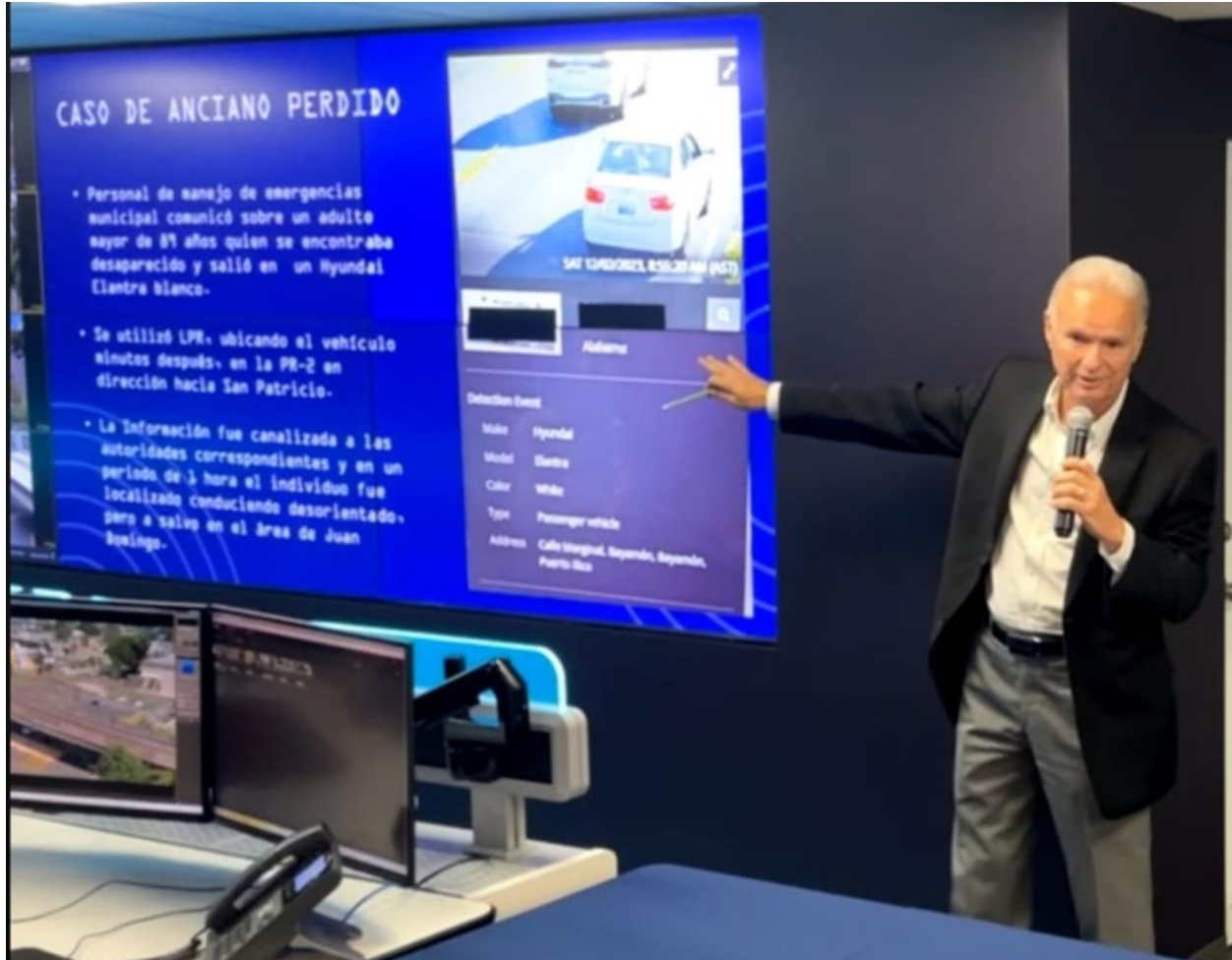


Gunshot Detection System Reactivated in Bayamón

It will be a municipal pilot plan whose effectiveness will be measured once it is integrated into the Electronic Surveillance Center.



The mayor of Bayamón, Ramón Luis Rivera Cruz, announced the reactivation through a pilot program of the Shotspotter system, as a tool to deal with the incidence of crime. (Screenshot from Facebook)



[For the first hour](#)

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The cyber monitoring system known as "Shotspotter" will be reactivated in the municipality of Bayamón for a period of six months as part of a pilot plan that will use this tool to address crime incidence and crime prevention.

Mayor Ramón Luis Rivera Cruz, in a press conference from the new Electronic Surveillance Center, explained this Wednesday that he will reinforce the work of the Municipal Police to respond quickly to incidents involving the use of firearms.

To this end, "Shotspotter" will work in an integrated manner with the camera system and the photo-reading system of tablets, as applicable, to add to the monitoring of the secondary entrances and exits of the municipality.

Due to the electoral ban, the contract was signed for six months with an investment of \$15,000 and would be extended to one year, in total, to measure its effectiveness.

The state contract for the Gunshot Detection System, which debuted in 2012, was not renewed by the Department of Public Housing due to lack of federal funds for those purposes and ceased operations in January 2024.

Rivera Cruz explained at the press conference that the advanced forensic technological system reduces the response time by at least 3.5 minutes and uses a network of acoustic sensors located in strategic places, which detect and triangulate the sound coming from gunshots, sending real-time alerts to the electronic surveillance center on the precise place where the detonation occurred.

This technology, which will cover a radius of five square miles, has the capacity to analyze and segregate detonations from firearms versus others that occur from other activities, such as pyrotechnics (fireworks), among others. It also identifies the type of weapon from which the detonation came, whether it is an automatic weapon or pistol.

"On the subject of security, for more than two decades, in Bayamón, we have bet on technology as an essential complement to support our Municipal Police, since we were the first municipality in Puerto Rico to establish the electronic surveillance camera system (in 2004), as well as the system to read and recognize boards and vehicles with the use of artificial intelligence and a system of autonomous drones for preventive surveillance," The municipal executive added.

Regarding the tablet reading system, the mayor revealed that it will be expanded by raising the number of available cameras to 49 and mentioned that, between January of this year until today, this tool has contributed to solving 32 cases of stolen or missing vehicles that have been recovered and other cases that have involved the commission of crimes. such as the assault on an elderly woman on the premises of a supermarket, which was clarified.

In turn, he mentioned that it has been an essential piece for the location of missing elderly people in the city. Since its inception in December 2023, this system has provided evidence in 31 cases that have been prosecuted in court.

The photo-reading system of license plates, on the other hand, has the ability to verify in real time the license plates of all vehicles that travel in the jurisdiction of Bayamón and compare them with the database used by the Puerto Rico Police Bureau (NPPR), which also includes the list of vehicles that have been stolen through theft. "carjacking", kidnapping or other criminal modality. In addition, it gives access to the list of most wanted people.

"If the camera system detects any irregularity in relation to a vehicle or person against which an alert has been issued by the Police, an alert is immediately activated in the Electronic Surveillance Center and the operators mobilize all the units on the street," said the mayor.

Currently, they have 126 cameras installed acquired with funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the goal is to complete the 450, to be distributed in strategic places throughout the city.

Similarly, the system also has the capacity to store data and initiate a search with specific information by segregation by description such as grouping and discerning vehicles by make, color and year.

For their part, they have the "autonomous drones" team, which is equipped with cameras with the ability to operate autonomously through programming and carries out preventive rounds in accordance with the needs of the security plans of the moment. It is activated with a flight pattern that sends real-time visuals to the electronic surveillance system.

"The electronic surveillance system has been decisive in our prevention and security plans. From 2004 to 2017, film evidence had been provided to the courts in more than 400 cases, which reduced the time of trials, since the defense lawyers decided to reach agreements with the prosecution, which resulted in more convictions. All this technology serves as a complement to the existing camera system because it expands its coverage radius without replacing the preventive surveillance plan offered by the police on the street," concluded the mayor.

Rivera Cruz also announced that on January 16, 2025, the base salary of a municipal police officer will be increased to \$3,000 with a differential of \$200 because it is a high-risk job.