City of San Antonio

Legislation Details (With Text)

File #:	16-5748		
Type:	Staff Briefing - Without Ordinance		
		In control:	Criminal Justice, Public Safety and Services Committee
On agenda:	11/8/2016		
Title:	Briefing and Update on ShotSpotter Pilot Program. [Presented by William McManus, Chief of Police]		
Sponsors:			
Indexes:			
Code sections:			
Attachments:			

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result

DEPARTMENT: Police Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: William P. McManus, Chief of Police

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: City Wide

SUBJECT:

ShotSpotter Pilot Program Update

SUMMARY:

On April 29, 2016, the San Antonio Police Department launched the one year ShotSpotter Pilot Program. As part of the pilot program, ShotSpotter Inc. provides subscription based access to the ShotSpotter Flex Gunfire Location, Alert and Analysis Service. The service includes a combined four square mile acoustic surveillance system that can detect and locate gunfire throughout the two coverage areas located in the East and West sides of San Antonio. The service features real-time location of gunfire and audio clips.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Results to Date

The following is a summary of the number of activations that have been documented through October 31, 2016:

	ShostSpotter	Citizen Only	ShotSpotter/Citizen
East	54	41	97
West	105	22	167
TOTAL	**159**	**63**	**264**

A total of 63 activations within the project zones have been reported by citizens only with no ShotSpotter notification. This can be attributed to technology limitations, which is unable to accurately detect shots fired within structures or vehicles, as well as sensor placement issues. The majority of issues related to sensor placement appear to have been resolved within the first two months of the program with the placement of additional sensors.

In addition, a total of 6 firearms have been recovered, 63 pieces of evidence collected as a result of activations. 6 gun-related arrests have been made within the coverage areas. The table below provides additional detail regarding those arrests:

Criminal Charge	Citizen Calls	ShotSpotter Calls	Case No.
Deadly Conduct	5	1	SAPD16095861
Felon in Poss. (Firearm)	2	1	SAPD16169345
Murder	3	0	SAPD16110650
Agg. Assault	9	0	SAPD16168541
Agg. Robbery	3	0	SAPD16105262
Deadly Conduct	3	0	SAPD16105262

SAPD Response

ShotSpotter activations are categorized as Code 1 calls with officers dispatched to the identified location. Officers are instructed to take the following actions when responding to each activation:

- Search area to identify potential suspects and victims
- Identify and ensure collection of evidence
- Canvass witnesses in the immediate area to obtain relevant information
- Leave door hangers with program information at homes and businesses in the area
- Write an incident report

Evidence collected primarily consists of shell casings. All shell casings are submitted to the Department of Public Safety for documentation and entry into the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN).

System Effectiveness

The SAPD continues to collect data to measure the effectiveness of the ShotSpotter technology and has created a specific problem code to identify activations and have instructed staff to complete a report for each incident. Initial data review suggests a possible improvement in notification time which may, in some instances, result in a more timely response. A majority of activations have not been linked to violent crime incidents with an identified victim.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff will continue to collect data and will prepare a report at the conclusion of the pilot program to determine effectiveness of the technology and the results achieved.