



Case Study

“As fast as bullets went into the air, police were arresting shooters”

- Post-Tribune.com

About ShotSpotter

ShotSpotter, Inc., the world leader in gunshot location and detection systems for the public safety and military markets, is based in Santa Clara, CA. ShotSpotter's patented, award-winning solutions are proven to reduce violent crime and gunfire, and thus homicide rates. For more information on ShotSpotter visit www.shotspotter.com, call us at (888) 274-6877 or (408) 329-9200, or email us at info@shotspotter.com.

Gary Indiana: One Night, Record Results

Gary Indiana, just 27 miles from downtown Chicago, proved it was able to dramatically reduce illegal weapons activity. In one night alone, police confiscated 45 illegal weapons, including 27 semi-automatic handguns, 1 revolver, 7 assault rifles, 8 shotguns and 2 rifles - the largest single-shift gun bust in city history.

Problem Overview

Gary is the largest city in Lake County in northwest Indiana. Like many large urban areas in the U.S., Gary has struggled to control gun violence. The problem had become so serious that shortly before the end of 2005 the media singled out Gary as a city with record gunshot statistics.

The upcoming New Year's Eve holiday was of particular concern to public safety officials, as it is typically a holiday that sees a lot of dangerous gunfire. There was concern that revelry would take a violent turn and shots would be fired into the air during the holiday. Further, officials feared there would be other violence that would need to be controlled.

With a public, city-wide New Year's Eve celebration planned, the City turned to the Gary Police Department to make sure the citizens were safe to ring in the New Year without worrying about stray bullets.

Finding a Solution

The Gary Police Department got a head start and put together a detailed tactical plan for making sure officers would be where they were needed, able to quickly shut down any problems before anyone was hurt. They hoped to be able to leverage gunshot location technology already in place, to aid in their New Year's Eve plan. Gary was the first city in the Midwest to purchase the ShotSpotter Gunshot Location System (GLS), which uses sensors and computer technology to locate the source of shots within a few feet as soon as they occur.



Case Study

Gary, IN

BLUEFORCE TRACKING

ShotSpotter's unique capability lets the City keep track of where their people are at all times, whether in squad cars or on foot.

This vastly improves officer safety without impairing critical response time.

New Year's Eve Plan

The Department knew they needed to have extra "feet on the streets" that night, and planned to have more officers on duty. In addition, they put together a special response squad, partly composed of their SWAT team, which was to spend the whole evening responding to calls. The Gary Police Chief actually planned to spend the night out in the city responding to calls as well.

But even with an officer a block away from an incident, the City needed ShotSpotter technology to pinpoint the location of the shooter and immediately relay that information via mobile equipment to the officer in the area. To assist this team, ShotSpotter devised a short-term deployment solution that was composed of officer-worn and vehicle-mounted wireless gunshot sensors, equipment for a mobile command center, and special "Blueforce Tracking" capability.

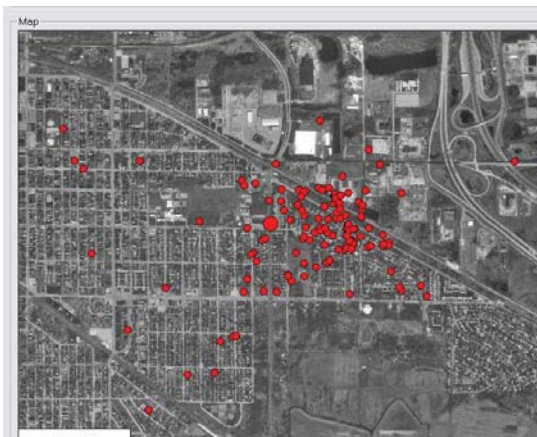
This approach, modeled after work done by ShotSpotter for the U.S. military, would not only allow officers to take the system into the areas where it was needed, but also to keep track of where their people were at all times, whether in squad cars or on foot, adding to their safety and improving critical response times.

Community Public Relations Campaign

Preparations began with a public relations campaign. The message reassured the public that police coverage would be heavy on New Year's Eve, while at the same time warning those who might be readying their guns that ShotSpotter coverage would be beefed up for the night: if they fire a weapon, they should expect to be arrested.

The Mayor of Gary held a news conference at City Hall on the Thursday before New Year's Eve and reinforced the message. "Extra police will be on duty Saturday evening through early Sunday, and 18 squad cars will be equipped with mobile gunshot detectors," he warned. "There are many appropriate ways to celebrate," he said. "Firing a gun into the air is not one of them. Don't do it this weekend."

The next day, headlines read "New Year's Eve Patrols Up," "Don't fire your gun New Year's Eve" and "Gary Police to combat New Year's Eve gunshots." The Gary Police Department Web site put out a special newsletter informing citizens of their plans for extra coverage and special ShotSpotter deployments.



Actual screenshot of gunfire reports from ShotSpotter sensors in Gary, Dec 31, 2005. The large circle in the middle resulted in 5 arrests and the bulk of the weapons confiscated.

Case Study

Gary, IN

Mobile and Fixed Sensors

ShotSpotter worked with the Gary police department to temporarily extend the existing ShotSpotter Gunshot Location System to reach areas previously not covered, and bulk up the protection for New Year's Eve. During the holiday, 16 sensors, ten of them mobile and six temporarily installed in fixed locations, were added to the existing system linked into dispatch.

Officers wore the mobile sensors on their uniforms as they canvassed parts of the city, while other sensors were mounted in squad cars. A police van equipped with the visual feedback data from the sensors and dispatch equipment served as the mobile tactical command center. This command center also had the added benefit of ShotSpotter's Blueforce Tracking, so dispatchers could see not only the gunfire on screen, but also the position of all officers. Dispatch could easily tell those officers closest to the incident where to respond.

ShotSpotter in Action

As anticipated, and despite the thorough efforts to thwart them, some revelers got out of hand and shots rang out in the city. ShotSpotter's Scott Manderville was on hand to experience the ShotSpotter system working hand-in-hand with the Gary Police on that New Year's Eve.

"It was really something to witness," said Manderville. "I rode along for part of the night in the mobile command center, and part of the night in a squad car. We directly assisted in numerous arrests that resulted from data collected both in the mobile unit and main dispatch."

Police were extremely pleased with the accurate help they received from the ShotSpotter sensors. "We were getting things like 'in the backyard, 10 feet back,'" said the Chief of Police the next day. "That allowed us to collect shell casings, evidence and also to respond very quickly to an incident where shots were fired."



In an eight hour period on New Year's Eve, Gary Police Officers confiscated 45 illegal weapons. It was the lead story on the 6 O'Clock News

"We were getting things like 'in the backyard, ten feet back.'"

That allowed us to collect shell casings, evidence and also to respond very quickly to an incident where shots were fired."

- Gary Chief of Police

Case Study

Gary, IN



Aerial view of the locations of the 158 gunfire events detected on New Year's Eve 2005/6.

Confiscated:

- 27 semi-automatic handguns
- 1 revolver
- 7 assault rifles
- 8 shotguns (3 sawed-off)
- 2 rifles

The Results

It was a very long night for officers working the New Year's Eve celebration late into the next morning. However, the combination of ShotSpotter technology and an active community public relations campaign paid off. The night netted 15 multiple-charge arrests and 45 confiscated weapons - a record for a single evening. The weapons haul was the lead story on ABC's Six O'clock News.

In the days that followed, newspaper headlines proclaimed "Revelry Nets Guns, Arrests" and articles went on to boast: "As fast as the bullets went into the air, Gary police were arresting shooters throughout the city on New Year's Eve." The Gary Police Department posted a special edition of their newsletter on the Department Web site and included a breakdown of the evening's proceeds. In an eight-hour period on New Year's Eve, Gary Police Officers confiscated 45 illegal weapons.

On the following Monday, the Chief sent a letter to ShotSpotter's Scott Manderville: "I am writing on behalf of the men and women of the Gary Police Department and the citizens of Gary to personally thank you and your company for your efforts on the City's behalf on New Year's Eve. ShotSpotter's efforts in bringing the latest in mobile technology, which allowed us to expand our coverage areas, were of tremendous assistance to us. I look forward to our ongoing collaborative efforts to make Gary a safer city to live in."

As a result of this event, Gary has contracted with ShotSpotter to extend the system to cover the majority of the City.

THE SHOTSPOTTER DIFFERENCE

Proven, Patented Technology

The only gunshot detection system to be successfully deployed for ten years, with more than a dozen installations across the United States.

Seasoned Management.

Senior management- PhDs, retired military officers and former sworn law enforcement officers provide in-depth subject matter expertise.

Industry Best Practices

Providing expert advice to cities and counties as to gunshot detection, deployment and operational enforcement methodology