

Flores, Valerie

From: Derek Schulte
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 10:31 PM
To: Flores, Valerie; Perez, John Eduardo
Subject: Comment to Agenda Item 1 for Public Safety Committee (ShotSpotter)
Attachments: 20210921 Shotspotter.pdf

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Secretary Flores:
cc: Chief Perez

I have attached a letter regarding Agenda Item 1 for the Public Safety Committee's Special Meeting on Thursday, 23 September 2021, to encourage contracting with ShotSpotter and also ask the Police Department to respond to concerns regarding ShotSpotter's gunfire detection, location, and analysis system.

Please provide this letter to the Committee prior to the meeting.

Regards,
--Derek Schulte

Derek Schulte

Pasadena, CA 91104

21 September 2021

City of Pasadena Public Safety Committee
c/o Valerie Flores, Recording Secretary
via email: vflores@cityofpasadena.net

Re: Agenda Item 1, Special Meeting Agenda, Public Safety Committee, 23 September 2021

Members of the Committee:

Please authorize contracting with ShotSpotter for subscription to and use of their gunfire detection, analysis, and alert system. As a resident, I welcome their technology to reduce gun violence and provide objective gunfire data to our city.

I have reviewed the system's cost, technical implementation, privacy concerns, efficacy, and reported weaknesses and I have concluded that the system has the capability to provide unique, high-value, and actionable data to our city.

Having reviewed the background information provided by our Police Department and as published in this meeting's agenda, I ask that the Department publicly respond to the following.

1. In cities such as Washington D.C., ShotSpotter technology has shown that only approximately 1 in 8 gunfire events are reported via conventional (non-ShotSpotter) methods.¹ What is Pasadena's plan for handling a potential increase in the number of gunfire events within monitored areas?
2. The City of Chicago's Office of Inspector General released a report on 24 August 2021 that states "OIG concluded from its analysis that CPD responses to ShotSpotter alerts can seldom be shown to lead to investigatory stops which might have investigative value and rarely produce evidence of a gun-related crime."² If a narrow criteria such as this is used to assess ShotSpotter's utility within Pasadena, misguided conclusions may arise, for example, that the system is unreliable, a distraction, or that it falsely informs officers to respond under more dangerous pretenses. If ShotSpotter is contracted, how does the Department intend to assess the ongoing performance and utility of the ShotSpotter system?

¹ Carr, Jillian B., and Doleac, Jennifer L., The geography, incidence, and underreporting of gun violence: new evidence using ShotSpotter data. April 2016, Brookings Institute. 1 in 8 may be an overestimate: the New York Times quoted Police Commissioner William Bratton on 16 March 2015 with "On average, 75 percent of shots fired called in by ShotSpotter are never called into 911."

² City of Chicago, Office of Inspector General. The Chicago Police Department's Use of ShotSpotter Technology. 24 August 2021.

3. The Chicago OIG report cited above also states “OIG identified evidence that the introduction of ShotSpotter technology in Chicago has changed the way some CPD members perceive and interact with individuals present in areas where ShotSpotter alerts are frequent.” This statement can be easily construed to support claims of biased policing. How does the Department intend to mitigate the potential for unfair policing as a result of receiving this new data?
4. Finally, technologies such as the ShotSpotter’s have the potential to violate individual privacy within our community. While I personally understand and assess ShotSpotter’s data collection and analysis to be so insignificant as to be irrelevant, I would like the Department to publicly acknowledge the general privacy concerns inherent with using such a system and reiterate a commitment to protecting our privacy rights such as those in the First, Fourth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution (assembly, search and seizure, family, etc.).

I have also requested a speaker card for public comment during the Special Meeting in order to briefly reiterate my personal desire for the City to contract with ShotSpotter: my above concerns do not rise to a such a level that I would delay or advise against said contract.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,



Derek Schulte
Resident, Pasadena

CC: John Perez, Pasadena Chief of Police

Flores, Valerie

Subject: FW: Shot Spotter Technology

-----Original Message-----

From: David Kalbeitzer

Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 12:09 AM

To: Mermell, Steve

Subject: Shot Spotter Technology

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Hi Steve,

It was a pleasure to meet you this evening. I wanted to thank you for coming out to discuss the recent shooting on our street and sharing that the city is actively looking into technology that would allow a better triangulation and tracking of shots if a gun was fired in a neighborhood. This would enable a quicker response from the police force and a more accurate location of where the event occurred.

I would highly support the city's interest in exploring and investing in this technology for our neighborhoods to remain safe. If you could include this note of approval from a District 5 Pasadena home owner in the meeting tomorrow - I would appreciate it.

We appreciated seeing you, Jess, Margo, and both Officers in person as an effort to listen, inform, and help keep the area safe. Please let us know if there are other measures including street cameras that could improve the safety of the community that you are looking into.

Thank you,
David Kalbeitzer

Pasadena CA