

July 11, 2024

The Honorable Brad Lander Comptroller Office of the New York City Comptroller David M. Dinkens Municipal Building 1 Centre Street, 5th Floor New York, NY 10007

Dear Comptroller Lander:

I write to respond to your June 20, 2024, report titled "Audit Report on the New York City Police Department's Oversight of Its Agreement with ShotSpotter Inc. for the Gunshot Detection and Location System," (the "Report") concerning the deployment in New York City of SoundThinking's acoustic gunshot detection technology, more commonly known as ShotSpotter.¹

As the CEO of SoundThinking, the company that created ShotSpotter, I recognize and respect the important role the Office of the New York City Comptroller plays in auditing contracts between the City and vendors, such as SoundThinking. Ensuring that taxpayer resources are being appropriately spent and that New Yorkers receive value for the investments that City officials procure on their behalf is critical to good governance. As a company, we strongly believe in transparency and close collaboration with our municipal partners through the lifecycle of our partnerships. It is a defining feature of how we operate and partner with more than 170 police departments across the country and internationally.

We also believe openness must be a two-way street, and so we want to be equally clear in our response: We have read the Report, and we find it gravely flawed and misinformed.

To start, it is disappointing that we were never given the opportunity to meaningfully engage on the substance of the Report to review its accuracy and provide feedback prior to its publication. Consequently, the Report unfortunately fed into a tired, libelous, false narrative about ShotSpotter instead of dealing in good faith with the facts, and it drew false and misleading conclusions from faulty methodology and metrics. The Report also demonstrated a brazen disregard for the expert responses and input provided by the agency charged with keeping New Yorkers safe—the New York Police Department ("NYPD").

Most importantly, the Report measures the wrong thing. It completely ignores what matters most: whether ShotSpotter provides awareness of gunfire in real time, if it enables police to respond quickly and safely, and, most importantly, how it saves lives.

¹ Audit Report on the New York City Police Department's Oversight of Its Agreement with ShotSpotter Inc. for the Gunshot Detection and Location System, <u>https://comptroller.nyc.gov/wp-content/uploads/documents/FP23-074A.pdf</u>.

It's a fact that ShotSpotter saves lives in the places hit hardest by gun violence. Research has shown it decreases the critical time for EMS to arrive at shooting scenes, enhancing victim survivability. But the Report disregarded these facts, advancing a misleading narrative and maligning ShotSpotter in the process.

I. Background

According to the 2018 Police Commissioner's Report, between 75 and 80 percent of shotsfired incidents in New York City go unreported to 911.² Each unreported gunfire incident deprives NYPD of the opportunity to dispatch first responders to render medical aid to potentially impacted victims, catch perpetrators, collect any forensic evidence, speak with witnesses, and reassure the community that they will be there when violence strikes.

ShotSpotter was created to help bridge what we know is a glaring gap in the 911 reporting system when it comes to gun violence, an epidemic that plagues our nation. According to NYPD, as of June 23, 2024, there have been 487 gunshot victims and 409 shooting incidents in New York City during 2024.³ For just the week ending June 16, 2024, 30 people were struck in 24 shootings, compared to 18 gunshot victims in 16 incidents during the same period last year—a 50% increase.⁴

Our technology—which is used in over 170 municipalities across the United States and internationally—proves on a daily basis its value and ability to help police quickly respond to shooting incidents, to allow first responders to assist gunshot wound victims, to enhance evidence collection, to increase the likelihood of arresting assailants, and, ultimately, to make communities safer places to live, work, and raise families.

ShotSpotter's differentiated value—when compared to traditional 911 calls—plays a large role in explaining its strong support amongst law enforcement officials. Typically, when an individual calls 911 to report gunfire, they are inside. Being within an enclosed structure deprives even the most well-intentioned caller of critical information about a shooting, including where the shooting occurred and how many shots were fired. However, since ShotSpotter is deployed in outdoor environments, its sensors are specifically designed and calibrated to accurately triangulate the location of fire and count the number of rounds discharged. **Exhibit 1** contains a graphic overview of how a ShotSpotter alert is generated from the moment gunfire is detected.

ShotSpotter is also incredibly accurate. Through our Service Level Agreement (SLA) with NYPD, ShotSpotter is contractually obligated to maintain a 90% accuracy rate—a more stringent level than is required with any other ShotSpotter customer—or face financial penalties. SoundThinking has still met our SLA requirements with NYPD a majority of the time. This is the main reason why, since 2014, NYPD has considered ShotSpotter an essential crime-fighting tool.

² 2018 Police Commissioner's Report, <u>https://www.soundthinking.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2018-Police-Commissioners-Report-SST-Section.pdf</u>.

³ Police Department, City of New York, CompStat Report covering the week of 6/17/24 through 6/23/24, <u>https://www.nyc.gov/assets/nypd/downloads/pdf/crime_statistics/cs-en-us-city.pdf</u>.

⁴ NYC gun violence spikes as summer heat hits the five boroughs: 'It's that time of the year', <u>https://nypost.com/2024/06/19/us-news/troubling-spike-in-nyc-gun-violence-as-summer-heat-hits-the-five-boroughs/</u>.

Exhibit 2 provides a comprehensive overview of ShotSpotter's monthly accuracy rate from January 2022 through June 2024 across all five boroughs, including amounts remitted to NYPD.

ShotSpotter's precision and accuracy are the leading reasons why it has become a strong evidentiary tool for prosecutors in their fight against gun violence. Each time a ShotSpotter alert picks up gunfire, it creates evidence of the incident, which can then be introduced during criminal proceedings. ShotSpotter's forensic evidence has been formally accepted in over 340 cases across 24 states, and prosecutors have repeatedly prevailed in dozens of *Frye* and *Daubert* challenges where defendants have sought to exclude ShotSpotter evidence. Scores of state and federal judges have assessed ShotSpotter's reliability under rigorous evidentiary standards, including in the State of New York. SoundThinking has prepared a total of 586 detailed forensic reports (at the request of either NYPD or New York City District Attorneys) for use in New York State judicial proceedings and has been asked to provide either an expert or custodian witness for 133 cases tried in New York courts. **Exhibit 3** cites several cases where New York courts ruled on the admissibility of ShotSpotter evidence. In addition, New York City Assistant District Attorneys have credited one of our forensic experts as being integral to successfully prosecuting gun criminals in multiple cases

When considering the above, it is no wonder that NYPD regularly touts ShotSpotter's effectiveness and has referred to the technology as an "integral tool" and "a tremendous asset" to address gun violence. On June 26, 2024, New York City Mayor Eric Adams called it "an amazing tool" and that "we need to listen to the police experts, and they did rigorous reviews over this tool."⁵

NYPD is far from alone in attesting to the value and benefits of ShotSpotter. Instead of providing an exhaustive, point-by-point response, we focus on two principal problems that most imperil the Report's findings.

II. <u>Misleading Finding #1: "Very Low Rates of Confirmed Shots Detected"</u>

The Report found that "[d]uring th[e] period [from January through June 2023], the percentage of confirmed shooting incidents...dropp[ed] to rates ranging from 8% to 13%."⁶ According to the Report, these figures were calculated by auditors who "reviewed the data in NYPD's ShotSpotter Tracking report...to determine the correlation between ShotSpotter alerts and confirmed shooting incidents."⁷ Yet, the Report also indicated that "ShotSpotter alerts are considered confirmed shooting incidents when NYPD recovers evidence such as firearms, ballistics, or video, or if there are eyewitnesses, victims shot, summary arrests, or 911 calls that report a shooting [emphasis added]."⁸

It is shocking that the Report proceeded to use its own metric for "a confirmed shooting incident" based on its own view of correlation—one that ignores the realities of criminal activity—

⁵ Mayor Adams joins News 12 to talk summer crime, ShotSpotter issues and more,

https://brooklyn.news12.com/mayor-adams-joins-news-12-to-talk-summer-crime-shotspotter-issues-and-more. ⁶ Report.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

and wholly disregarded NYPD's measurement. In doing so, the Comptroller's Office substituted its own judgment for the law enforcement expertise of NYPD. If intentional, this poses a dangerous threat to an informed public. If unintentional, we urge the Comptroller to revise its finding.

In essence, the Report's standard will only classify a ShotSpotter alert as "confirmed" if one of two forms of evidence are collected at a location where officers are dispatched following a ShotSpotter alert: (1) physical evidence (i.e., firearms, ballistics, a victim shot, or summary arrest); or (2) testimonial evidence (i.e., 911 calls, eyewitnesses, or video). Unfortunately, these methods of verifying gunshots are more suited for an episode of *Law & Order* than they are for the realities of policing.

The NYPD's response letter (the "Response") attached to the Report—in addition to several meetings between NYPD and the Comptroller's office—made it clear that "there is no direct correlation in comparing ShotSpotter alerts to confirmed shootings" as "many variables, outside of the control of ShotSpotter ... can impact a ShotSpotter alert becoming a confirmed shooting incident or not." Moreso, the Response continues: "The NYPD is limited in what it can consider a 'confirmed shooting' in conjunction with a ShotSpotter alert, to alerts which result in the recovery of evidence (i.e. ballistics, property damage, shell casings/live ammunition, firearms, video, ear or eyewitnesses and/or victims). While this point is briefly mentioned in the Report, it is buried in the findings section. The Report also fails to explain that due to this factor, it is difficult for the NYPD to quantify exactly how many ShotSpotter alerts are actually "confirmed shootings." Additionally, there is no mention that in an overwhelming majority of the cases, the ShotSpotter alert results in the preparation of a complaint report, which then results in a follow-up investigation by the Precinct Detective Squad."⁹ We are only left to wonder why the Report dismissed NYPD's expertise in making this finding.

A. Physical Evidence

The Report made a severely illogical assumption that physical evidence must be located to prove a ShotSpotter alert detected a shooting. A critical factual principal holds true in law enforcement and was wholly disregarded by the Report—that *the absence of evidence of a shooting isn't evidence of absence*.

For example, regarding weapons, criminals aren't predisposed to leave their weapons at crime scenes for extremely obvious reasons. Similarly, it's an incorrect assumption that shell casings will be recovered at every shooting scene. NYPD made this point in their Response but were again ignored.¹⁰ NYPD noted that shell casings may be "unable to be recovered for a multitude of reasons (use of a revolver),¹¹ firing from a vehicle where shell casings remain in the car, etc.)"¹² Furthermore, criminals understand that not only firearms, but also shell casings, can be traced back to them through entry in the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network,

⁹ Response to Revised Draft Audit Report on The New York City Police Department's Oversight of Its Agreement With ShotSpotter, Inc. for the Gunshot Detection and Location System (FP23-074A), https://comptroller.nvc.gov/wp-content/uploads/documents/FP23-074A.pdf.

¹⁰ Response.

¹¹ Note: Revolvers do not automatically eject shell casings after each round is fired. Instead, shell casings must be manually removed from the weapon by the shooter.

¹² Response.

incentivizing them to collect spent casings before leaving the scene. Once again, this means that the absence of shell casings at the scene doesn't prove a shooting didn't occur.

The final physical evidence type that the Report required to confirm a shooting—a victim or perpetrator at the scene of a ShotSpotter alert—is similarly nonsensical. Not every gunfire incident results in a victim being struck. Additionally, since many incidents are criminal-oncriminal shootings, if a struck victim *can* extricate themselves from the scene of a shooting, they may very well do so. And, of course, perpetrators flee crime scenes to avoid arrest. Therefore, the lack of a "summary arrest" following a ShotSpotter alert is equally absurd to categorically conclude that no shooting occurred.

B. Testimonial Evidence

The Report also stipulated three types of testimonial evidence to confirm a ShotSpotter alert is tied to an actual shooting, falling prey to similarly flawed assumptions as physical evidence for verification.

First, treating the absence of a corresponding 911 call to a ShotSpotter alert as evidence that a shooting did not occur is logically erroneous and ignores the fact that 75-80% of shooting incidents go unreported, such as via 911.¹³ Simply stated, ShotSpotter *exists* because 911 calls are insufficient alone to comprehensively report gun violence. A strong example of this was identified by NYU School of Law's Policing Project, which 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."¹⁴ Their study found that "[i]n 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."¹⁵

Second, pointing to a lack of eyewitnesses to corroborate a ShotSpotter alert as evidence that the alert was erroneous is equally misguided. Preliminarily, there is the obvious problem that criminals seek to avoid eyewitnesses who could implicate them in a crime. That is one reason why gun violence acts frequently occur at night, reducing the chance of witnesses.^{16,17,18} Another gun violence reality is that it is often the product of criminal-on-criminal violence.^{19,20} In addition, as

 $\frac{https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58a33e881b631bc60d4f8b31/t/603923e3a32c3f57d67dabec/1614357476874/}{Measuring+the+Effects+of+Shotspotter+on+Gunfire+in+St.+Louis+County%2C+MO.pdf}$

¹⁹ 18 Charged in Gang Violence That Killed Two 16-Year-Old Boy,

¹³ 2018 Police Commissioner's Report.

¹⁴ Measuring the Effects of ShotSpotter on Gunfire in St. Louis County,

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ 16-year-old arrested in deadly triple shooting outside Inwood subway station, <u>https://abc7ny.com/post/nyc-crime-16-year-old-arrested-deadly-shooting/14975835/</u>.

¹⁷ Two shot in Brooklyn deli late this morning – after four wounded in overnight NYC shootings, https://nypost.com/2024/06/08/us-news/four-people-wounded-in-overnight-nyc-shootings-2/.

¹⁸ NYC crime: At least 11 shot, 2 fatally, citywide since midnight, <u>https://www.fox5ny.com/news/nyc-crime-fordham-heights-shootings-bronx</u>.

https://www.nytimes.com/2024/05/29/nyregion/gang-violence-murder-charges-brooklyn.html

²⁰ Two rival gangs clashed on New York subway train before shooting that left 1 dead, 5 injured, police say, <u>https://www.cnn.com/2024/02/12/us/bronx-subway-station-shooting/index.html</u>.

police officers know well, a frustrating aspect of shooting investigations is that witnesses often refuse to cooperate due to repercussions and stigmas associated with doing so.^{21,22} Even shooting victims often refuse to cooperate.²³ Consequently, it is flatly wrong to suggest that a lack of eyewitness accounts means a shooting did not occur, and, therefore, a ShotSpotter alert was a false positive. Instead, eyewitnesses may not be present to confirm the shooting or may refuse to do so.

Finally, suggesting that a lack of video evidence proves that a ShotSpotter alert is false is inherently problematic. For one, video cameras do not cover every square inch of New York City. Second, even if a video camera is in the vicinity of a shooting, it does not necessarily mean that it was positioned to record gunfire or even operable. NYPD also noted that "[t]he auditors' analysis does not consider the time of day of a ShotSpotter activation [, which is important since] ShotSpotter alerts are transmitted in the evening/early morning hours, when initial Patrol response has limited/no access to privately owned cameras."²⁴ If law enforcement could rely on video cameras to corroborate every alleged crime, detectives' work would be immeasurably easier. Nevertheless, this standard doesn't comport with professional law enforcement experience, making it an inappropriate measurement for assessing ShotSpotter's accuracy.

Exhibit 4 contains links to actual ShotSpotter recordings, in addition to the Investigative Lead Summary (ILS) reports that correspond to each recording. When listening to the recordings, even an individual completely untrained in particulars of firearm acoustics can easily determine that the sounds are gunshots. However, what is particularly instructive about these recordings— and their accompanying ILS—is that none of the incidents were officially classified as "confirmed" shootings per the aforementioned parameters (i.e., once NYPD arrived at the scene, they did not locate any of the physical and/or testimonial evidence required to designate these ShotSpotter alerts—which are *clearly* episodes of gunfire—as such). These real-life examples underscore how misguided the standard that NYPD uses to confirm a ShotSpotter alert is, which throws into question all the accuracy measurements underpinning the Report.

III. Misleading Finding #2: "Tracking Relative Response Times"

The Report criticized NYPD for failing to "currently capture and compare the difference in response times to alerts versus 911 calls made to report outdoor shootings."²⁵ This suggests that, since NYPD does not track this data, it's impossible for NYPD to accurately compare the efficiency of officers being dispatched to a shooting scene by a ShotSpotter alert compared to a 911 call. However, it's already been established that between 75-80% of shooting incidents are not reported to NYPD via 911.²⁶ Therefore, the Report is essentially demanding NYPD conduct

²¹ Fort Pierce police chief 'pleading with the community' to help curb gun violence,

https://www.wptv.com/news/region-st-lucie-county/fort-pierce/fort-pierce-police-to-discuss-strategies-to-reduce-violent-crime.

²² Man found shot on south side, witnesses not cooperating, police say,

https://www.kens5.com/video/news/crime/273-0806fb6e-9f95-4c8f-ae15-ad6c2ae1b7e8.

²³ 31-Year-Old Shot in Woodbridge During Fight Not Cooperating With Police,

https://www.shorenewsnetwork.com/2024/06/14/31-year-old-shot-in-woodbridge-during-fight-not-cooperating-with-police/.

²⁴ Response.

²⁵ Report.

²⁶ 2018 Police Commissioner's Report.

something akin to, in marketing parlance, an A/B test according to non-existent parameters—an unachievable feat.

Nevertheless, despite this impossibility, the Report went a step further, making a not-sosubtle inference about ShotSpotter's effectiveness that broaches on disingenuous, if not plainly irresponsible. Although the data that the Comptroller's Office wanted to analyze is not available, this didn't stop the Office from attempting to shoehorn into the Report anyway an off-base comparison in response times between ShotSpotter alerts and 911 calls "by comparing NYPD's internal OCD ShotSpotter Tracking report and the Open Data NYPD Call for Service, report."27 Although there was nothing to indicate that the ShotSpotter alerts and the 911 calls corresponded to the same shooting incidents, the Report saw fit to conclude "that during the month of June 2023 average response times to ShotSpotter alerts were 1 minute and 38 seconds faster than response times to reports to 911 of outdoor shots fires (3 minutes 50 seconds for ShotSpotter versus 5 minutes 28 seconds for 911), far less than the difference of 5 minutes claimed in publicly-available data."28 Crucially, NYPD dismissed this finding on the basis that "the methodology employed fails to account for the time difference that occurs between the shot being fired and the 911 caller and actually reporting the incident...[and] it simply compares the average response times between ShotSpotter alerts and the time from when the 911 call is placed until the Officers arrive...[which is] not a viable or meaningful comparison."²⁹ It's unfathomable to us how the Report could have ignored this feedback.

SoundThinking joins NYPD in strongly disagreeing with the flawed methodology by which these figures were derived. However, we are even *more* disturbed by the insinuation in the Report that the nearly 30% improvement in ShotSpotter alert-initiated response time compared to 911 call-initiated response time is somehow insufficient. According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, "the average time for someone to bleed out after experiencing serious physical trauma from an injury, say a gunshot wound, is only 3-5 minutes."³⁰ By that measure, if every critical New York City gunshot wound victim had to rely on the average first responder response time from a 911 call before receiving medical attention, the number of gunshot victim fatalities in New York City would almost certainly rise. When those same victims have first responders dispatched in line with the average response time of a ShotSpotter alert, their chances of receiving lifesaving aid increase.

However, we need not rely on hypotheticals to affirm what first responders know about saving gunshot victim's lives: *Every. Second. Counts.* The following anecdotes provide a tiny sample of the validity of this statement:

• In October 2023, a 44-year-old man in East Brooklyn was shot in the groin. ShotSpotter alerted NYPD to the incident, facilitating rapid police responses who

²⁷ Report.

²⁸ Report.

²⁹ Response.

³⁰ S&T Helps 'Stop the Bleed'—FAST, <u>https://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/news/2022/05/19/st-helps-stop-bleed-fast</u>.

were able to quickly discover the victim and begin administering aid. The man was transported to the hospital in stable condition and survived.³¹

• 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.³²

The same report stated 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."³³ 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.³⁴ 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.³⁵

- 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."³⁶ The report further underscores 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."³⁷
- 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."³⁸
- 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.³⁹ The boy survived,

³¹ Man in Brooklyn shot in groin at street corner; suspects at large, police say, <u>https://www.amny.com/new-york/brooklyn/brooklyn-shooting-groin-october-25-2023/</u>.

³² City of Oakland Privacy Advisory Commission, <u>https://cao-94612.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/Special-Meeting-Packet.pdf</u>.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ 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.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ ShotSpotter Data Shows the Technology Has Saved Lives, <u>https://pittsburghpa.gov/press-releases/press-releases/5020</u>.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ ShotSpotter: West Palm Beach Utilizes ShotSpotter for Rapid Response to Save Lives of Gunshot Victims, <u>https://www.usmayors.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Final-2021-BC-Best-Practice-Report.pdf</u>.

³⁹ 'He's a hero too': CPD officers recall saving 13-year-old boy shot on South Side, <u>https://wgntv.com/news/hes-a-hero-too-cpd-officers-recall-saving-13-year-old-boy-shot-on-south-side/</u>.

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,⁴⁰ Toledo, Ohio,⁴¹ West Palm Beach, Florida, and Jacksonville, Florida,^{42, 43} and—according to a trauma surgeon at Cooper University Hospital who researches gun violence and its health impacts—Camden, New Jersey.⁴⁴

While lives saved is undoubtedly the most important metric against which ShotSpotter's utility and efficacy should be measured, there are numerous other benefits conferred to New York City residents from ShotSpotter alerts. For example, ShotSpotter plays a proven role in reducing crime overall. NYPD's Response noted that the Report "fails to acknowledge that the simple omnipresence of the Officers responding to the ShotSpotter alert dissuades further crime in and of itself."⁴⁵ In their 2021 report highlighting "Efforts Over The Past Eight Years to Reduce Crime and Strengthen Ties with New Yorkers," NYPD confirmed that "six of eight NYPD patrol boroughs have expanded overall index crime declines over the last eight-years...gains [that are] part of a long-term strategy that began in 2014...[in which] [t]echnology played a key role...[including] [a] ShotSpotter gunshot detection system that was installed around the city to give police officers a head start the moment shots were fired."⁴⁶

Here, too, the NYPD's observed success in using ShotSpotter to reduce crime is not an anomaly. Communities nationwide have documented ShotSpotter's role in yielding an overall reduction in crime, including:

• The NYU Policing Project found that "the eight beats [in St. Louis County] with ShotSpotter...accounts for around ten fewer assaults per month that can be attributed to ShotSpotter, or around a 30 percent decline in reported assaults."⁴⁷

⁴⁰ ShotSpotter system leads police to shooting victim in Columbia neighborhood, <u>https://www.wltx.com/article/news/crime/columbia-shooting-lakeside-avenue/101-b8a00206-15c7-4918-bff7-</u>

<u>1d1153c89e28</u>.

⁴¹ 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.

⁴² Three Officers Receive Anthony Testa Tactical Lifesaving Award After Responding to ShotSpotter Alert, <u>https://www.soundthinking.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023-05-18-Anthony-Testa-Lifesaving-Award-Success-Story.pdf</u>.

⁴³ Jacksonville sheriff names mass shotting victims and identifies 21-year-old gunman, <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cLSUh4wHrE</u>.

⁴⁴ 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

⁴⁵ Response.

⁴⁶ NYPD Announces November Crime Statistics, <u>https://12ft.io/proxy</u>.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

- 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."⁴⁸ 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."⁴⁹
- In areas of Cincinnati where ShotSpotter is deployed, "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."⁵⁰
- 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.⁵¹

The Report omitted the fact that one of the most useful and long-lasting advantages that ShotSpotter affords to law enforcement is recovering illegal firearms. This provides evidentiary value if a crime has already been committed with the recovered weapon and/or preventative value from future crimes being committed with the seized gun. **Exhibit 5** contains a selection of social media posts by NYPD that demonstrate the breadth of weapons recovered across New York City following an initial ShotSpotter alert.

Similarly, NYPD noted that the Report failed to acknowledge how ShotSpotter alerts play a role in helping the police solve past crimes. NYPD's Response said, "[T]here is no mention that in an overwhelming majority of the cases, the ShotSpotter alert results in the preparation of a complaint report, which then results in a follow-up investigation by the Precinct Detective Squad...[which] is especially important to note when considering that a majority of ShotSpotter alerts are transmitted in the evening/early morning hours, when the initial Patrol response has limited/no access to privately owned cameras and may find it difficult to conduct a physical evidence search."⁵²

Since evidence of criminal activity can be fleeting and becomes less useful to investigators as time passes, the improved response time conferred by ShotSpotter provides law enforcement with an important advantage in solving crimes, apprehending perpetrators, and seeking justice for victims. It is therefore unsurprising that, here too, the technology's usefulness is repeatedly affirmed:

⁴⁸ A Cost-Benefit Analysis of ShotSpotter in Winston-Salem, NC, <u>https://www.siue.edu/ccsvp/pdf/ShotSpotterpublic.pdf</u>.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Evaluating an Acoustic Gunshot Detection System in Cincinnati,

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/352879092_Chapter_18_Evaluating_an_Acoustic_Gunshot_Detection_Sy stem_in_Cincinnati.

⁵¹ Lessons Learned Implementing Gunshot Detection Technology: Results of a Process Evaluation in Three Major Cities, <u>https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/24751979.2018.1548254</u>.

⁵² Response.

- In December 2023, a ShotSpotter alert led NYPD to the scene of a shooting in Staten Island where they "canvassed the area and found four shell casings."⁵³
- On June 1, 2024, Boston Police Department ("BPD") arrested Keon Baker in connection with a Roxbury shooting incident that occurred on May 23, 2024.⁵⁴ 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.⁵⁵ 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."⁵⁶

The fact that ShotSpotter triggered a near-instantaneous CPD response is what ultimately provided authorities with the evidence to "track down the accused killer."⁵⁷

• 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

⁵³ ShotSpotter leads NYPD to 4 shell casings on Staten Island street, <u>https://www.silive.com/crime-safety/2023/12/shotspotter-leads-nypd-to-4-shell-casings-on-staten-island-street.html</u>.

⁵⁴ Boston Police arrest 14-year-old boy on gun charges, nab suspect after ShotSpotter report, <u>https://www.bostonherald.com/2024/06/03/boston-police-arrest-14-year-old-boy-on-gun-charges-nab-suspect-after-shotspotter-report/</u>.

⁵⁵ Officer Luis Huesca shot and killed while returning home from work: What we know so far, <u>https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/officer-luis-huesca-shot-and-killed-while-returning-home-from-work-what-we-know-so-far/3416742/</u>.

⁵⁶ Water bottle, DNA, fingerprints led to arrest of Chicago police officer Luis Huesca's accused killer, police say, <u>https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/officer-luis-huescas-accused-killer-set-to-appear-in-court-for-fatal-shooting-during-carjacking/</u>.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

evidence before someone has the ability to remove it from a crime scene or alter it." 58

• 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."⁵⁹

It is an undeniable fact that ShotSpotter saves lives, deters violence, and helps solve crimes. It is therefore unfair and intellectually dishonest that, while the Report mentioned debates over the use of ShotSpotter, it omitted a far more meaningful statistic—<u>that between 2023 and 2024 year</u> to date, approximately 40 new municipalities deployed ShotSpotter within their communities, 136 existing municipalities across the country renewed their ShotSpotter contract, and 25 of those existing municipalities expanded their coverage areas.

The reasons for this are made apparent in **Exhibit 6** (a selected list of ShotSpotter results and news stories in local communities) and **Exhibit 7** (a sample compilation of media stories about ShotSpotter's successes in helping law enforcement over the last year, and testimonials about ShotSpotter's effectiveness from police, elected officials, and community leaders). Most recently, 11 police commissioners, chiefs, and superintendents of local Massachusetts police departments authored a letter published in *The Boston Herald* in which they endorsed the deployment of ShotSpotter within their jurisdictions and attested to its effectiveness and accuracy in helping fight gun violence (see **Exhibit 8**).

ShotSpotter is proven to be an effective, cost-efficient, empirically grounded, scientifically sound way to help law enforcement in its work. It is for this reason that, if there is one theme throughout the Report that SoundThinking unequivocally supports, it is the call for improved record-keeping and objective, fact-based statistical analysis in support of greater transparency and information sharing. Fighting gun violence is a whole-of-government effort, and we welcome and encourage openness to do so.

In the spirit of transparency, we would very much appreciate the opportunity to further discuss the points raised in this letter with you directly and are pleased to invite you to tour our Incident Review Center so that you are able to see in person how ShotSpotter works in real time. In the meantime, we look forward to continuing to work with NYPD and City officials to do everything possible to help address gun violence and keep New Yorkers safe.

⁵⁸ 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/.

⁵⁹ Detroit ShotSpotter system leads to gun manufacturing bust in first week of operation, <u>https://www.mlive.com/news/2021/03/detroits-shotspotter-system-leads-to-gun-manufacturing-bust-in-first-week-of-operation.html</u>.

Sincerely,

Ralph A. Clark President and CEO SoundThinking, Inc.

CC:

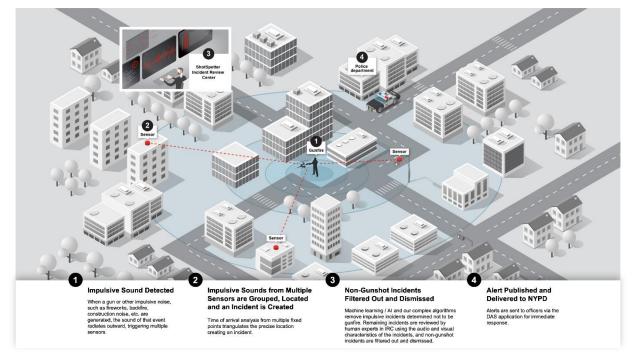
Maura Hayes-Chaffe Deputy Comptroller for Audit Office of New York City Comptroller Brad Lander David M. Dinkens Municipal Building 1 Centre Street, 5th Floor New York, NY 10007

Edward A. Caban Police Commissioner of the City of New York New York Police Department One Police Plaza New York, NY 10038

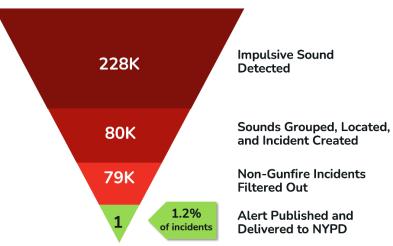
Deirdre J. Snyder Deputy Commissioner Management and Budget New York Police Department One Police Plaza, Room 1104 New York, NY 10038

Graphic overview of ShotSpotter functionality

How ShotSpotter Works



Filtering process from the detection of an impulsive sound to the publication of a ShotSpotter alert



2023 NYPD Incident Funnel

Overview of ShotSpotter accuracy in New York City by month (January 2022 – June 2024)

Coverage Area (borough)	Bronx 18.02		Brooklyn 38.23		Queens 19.86		Manhattan 7.42		Staten Island 6.80		Danakian Assassa
Coverage Area Size (Sq. Miles) Annual Subscription Fee 2-week Fee (potential quarterly penalty)											
	\$	1,463,224 56,278	\$.	3,104,276 119,395	\$ \$	1,612,632 62,024	\$ \$	602,504 23,173	\$ \$	552,160 21,237	Penalties Assessed
	\$		\$								
2022											
January		92%		95%		98%		84%		88%	
February		92%		96%		93%		78%		90%	
March		91%		94%		91%		88%		88%	
Q1							N/A		N/A		None ⁶⁰
April		95%		93%		93%		88%		89%	
May		95%		95%		96%		92%		96%	
June		88%		92%		93%		86%		86%	
Q2							\$	23,173	\$	21,237	\$ 44,410
July		91%		86%		85%		84%		81%	
August		88%		95%		94%		90%		94%	
September		91%		95%		96%		88%		95%	
Q3							\$	23,173			\$ 23,173
October		96%		95%		98%		91%		92%	
November		93%		97%		96%		93%		98%	
December		93%		96%		96%		89%		98%	
Q4											None
2023											
January		93%		97%		96%		94%		96%	
February		95%		96%		96%		94%		91%	
March		94%		96%		96%		97%		98%	
Q1											None
April		94%		95%		98%		96%		94%	
May		94%		95%		97%		93%		100%	
June		90%		95%		97%		93%		93%	
Q2											None
July		88%		96%		95%		88%		92%	
August	1	91%		93%		97%		88%		93%	
September	1	93%		95%	1	94%		95%		100%	
Q3	1				1		\$	23,173			\$ 23,173
October	1	94%		97%	1	98%		98%		96%	
November	1	95%		96%	1	95%		99%		97%	
December		94%		95%		93%		95%		91%	
Q4	1				1						None
2024											
January		92%		97%		98%		91%		97%	
February	1	86%	1	95%		97%	1	95%	1	100%	
March		91%		95%		95%		85%		93%	
Q1	1	, -, 0	1	22.0		, , , , ,	1		1	22,0	None
April	1	95%		92%		97%		92%		97%	
May		92%		93%		96%		83%		90%	
June		92%		94%	1	95%		92%		97%	
Q2		1270		J-1-70		2570		1270		21/0	None
Q4	1		1		1						1,0110

⁶⁰ Note: New SLAs established in Q2 of 2022.

Information on ShotSpotter remittances to New York City

ShotSpotter's SLAs with NYPD indicate that SoundThinking can face financial penalties of up to \$1,128,418.00 per year if our accuracy rate falls below 90%. Per the terms of our SLA with NYPD, ShotSpotter's accuracy rate is assessed on a borough-by-borough basis, as opposed to the entire area of coverage which is customary in the other municipalities where ShotSpotter is deployed. Even with these enhanced performance requirements, as of ShotSpotter's last contract renewal with NYPD in 2022, SoundThinking has still met the SLA requirements the majority of the time, based on feedback and information provided by NYPD. Our performance in New York City is consistent with an independent review conducted by a data analytics firm, which found that ShotSpotter's accuracy rate exceeds 97% across all customers.

Nevertheless, in keeping with SoundThinking's commitment to the efficacy of our product—and in recognition of the standard to which we hold ourselves, the importance of ensuring the New York City taxpayers are receiving a return on their ShotSpotter investment, and the importance of our partnership with NYPD—in quarters where SLA requirements were not met in any borough, a penalty of \$90,756.61 has been assessed and remitted to NYPD.

New York state and federal courts ruling on ShotSpotter's evidentiary admissibility

- 1. In *People v. Pope*, the Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Department, New York rejected the defendant's motion to suppress evidence, finding that "[t]he gunfire-detection technology ShotSpotter reported that numerous shots had been fired at a particular location...[and] [t]he ShotSpotter report provided corroboration of the presence of criminality, as well as demonstrating the urgency of the situation and the risk of officers' safety...[meaning] the police had reasonable suspicion to stop and frisk the defendant."⁶¹
- 2. In *People v. Williams*—another case in which the defendant sought to preclude New York State prosecutors from presenting ShotSpotter evidence—the court wrote that "there is no 'marked conflict' or conflicting scientific opinions with respect to ShotSpotter in the relevant scientific community," and then went on to note that "numerous courts have address the issues [against ShotSpotter] raised by the defense, and have held that ShotSpotter is generally accepted as reliable and accurate, and therefore, admissible evidence."⁶²
- 3. In *People v. Jonas*, the Kings County Court once again denied a motion to preclude ShotSpotter evidence. In addition to citing the verbatim language used in the *People v. Williams* decision, the judge in this case went a step further, adding "[c]ourts have further held that ShotSpotter...incorporates established and generally accepted technologies [to detect gunfire]," as the basis for rejecting the defendant's objection to the use of ShotSpotter evidence.⁶³
- 4. In *United States v. Hawkins*, a case involving events in New York City, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed a district court's finding that officers had reasonable suspicion to initiate a *Terry* stop based in part on a ShotSpotter alert, rejecting the defendant's arguments that ShotSpotter was unreliable for these purposes and citing the officer's past experience with ShotSpotter as a powerful and accurate tool. The case stands for the proposition that officers may rely on ShotSpotter as part of their reasonable articulable suspicion and probable cause determinations, absent any after-the-fact inquiry into the technology's reliability.⁶⁴

⁶¹ People v. Pope,

https://govt.westlaw.com/nyofficial/Document/Iceef9e80ae7c11eb9c58e3fe3b01f36d?viewType=FullText&transitionnType=Default&contextData=%28sc.Default%29.

⁶² See *The People of the State of New York v. Lewis Williams*, Supreme Court of The State of New York, County of Kings: Part 29, Ind. No. 6824-2018 (October 19, 2021).

⁶³ See *The People of the State of New York v. Harry Jonas*, Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Kings: Part 29, Ind. No. 2236-2020 (April 11, 2022).

⁶⁴ United States v. Hawkins, https://caselaw.findlaw.com/court/us-2nd-circuit/2176811.html

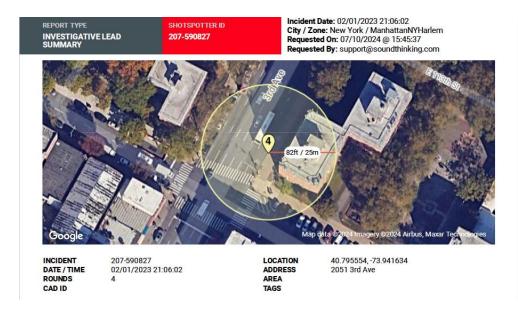
ShotSpotter recordings not classified as "confirmed" shots fired per NYPD standards

1. ILS ShotSpotter ID number: 214-313955



Click to hear recording of this corresponding gunfire incident: <u>https://5234017.fs1.hubspotusercontent-</u>na1.net/hubfs/5234017/ShotCast-2400-block-Bronxwood-Ave-04-11-2023.mp4

2. ILS ShotSpotter ID number: 207-590827



Click to hear recording of this corresponding gunfire incident: <u>https://5234017.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/5234017/ShotCast-2000-block-3rd-Ave-02-01-2023.mp4</u>

3. ILS ShotSpotter ID number: 203-495586



Click to hear recording of this corresponding gunfire incident: <u>https://5234017.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/5234017/ShotCast-900-block-Myrtle-Ave-05-14-2023.mp4</u>

4. ILS ShotSpotter ID number: 221-267958



Click to hear recording of this corresponding gunfire incident: <u>https://5234017.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/5234017/ShotCast-200-block-Beach-86th-St-05-12-2023.mp4</u>

5. ILS ShotSpotter ID number: 215-334662



Click to hear recording of this corresponding gunfire incident: <u>https://5234017.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/5234017/ShotCast-0-block-Bowen-St-04-16-2023.mp4</u>

Examples of firearms recovered by NYPD following ShotSpotter alert



•••

ShotSpotter activations helps alert our officers to possible shootings. Thanks to the quick response of the @NYPD79Pct Public Safety Team after an activation in Bed-Stuy in Brooklyn, they were able to recover this loaded firearm.

NYPD 79th Precinct 🌸 @NYPD79Pct · Jan 5, 2023

Last night, while responding to a Shot Spotter call of shots fired, officers assigned to the 79th Precinct's Public Safety Team were able to swiftly and without incident apprehend the individual and recover this loaded firearm!



3:25 PM · Jan 6, 2023 · 2,219 Views

https://x.com/NYPDChiefPatrol/status/1611474128879472643



Little did he know that officers from our Field Training Unit were right around the corner. After 3 shots rang out and a Shotspotter Activation, our officers identified the shooter and went on a brief foot pursuit. The male was apprehended and this small firearm was recovered!



11:11 PM · Mar 17, 2023 · 2,462 Views

https://x.com/NYPD73Pct/status/1636943348211625987



This morning Officers Brown and Geoghegan quickly responded to a ShotSpotter activation on Richmond Terrace. Due to their expeditious response and keen investigation, they effected the arrest for the individual responsible for firing the gun also recovering the weapon.#onelessgun



NYPD Chief of Department and 3 others
 3:10 PM · Mar 4, 2023 · 15.6K Views

https://x.com/NYPD121Pct/status/1632126370938535937



Late last night, officers form @NYPD69Pct heard shots being fired and quickly canvassed for the suspect. Thanks to a @shotspotter activation that pinpointed the location and calls from concerned community members, a 19-year-old male was arrested and this gun was recovered.



9:28 AM - Aug 3, 2022

https://x.com/NYPDnews/status/1554836720012517376

....



Fantastic work by your 121 Precinct Public Safety team, SOL, NCO's and patrol units who all worked cohesively while responding to a shotspotter activation leading to the recovery of a loaded and defaced firearm off our streets. #onelessgun



10:48 AM · Jul 5, 2022

https://x.com/NYPD121Pct/status/1544347559417741319



Great job by our Officers recovering this firearm and arresting a male involved after a Shotspotter activation call.



A NYPD Chief of Housing and 6 others

6:44 PM · Jun 10, 2022

EΘ

https://x.com/NYPD34Pct/status/1535407494771748864



Outstanding police work by your Evening Patrol Officers Vargas, Bahaw, Sanchez and Santana, who made a safe arrest on University Avenue while investigating a @shotspotter activation last night. They took this illegally possessed, loaded gun of the streets of the Bronx. Great job!



A NYPD Chief of Patrol and 9 others

9:28 AM · Mar 29, 2022

https://x.com/NYPD46Pct/status/1508813372040654848



After being alerted by a #Shotspotter Activation, your Public Safety Officers responded within a moments notice. Two individuals were apprehended with this firearm. Outstanding Work! Keeping #Williamsburg Safe. #OneLessGun



2:47 PM · Feb 17, 2022

https://x.com/NYPD90Pct/status/1494413157506461697



Our Midnight Patrol Officers were working hard keeping our Washington Heights & Inwood residents safe. While responding to a shotspotter activation our Officers apprehended two persons and removed these guns off our streets.



NYPD NEWS and 3 others

10:09 AM · Feb 3, 2022

https://x.com/NYPD34Pct/status/1489269778992750593



Outstanding work by your midnight patrol officers who responded to a ShotSpotter Activation & apprehended an individual with this loaded firearm.



A NYPD Chief of Housing and 7 others

11:16 AM · Jan 9, 2022

https://x.com/NYPD113Pct/status/1480227033963802631

Examples of ShotSpotter 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. <u>Albuquerque Police Department Reports 47% Decrease in Gunshots in One Neighborhood After</u> <u>Implementing Proactive Program</u>.
- 4. <u>ShotSpotter Assists with Investigative Breakthroughs in Glendale, AZ</u>
- 5. <u>The City of Syracuse, a Reinstated ShotSpotter Customer, Credits the Technology with Remarkable</u> <u>Reduction in Gun Violence</u>
- 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. <u>A Game-Changer for Albuquerque Police Department's Crime-Fighting Efforts</u>
- 10. Detroit Credits ShotSpotter with Remarkable Crime Reduction
- 11. <u>Three Officers Receive Anthony Testa Tactical Lifesaving Award After Responding to ShotSpotter Alert -</u> <u>West Palm Beach</u>
- 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. <u>San Pablo Police Department Solves Highway Shootings with the Help of ShotSpotter</u>
- 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. <u>Toledo Experiences Immediate And Significant Results Combatting Gun Violence</u>
- 19. <u>Omaha Police Department Leverages ShotSpotter to Improve Community Safety Since 2011</u>
- 20. <u>ShotSpotter Saves Lives in Columbus By Improving Response Rate and Time</u>
- 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. <u>Newport News PD Calls ShotSpotter an "Investigative Game Changer"</u>
- 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. <u>Glendale Police Department Links 5 Shooting Incidents to the Same Perpetrator with the Help of ShotSpotter</u>
- 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. <u>Albuquerque PD Locates 179 Victims with the Help of ShotSpotter</u>
- 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

Samples 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. <u>According</u> 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 <u>reported</u> 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.
- "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)
- "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 Ruszkowski, 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
- "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 Larochelle, 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 <u>reported</u> 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. <u>According</u> 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 Scarlette 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 <u>one such case</u>, 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 <u>reported</u> 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* <u>published</u> 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 <u>reported</u> 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 <u>reported</u> 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* <u>published</u> 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 <u>reported</u> 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 <u>reported</u> 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. <u>According</u> 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 <u>reported</u> 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. KRNV-TV <u>published</u> 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 <u>reported</u> 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 <u>published</u> 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 <u>reported</u> 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. <u>According</u> 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 <u>reported</u> 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 sixmonth 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 <u>reported</u> 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 <u>among those</u> 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. <u>According</u> 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. <u>According</u> 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 <u>reported</u> 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 <u>reported</u> 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 <u>reported</u> 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 gamechanging 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 <u>said</u> 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."

Signed open letter by 11 Massachusetts police commissioners, chiefs, and superintendents supporting ShotSpotter published in *The Boston Herald* on July 2, 2024

