



PUBLIC ADVOCATE FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Letitia James

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Press Release

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Public Advocate Letitia James Intros Bill Requiring NYPD to Report Gunfire-Detection Data

ShotSpotter technology analyzes where & when shots are fired; bill would require public quarterly reporting of data

(New York, NY)— Yesterday, Public Advocate Letitia James introduced legislation into the City Council that would require the NYPD to file quarterly reports on data collected from ShotSpotter, Inc. – technology that tracks the sounds of gunshots and identifies their location within 30-45 seconds. The NYPD is currently conducting a \$1.5 million pilot of the project, which the Public Advocate has supported since coming into office.

“Our bill would facilitate using information from this important technology to guide criminal justice policy. The information that can be gathered from ShotSpotter is critical in helping the police respond faster to incidents involving gunshots. We must also ensure that this technology is used transparently. My bill would require that the ShotSpotter data - including where and when gunshots are fired- be posted quarterly on the NYPD’s website. New Yorkers have a right to know what is happening in their communities and on their streets. Ultimately, we would have less violence, more informed policy, and safer communities,” said **Public Advocate Letitia James**.

ShotSpotter can pick up the sound of a possible gunshot within 6-7 seconds, analyze the sound, identify its location and notify the police within 30-45 seconds. The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) found this technology accurately detected 80% of test shots. Already, more than 80 cities in four countries, in addition to the United States Department of Justice, have utilized ShotSpotter. This list includes cities with high population densities such as Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The use of ShotSpotter technology allows the police to respond faster to incidents involving gunshots and helps them to proactively develop data-driven policing strategies and tactical deployments – literally, putting more cops where shootings tend to occur. Gunfire tracking systems also address a problem that severely hinders police ability to quickly investigate shootings: the phenomenon of underreporting. Cities outside of New York between 50% and 70% of shootings go unreported to police. Because this technology will notify the NYPD of unreported gunshots, gunfire tracking systems will help to eliminate that impediment.

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