

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Yadi <
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2023 8:52 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment - Pasadena City Council Meeting 10/23/23
Attachments: Data Shows ShotSpotter Leads to Dead Ends and Wasted Resources in Pasadena - Knock LA.pdf

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Hi,

Please find attached my public comment for the October 23, 2023 Pasadena City Council Meeting, agenda item 20. Review of Shotspotter

Thanks,

Yadi
(Attachments: 1)

10/23/2023
Item 20

ANALYSIS

PASADENA POLICE TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Data Shows ShotSpotter Leads to Dead Ends and Wasted Resources in Pasadena

In the past year and a half, Pasadena police have spent 285 hours responding to calls and coming up empty-handed 75% of the time.

Joey Scott | August 24, 2023



Photo credit: SoundThinking, Illustration: Joey Scott.

Since 2022, Pasadena Police Department (PPD) has contracted with acoustic surveillance company ShotSpotter to use its technology to better respond to shootings, curb gun violence, and help find evidence used to solve crimes. But data obtained through public records requests by Knock LA from 2022 and 2023 tell a starkly different story, one of minimal arrests, little obtained evidence, and hundreds of hours of wasted police resources.

ShotSpotter only alerted a homicide once in 2022, during a year where there were 49 shooting investigations – with 14 people injured or killed in a shooting. It only alerted the police to five gunshot victims also that year

PPD prioritizes ShotSpotter alerts over other calls, including 911 calls. Per the department's policy, ShotSpotter calls are "Priority 1" and are approached as a crime in progress with a firearm. Yet, as the data shows, the police are dedicating well over a majority of their time and resources to a type of call unlikely to actually help them locate any sign of a shooting. Records show 75% of those calls had no link to a 911 call, sending police out to investigate alerts not initiated by a person reporting a crime. Even after canvassing an alert, only 22% of police walked away with a police report in 2022. The department has collectively spent 283 hours on ShotSpotter calls since the contract's start, adding to the growing fiscal impact on the city's budget.

A map provided to Pasadena PD from SoundThinking shows where alerts occurred in a one year timeframe. Over 75% of these alerts would end up with no evidence of a shooting crime being committed.

The data from the first two quarters of this year is trending to be more of the same. In 76% of alerts, no gun casings were found, and only 13% of the alerts led to a criminal report that investigators can follow up on.

The future of ShotSpotter in Pasadena is unclear. The PPD's presentation in June to Pasadena City Council's Public Safety Committee was met with rapid responses. The data presented mirrored that of other cities that have canceled their contracts with the company. So far, \$430,000 of the city's 3-year \$630,000 contract for SoundThinking's services and monitoring has been spent. That doesn't take into account the unknown cost of resources the city is spending to chase alerts that only come up empty-handed.

When asked if he thought ShotSpotter has reduced the number of shooting incidents, PPD Commander William Grisafe said, "If I were to say that ShotSpotter is responsible for the decrease, no. It is the coordination of a lot of different things."

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