

CITY OF OAKLAND

AGENDA REPORT

FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

2008 MAY -1 PM 8:06

TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: Deborah Edgerly
FROM: Oakland Police Department
DATE: May 13, 2008

RE: An Informational Report Presenting An Update, Statistical Data, Including the Number of Resulting Arrests, Weapon Seizures, Successes and Failures of the Shotspotter Technology, Specifically From the Recent Operations in March 2008

SUMMARY

As requested by the Rules and Legislation Committee on March 16, 2008, staff has prepared an update report on the Shotspotter Gunshot Location System (Shotspotter). Information contained in this report provides statistical data, number of arrests, weapon seizures, and recent successes of the Shotspotter system in the City of Oakland.

FISCAL IMPACT

The City of Oakland purchased the Shotspotter system in 2006 (Resolution No. 80075 C.M.S., July 18, 2006) at a cost of \$288,509, which included the associated software license to monitor the system and maintenance for the first year. A monthly fee of approximately \$4,000 for phone lines that are connected to the Shotspotter sensors is currently absorbed by the Department's general operating budget.

BACKGROUND

On April 11, 2006, the Public Safety Committee received an *Informational Report* introducing the Shotspotter technology; a test of the system was conducted on May 7, 2006.

On July 18, 2006, the City Council agreed to waive the competitive bid process and purchase the Shotspotter system. The system was installed in West Oakland (PSA 1) and East Oakland (PSA 5 and PSA 6), covering six square miles; 84 microphones were placed throughout the City (15 in PSA 1 and 69 in PSA 5 and PSA 6). Shotspotter software was installed at the Police

Item: _____
Public Safety Committee
May 13, 2008

Department's Communication Center, and on October 1, 2006, the Shotspotter system was activated.

On February 15, 2008, six additional licenses were purchased for laptop computers, and software that was later installed on laptop computers in six police sergeant's vehicles.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

The benefit of the Shotspotter system is its ability to provide accurate, real time information on gunshot activity occurring in the City. This information creates an opportunity for officers to rapidly respond to shots fired, which enhances the Department's ability to protect life and property, arrest offenders, and seize illegal firearms.

Shotspotter System

When the Shotspotter system was activated in October 2006, the responsibility of monitoring the system was given to dispatchers in the Communications Center. Since that time, Shotspotter, Inc. developed Mobile PCS software that is installed on laptop computers in police vehicles. This new technology provides an opportunity for sergeants to conduct a firsthand assessment of the situation. The sergeants review the audio and GPS map, by way of the Mobile PCS software, which allows them to deploy officers to gunshot locations (in response activations) more quickly and safely. Additionally, receiving gunshot alerts in the field helps alleviate the delay associated with alerts coming from dispatch through the Communications Center.

On February 21, 2008, seven sergeants and officers received training from Shotspotter, Inc. on the use of the Mobile PCS software for laptop computers. Since that time several Shotspotter operations have taken place.

On March 1, 2008, Crime Reduction Teams (CRT-1) and (CRT-5/6 and the Neighborhood Enforcement Team [NET]) ran separate operations in West and East Oakland. During the Eastside operation, two guns were recovered and two arrests were made. There were several associated arrests made when a search warrant was served during a down period in this operation; several firearms were recovered as a result of this Shotspotter operation. Additional statistics include the following:

- Two AK-47 assault weapons were recovered
- Over 20 ounces of cocaine was recovered
- Seven felony arrests and one misdemeanor arrest were made.

It should be noted that Shotspotter did not identify three separate actual shooting locations that occurred in Oakland that same night due to microphone sensor malfunction.

On March 8, 2008, CRT-5/6 and the NET Team conducted a second Shotspotter operation in East Oakland. Officers responded to 20 locations with negative results; no firearms recovered or

arrests were made. However, during this operation, a warrant was served which resulted in the following successes:

- Four felony arrests
- Two vehicles seizures
- Two kilograms of cocaine and 12 ounces of methamphetamine recovered.

The Department intends to provide Mobile PCS training for additional personnel in the future, which will enable more Shotspotter operations to be conducted.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Shotspotter system uses acoustic microphones to identify the location of shots fired. The microphones are placed on buildings and/or poles and connected to phone lines that send the information to the participating law enforcement agency. The microphones recognize gunshots within a targeted neighborhood and immediately triangulate the location of the shots fired via GPS tracking devices. The system displays the location of the shots fired on a computer map, alerting police within 5-15 seconds of the occurrence (within approximately 10-30 feet). This allows for faster response times and more accurate deployment, usually before any 9-1-1 calls have been received.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: With more illegal firearms confiscated and removed from the streets, neighborhoods are safer and crime (and the fear of crime) is reduced. A safer community stimulates economic growth for the City.

Environmental: There are no environmental opportunities associated with this report.

Social Equity: The deployment of the Shotspotter system is an effort to address the increase in gun-related violent crimes. The ability to immediately respond to gunshots enhances the Oakland Police Department's efforts to protect and save lives, seize illegal firearms and investigate gun related crimes, which can increase public safety and public trust.

DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS

There are no ADA or senior citizen issues associated with this report.

RECOMMENDATION / RATIONALE

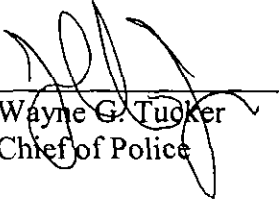
The Shotspotter system is effective in accurately locating, alerting, and recording gunshots. It has led to arrests, and firearm seizures, and has provided key information to violent crime investigations. The Oakland Police Department continues to evaluate the effectiveness of the Shotspotter system, and the best methods to utilize and support the technology. The Department is committed to its efforts in addressing violent crime in the City of Oakland and will continue its work to effectively implement the Shotspotter system.

Staff recommends acceptance of this informational report.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE COUNCIL

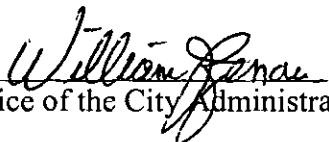
This is an informational report; therefore no action is requested of the City Council.

Respectfully submitted,



Wayne G. Tucker
Chief of Police

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO
THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:



Office of the City Administrator

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