

2024 Toolkit to Support the Renewal of ShotSpotter in Chicago

The City of Chicago's contract with ShotSpotter is set to expire on February 16, 2024. We're rallying support for Mayor Brandon Johnson and the Chicago Police Department to renew this vital contract!

Email or call your alderperson, Mayor Johnson and Superintendent Snelling:

Mayor Johnson

☎ Phone Number: (312) 744-3300

✉ Email: brandon.johnson@cityofchicago.org

Aldersperson

[Contact info linked at the end of this toolkit](#)

Attend the Community Hearing



We encourage supporters to attend a meeting of the Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability concerning the continued use of ShotSpotter in Chicago.

WHEN:

Thursday, Feb. 8
6:30 p.m.

WHERE:

St. Sabina Church
Auburn Gresham
1210 W 78th Pl, Chicago, IL 60620

Show Your Support via Phone



Call Mayor Johnson: (312) 744-3300

Call Alderspeople: [Contact info linked at the end of this toolkit](#)

SAMPLE CALL SCRIPT:

Hello, my name is [Your Name] and I'm a resident of [Your Ward]. I'm calling to express my support for renewing the city's contract with ShotSpotter. This technology has been instrumental in helping the Chicago Police Department respond quickly to unreported gunfire, significantly improving our community's safety.

In many instances, ShotSpotter has been the difference between life and death, allowing first responders to reach victims of gun violence in record time. The benefits of this technology in our fight against gun violence cannot be overstated.

I urge you to consider the positive impacts of ShotSpotter on our community and support its continued use in Chicago. We need solutions that address the realities of gun violence effectively, and ShotSpotter is one such solution.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Show Your Support via Email



To Mayor Johnson: brandon.johnson@cityofchicago.org

To Alderpeople: [Contact info linked at the end of this toolkit](#)

Subject: Support the Renewal of ShotSpotter in Chicago

SAMPLE EMAIL SCRIPT:

Hello Mayor Johnson <or> Hello [Alderpersion's name], my name is [Your Name], a resident of the [Your Ward] ward. I'm writing to express my strong support for the renewal of Chicago's contract with ShotSpotter, which is crucial for our city's safety.

ShotSpotter technology has proven to be an invaluable tool in helping the Chicago Police Department respond quickly to gun violence, which often goes unreported. With ShotSpotter, first responders have been able to arrive at crime scenes in under a minute, significantly increasing the chances of saving lives and reducing gun violence.

As residents, we value our safety and the proactive measures taken by our city to protect us. ShotSpotter has been a key part of this effort, as evidenced by the lives saved and evidence collected over the past five years.

I urge you to consider the positive impact ShotSpotter has had on our community and support its continued use in Chicago. Our safety and well-being depend on effective solutions like ShotSpotter.

Thank you for your time and for considering my perspective.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]

Email Your Support

Give Testimony at the Community Hearing



SAMPLE TESTIMONY SCRIPT:

Good [morning/afternoon/evening], esteemed members of the city council. My name is [Your Name], a proud resident of [Your Neighborhood/District]. I stand before you to advocate for the renewal of the ShotSpotter contract in our city.

ShotSpotter has been a critical tool in Chicago's efforts to combat gun violence. It has consistently provided our police department with immediate, accurate alerts to gunfire, many of which would have otherwise gone unreported. This technology not only saves lives but also aids in the swift collection of evidence and the apprehension of suspects.

In our ongoing battle against gun violence, we need reliable and effective tools like ShotSpotter. It represents a commitment to public safety and proactive policing. I strongly urge the council to consider the positive impact of ShotSpotter and renew its contract for the betterment of our community.

Thank you for considering this crucial issue that deeply affects the safety and well-being of all Chicago residents.

What is ShotSpotter?

Police rely on the community to call 9-1-1 if gunshots are fired, but only 20% of incidents are ever reported on average. This creates a situation where police departments have a large data gap that makes it difficult to be able to effectively “serve and protect” when it comes to gun violence. SoundThinking’s ShotSpotter acoustic gunshot detection technology fills the gap with a network of acoustic sensors that can detect, locate, and alert police to nearly all outdoor gunshot incidents. The system is in operation in more than 150 cities and is used by police to:

- Respond to a higher percentage of gunfire incidents;
- Improve response times to crime scenes to better aid victims and find witnesses; and
- Help police locate key evidence to identify and investigate suspects.



80-85%

of gunfire goes unreported
to 9-1-1

Source: [Brookings Institute](#)

<1 Minute

Time for ShotSpotter
to alert authorities

ShotSpotter

allows first responders
to arrive on the scene quickly

ShotSpotter

saves lives

ShotSpotter and Chicago

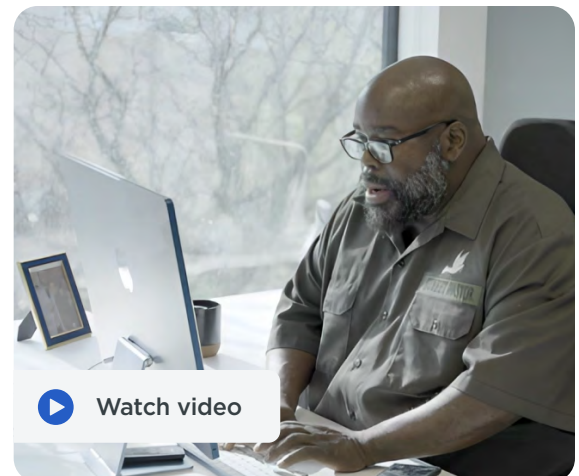
SoundThinking, the company behind ShotSpotter, has serviced the Chicago Police Department (CPD) for over six years to more effectively respond to gun violence and help save lives.

We are a mission-driven company dedicated to helping our customers make sound decisions to better protect the communities they serve, including violence reduction and saving lives.



As people start to learn about ShotSpotter, then we'll all be a little safer, a little better, and everybody will be able to sleep a little more comfortably.

Pastor DONOVAN PRICE FOUNDER, Solutions and Resources / Street Pastors



125

Lives saved

2,985

Firearms recovered

24,421

Pieces of evidence collected

Source: Chicago Police Dept. testimony, [Committee on Budget and Government Operations](#), 10/21/22

Minutes Matter for Victims

On April 26, 2021, Officers Rhonda Ward and Julius Givens were first on scene in the 8200 block of South Cole Ave. for a ShotSpotter alert.

Officer Ward found 13-year-old Swayzee Rankins shot in the back and abdomen. The officer immediately put the boy in the squad car and drove him to the hospital.

“Stay with me and we’re gonna make this trip together and he trusted us,” Officer Ward said. *“Stay with us and he did just that. So he’s a hero too.”*

The family told WGN News that Rankins and his 14-year-old friend were shot while walking home from a friend’s house.

WGN News reported that at the time of the story Rankins was in critical condition, but the family said he was going to be okay.

Source: [WGN-TV, April 29, 2021](#)



Officer **RHONDA WARD**, Chicago Police Department

84%

Chicago residents overwhelmingly support the use of gunshot detection technology.

[Poll, May 2022](#)

MYTH

FACT



Uncover the Truth About ShotSpotter: **Myths vs. Facts**

Explore the realities and dispel common misconceptions about ShotSpotter’s impact and effectiveness in improving police response times and saving lives in Chicago.

[Learn More](#)

Chicago Police Leadership and Patrols Rely On Shotspotter

“



I can tell you unequivocally that the technology and the analysis helps...we caught offenders at the scene several times because of ShotSpotter.

EDDIE JOHNSON, Former Superintendent

“



With [ShotSpotter] we're getting immediate information which gives us an opportunity to intercede with somebody dying.

GARRY MCCARTHY, Former Superintendent

“



If you've got a system that helps take shooters off the street, why would you want to get rid of it?

JODY WEIS, Former Superintendent

Former Chicago Police Department Superintendents Eddie Johnson, Garry McCarthy and Jody Weis sat down with NBC5 for a candid discussion on the city's public safety crisis led by Stefan Holt.

Source: [Full Conversation: NBC Chicago](#), 3/31/23



Read More About ShotSpotter



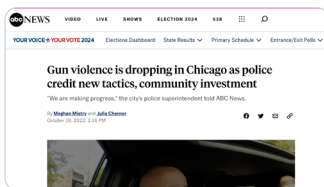
[What's the Life of a Gunshot Victim Worth? \(Opinion\)](#)

The Chicago Defender, a leading African-American media outlet, published an op-ed authored SoundThinking President and CEO Ralph Clark. In the piece, he argues that ShotSpotter gunshot detection technology saves lives by quickly alerting police and first responders to shootings, allowing them to locate and aid victims.



[Chicago man fired 80 rounds into the air to welcome 2024, prosecutors say](#)

CWB Chicago reported on a suspect allegedly welcomed the new year by firing 80 rounds into the air using three firearms. SoundThinking's technology detected the gunfire and alerted the Chicago police, who responded to the scene at the man's residence. The police discovered spent shell casings, firearms, and a significant amount of suspected methamphetamine in his possession. The man faces charges of reckless discharge of a firearm along with numerous other felonies.



[Gun violence is dropping in Chicago as police credit new tactics, community investment](#)

In Chicago, shootings are down 20% through the end of summer and homicides have fallen 16%. That means 101 fewer people were shot this year than last.



[Police Arrive at Sunday Shooting 60 Seconds After ShotSpotter Alerts Them, Find Injured Woman](#)

In the second incident in its first week on the job, Pasadena's new ShotSpotter gunfire detection system sent officers to the scene of a shooting Sunday afternoon where they found an injured victim. The ShotSpotter system detected and immediately reported 18 gunshots, Pasadena police Lt. Monica Cuellar said. Officers on patrol were instantly notified and arrived at the scene of the shooting within 60 seconds.



[Ersie Joyner 'humbled and humanized' after surviving 22 bullet wounds in Oakland shootout](#)

According to Joyner, police arrived before any human had called 911. Joyner says he never lost consciousness and saw Oakland police cars roll up quickly, despite not hearing any witnesses call police. Shortly after Joyner had been shot, his daughter texted Ralph Clark, CEO of ShotSpotter. "Hey thank you so much, Ralph," she wrote. "We think ShotSpotter might have played a role in saving my dad's life."

Mayor and Alderpeople Contact Table

1. Find your ward and alderperson by typing in your address [on this webpage](#)
2. Find their information in the table below. Clicking on their name in the first column will lead you to the City of Chicago website with their email, phone number, office address, etc.

Mayor Brandon Johnson	n/a	@chicagosmayor	brandon.johnson@cityofchicago.org
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Alderman	No.	Social Media	Email
Ald. Daniel La Spata	1	@AldermanLaSpata, @DanielLaSpata	info@the1stward.com
Ald. Brian Hopkins	2	@AldermanHopkins	ward02@cityofchicago.org
Ald. Pat Dowell	3	@AldPatDowell3rd	ward03@cityofchicago.org
Ald. Lamont Robinson	4	@LamontJRobinson	ward04@cityofchicago.org
Ald. Desmon Yancy	5	@yancyforthe5th	ward05@cityofchicago.org
Ald. William Hall	6	-	ward06@cityofchicago.org
Ald. Gregory Mitchell	7	@AldGregMitchell	ward07@cityofchicago.org
Ald. Michelle A. Harris	8	@AldermanHarris	ward08@cityofchicago.org
Ald. Anthony Beale	9	@Alderman_Beale	ward09@cityofchicago.org
Ald. Peter Chico	10	-	ward10@cityofchicago.org
Ald. Nicole Lee	11	@ald_nicolelee	ward11@cityofchicago.org
Ald. Julia Ramirez	12	@the12thward	ward12@cityofchicago.org
Ald. Marty Quinn	13	-	ward13@cityofchicago.org
Ald. Jeylu Gutierrez	14	@AldJeylu	ward14@cityofchicago.org ward@chicago14.com
Ald. Raymond Lopez	15	@RLopez15thWard	ward15@cityofchicago.org
Ald. Stephanie Coleman	16	@AldSColeman	info@16thWard.org ward16@cityofchicago.org
Ald. David H. Moore	17	@c4m17ward	ward17@cityofchicago.org
Ald. Derrick Curtis	18	-	ward18@cityofchicago.org
Ald. Matthew O'Shea	19	@mattoshea19	ward19@cityofchicago.org
Ald. Jeanette Taylor	20	@taylorfor20th, @J1Ramann	ward20@cityofchicago.org
Ald. Ronnie Mosley	21	@AldMosley21	ward21@cityofchicago.org
Ald. Michael Rodriguez	22	@rodriguezfor22	ward22@cityofchicago.org
Ald. Silvana Tabares	23	@aldermantabares	ward23@cityofchicago.org
Ald. Monique Scott	24	@aldermanscott24	ward24@cityofchicago.org

Alderman	No.	Social Media	Email
Ald. Byron Sigcho-Lopez	25	@SigchoFor25	ward25@cityofchicago.org
Ald. Jessie Fuentes	26	@Ward26Chicago	ward26@cityofchicago.org info@the26thward.org
Ald. Walter Burnett, Jr	27	@AldermanBurnett	ward27@cityofchicago.org
Ald. Jason Ervin	28	@AldermanErvin	ward28@cityofchicago.org
Ald. Chris Taliaferro	29	@chris29thward	ward29@cityofchicago.org
Ald. Ruth Cruz	30	@AlderwomanCruz	ward30@cityofchicago.org
Ald. Felix Cardona Jr.	31	@aldermancardona	ward31@cityofchicago.org
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Ald. Leni Manaa-Hoppenworth	48	@the48thward	info@the48thward.org
Ald. Maria Hadden	49	@ChiAlderwoman	ward49@cityofchicago.org
Ald. Debra Silverstein	50	@50thWardChicago	ward50@cityofchicago.org