

Agenda Report

September 27, 2021

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Police Department

THROUGH: Public Safety Committee (September 23, 2021)

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE ORDER
CONTRACT WITH SHOTSPOTTER TO PURCHASE A SHOTSPOTTER
SUBSCRIPTION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$640,000 OVER A
THREE YEAR PERIOD**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the proposed contract is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15060(c)(2), 15060(c)(3), and 15378; as the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment; and
2. Amend the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Operating Budget by appropriating \$220,000 from unappropriated fund balance in the Supplemental Law Enforcement Fund 201; and
3. Authorize a purchase order contract with ShotSpotter for the purchase of a subscription to the ShotSpotter system which includes the necessary equipment, service initiation, onboarding and annual subscription fees in an amount not to exceed \$640,000 over a period of three years. Competitive bidding is not required pursuant to City Charter Section 1002(f), for contracts for professional and unique services; and
4. It is further recommended that the City council grant the proposed contract an exemption from the Competitive Selection process pursuant to Pasadena Municipal Code Section 4.08.049(B) contracts for with the City's best interest are served.

BACKGROUND:

Over the past two years, the Police Department has responded to more than 300 calls for service reporting of shots fired and an additional 400 incidents of gun related crimes. During the same time period, nearly 40 members of the Pasadena community have either been killed or injured as a result of gun violence. The Police Department has seized close to 700 firearms during the same time period. The average time it takes for the Police Department to receive a call in its dispatch center, dispatch officers with the pertinent information and have officers arrive at the location, is generally several minutes. These minutes can prove critical if a victim is actually struck by the reported gunfire.

ShotSpotter technology is a gunfire detection, analysis and alert system which enhances a Police Department's response and investigation. More than two years of gun related crime data was provided to ShotSpotter for analysis. This data was used to determine the optimal location of gunshot detection sensors covering the areas most impacted by gun related crimes. Once operational, the sensors can detect loud, impulsive sounds (i.e. gunshots) which will generate a recorded incident. The system uses sound triangulation to determine the actual shot location within an 82 ft radius. The recorded sound is then sent to ShotSpotter's Incident Review Center (IRC) where it undergoes two phases of review to determine if it is legitimate gunfire, or if it was generated by another source. Once it is confirmed the sounds were gunfire, Pasadena Police Department and Pasadena Police Officers would be notified of the gunfire via a digital application to their smartphone or similar device. This entire process occurs within 60 seconds or less.

There are instances where the Police Department never receive reports of gunfire and there are instances where the reports of gunfire are reported multiple blocks from the actual location of the gunfire. Gunshots are difficult to determine where they actually originated because of how sound waves travel, which results in officers responding to an inaccurate location. The response delay can sometimes be considerable. If a person was struck by gunfire, time is of the essence and any delay could be a matter of life and death.

Besides the potential life-saving benefits, the ShotSpotter system provides additional assistance to the subscriber. Most importantly, the system has proven to deter shootings in other cities who have subscribed to ShotSpotter. Additionally, the system prevents the need to investigate non-gunfire related incidents allowing officers to remain available in the field. If an actual gunshot incident does occur, ShotSpotter can detect if there are multiple weapons involved, if any of the weapons are high capacity type firearms, or if the weapon is a fully automatic weapon. This information is invaluable to responding officers in determining their tactical approach. Finally, the information provided by the ShotSpotter system can assist detectives in solving criminal activity.

Staff is recommending that the City Council authorize a purchase order contract with ShotSpotter, Inc. to provide a subscription for a three-year pilot of the ShotSpotter gunshot detection, alert, and analysis system.

ShotSpotter's technology is proprietary and Staff is not aware of any other vendor providing this service. Therefore, an exemption from the competitive selection process on the basis of best interests of the City being served is appropriate.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The proposed action is consistent with the City Council's Plan goals to ensure public safety.

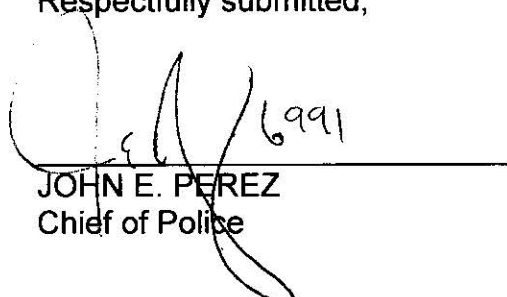
ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The action proposed herein is not a project subject to CEQA, pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15060 (c)(2), 15060 (c)(3), and 15378. CEQA Guidelines Section 15060 (c) (2) states that an activity is not subject to CEQA if "The activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment". The proposed activity consists of the purchase of ShotSpotter systems and a service agreement for these systems, which is a continuing administrative and maintenance activity (i.e., purchasing of supplies). No direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment would result from this equipment purchase. For the same reason, the proposed activity is not a CEQA Project" as defined in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378 and is, therefore, also not subject to CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15060 (c)(3).

FISCAL IMPACT:

Staff recommends amending the FY 2022 Operating Budget by appropriating \$220,000 from the unappropriated fund balance in the Supplemental Law Enforcement Fund 201 (20133001-850400). There is sufficient fund balance in the fund to support the proposed increase. The cost of the remaining two years will be programmed into the Police Department's annual operating budget in either the Supplemental Law Enforcement Fund 201 or the Public Safety Augmentation Fund 202.

Respectfully submitted,



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Chief of Police

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Approved by:



STEVE MERMELL
City Manager