associated with confirmed outdoor shooting events. It then cherry-picks and only references the very small number of cities that have chosen to discontinue working with us. The facts are that, time and again, cities and independent studies determine that ShotSpotter is effective and that our customers overwhelmingly renew our services because of our effectiveness.

The full record of data shows that ShotSpotter (a) saves lives, (b) can help reduce crime in the areas we serve, and (c) can enhance investigations to bring justice to victims and their assailants.

Here are just a few facts about ShotSpotter saving lives that the letter disregarded:

- In Oakland, California, “OPD was able to provide and coordinate immediate emergency medical response to...101 surviving shooting victims,” after being alerted to their whereabouts by ShotSpotter technology.⁵

The same report goes on to state that “OPD personnel believe that several of these victims survived the shootings specifically because of the quick response subsequent medical attention, [and that] [i]n some instances, OPD and medical response occurred within less than two minutes of ShotSpotter activation.”⁶ One such shooting victim was retired police captain Ersie Joyner III, who was shot 22 times while filling up his car at a gas station.⁷ Joyner has publicly stated that he “believe[s] that the [ShotSpotter] gun detection technology employed by Oakland police was key to [his] survival,” since it allowed medical help to arrive at his precise location quickly.⁸

- In Pennsylvania, “[t]he City of Pittsburgh announced data from 2019 and 2020...that shows the system was the only reporting mechanism to first responders for 13 shooting victims over the past two years.”⁹ The report further underscores

⁵ City of Oakland Privacy Advisory Commission, <https://cao-94612.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/Special-Meeting-Packet.pdf>.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ersie Joyner ‘humbled and humanized’ after surviving 22 bullet wounds in Oakland shootout, <https://www.ktvu.com/news/ersie-joyner-humbled-and-humanized-after-surviving-22-bullet-wounds-in-oakland-shootout>.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ ShotSpotter Data Shows the Technology Has Saved Lives, <https://pittsburghpa.gov/press-releases/press-releases/5020>.

the role played by ShotSpotter when it states that “[w]ithout the ShotSpotter notification, it is unknown when, if ever, first responders would have been notified [to the 13 victims] and given the opportunity to provide life saving [sic] care.”¹⁰

- A similar outcome was observed in West Palm Beach, where “ShotSpotter gunshot detection technology was deployed...enabling responding offices to arrive fast enough to the scene that they could begin critical trauma medical care that made the difference in saving lives.”¹¹
- In Chicago, a ShotSpotter alert led to “officers Rhonda Ward and her partner Julius Givens [being] first on the scene,” where they found a 13-year-old boy “who was shot in the back and abdomen, and immediately put the boy in their squad car” to transport him to the hospital before EMTs were able to arrive.¹² The boy survived, and the Chicago Police Department credited the officers’ actions—first triggered by a ShotSpotter alert.
- Similar instances of ShotSpotter providing the first indication to law enforcement that a shooting occurred—allowing them to locate, and render aid to, gunshot victims—have occurred in other locations throughout the country, including Columbia, South Carolina,¹³ Toledo, Ohio,¹⁴ West Palm Beach, Florida, and Jacksonville, Florida,^{15, 16} and—according to a trauma surgeon at Cooper University Hospital who researches gun violence and its health impacts—Camden, New Jersey.¹⁷

See **Exhibit 1** for a selected list of ShotSpotter results and success stories in local communities.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ ShotSpotter: West Palm Beach Utilizes ShotSpotter for Rapid Response to Save Lives of Gunshot Victims, <https://www.usmayors.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Final-2021-BC-Best-Practice-Report.pdf>.

¹² ‘He’s a hero too’: CPD officers recall saving 13-year-old boy shot on South Side, <https://wgntv.com/news/hes-a-hero-too-cpd-officers-recall-saving-13-year-old-boy-shot-on-south-side/>.

¹³ ShotSpotter system leads police to shooting victim in Columbia neighborhood, <https://www.wltx.com/article/news/crime/columbia-shooting-lakeside-avenue/101-b8a00206-15c7-4918-bff7-1d1153e89e28>.

¹⁴ 11-year-old dies, 14-year-old in critical condition following North Toledo shooting, <https://www.toledoblade.com/local/police-fire/2021/08/23/11-year-old-dies-14-year-old-in-critical-condition-north-toledo-shooting-elm-street/stories/20210823110>.

¹⁵ Three Officers Receive Anthony Testa Tactical Lifesaving Award After Responding to ShotSpotter Alert, <https://www.soundthinking.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023-05-18-Anthony-Testa-Lifesaving-Award-Success-Story.pdf>.

¹⁶ Jacksonville sheriff names mass shooting victims and identifies 21-year-old gunman, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cLSUh4wHrE>.

¹⁷ Surgeon: Having a machine listen for gunshots has helped us save lives, <https://www.nj.com/opinion/2021/10/surgeon-having-a-machine-listen-for-gunshots-has-helped-us-save-lives-opinion.html>.

*Here are facts about a sample of independent studies crediting ShotSpotter with contributing to lower rates of violent criminal activity overall:*¹⁸

- The NYU School of Law’s Policing Project partnered with the St. Louis County Police Department “to compare geographic areas with and without ShotSpotter [to] determine whether there was a change in relevant public safety outcomes due to its adoption.”¹⁹ The Policing Project found that:
 - “Across the eight beats with ShotSpotter, this accounts for around ten fewer assaults per month that can be attributed to ShotSpotter, or around a 30 percent decline in reported assaults.”²⁰
 - “In areas of St. Louis County that used ShotSpotter technology, police were alerted to four times as many gunshot incidents...than in comparable areas without, making police aware of gunfire they would not have known about without the system.”
- A study by the Center for Crime Science and Violence Prevention showed that after Winston-Salem, North Carolina, deployed ShotSpotter in August 2021, “[a]ggravated assaults [we]re down 26% comparing before-after results in the ShotSpotter area.”²¹ Even more significant is the fact that “[c]omparable area and overall city numbers indicate[d] an increase in aggravated assaults during the same period [but, c]omparatively[,] assaults [we]re down 38% in the ShotSpotter community.”²²
- In Cincinnati, in areas of the city where ShotSpotter devices are located, “reports for shots fired have decreased by approximately 45%...controlling for before/after-effects as well as control sites, and that this finding is significant.”²³
- A study commissioned by the Urban Institute showed comparable evidentiary benefits provided by ShotSpotter in police investigations across Denver, Colorado, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Richmond, Virginia.²⁴

Here are some selected facts about ShotSpotter helping police to solve violent crimes:

¹⁸ Additional studies about ShotSpotter’s impact on local communities can be found at <https://www.soundthinking.com/shotspotter-public-safety-results/>.

¹⁹ Measuring the Effects of ShotSpotter on Gunfire in St. Louis County. <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58a33e881b631bc60d4f8b31/t/603923e3a32c3f57d67dabec/1614357476874/Measuring+the+Effects+of+Shotspotter+on+Gunfire+in+St.+Louis+County%2C+MO.pdf>

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ A Cost-Benefit Analysis of ShotSpotter in Winston-Salem, NC, <https://www.siue.edu/ccsvp/pdf/ShotSpotterpublic.pdf>.

²² Ibid.

²³ Evaluating an Acoustic Gunshot Detection System in Cincinnati, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/352879092_Chapter_18_Evaluating_an_Acoustic_Gunshot_Detection_System_in_Cincinnati.

²⁴ Lessons Learned Implementing Gunshot Detection Technology: Results of a Process Evaluation in Three Major Cities, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/24751979.2018.1548254>.

- As recently as June 1, 2024, BPD arrested Keon Baker in connection with a Roxbury shooting incident that occurred on May 23, 2024.²⁵ After a ShotSpotter alert advised BPD of a shooting within the vicinity of 725 Dudley Street, investigators found two spent shell casings that were processed by evidence technicians. BPD then located separate video evidence which showed Baker firing at a vehicle at the time the ShotSpotter alert was triggered. At the time of his arrest, Baker was already wanted on warrants for unlawful possession of a firearm, unlawful possession of ammunition, and discharging a firearm within 500 feet of a building. When he was arrested, BPD seized three firearms, as well as ammunition, from the dwelling where Baker was located.
- On April 20, 2024, responding to a ShotSpotter alert, Chicago Police Department (“CPD”) officers found the body of police officer Luis Huesca, who had been shot and killed on his way home from his shift.²⁶ Although Officer Huesca had tragically succumbed to his wounds by the time CPD arrived on scene, the fact that officers were able to quickly secure the area and begin their investigation led them to find “th[e] water bottle and clothing [suspect Xavier] Tate was wearing at the time of the shooting...near [Officer Huesca’s] car[, and] Tate’s DNA...was found in the vehicle, and his fingerprints were found on a fence he jumped over after the shooting.”²⁷

The fact that ShotSpotter triggered a near-instantaneous CPD response is what ultimately provided authorities with the evidence to “track down the accused killer.”²⁸

- In Youngstown, Ohio, police officials noted that “officers [a]re dispatched [to the scene of a shooting] when the sensors [a]re activated, which was before someone could call 911[, and that] [a]rriving earlier allows police to find and preserve evidence before someone has the ability to remove it from a crime scene or alter it.”²⁹

²⁵ Boston Police arrest 14-year-old boy on gun charges, nab suspect after ShotSpotter report, <https://www.bostonherald.com/2024/06/03/boston-police-arrest-14-year-old-boy-on-gun-charges-nab-suspect-after-shotspotter-report/>.

²⁶ Officer Luis Huesca shot and killed while returning home from work: What we know so far, <https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/officer-luis-huesca-shot-and-killed-while-returning-home-from-work-what-we-know-so-far/3416742/>.

²⁷ Water bottle, DNA, fingerprints led to arrest of Chicago police officer Luis Huesca’s accused killer, police say, <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/officer-luis-huecas-accused-killer-set-to-appear-in-court-for-fatal-shooting-during-carjacking/>.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Youngstown police say ShotSpotter gunfire technology has helped them solve cases, <https://www.wkbn.com/news/27-investigates/youngstown-police-say-shotspotter-gunfire-technology-has-helped-them-solve-cases/>.

- In Detroit, Michigan, ShotSpotter “[w]as credited for leading police to a ‘gun manufacturing operation,’ which resulted in seizure of equipment and weapons, including ‘ghost guns,’ and two arrests.”³⁰

See **Exhibit 2** for a sample compilation of media stories about ShotSpotter’s successes in helping law enforcement over the last year and testimonials about ShotSpotter and its effectiveness from police command staff, elected officials, and community leaders.

As noted above, the letter not only cherry-picked data about how ShotSpotter helps save lives and reduce crimes, it also cherry-picked and referenced a relatively small number of communities that discontinued working with us, yet omitted any mention of all the communities that renew with us. The facts are that, while 10 communities chose not to renew with us between 2023 and 2024 year to date, ***136 communities across the country renewed over the last 12 months alone*** and ***25 of those customers*** didn’t just renew, they ***expanded their coverage areas***.

Notably, the letter mentioned that Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson announced his intention to end our partnership with the city. But, you should know that, on May 22, 2024, 34 of Chicago’s 50 alderpersons voted to strip Mayor Johnson of his ability to unilaterally terminate ShotSpotter’s contract with the city.³¹ Importantly, some of the most vocal advocates for retaining ShotSpotter are elected representatives of the most racially diverse wards in Chicago:

- Alderman Anthony Beale (9th Ward, 92.6% Black and 3.5% Latino)³² stated “it’s really important that we have the tools necessary to continue to fight gun violence in our community...[d]on’t take away this tool that we need...[w]e need ShotSpotter, we need technology like that to help our communities.”
- Alderwoman Monique Scott (24th Ward, 64.7% Black, 27.5% Latino)³³ said “[t]his is something my community needs.”³⁴
- Alderman Raymond Lopez (15th Ward, 20% Black, 70.1% Latino)³⁵ stated “ShotSpotter...brought our [CPD officers] to [police officers’ Ariana Preston and Luis Huesca] location [after they were shot] either because 911 wasn’t called, or it was called to the wrong location, but ShotSpotter was able to inform our...first responders, where to go.”³⁶

³⁰ Detroit ShotSpotter system leads to gun manufacturing bust in first week of operation, <https://www.mlive.com/news/2021/03/detroits-shotspotter-system-leads-to-gun-manufacturing-bust-in-first-week-of-operation.html>.

³¹ The Chicago City Council is pushing to keep ShotSpotter technology, despite Mayor Brandon Johnson’s effort to get rid of it, <https://www.wbez.org/politics/2024/05/22/the-chicago-city-council-is-pushing-to-keep-shotspotter-technology-despite-mayor-brandon-johnsons-effort-to-get-rid-of-it>.

³² Ward 9, <https://chirecoveryplan.com/geography/ward-9/>.

³³ Ward 24, <https://chirecoveryplan.com/geography/ward-24/>.

³⁴ Chicago City Council votes for plan to retain ShotSpotter surveillance system, <https://www.courthousenews.com/chicago-city-council-votes-for-plan-to-retain-shotspotter-surveillance-system/>.

³⁵ Ward 15, <https://chirecoveryplan.com/geography/ward-15/>.

³⁶ 2024 May 22 – City Council Meeting, <https://vimeo.com/showcase/6277394/video/948872038>.

- Alderwoman Silvana Tabares (23rd Ward, 3.5% Black, 76.1% Latino)³⁷ said that “[a]ll of the experts believe people in law enforcement who actually use the technology, and the vast majority of people who live in communities where it is deployed agree that ShotSpotter is a vital tool...ShotSpotter cuts response times, allows officers to render medical aid faster, preserve evidence and yes, make arrests...[o]pponents do not want to face this fact.”³⁸

We attach other key excerpts from the May 22, 2024, Chicago City Council proceedings in **Exhibit 3**.

While Boston is also referenced in your letter, you may not be aware of Mayor Michelle Wu’s support for BPD’s use of ShotSpotter. As recently as May 24, 2024, it was reported that Mayor Wu “strongly backed the police department’s plans to continue using ShotSpotter technology she said has led to ‘countless instances’ of lives being saved in the city.”³⁹ Going a step further, Mayor Wu “[b]att[ed] away criticism that the gunshot system...is ineffective and racially biased...sa[ying] the city’s strategy to use it mainly in minority communities aligns not only with data that shows that gun violence disproportionately occurs in those areas, but with feedback from residents there who often say they want a faster police response and better surveillance.”⁴⁰

3. Leaders of Communities of Color *Embrace ShotSpotter*

Community leaders embrace the use of ShotSpotter in neighborhoods with the highest rates of gun violence. These geographic decisions are color-blind—they are based on empirical data. The residents of these neighborhoods, regardless of their race, benefit from ShotSpotter’s effectiveness. That is why leaders of these communities, including leaders of color representing constituents of color, want ShotSpotter in their neighborhoods. The letter thus leaves what may be an unintended misimpression—that federal officials’ judgment should supersede that of the leaders and residents of the communities ShotSpotter serves.

Indeed, a central purpose of the DHS Urban Area Security Initiative grant program is to empower municipalities to define, design, and deploy a public safety ecosystem that is best suited for their unique areas. It disfavors the notion that federally elected officials or bureaucrats should substitute their judgments for those of local officials. Yet, the letter promotes a pernicious implication for all 170+ communities we serve, including in Massachusetts, that federally elected officials somehow know best and should dismiss the judgments of local officials who are intimately familiar with ShotSpotter, how it saves lives, and how it improves public safety.

This dynamic, where the elected officials of minority-majority communities are among ShotSpotter’s most vocal proponents, reflects the viewpoints of their constituents. In 2022, Fallon Research & Communications Inc. worked with the National Policing Institute to conduct a study

³⁷ Ward 23, <https://chirecoveryplan.com/geography/ward-23/>.

³⁸ 2024 May 22 – City Council Meeting, <https://vimeo.com/showcase/6277394/video/948872038>.

³⁹ Amid pushback, Boston Mayor Wu backs police use of ShotSpotter technology, <https://www.bostonherald.com/2024/05/24/amid-pushback-boston-mayor-wu-backs-police-use-of-shotspotter-technology/>.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

on residents' perspectives on gunshot detection technology in Chicago. The study is revealing for two principal findings:

- (1) Of the “large majority of participants who supported the use of gunshot detection in Chicago (72%)...[d]emographically, Hispanic/Latinos supported use of funding for the technology at 73%, with African Americans at 64% and Whites at 59%,” and
- (2) When an assessment of ShotSpotter’s favorability was polled, “[p]articipants that reported being Hispanic or Latino (79%) were most likely to have a favorable view of ShotSpotter compared to Blacks or African Americans (67%) or Whites (55%).”⁴¹

In other words, in terms of both support for, and favorability of, ShotSpotter, the two most enthusiastic communities were those whose populations are predominantly of color. These findings are further buttressed by the University of Cincinnati, which “conducted an independent community sentiment survey of residents living in a ShotSpotter-coverage area and found that 95% thought it was effective at fighting crime, while 89% recommended it to other neighborhoods.”⁴²

These results do not surprise us. Because communities of color unfortunately have long borne the brunt of gun-related violence, residents of these neighborhoods are among the most supportive of ShotSpotter’s benefits. The positive effect that ShotSpotter has on mitigating some of the fear that our most vulnerable and underserved communities face from gun violence is the reason that we continue to see increased demand for our services nationwide.

Simply stated, ShotSpotter is a tested and proven technology that has repeatedly—amidst rigorous scrutiny—proven that it is an effective, cost-efficient, empirically grounded, scientifically sound way to respond to gun violence. But, most importantly, it helps authorities save lives and fight crime without regard to color or race and in response to the objective determinations of policymakers and law enforcement personnel closest to the communities where it is deployed.

It is no wonder, therefore, that President Biden himself acknowledged this reality when—in speaking at the White House alongside Attorney General Merrick Garland on the Administration’s gun crime prevention strategy—he endorsed American Rescue Plan dollars being used by “[m]ayors...to buy crime-fighting technologies, like gunshot detection systems, to better see and stop gun violence in their communities.”⁴³

⁴¹ Chicago Community Sentiment Survey on Crime and Gunshot Detection, <https://www.policinginstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/2022-Chicago-Community-Sentiment-Survey-Public-Safety-and-Gunshot-Detection-Final.pdf>.

⁴² No, ShotSpotter doesn’t hurt low-income New Yorkers, <https://www.nydailynews.com/2022/01/20/no-shotspotter-doesnt-hurt-low-income-new-yorkers/>.

⁴³ Remarks by President Biden and Attorney General Garland on Gun Crime Prevention Strategy, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/06/23/remarks-by-president-biden-and-attorney-general-garland-on-gun-crime-prevention-strategy/>.

Lastly, overlooked in the letter are beneficial uses of ShotSpotter data, such as our Data for Good program. This program helps offices of violence prevention, schools, city and county public health departments and other community organizations understand where and when gunfire and potential trauma may be occurring so the appropriate resources can be deployed to offer immediate and lasting support and help address the core issues that drive crime.

ShotSpotter works. ShotSpotter saves lives. And ShotSpotter does both while complying with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. SoundThinking is proud to stand beside our fellow residents, and we will continue working with our partners to prioritize addressing the scourge of gun violence that has—for far too long—terrorized the most vulnerable and underserved among us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RAC', written in a cursive style.

Ralph A. Clark
President and CEO
SoundThinking, Inc.

CC:

The Honorable Joseph V. Cuffari
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane S.W., Building 410
Washington, DC 20528

EXHIBIT 1

EXHIBIT 1

Compilation of ShotSpotter success stories in local communities

1. [Boston Police Arrest Man, Seize Firearm After ShotSpotter Alert.](#)
2. [Pueblo, CO Police Department Reports Remarkable Stats in First Two Months of Rollout.](#)
3. [Albuquerque Police Department Reports 47% Decrease in Gunshots in One Neighborhood After Implementing Proactive Program.](#)
4. [ShotSpotter Assists with Investigative Breakthroughs in Glendale, AZ](#)
5. [The City of Syracuse, a Reinstated ShotSpotter Customer, Credits the Technology with Remarkable Reduction in Gun Violence](#)
6. [St. Louis County Prosecutors Leverage ShotSpotter Evidence to Secure Murder Conviction](#)
7. [Zero Homicides Reported in East Palo Alto in 2023 Due to Effective Policing, Proven Technology, and Community Trust](#)
8. [Camden County Police Department Credits ShotSpotter with a 47 % Reduction in Gunfire](#)
9. [A Game-Changer for Albuquerque Police Department’s Crime-Fighting Efforts](#)
10. [Detroit Credits ShotSpotter with Remarkable Crime Reduction](#)
11. [Three Officers Receive Anthony Testa Tactical Lifesaving Award After Responding to ShotSpotter Alert - West Palm Beach](#)
12. [Cape Girardeau PD Increases Evidence Collection With the Help of ShotSpotter](#)
13. [Perris Police Department Recovers Stolen Firearms and Ghost Guns with the Help of ShotSpotter](#)
14. [Winston-Salem Police Department Saves Lives and Takes Firearms Off the Streets](#)
15. [San Pablo Police Department Solves Highway Shootings with the Help of ShotSpotter](#)
16. [Harris County Sheriff’s Office Generates 130+ NIBIN Leads in First Year of ShotSpotter Pilot Program](#)
17. [Columbia PD Makes 39 Arrests, Confiscates 49 Guns in First Six Months of Program](#)
18. [Toledo Experiences Immediate And Significant Results Combatting Gun Violence](#)
19. [Omaha Police Department Leverages ShotSpotter to Improve Community Safety Since 2011](#)
20. [ShotSpotter Saves Lives in Columbus By Improving Response Rate and Time](#)
21. [Greenville Reduces Gun Violence Injuries by 29%](#)
22. [ShotSpotter and Best Practices Help Fort Myers Achieve Drop in Gunfire in 2020](#)
23. [Las Vegas Sees 26% Reduction in Violent Crimes](#)
24. [Small Town Embraces Big City Tech to Curb Growing Gun Violence - Kankakee, IL](#)
25. [Newport News PD Calls ShotSpotter an “Investigative Game Changer”](#)
26. [ShotSpotter Helps Mansfield PD Respond Quickly and Save Lives in First Month of Use](#)
27. [Cleveland Officials Credit ShotSpotter for Saving Lives and Ensuring a Safer Community](#)
28. [Hot Springs Police Department Reduces Homicides by 53% with ShotSpotter](#)
29. [Glendale Police Department Links 5 Shooting Incidents to the Same Perpetrator with the Help of ShotSpotter](#)
30. [Hartford Police Department Solves Highway Shooting Case with ShotSpotter](#)
31. [West Palm Beach Reports Sharp Drop in Homicides and Seven Lives Saved with ShotSpotter](#)
32. [Chicago PD Saves 125 Lives in Five Years with ShotSpotter](#)
33. [Houston PD Aids 16 Gunshot Victims with Rapid Response](#)
34. [Albuquerque PD Locates 179 Victims with the Help of ShotSpotter](#)
35. [Winston-Salem PD Provides Quick Aid to 27 Gunshot Victims](#)
36. [Oakland PD Aids 101 Gunshot Victims with Lifesaving Aid in 2020](#)
37. [Pittsburgh PD Helps Find 13 Gunshot Victims with ShotSpotter](#)

38. [Pittsburgh PD Achieves 40% Crime Resolution Rate with ShotSpotter](#)
39. [Columbus PD Makes 133 Arrests and Seizes 132 Guns in 16 Months](#)
40. [Newport News PD Seizes 886 Illegal Weapons in 2019](#)
41. [Toledo PD Makes 70 Arrests and Seizes 50 Firearms in 10 Months](#)
42. [Denver PD Connects 1,848 Shell Casings and Makes 337 Arrests \(2018-2021\)](#)
43. [Bakersfield PD Makes 50 Arrests and Seizes 37 Guns in First Year](#)

EXHIBIT 2

EXHIBIT 2

Compilation of testimonials / direct quotes / videos from police command staff, elected officials, and community leaders

1. *The Chicago Tribune* [reported](#) on the success of ShotSpotter in making the City of North Chicago, Illinois, safer. Per Police Chief Lazaro Perez, the city's implementation of ShotSpotter technology is improving relations between the police and city residents, since "[w]e show up almost immediately because we self-dispatch...[e]very time there's gunfire, a cop shows up...[so] [p]eople are seeing more of the police in their neighborhood...[and] they're more apt to cooperate and let us know what is going on." *The Tribune* article goes on to note that the City is experiencing less gunfire in areas where ShotSpotter is deployed, and that police response times have been cut by more than 10 minutes compared to before ShotSpotter was used, allowing police to to render aid to victims and arrest suspects.
2. *The New Hampshire Union Leader* [examined](#) the impact of ShotSpotter in Manchester, New Hampshire. According to Police Chief Allen Aldenberg, the system has contributed to a decrease in shootings and an increase in gun seizures and arrests. The city saw a 27% reduction in gunfire incidents in 2023. And through the first 4.5 months of the year, Manchester PD have seized 67 guns, nearly triple the number compared to the same period the previous year. "To me, that's a significant number of arrests and guns that are off the street that we never would have got if we didn't have ShotSpotter," said Chief Aldenberg. "The arrests we make on shootings that we may never have been notified about — to me, that's worth it."
3. [According](#) to WREX, the City of Freeport voted 7-0 to approve doubling its ShotSpotter coverage area at an annual cost of \$99,000 for the next 3 years. Before deployment of the system, law enforcement relied on community members reporting shots fired, leading to inefficient investigations and lost time for officers as they attempted to track down crime scenes. That's no longer the case. "I helped with the search warrant, and they could see where the shots fired were," explained Chief Shenberger – remembering an effective SoundThinking operation. "They found shell casings exactly where the alert was that led to the back door of a residence. So, we were able to get a search warrant, and then we found a pistol that had an illegal fully automatic switch affixed to the back of it." Police aim to have the expansion up and running as soon as possible.
4. 13 Action News [reported](#) on the Toledo City Council's decision to approve \$280,000 to extend its contract with ShotSpotter for another year in the north and east Toledo neighborhoods. Though the \$900,000 annual cost of the gunshot detection system is deemed a large investment, Toledo Police Chief Mike Troendle called the technology a helpful tool. "Us responding to more of those calls allows us to collect more of the casings at the scene which allows us, through other technology, to match up those casings and link crimes together. Ultimately while ShotSpotter might not solve the crime, the evidence we collect because of ShotSpotter does help us solve crimes," Troendle said.
5. WIS10 [reported](#) on the release of data in Richland County showing ShotSpotter technology had a very low rate of false positives of around 3% -- a tangible proofpoint that runs counter to opponents' unfounded criticism that the system is unreliable. According to Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott, ShotSpotter allows deputies to quickly respond to and investigate gunshot incidents that may otherwise go unreported. "We've still got a bunch of kids out here running around with guns that are shooting just like that..." he explained.

“We’re... responding now because ShotSpotter is telling us there were some guns fired at this location and we need to go find out who’s doing it.”

6. WKYC [reported](#) on plans in Cleveland to expand ShotSpotter technology to all five police district neighborhoods. Over the past three years, ShotSpotter has alerted police to more than 10,000 shooting incidents, including over 24,000 rounds fired. “The ShotSpotter technology is an incredibly important element that is greatly improving the capabilities of police officers to act swiftly in the event of critical incidents,” said Cleveland Police Chief Wayne Drummond. “Data reflects that shootings are responded to faster, and lives are saved, which is by far the greatest benefit.” The expansion is being paid for by American Rescue Plan funds.
7. “Gun crimes are an issue in our community and [ShotSpotter] is a proactive measure that is also helping build strong relationships with community members to collaborate and cut down gunshots fired in our city.” - Police Chief Harold Medina, Albuquerque Police Department
8. Glendale, AZ, Detective Brian Piech explained that ShotSpotter “allowed a timely response for the officers to get there and detain an investigative lead which turned into the suspect who was booked into jail.”
9. “ShotSpotter evidence can tell you if there was a gap in the shots, which could indicate something like deliberation, supporting an argument that the second round of shots was to ensure the victim died. In addition, the technology can lead to a faster police response, making it easier to ensure the integrity of the scene, locate witnesses, and preserve and gather evidence.” - Wesley Bell, St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney
10. “District attorneys prosecute based on the evidence they’re provided with. Our cops have to gather [evidence] through witness statements, but also, in cases of gunfire, through ShotSpotter data. ShotSpotter data has come to court many times, and our DA’s office and our prosecutors love that evidence. The jury can hear the gunfire, and that makes it real for them.” - Police Chief Jeff Liu, East Palo Alto Police Department
11. “I think [ShotSpotter] still has a lot of potential and that as we move forward, we can definitely continue to use and even possibly grow the program...[It helps our officers] get resources out there at the beginning of a shooting, all the way through [to] securing a conviction... I think it runs a very wide range of successes for us.” - Police Chief Harold Medine, Albuquerque Police Department
12. “Only 10 percent of ShotSpotter events have a 9-1-1 call associated with them.” - Police Chief James White, Detroit Police Department
13. “[ShotSpotter] has been a game changer for us. It’s helped us respond to gunfire faster and more accurately, and get some really bad criminals off our streets.” - Police Chief Wes Blair, Cape Girardeau Police Department
14. “Everyone in the department who has used ShotSpotter has been impressed by how accurate it is.” - Captain Matthew Sims, Perris Police Department

15. "I can tell you unequivocally that the technology and the analysis helps...we caught offenders at the scene several times because of ShotSpotter." - Former Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson, Chicago Police Department
16. "With [ShotSpotter] we're getting immediate information which gives us an opportunity to intercede with somebody dying." - Former Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy, Chicago Police Department
17. "If you've got a system that helps take shooters off the street, why would you want to get rid of it?" - Former Police Superintendent, Jody Weis, Chicago Police Department
18. "Our mission is to provide exceptional service to our community in partnership with the citizens, and to me, two lives saved, 47 guns recovered, and a police response to 80% more of the [gun] crime is pretty exceptional." - Captain Amy Gauldin, Winston-Salem Police Department
19. "ShotSpotter provided the genesis of where our Detectives needed to start our investigation. Through ShotSpotter, we were able to retrace the steps of the victim and suspects using our collaboration of technology assets." - Captain Brian Bubar, San Pablo Police Department
20. "ShotSpotter alerts are the foundation for a multi-technology response that enable us to have the real-time intelligence to respond and investigate. If you shoot a gun in the city of San Pablo, the odds of us identifying you and finding you are really high." - Captain Brian Bubar, San Pablo Police Department
21. "[ShotSpotter expert witness] testimony summarizing the technology used to evaluate the evidence found at the crime scene...undoubtedly solidified for the jury the verdict of guilty." - Special Agent Tim Jones, ATF - Chicago
22. "Everything we do in our lives requires technology. This ShotSpotter technology will help make Cleveland a safer city." - City Council President Blaine A. Griffin, City of Cleveland (customer since 2020)
23. "Since the city first adopted the ShotSpotter program in 2014, the homicide rate has plummeted by 35%. Gunshot incidents as an activity has been reduced by about 50% in the same period of time." - Mayor Francis Suarez, City of Miami (customer since 2014)
24. "We're seeing a 40% reduction in gun violence in areas we're using ShotSpotter. We're proud to be a ShotSpotter city." - Mayor John Cranley, City of Cincinnati (customer since 2017)
25. "[ShotSpotter] is like the intelligence network for how we respond to crime, how we solve crime... I think more importantly, this is one of our major linchpins for how we prevent crime." - Police Superintendent David Brown, Chicago Police Department (customer since 2012)
26. "We are a smaller city, but no less susceptible to the ravages of gun violence in our community... In just the first 3 months we have already seen impressive results." - Mayor Leon Rockingham Jr., City of North Chicago (customer since 2020)
27. "Giving agencies our size access to this important tool is critical for increasing the effectiveness of the investigations of shots fired calls and makes a statement that our city is taking proactive steps to reduce gun violence." - Police Chief Frank Kosman, Kankakee Police Department (customer since 2020)

28. “After almost 30 years in law enforcement, I’ve yet to find a more profound and proven way to increase community / police relations than ShotSpotter.” - Police Chief Scott Ruskowski, City of South Bend (customer since 2014)
29. “Ultimately, ShotSpotter gunfire data enables us to save lives by rendering aid to victims immediately, improve evidence collection, prosecution, and overall police effectiveness.” - Police Chief Frank Adderley, City of West Palm Beach (customer since 2018)
30. “[The ShotSpotter] technology is necessary if we are to make safety a priority in our communities and in our city.” - Sandra Turner-Handy, Resident of Detroit
31. “We can’t have a violent crime reduction strategy if we don’t know about 80% of gunfire...to me 2 lives saved, 47 guns recovered, and a police response to 80% more of the crime is pretty exceptional.” - Captain Amy Gauldin, Winston-Salem Police Department (customer since 2021)
32. “As we continue working with the community to build a safer, stronger DC, ShotSpotter helps us better focus and deploy resources to save lives and get guns off our street.” - Mayor Muriel Bowser, City of Washington, D.C. (customer since 2004)
33. “The ShotSpotter technology targets [gun] violence, quickly puts our officers where they’re needed, and helps us identify shooters, while building trust and restoring peace in the challenged communities we serve.” - Police Chief Skip Holbrook, City of Columbia (customer since 2019)
34. [ShotSpotter] is saving us time, making us more efficient and allowing us to solve crimes, and to link crimes... the linking of the shell casings allows us to see trends, see pictures and to realize if we are having a spike in a certain group, and to be able to address those needs better.” - Police Chief Renee Dominguez, New Haven Police Department (customer since 2009)
35. “ShotSpotter is an always present and unbiased source of information for us. We don’t have to rely on people calling 911. It’s always listening.” - Deputy Chief Scott Gray, Omaha Police Department (customer since 2011)
36. “To stop gun violence, we need to know where it’s occurring and ShotSpotter has detected hundreds of shootings that would have otherwise gone unreported. Our expansion of ShotSpotter is helping us reduce crime and make our neighborhoods safer.” - Captain James Laroche, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (customer since 2017)
37. “ShotSpotter has been a game-changer here in Chicago. We are correlating more shootings based on the evidence collected from the exact location.” - Lieutenant Laura West, Strategic Data Analytics Division, Chicago Police Department (customer since 2012)
38. “ShotSpotter is an important forensic tool that is more reliable than witnesses. My office relies on it to provide hard evidence on which gun fired first and from what precise location to help prosecute criminals.” - District Attorney Hillar Moore, East Baton Rouge (customer since 2007)
39. “I’m without 15 officers is a huge amount for Salinas [CA]. I have to use technology to augment what we do, to keep my community safe. I need this technology to keep us safe.” - Police Chief Roberto Filice,

Salinas Police Department (customer since 2016)

40. *The Times Herald* [reported](#) on Montgomery County, PA's upcoming deployment of ShotSpotter. The technology is set to be deployed in Pottstown and Norristown, according to Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin Steele. Citing swifter response rates, he pointed to enhanced situational awareness by police and the ability to save lives as key benefits of the tech. "If someone is shot, we will know exactly where they are. ... We're not being quiet about this. We want it to be really unattractive to fire a gun in public in these places," Steele said. ShotSpotter is set to be launched in those two communities by summer.
41. [According](#) to WLTX-TV, Columbia, SC PD has launched a new dashboard tool to track gun violence in the city. Fueled by ShotSpotter gunshot data, statistics are organized by location and victim and go back to 2015. The new tool shows that since 2015, most shooting victims in Columbia are between the ages of 20 and 24, More than 80% are male and 93% are Black. "We want to share this data with the public so our public can understand where we are as a community," explained Police Chief Skip Holbrook. "This is a shared responsibility. We're often times reacting to an act of violence, but...we've got to do something to change the course of this trend."
42. WKRG [reported](#) that ShotSpotter is set to be implemented in Escambia County. The tech will be used by both the Pensacola PD and the Escambia County Sheriff to detect gunfire in high-crime areas. According to Pensacola PD Chief Eric Randall, there were 400 shots fired calls in the city alone between 2019 and 2022. By adding ShotSpotter, city and county law enforcement are hoping to be alerted to many more. "When one single shot is fired, we can get the info before someone decides to call 911, because it's been my experience that people don't always call 911," Escambia County Sheriff Chip Simmons said. "They'll take themselves to the hospital and we will never know about it."
43. "With this one event we certainly got our money's worth out of ShotSpotter." - University Security Chief, West Coast U.S. University
44. "In the past, we may not receive 9-1-1 call(s) for shooting incident(s), but now we are receiving ShotSpotter activations and 9-1-1 call(s) more often than not. Why? Because the community knows we are here for them, and they know our goal is to make them feel safe and to make their neighborhoods a safer place, which has been done by partnering with the community as a team, and by showing them how technologies like ShotSpotter assist us in accomplishing that." - Assistant Deputy Police Chief Michael Shomo, Camden County Police Department
45. WFMZ-TV [reported](#) that ShotSpotter is set to be deployed in Phillipsburg, NJ, due to an escalation in gun violence. The town applied for and received \$297,000 in funds from the American Rescue Plan to install the technology. Phillipsburg Councilman Keith Kennedy heralded the new agreement "Crime is an issue, but it's not unique to Phillipsburg. It's in every town and city around us. I think the installation of the gunshot detection system that was passed tonight will be a step toward dealing with crime," he said.
46. [According](#) to WAND-TV, Springfield has decided to expand its deployment of ShotSpotter. Springfield Police will spend \$150,000—as part of a grant—to expand ShotSpotter by 50% for a total coverage area of 6 square miles. Springfield Police said the tool has been crucial, even in the past few months, giving officers leads in shooting investigations. "To me [ShotSpotter is] a very powerful tool that's important for Springfield citizens to keep them safe. It's also important to...keep our officers safe. There's an officer safety component," Chief Scarlett said.

47. WGHP-TV [reported](#) on the proven value of ShotSpotter in Winston-Salem. Enabling a quicker response by police, ShotSpotter has led to improvements in recovering shell casings, identifying property damage, and most importantly – saving lives. In [one such case](#), a gunshot wound victim was discovered in a local field. If not for ShotSpotter, police would have never known, and the man would have likely died. “When we’re looking at saving somebody’s life or looking at getting to a victim quickly to render aid and find evidence that we can then use to successfully prosecute that case, it’s invaluable to us,” said Winston-Salem Police Capt. Amy Gauldin.
48. KRQE [reported](#) on the arrest of a man tied to 15 shootings in Albuquerque. The suspect is accused of multiple drive-by shootings, shooting at homes, and even shooting and killing a dog. Using ShotSpotter to rapidly respond to shooting incidents, police leveraged ATF’s NIBIN system to process found bullet cases, which proved vital in tying cases back to the suspect. For APD, technology is key to getting serial trigger pullers off the street. “Officers are used to it. They now know, get these casings, get them in these machines, and we’re going to produce leads,” Commander Kyle Hartsock said.
49. *Erie Times News* [published](#) an update on the deployment of ShotSpotter in Erie, PA. The technology will soon be deployed in an area covering roughly 6 square miles. In the face of rising gun violence in that city, police are hoping that ShotSpotter will speed up their response to shooting incidents and enable them to aid shooting victims more quickly. “There have been other stories...where, if it hadn't been for ShotSpotter, the police would never have been sent to a location. When they get there, they find a victim who is hanging onto life. If we can get them medical help that much quicker, we are going to save a life, and what's that worth?” said Erie Police Chief Dan Spizarny.
50. “Gun violence destroys lives, families and communities, and reducing it is a priority for Columbia. The ShotSpotter technology targets this violence, quickly puts our officers where they’re needed, and helps us identify shooters, while building trust and restoring peace in the challenged communities we serve.” - Police Chief Skip Holbrook, Columbia Police Department
51. “ShotSpotter has turned into one of the most important cogs in our wheel of addressing gun violence. It’s just a win-win for the entire city.” - Police Chief George Kral, Toledo Police Department
52. “[ShotSpotter is] an always present and unbiased source of information for us. We don’t have to rely on people to call 9-1-1.” - Deputy Police Chief Scott Gray, Omaha Police Department
53. “You don’t have to accept gun violence in your community. Take action and take ownership. ShotSpotter can help you to do that just as it has for San Pablo.” - Lieutenant Brian Bubar, San Pablo Police Department
54. WALB-TV [reported](#) on the roll-out of ShotSpotter in Douglas, GA. Police say the technology is needed due to a large number of calls to 911 to report pops, bangs and booms that often aren’t gunfire. With ShotSpotter, Douglas PD will be better able to deploy resources. “If it’s an actual gunshot...within just a couple of seconds of them getting the notice that gunshots took place, [ShotSpotter]...will notify us so we can respond in a quicker, timelier manner to...address whatever is going on,” said DPD Chief Brannen Pruette.
55. “The only reason it exists is to detect gunfire, which, when we talked about it, 80 to 90 percent of gunfire in those areas goes unreported,” he said. ... “The way we see it, this is an investment of a lot of money to protect some of our most vulnerable communities.” - Assistant Police Chief Wyatt Martin, Houston Police

Department

56. In a radio [interview](#) airing on WGN-AM, noted Chicago Pastor Corey Brooks criticized the decision by Chicago's new mayor, Brandon Johnson, to remove the ShotSpotter technology that detects gunfire and alerts police. Brooks argued that ShotSpotter is desperately needed in high-crime areas like the South and West sides of Chicago to help respond to gun violence that plagues those communities. "One of the worst things that could have happened in Chicago is for us to have gotten rid of ShotSpotter," he explained. "Every day there are children killed. Every day there are young men gunned down. Every day the gangs attack and attack and destroy themselves in their communities. But as a result, we're told not to do anything about it. It's like, shut up, back off...don't get involved"
57. [KOMO-TV](#) and several other outlets ([here](#) and [here](#)) reported on a public meeting in Seattle over Mayor Bruce Harrell's proposed expansion of surveillance tech, including security cameras in high-crime areas and gunshot detection tech, ShotSpotter. While some attendees voiced opposition, community advocates argued these tools are needed to address Seattle's rising gun violence. "We can have (opponents of the expansion) talk about BIPOC, about the Black community, but have they been to a funeral? How many times have they sat with a mother crying because their son has been killed?" asked Rev. Harriett Waldon. "The Black community wants [ShotSpotter]. We need it," added community advocate Victoria Bush. The proposal faces a handful of additional steps before potential implementation this summer.
58. *The Baltimore Sun* [reported](#) that Baltimore County Police will soon implement ShotSpotter technology. The system will be deployed in two separate police precincts and used as a new investigative resource to combat violent crime. While a handful of critics are referenced in the piece, SoundThinking is quoted in reference to the tech's high-degree of accuracy and positive impact on police-community relations. In the meantime, Baltimore County Police Chief Robert McCullough is excited to see it deployed. "I fully support this new technology," Baltimore County Police Chief Robert McCullough said in a department news release. "I believe it will be a valued resource in assisting the Baltimore County Police Department in combatting gun crime."
59. WBAL-AM [reported](#) on early results from Baltimore County's implementation of ShotSpotter. The system was deployed in both the east and west sides of the county due to increased gun violence, especially among juveniles. "It's early, but we've seen some early success with it already," said Baltimore County Police Chief Rob McCullough at a National Night Out event where it's being tested. "It's just a tool. It's just another asset combined with all of the strategies we have to combat crime."
60. *The Reporter* [published](#) an op-ed penned by Montgomery County D.A. Kevin Steele regarding the implementation of ShotSpotter in that county. "I will do everything to ensure the safety of everyone...in the county, regardless of their zip code," he concludes. "I am also committed to saving lives and to...investigating and prosecuting all crimes when they do occur, then prosecuting those crimes. I believe ShotSpotter will aid in that effort."
61. KOLO-TV [reported](#) on the use of ShotSpotter technology in Sparks, NV. Deployed this past June, the system has already led to the arrest of a convicted felon accused of shooting a gun in the air following a domestic dispute. More broadly, Sparks PD view the technology as a critical tool to collect evidence and track the use of specific firearms through different incidents, according to Sparks PD Lt. John Patton. "And then it's just a matter of our investigators doing the leg work of getting video evidence or talking with more witnesses to try to determine who that person may be," he said.

62. KOAA News [reported](#) on plans to build a \$2.2 million dollar Real Time Crime Center (RTCC) in Pueblo, CO. The proposed RTCC would combine ShotSpotter technology with 22 surveillance cameras, 22 license plate readers, and two trailers with mobile surveillance solar cameras. "With our manpower issues, it's a way to force multiply the personnel that we have," explained Pueblo Chief Chris Noelle. Pueblo Mayor Nick Gradisar is another supporter of the new RTCC, and in particular, ShotSpotter. "It'll help them narrow down where the shots came from so that the police can respond. So it's an officer safety thing because the officers will have more information when they arrive on the scene than they would have without this system," he said.
63. *NJ.com* [reported](#) on a decision by the Newark City Council to expand ShotSpotter in that city. A ShotSpotter customer since 2011, Newark's expansion will cover the North and South wards of that city. Numerous stakeholders, from the city council to the Department of Public Safety. and police union, are quoted in support of the decision to expand – all pointing to the value of the tech in helping to address gun violence. "I think it's an important tool for the police division to have in order to address any suspected shots fired or criminal activity in the neighborhood," said North Ward City Councilman Anibal Ramos.
64. CBS News Sacramento [reported](#) on the effectiveness of ShotSpotter in Sacramento County. In the aftermath of a deadly string of shootings, law enforcement is using the technology to tackle gun crime head-on. Sacramento County Sgt. Amar Gandhi explained why his department appreciates the technology. "The ShotSpotter technology takes our response to a whole new level..." he said. "The accuracy is amazing, it's literally within feet from where the gunshot occurred, it will navigate you where the casings are and it's almost always perfect."
65. *GeekWire* [reported](#) on the release of Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell's 2024 budget proposal. Among his recommendations is \$1.8 million in funding to test "advanced safety technologies" such as ShotSpotter in that city. The plan, which also includes automatic license plate readers and CCTV cameras, would help support Seattle P.D.'s efforts in fighting crime amidst a persistent police staffing crisis. "These technologies will allow us to police more efficiently given low staffing levels and would be integrated into a more effective real time crime center — applying an evidence-based approach to reducing crime," a spokesperson for the mayor said. "These technologies are commonly used across the country and it's important that Seattle keep pace in allowing technology to assist in advancing public safety."
66. [According](#) to KMOV-TV, a budgeting shortfall in St. Louis County is putting ShotSpotter funding at risk -- and concerning many local residents. "It is helping us in our community and that in of itself is worth any amount of money..." said Tammy Tuggle, a local resident. While a decision has yet to be made, Shalonda Webb, Chair of the St. Louis County Council was unequivocal: "Public safety. Life and death. I don't believe that [removing ShotSpotter] would be the best choice for us," said Webb.
67. KBSI 23 [reported](#) on a decision by the Sikeston City Council, approving the use of ShotSpotter in that city. A grant will cover the cost of the program for three years. The system is reportedly set to be deployed across a total of two square miles. "It should enhance our abilities to find these scenes of these shootings that sometimes go unreported," explained Sikeston Department of Public Safety (DPS) Director Jim McMillen. Sgt. Tyler Rowe of DPS agreed. "It helps us...investigate locate victims, render aid and overall increase the safety and security of our city,"
68. KRNVT-TV [published](#) an update on the implementation of ShotSpotter in Sparks, NV. According to Sparks P.D., the new system is a game-changer. "Before, somebody would call us and we're driving around aimlessly not knowing exactly where to go and in those cases, maybe somebody might have been hurt and

we're looking in the wrong place," said SPD Lt. John Patton. Early results from the deployment are clear: since June 2023, SPD has received roughly 100 ShotSpotter alerts, leading police to find 74 shell casings and open 29 individual shooting investigations.

69. WSB-TV [reported](#) on the new deployment of ShotSpotter in Forest Park, GA. The system will be used in several areas throughout the city. The police are reportedly eager to decrease response times, a proven benefit of ShotSpotter. "We...are keenly aware of how gun violence impacts our local community, including an overall reduction to a high quality of life due to fear experienced by residents," explained Mayor Angelyne Butler. "It is our hope that we are able to mitigate, prevent and deter senseless acts of violence that for too long have had devastating consequences for survivors, victims and families here in Georgia and across the nation."
70. "There was a man shot on our streets and no one had alerted police. [Because of ShotSpotter], police showed up and administered CPR and saved him. He's alive today because of ShotSpotter." - Lisa Boggs, Columbus Community Activist
71. "Greenville [NC] has seen a 29% reduction in gunshot wound victims in the [ShotSpotter] deployment area. This is an incredible injury prevention success story in this national epidemic of gunshot death." - Dr. Eric Toschlog, Chief of Surgery, Vidant Medical Center
72. "While most of the country has seen a surge in gun violence in 2020, gunshots in Fort Myers have dropped 33 percent this year thanks to technology like ShotSpotter and our emphasis on best practices when responding to an incident." - Lieutenant Richard Meeks, Fort Myers Police Department
73. "To stop gun violence, we need to know where it's occurring and ShotSpotter has detected hundreds of shootings that would have otherwise gone unreported. Our expansion of ShotSpotter is helping us reduce crime and make our neighborhoods safer." - Captain James Larochelle, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
74. WITN-TV [reported](#) on discussions to deploy ShotSpotter in New Bern, NC. Following a request by New Bern Police to implement technology, the city's alderman are now asking the community to weigh in with their thoughts. The piece quotes a pair of officers from nearby Greenville, NC, a city already using the technology. Both pointed to ShotSpotter's life-saving benefits. "Officers are already enroute as soon as they receive that alert on their phone," explained Sergeant Tyler Whaley. "That allows them to find the crime scene, possibly find victims, officers can begin their investigative measures trying to build up suspects and cars and things like that, all while on the way to the car."
75. "[ShotSpotter] has sent us to spots where we went and we found the shell casings right there, the victim was lying right there." Police Chief Kemberle Braden, Fayetteville Police Department
76. *Ideastream* [reported](#) on the efficacy of ShotSpotter in Cleveland. Over two years, Cleveland PD received 6,600 gunshot alerts and made 56 arrests, including 18 individuals accused of violent crimes ranging from murder to domestic violence. While skeptics of the technology are quoted, the spokesperson for Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb sums up the true value of ShotSpotter. "As the Administration has previously stated, the most important benefit of utilizing technology is saving lives — something that ShotSpotter has accomplished here in the City of Cleveland saving the lives of over a dozen gunshot wound victims, an overwhelming majority of which have been Black victims." The contract for Shotspotter is up for renewal

next year.

77. ABC11 [published](#) an update on the use of ShotSpotter in Durham. It's been almost one year since the technology was implemented. There has been a total of 1279 ShotSpotter alerts published over the last year. It's led police to 41 gunshot wounds, 20 guns recovered, 22 arrests and 1370 shell casings collected and used for evidence. "There have been people we found who were shot and there was no corresponding 911 call," explained Durham Mayor Pro Temp Mark-Anthony Middleton. "We got to the hospital and their lives were preserved. For those families the technology is priceless."
78. KRDO [reported](#) on a decision by the Pueblo, CO City Council to deploy ShotSpotter across three square miles in that city. Funding for the new technology was approved by a unanimous vote of the council. "I'm confident that we're going to see positive results from this system," said Pueblo PD Chief Chris Noeller. "Statistically, the calls that we get from ShotSpotter come in 5 minutes before they do from our citizens..."
79. "The effects of ShotSpotter have largely always been best described...with stories how the program helped officers find an exact location, or helped detectives gather precise investigative data to aid in their case that involved gunfire." Sergeant Jake Becchina, Kansas City Police Department
80. WEAR-TV [reported](#) on a quick arrest enabled by a ShotSpotter activation in Escambia County. Before a 911 call could even be placed, a ShotSpotter alert sent deputies to the scene of a shooting. Their quick response ultimately led to the arrest of a suspected shooter who had little to no time to get away. "I think in this situation, the value of ShotSpotter is that we were already enroute to the location and had the shooter been in a vehicle, we might've seen him leaving the scene," explained Escambia County Sheriff Chip Simmons. "In this case, he didn't leave the scene. We were able to confront him." The suspect faces a charge of attempted murder and gun-related offenses.
81. *GovTech* [reported](#) on a request from the City of Albuquerque, NM to state legislators for more police and technology tools. Half of the \$40 million requested would go towards purchasing additional ShotSpotter coverage and surveillance cameras. Officials credit the technology with helping to build better cases and catch people faster, including in high-profile cases. "When an officer is dispatched to a call, we're trying to get all the information we have about that call to the officer," APD Deputy Chief J.J. Griego said. "It's about officer safety. It's about community safety."
82. [According](#) to *Our Weekly*, the Lancaster City Council is considering a proposed \$700,000 agreement with SoundThinking to implement gunshot detection. The deployment would total 4 square miles of an area known for gun violence. From Jan 2021-Sept 2023 there were over 500 firearm-related crimes in this area. "This program will support our local sheriff's department and the Lancaster Police Department's efforts to more effectively respond to and investigate gunfire incidents," Rodrick Armalin, chief of police, said.
83. News Media Group [reported](#) on a unanimous decision by the Pico Rivera City Council to approve a nearly \$200,000, one-year pilot program to test ShotSpotter in areas of the city impacted by gun violence. Pico Rivera provided ShotSpotter with more than two years of gun-related crime data to determine optimal sensor locations. City Manager Steve Carmona praised the decision. "The ShotSpotter system underscores our city's commitment to public safety...[and]...exemplifies our collective dedication to innovative solutions for maintaining safety," he explained. "By facilitating rapid and precise responses to gun-related incidents, we not only boost law enforcement efficiency but also reinforce our pledge, alongside the City Council, to safeguard our community through advanced technological means."

84. *Antelope Valley Press* [reported](#) on a unanimous decision by the Lancaster City Council to greenlight a six-month pilot and three-year service agreement for ShotSpotter service. “With this technology, it will give us exact locations to respond to, added Lancaster Sheriff’s Station co-captain Paul Bartlett. “[That] means either saving victims’ lives, maybe encountering suspects, arresting a suspect or even gathering that evidence that’s going to get put into the system to solve crimes down the road,” he said.
85. [According](#) to the *New Canaan Advertiser*, several Connecticut cities including Bridgeport, New Haven, and Hartford have reaffirmed their commitment to using ShotSpotter. City officials point to the numerous benefits of using the technology, including faster response to shootings, improved collection of evidence, and the opportunity to provide life-saving aid to gunshot wound victims. While a critic in the piece expresses concerns about cost, even he concedes that “seconds count” when apprehending suspects and providing aid to victims. Mayor Justin Elicker agrees. "ShotSpotter has generally helped us be much more accurate about the location and respond much faster," he said. "Officers receive the notifications on their cell phones so they don't have to wait for someone to call dispatch and dispatch to take that call and to dispatch officers to a location... It's a very helpful tool."
86. *El Observador* and numerous other outlets [reported](#) on initial results from Uruguay’s recent deployment of ShotSpotter, and so far, the system has proven to be highly effective. In the two months since activation, ShotSpotter has produced 320 alerts, helping police locate 8 gunshot wound victims and seize numerous firearms, vehicles and drugs. Out of those alerts, only 28 received accompanying 911 calls, a rate of less than 9%. The U.S. Ambassador to Uruguay, Heide B. Fulton, was on hand for the presentation and was [among those](#) touting the early results. “The use of ShotSpotter technology represents a significant step in the prevention and response to violent incidents,” she said. “This initiative is a clear testimony of how we can work together in the search for innovative solutions to contemporary challenges.”
87. Inspired by coverage around the use of ShotSpotter in Chicago, WREX-TV [reported](#) on the use of gunshot technology in neighboring Freeport, IL. According to Freeport Chief of Police Chris Shenberger, ShotSpotter has greatly supported the results of their investigations, allowing officers to recover firearms better, collect evidence, and respond to unreported shootings. “I think if we did not have it, we would be where we were before 2021. There would be times when gunshots fire, and an officer hears it but doesn't know exactly where it's coming from. If there's not a call, we wouldn't be able to find where that location was or find any potential victims,” said Chief Shenberger. Freeport has been a ShotSpotter customer since 2021.
88. [According](#) to CBS News, Pittsburgh plans to expand its use of ShotSpotter by spending \$85,000 to implement it in the Carrick neighborhood. Pittsburgh city councilman Anthony Coghill, who represents Carrick, notes that locally, the technology has a 90%+ accuracy rate. “We feel it's much safer and better to have this technology," said Coghill. As of 2021, the city spends more than \$1.1 million a year on ShotSpotter gunshot detection.
89. *The Times of Northwest Indiana* [reported](#) on the deployment of ShotSpotter in Hammond, Indiana. The installation comes on the heels of the city receiving a \$300,000 grant for the technology. Hammond's mayor and police chief believe deploying the proven technology will enhance public safety, particularly in reducing police response times to shootings. "Our top priority is ensuring the safety of all Hammond residents," Hammond Chief of Police William Short said. "By deploying ShotSpotter's proven technology, we are adding an essential tool that will enable our officers to rapidly pinpoint and respond to gunfire, ultimately helping to save lives and increase crime incident awareness."

90. *The Baltimore Sun* [reported](#) on plans by city officials to consider a \$2.1 million, three-year contract for ShotSpotter gunshot detection technology. According to Baltimore Police, in 2023, ShotSpotter alerts led them to shooting victims in 34 incidents with multiple victims in some cases. They also say that 91% of ShotSpotter alerts were not connected to a 911 call within 15 minutes. Highlighting the technology's benefits, Baltimore Police spokeswoman Lindsey Eldridge said in a statement that ShotSpotter alerts improve police response times to gunfire incidents, allowing officers to provide "necessary aid and quick medical care."
91. [According](#) to *The Daily Herald*, the Everett Police Department is seeking a \$300,000 grant to purchase a gunshot detection system to combat increasing gun violence in the city. "With an increased awareness of the amount and location of gun violence in our community, we would be able to engage both reactive and proactively with at-risk populations and provide them with timely prevention and support programs," said police, in a letter to the City Council.
92. *Antelope Valley Press* [reported](#) on the deployment of ShotSpotter in Lancaster, CA. The city agreed to a six-month pilot program and a subsequent three-year agreement. ShotSpotter technology is the newest addition to the city's arsenal of public safety programs, continuing Lancaster's development of the Digital Shield. "We are excited to partner with SoundThinking to bring this incredible technology to the City of Lancaster," Mayor R. Rex Parris said. "We believe that ShotSpotter will play a significant role in enhancing public safety and reducing crime in our community. We are excited to see the positive impact it will have on our city and the lives of our residents and visitors."
93. WLPR-FM [reported](#) on the addition of ShotSpotter technology in Hammond, IN. The technology, which will be funded through a \$300,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, as well as casino revenues, is part of the city's comprehensive strategy to reduce gun crimes through smarter policing practices. "Our top priority is ensuring the safety of all Hammond residents," said Chief of Police William Short. "By deploying ShotSpotter's proven technology, we are adding an essential tool that will enable our officers to rapidly pinpoint and respond to gunfire, ultimately helping to save lives and increase crime incident awareness."
94. WFLX-TV [reported](#) on the early success of ShotSpotter in Sikeston, MO. After going live at the end of February, the Department of Public Safety is crediting the system with a recent arrest. Responding to a ShotSpotter alert, officers were able to obtain a search warrant for a nearby home where they found a stolen AK-47. According to police, the suspect is a previously convicted felon and prohibited from having or owning a firearm. "We got that alert within 45 seconds to a minute. Officers were able to arrive on scene and basically preserve any evidence or locate any suspects or witnesses," explained Captain Jon Broom. "Without that technology, it's like searching for a needle in a haystack."
95. KTNV [took](#) a closer look at the use of ShotSpotter in Las Vegas. Deployed in the city since 2017, the system has since been expanded to cover nearly 25 square miles. According to police, a primary benefit of the system is improved response times to shooting incidents. "It makes it easier to go out and police and have an impact on violent crime," Lt. Bill Steinmetz said. "It helps us locate victims, suspects, crime scenes, witnesses and all the things that help a police agency combat crime." A pair of local residents were also interviewed, expressing their support for the system and pointing to its impact in a nearby shooting. "These criminals act out carelessly," explained a resident. "This area isn't safe. The intrusive part [isn't ShotSpotter] it's these criminals out here committing crimes."

96. WMDT-TV [reported](#) on a bid by the Pocomoke City, MD Police Department to implement ShotSpotter technology in the hopes of improving safety and combating crime. The piece notes that ShotSpotter is already in use in Cambridge, MD, where it's "proven itself" in helping officers there to respond to shootings faster and more precisely. "It's also allowed us the ability to get search warrants out of hearing the gunshots through ShotSpotter or using their camera systems along with ShotSpotter technology," noted Chief Justin Todd from Cambridge PD.
97. *Our Weekly Los Angeles* [reported](#) on early results from the implementation of ShotSpotter in Lancaster, CA. The deployment is part of a six-month pilot and subsequent three-year contract. Since its implementation, it has provided 36 confirmed alerts related to gunshots, leading to numerous arrests. Evidence collection has also improved, allowing police to fully benefit from ATF's NIBIN program. Wins already include crackdowns on illegal narcotics operations and gang-related activities. "I am proud to say that the deployment of ShotSpotter has been nothing short of exceptional," said Lancaster Mayor R. Rex Parris. "This innovative technology has proven invaluable in our efforts to combat crime and ensure public safety."
98. [According](#) to *Queen City News*, an 18-year-old woman has been charged with the murder of a 16-year-old in Chester, SC. According to police, the combination of ShotSpotter and other technologies played a critical role in the arrest. "The implementation of ShotSpotter and the Flock Camera systems within our city and county has proven invaluable to law enforcement," Chief William Petty said. "These systems have significantly enhanced our response times and provided crucial identification of vehicles and suspect information involved in criminal activities." The suspect has been charged with murder and possession of a weapon during a violent crime.
99. WOKV-FM [reported](#) on a decrease in shootings in high crime areas in Jacksonville, FL, a notable outcome that law enforcement attributes to the use of ShotSpotter. According to police ShotSpotter alerts are down nearly 25% compared to the same time last year, while shootings in the city are down 8.6% and murders are down nearly 30%. "It's not going to solve violent crime. It's not going to solve shootings, but it's a piece of the puzzle that we can use to do that," JSO Assistant Chief Michael Paul explained. "It is a tool that we use to keep people safe. It keeps people who are shot, and no one calls 911 alive. It also alerts the police to gunshots in neighborhoods where people aren't reporting those gunshots."
100. CBS News [reported](#) on a campaign led by a small group of misinformed yet vocal activists seeking to remove ShotSpotter in Minneapolis. The technology is currently under a multi-year contract and several years away from renewal. According to MPD Chief Brian O'Hara, it's also a valuable technology with benefits that cannot be measured on a spreadsheet. "We would know nothing about automatic gunfire in the city of Minneapolis without ShotSpotter. We would know zero," he said. The city's approach to addressing criminal gunfire has also helped save lives. This year, homicides are down more than 15% compared to this time last year. Police calls for gunshots, meanwhile are the lowest since May 2020. "We're trying to talk about saving people's lives, and if we're getting first aid to people minutes faster because we have this, I don't understand what the debate is," O'Hara said.
101. WKRG [reported](#) on the efficacy of ShotSpotter in Pensacola and Escambia County, Florida. Over the last six months, the system has alerted law enforcement to over 300 gunshot incidents. According to the police, the technology has been extremely accurate, enabling quicker response times and improved evidence collection. "It's been an asset to us and the community," Pensacola PD spokesperson Mike Wood said. "Most of the indications of shots being fired are legitimate, and there have been some cases where there were shots fired that we would have never known about had it not been for ShotSpotter."

102. “We find that the ShotSpotter technology is making our community safer in a financially responsible way by maximizing the impact of our officers’ response to shots fired calls.” - Police Chief Frank Kosman, Kankakee Police Department
103. “Ultimately, ShotSpotter gunfire data enables us to save lives by rendering aid to victims immediately, improve evidence collection, prosecution and overall police effectiveness.” Assistant Police Chief Eric Randall, Newport News Police Department
104. “ShotSpotter definitely increases the probability of evidence, victims and suspects being located.” - Police Chief Keith Porch, Mansfield Police Department
105. “ShotSpotter technology is assisting the Cleveland Division of Police in providing for the safety of our community through smarter, safer, and more effective policing. We are saving lives, building trust, and engaging our community thanks to the practices we are putting into place with ShotSpotter.” - Commander Brandon Kutz, Cleveland Division of Police, Fourth District
106. “ShotSpotter is an extremely important aspect to our Violent Crime Reduction Strategy. This piece of technology allows us to respond faster, to a more precise location, and in a safer manner. It’s about working smarter, not harder, and it’s about a better way of policing.” - Police Chief Chris Chapmond, Hot Springs Police Department
107. “ShotSpotter is an invaluable tool that enables us to respond to shooting incidents quickly, improving rates of evidence collection and restoring community safety in the process.” - Detective Brian Piech, Glendale Police Department
108. “Thanks to ShotSpotter, we were able to identify the precise location of the highway shooting, collect evidence, close the case and restore community safety all within a few hours. ShotSpotter is truly a game-changing technology.” - Sergeant Christ Mastroianni, Hartford Police Department
109. “Ultimately, ShotSpotter gunfire data enables us to save lives by rendering aid to victims immediately, improve evidence collection, prosecution and overall police effectiveness.” - Police Chief Frank Adderley, West Palm Beach Police Department
110. Boston Police Commissioner Michael Cox [said](#) the technology..., “saves lives.” It becomes particularly important in instances where shots are fired late at night and people don’t call 911, he said. In the same article, Cox stressed he “would not be willing to delay a tool that saves lives in the city.”

EXHIBIT 3

EXHIBIT 3

Transcribed excerpts from May 22, 2024 Chicago City Council meeting. The full meeting can be accessed [here](#).

(4:39:44-4:41:59) Alderman Anthony Beale: Mr. President, I rise to support this particular ordinance. Because I think it's really important that we understand this is about saving lives. This is about over 80% of the shots fired in this city do not have a 911 call behind it. Why is that? Because our communities have become complacent with gunfire, because we hear it all the time. So when you hear something all the time, you say to yourself, why should I continue to call? So we have a sense of complacency in our community that needed to be addressed and that's what ShotSpotter does. It fills the void. And let's not forget that many people have been shot and left for dead that could have potentially been saved if they had not gotten that ShotSpotter alert. It's about saving lives.

Now let's talk about the money for a minute. We're only talking about a few million dollars. Not to minimize it, any million is a lot, but we're talking about a few million dollars as a tool that our Police Superintendent said that we need. The former Police Superintendent of Police, Eddie Johnson, said we need. So, if we rely on the experts to tell us what to do, and that's what we do, we try to confirm experts to kind of guide us in the city because none of us are experts. But we try to put people in place that tell us what's best for that particular department. Now we're already short over 2000 Police in this city and you want to take away ShotSpotter. Every person that I've heard that testified that they want to get rid of ShotSpotter live in communities where ain't no shots being fired...

(4:42:01-4:43:45) Alderman Anthony Beale (continued): So it's real important that we have the tools necessary to continue to fight the gun violence in our community. Don't take away this tool that we need. If it was good enough to extend through the convention, to protect the conventioners, it's good enough to protect the residents of this city every single day. Every single day. And so, we have people who said you know we need more dialogue. Well, those are the same people who see the most shootings in this city. But, we need more dialogue. We need ShotSpotter, we need technology like that to help our communities. And I just implore each and every one of you to get past the politics. Campaigning and governing is different. We're trying to govern. Sometimes you have campaign promises you just need to break. But what's in the best interest of the entire city and not just a select few people who are dead set on canceling ShotSpotter.

So, y'all let's just do the right thing. We shouldn't even be talking about this when we're talking about having something in place that's going to save lives and is going to get the police to those scenes within 10 feet of that shot being fired to get the police to go to that particular spot in a timely manner. Time is of the essence. Let's do the right thing and put politics aside and let's govern for the best interests of the people of this great city. I recommend everybody to pass this item.

(4:51:10-4:52:08) Alderwoman Monique Scott: I am so disappointed in so many of you. I am disappointed. I had another mass shooting. I had to leave here and go to an operation for another mass shooting. This is the fourth mass shooting that I've had since being an Alderwoman. So I thank all of you. I thank everyone who voted no, I thank you. This is something my community needs. There were 90 shots, six shooters. 90 shots, six shooters. Not one person called the police. So, this is safe for the DNC, but not for my constituents? As Alderwoman Jenette would say, I digress.

(4:52:13-4:52:51) Alderman Nicholas Sposato: Thank you, Mr. President. I know some of my colleagues mentioned about the police being able to respond, but you forgot another important group of people first responders that save lives and that's paramedics, that's firemen that respond to somebody that's down and bleeding out and suffering and a lot of time fire, paramedics get there before the police so that's also an important thing. So let's not just forget about the police, this also helps the fire department when dispatchers dispatch the fire department to send an ambulance or an engine or a truck that would also save lives. So I just want to bring that all up to you too. So, so many communities like you heard my colleagues on the 24th Ward say they need help. Maybe my community doesn't mean as much help but I still support my colleague from the 24th ward. And when I do everything I could do to help my friends on the west side or the south side. I'm too a bit surprised Monique about how some people feel about this. I'm a little baffled. Maybe someday we can have a little group discussion with some common sense people and sort this out but um we need this. I mean, Larry Snelling, Eddie Johnson, I don't know what more we could say. I mean, those are two very, very well-respected people amongst all of us, I believe. I don't know anybody that dislikes either one of those two individuals. So with that, I hope you all consider it a very important tool for our community. Our city. Make us look good. Saving lives. We hear all the time one life if one life is saved. If one life is saved. So I'm going to say it...if one life is saved because of ShotSpotter then one life is saved. So with that, thank you, Mr. President.

(4:53:54-4:58:02) Alderman Anthony Napolitano: I'm pretty baffled by this as well. I think this is more agenda based. And what frightens me about this is this is a push or movement that has been done for the last three or four years, I should say four years in hopes to get rid of or three years in hopes to get rid of ShotSpotter. It's kind of based off of rhetoric or conversations that's put out there, misdirection conversation, misdirection in the media of the purpose of ShotSpotter. It's a tool. It is a tool. It doesn't claim itself to be a shot predictor. It claims itself to be ShotSpotter, after the fact. After the constant unfortunate fact in Chicago of shots fired. More here than from pretty much anywhere else in the country, if not in other countries that are war torn. We're affected by this in Chicago more than anybody else. Every single one of your communities is affected by this and every single one of your communities is affected by there's no police service anymore, because we demonize the police down here. So nobody's taking the job. 2200 I think is a soft number that we're missing. I think it's closer to 3000, if not more, and that's not even the amount that are going to be leaving very soon. And that's not even the amount that are not going to be taking this job in the future to protect our communities. This is a tool and I know a lot of you won't care about the way that it was used this way but it saved a lot of our officers lives. When our officers were in a shootout and an officer was shot. And we were not able to communicate that location over the radio quick enough in a 10-1, but ShotSpotter picked up where they were triangulated and gave the direct location of where those officers were to save those lives. I know a lot of you don't care about that, or some of you don't care about that. But I care about it. And our citizens care about it. And if it wasn't the police there, it was going to be the 25,000 people shot in this city in the last five years. Giving a tool to get to them and save them. And like my colleague said for our paramedics our street doctors to get there to save them. Because we're not bringing more police here and we're not securing the city

anymore. And we're not making it a welcome city not just for the illegal migrants but making it a welcome city for the people that live here right now. And it takes police from my ward and sends them somewhere else to patrol because we don't have enough police and we're eliminating tools. So when are we going to be on the right side of this? And until you come up with an alternative instead of paying somebody, a caseworker to go knock on doors and hopefully put down the guns and stop shooting each other until that day comes that we're going to start utilizing tools and start backing our police officers and saving some citizens lives in this city. Because every weekend...43 last weekend. Summer hasn't even started. You know what a lot of you are planning to do during the DNC and how it's going to get really bad in this city and I'm going to lose more police officers in my ward. I don't have ShotSpotter in my neighborhood, but God do I praise it in everyone else's neighborhood where it works and where it helps you. Drop your agenda. Drop your movements, or why you're here and just start worrying about the people that are killed in this city or the people that are shot and give us a resource in a tool until you come up with another way to do this. Keep this tool going until we figure out something else. You don't have to steal that money to put it somewhere else right now. You don't have to. Put it towards lives. Put it towards the right thing for the first time down here. Thank you, Mr. President.

(5:03:00-5:06:12) Alderman Raymond Lopez: This is technology. For all of the gaslighting attempts, technology does what it's created to do and this is created to detect sound, particularly a gunshot. This technology brought our police to Ariana Preston. Do we remember her? Police officer killed going home. Do we remember her? I know I was at her funeral. I remember her. Luis Huesca. Not a month ago. Do you remember him? I was at his funeral as were 17 of you. ShotSpotter, a technology some of you here call racist, brought our officers to their location. Either because 911 wasn't called or it was called to the wrong location. But ShotSpotter was able to inform our officers, inform our first responders where to go. That's what you want to keep talking about in committee? When you have innocent victims who have died on the street? Waiting for someone to call 911 and have only had help arrived because of ShotSpotter? That's what you want to keep talking about to try to justify why you need to get rid of this. There are individuals in this room where he'd gone to memorials for victims who were lying shot dead on the street for an hour. Died because no one ever showed up. Because there was no ShotSpotter in their community. That's what we're going to keep talking about? 260,000 bullets rained on the streets of the city of Chicago last year. That's how much evidence has been collected because of the technology that nobody wants anymore. Because we're committed to an agenda we're committed to talking about this again, just so we could talk about it again. And in the meantime, how many more dead people? Dead Chicagoans are going to be here as we talk about it again and again. And again. And then again. Mr. President, we don't need to send this back to the committee. We don't need to have more conversations. We don't need to play stupid because we know what this is about. There are those of us who stand with victims and stand with law enforcement. And there are those of us who are politicizing this so that they can continue to stand with criminals. It's an abomination. And I urge all my colleagues to vote against this referral so we could get back to the original motion asked by the sponsor for an immediate roll call on this item. Thank you.

(5:06:18-5:11:21) Alderwoman Silvana Tibares: Imagine for a moment we had the technology to send an alert every time smoke was detected in the building. It doesn't mean there's always a fire but it's common sense to use it anyway. Imagine we had the technology to send an alert every time motion was detected inside your business when it's closed. Or your house when you're out of town. It doesn't mean there is always somebody breaking in. But it's common sense to have a security alarm just in case. Imagine having the technology to send an alert every time a likely gun is fired in your neighborhood, on your block, outside your house. It does not mean there is somebody shot, but it's common sense. Because the fact is, sometimes there is a fire, there is a burglar, and in this city there's

often somebody shot. All of the experts believe people in law enforcement who actually use the technology and the vast majority of people who live in communities where it is deployed, agree that ShotSpotter is a vital tool. If I want a medical diagnosis, I'm going to see a doctor. If I need a bridge built, I'm calling an engineer. Let's listen to the experts and the people living in these communities when making these decisions. So why are we listening to a bunch of activists that know nothing about how this tool is used and really just want to divest a vital emergency response resource from communities of color to use the money for their own pet projects. ShotSpotter cuts response times, allows officers to render medical aid faster, preserve evidence and, yes, make arrests. Opponents do not want to face this fact. Because by their logic we might as well be cutting ambulance services too, DFD engines along with smoke detectors and burglar alarms. Let's be real, this is about money. They want to divest a life-saving tool to put cash in their pockets to address "root causes." The city just spoke loud and clear with the defeat of the Bring Home Chicago effort. They do not trust these undefined plans where organizers say just give us the money and trust us. We can expand opportunity through job training, programming, incentivizing business investment to create jobs in underserved communities and teach young people the skills to succeed all while keeping this vital public safety infrastructure in place. This is not an either or this is a both and. But it's been framed as a mutually exclusive decision. Because yes, we owe the people of this city to work to create opportunities in their communities. But we also have the responsibility to invest in making sure they are as safe as possible on their way to their new school or their new jobs. So I make this pledge. I'm going to fight every moment that I have a seat on this council with as many tools as possible to keep our communities free of gun violence and provide the most rapid response possible when shootings do happen. You want to talk about root causes. I want to talk about root solutions, getting guns and those who use them off the streets and saving lives when a person is shot should be our priority. Just as the seed will not take root until the soil is tilled. No lasting change can take root until we have cleared our neighborhoods of the guns, violence and those who wreak havoc on our residents. If you share this mission, vote yes, but if not, so be it. But don't look at the next victim's family in the face and say you did all you could to keep their loved ones safe and alive. Thank you.

(5:11:28-5:13:58) Alderman Peter Chico: Over the past few months I've heard people who support it and I've heard people who are against it. What I haven't heard in this chamber is someone who has actually dealt with it. I've dealt with it. I've used ShotSpotter. And I've seen what happens. I've seen that it works. Many times as a tactical officer working in the fourth district. I was the first person on scene, seeing the body on the ground, several shots, radioing what I'm seeing and saying that we need an ambulance. And the next question we asked was, "Do we have any calls?" And oftentimes, the answer was "No, we've had zero calls." That body that I saw down there many, many times, we can't put a price tag on. What we're paying for ShotSpotter is invaluable. We cannot put a price tag on the bodies and the people we save each and every day. This past Friday over 450 shots rang out in our city. One day of the year, 450 shots and you're telling me we don't need ShotSpotter? You're telling me this technology, we could do away with it. That doesn't make much sense to me. The men and women who go out there every day, protect us, depend on it. If we take four or five Aldermen outside and somebody rings out a shot, we're going to get four or five different responses where that shot came from; it could be east, west. ShotSpotter directs us to the proper location. And one of my biggest parts of my ward Altgeld Gardens, one of the biggest CHA complexes. We have shots firing out there all the time. We need ShotSpotter to direct us where to go. I believe in this technology. I've seen it save lives in my 10 years of CPD. I ask my colleagues to support this. We need this and our residents support this as well.

(5:39:41-5:41:36) Alderwoman Nicole Lee: We have ShotSpotter in the 11th ward. My community wants ShotSpotter to continue to be a tool that the police can use. Every police officer that I talked to in the 9th district says the same thing. I happen to have, unfortunately, had a death in my ward. I was not in my ward, but a 53-year-old man, married with a family, who happened to fill in for a delivery driver at the restaurant that he manages, was delivering food in Inglewood. And, in an attempted carjacking, was shot and ultimately killed. There was not one 911 call that was placed for that man. ShotSpotter brought the police and EMTs over there. Unfortunately, that didn't save his life just like it didn't save Arianna Preston's life, or Luis Huesca's because it's not a perfect tool by any means. But to say that we don't need as many tools as we can in this fight for public safety and this is about this is not just a tool for the police. It's a tool for the safety of our city. Because if we don't have this anymore, and we don't have a plan for replacement, Mr. President, we got to have a plan for a replacement if that's the plan. I think we haven't heard any of that yet. And I think that's part of what's missing. But to be clear, we had this discussion in committee. And I can't speak to the legalities of everything at this point but it would have been great to have that conversation a while ago and I think we wouldn't be here. I think the additional conversation would probably be a good thing. And I hate to agree with some of the sentiment about whether or not we're actually going to do that, because there was an opportunity to do that previously. And with that, I thank you for the time.