

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO AGENDA ITEM 2026-447

ShotSpotter/SoundThinking Contract Renewal

AN AMENDMENT ESTABLISHING PUBLIC SAFETY PERFORMANCE REPORTING, INDEPENDENT EVALUATION, COMMUNITY RESOURCE COORDINATION, AND CIVIL-LIBERTIES SAFEGUARDS AS CONDITIONS FOR FUTURE APPROPRIATIONS AND RENEWAL, TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW AND EXISTING CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

WHEREAS, the City of Springfield has an important responsibility to protect residents from gun violence, respond promptly to emergencies, investigate criminal activity, and support effective violence-prevention strategies; and

WHEREAS, the Police Chief has identified potential benefits of ShotSpotter, including locating possible victims, recovering evidence, supporting investigations, and directing police resources; and

WHEREAS, the Police Chief has also reported reductions in violent crime and persons struck by gunfire, as well as increased recovery of illegally possessed firearms; and

WHEREAS, these reported outcomes deserve serious consideration but should be evaluated using transparent data that distinguishes outcomes associated with ShotSpotter from outcomes attributable to other policing, investigative, community, and prevention efforts; and

WHEREAS, the City has reported substantial investments in community programs, youth services, behavioral-health support, neighborhood improvements, and violence prevention, and residents deserve transparent accounting of the funding, services, and outcomes of those investments; and

WHEREAS, responsible public spending requires timely performance information, independent evaluation, protection of civil liberties, and meaningful public participation before significant annual budget decisions are made;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS:

Section 1. Purpose and application

The purpose of this amendment is to establish public reporting, independent evaluation, privacy safeguards, and community resource coordination requirements relating to ShotSpotter/SoundThinking and associated public-safety investments.

The requirements below shall apply to the proposed renewal and any subsequent renewal, extension, expansion, or new appropriation, to the extent permitted by applicable law and existing contractual obligations. Nothing in this amendment shall be construed to authorize a breach of an existing contract.

Section 2. Annual report required before budget consideration

The Springfield Police Department, in coordination with the appropriate City departments, shall submit an annual **ShotSpotter Performance and Community Public Safety Report** to the Mayor and City Council at least sixty (60) calendar days before the City Council's scheduled final consideration of the proposed annual budget.

The report shall be published on the City's website upon submission and shall include:

A. ShotSpotter alerts and results

1. Total alerts received, reviewed, forwarded to officers, canceled, corrected, and determined to lack corroborating evidence.
2. The number of alerts associated with independently corroborated gunfire, injured persons, medical assistance, recovered shell casings, recovered firearms, arrests, charges, search warrants, and cleared cases.
3. The number of illegally possessed firearms recovered following a ShotSpotter alert, clearly distinguished from recoveries made through other police activity.
4. Available response-time data, including alert-to-dispatch, dispatch-to-arrival, and time to locate an injured person, where recorded.
5. The criteria used to classify alerts and determine whether an alert contributed to an investigative or public-safety outcome.
6. Known limitations, missing information, and changes in data collection or reporting methods.

B. Crime and violence trends

The report shall provide annual and year-to-date statistics for homicides, persons struck by gunfire, shootings, and violent crime, using consistent definitions and comparable time periods.

The report shall identify the reporting cutoff for year-to-date figures and shall not attribute crime reductions to ShotSpotter alone without a credible evaluation supporting that conclusion.

C. Total cost

The report shall identify the full cost of ShotSpotter, including subscription and equipment costs, installation, maintenance, training, dispatch, investigative work, officer time, and other material expenses, to the extent available.

Section 3. Independent evaluation

The City shall obtain an independent evaluation of ShotSpotter's effectiveness and cost effectiveness at least annually, subject to available lawful funding and applicable procurement requirements.

The evaluation shall examine:

1. The proportion of alerts that are corroborated by evidence of gunfire.
2. The number of alerts associated with medical assistance, useful physical evidence, investigative leads, arrests, charges, and case clearances.
3. Whether the technology measurably improves response times or outcomes compared with available alternatives.
4. The relationship between ShotSpotter use and changes in gun violence, while accounting for other plausible contributing factors and acknowledging limitations in causal inference.
5. The geographic distribution of alerts and police responses, and potential disparate impacts on neighborhoods and residents.
6. The full cost of the technology compared with alternative uses of public funds, including community violence intervention and prevention.

The evaluation's methodology, findings, limitations, and supporting aggregate data shall be made public, subject to applicable privacy and confidentiality laws. The vendor shall not have authority to suppress or control the evaluator's findings.

Section 4. Community investment and resource coordination

The City shall include a public accounting of funds allocated, obligated, and spent on community violence prevention, youth programs, mentoring, behavioral-health services, victim assistance, hospital-based violence intervention, recreation, employment programs, and neighborhood improvements.

The accounting shall distinguish actual expenditures from announced awards, grants, allocations, and projected spending. It shall identify, to the extent available, the funding source, period covered, organization receiving funds, population served, services delivered, and measurable outcomes.

The City shall assess opportunities to improve voluntary referrals and coordination among community-based service providers. This assessment may include a ResourceRouter-style system or other appropriate tools, but **shall not presume that ResourceRouter is included in the existing ShotSpotter contract.**

Before procuring or implementing additional software, the City shall disclose its proposed cost, purpose, data collected, participating agencies, service providers, data-sharing arrangements, and privacy protections, and shall follow applicable procurement and appropriation requirements.

Resource coordination should prioritize voluntary connections to services such as:

- Community violence intervention and victim support.
- Hospital-based violence intervention and trauma support.
- Youth mentoring, employment, recreation, and after-school programs.
- Behavioral-health and substance-use services.
- Housing assistance and other social services.
- Neighborhood improvements identified by residents.

ShotSpotter alerts alone shall not be used to assign individual risk scores, determine eligibility for social services, or initiate adverse enforcement decisions. Any resource-referral system shall use only the information reasonably necessary for its stated purpose, with appropriate access controls and privacy protections.

Section 5. Privacy, civil liberties, and evidentiary safeguards

The City shall require, to the extent legally and contractually feasible:

1. Written policies governing data collection, retention, access, disclosure, security, and deletion.
2. Access controls and auditable logs identifying who accesses relevant data and for what authorized purpose.
3. Disclosure of material data-sharing arrangements, subcontractors, storage practices, and applicable retention schedules.
4. Prohibition of unauthorized sale or unrelated commercial use of City data.
5. Appropriate procedures for responding to data breaches, unauthorized access, and substantiated complaints.
6. Public disclosure of applicable system limitations and policies governing the use of alerts and associated records in investigations and legal proceedings, consistent with law.

A ShotSpotter alert shall be treated as an investigative lead, not proof that a crime occurred or that a particular person committed an offense. Officers shall follow applicable law and departmental policy regarding corroboration, reasonable suspicion, probable cause, searches, and arrests.

Nothing in this section shall restrict lawful emergency response or prevent officers from taking action supported by independent facts and circumstances.

Section 6. Equity and public accountability

The annual report shall include an aggregate review of alert locations, police responses, and available enforcement outcomes by geographic area, with appropriate privacy protections.

The City shall provide a process for residents to submit concerns about the technology and its use, and shall report the number and general disposition of complaints without disclosing protected personal information.

Before expanding sensor coverage or materially changing the system's use, the City shall provide public notice, disclose the proposed cost and purpose, and allow for public comment, subject to applicable law and existing contractual obligations.

Alert counts alone shall not be treated as a complete measure of neighborhood violence or as sufficient justification for expanding enforcement or surveillance.

Section 7. Public hearing and budget decision

The annual report shall be presented at a publicly noticed City Council meeting before final consideration of the proposed annual budget. Residents shall have an opportunity to comment.

Before approving a new discretionary appropriation, renewal, or expansion of ShotSpotter, the City Council shall consider the available performance evidence, independent evaluation, total cost, civil-liberties implications, equity impacts, community investments, and feasible alternatives.

If the required report is late or materially incomplete, the responsible department shall publicly identify the missing information and establish a corrective schedule. To the extent permitted by law and existing contractual obligations, no new discretionary appropriation, expansion, or renewal shall be approved until the Council has received and reviewed the required information.

Adoption of the annual budget shall not waive these reporting and oversight requirements.

Section 8. Implementation

Within one hundred twenty (120) days after adoption, the responsible departments shall provide an implementation report identifying available historical data, reporting procedures, existing contractual limitations, privacy safeguards, community resource coordination opportunities, and any additional resources required to comply.

The Corporation Counsel shall review this amendment for consistency with applicable law, the existing contract, confidentiality requirements, and procurement rules and shall recommend any necessary revisions.

Section 9. Severability and effective date

If any provision of this amendment is determined to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall remain in effect to the extent permitted by law.

This amendment shall take effect upon adoption, subject to applicable law and existing contractual obligations.