



## Case Study

***“With the help of ShotSpotter, we intend to ensure that criminals are the ones running for cover”***

***- Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter***

### 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](http://www.shotspotter.com), call us at (888) 274-6877 or (408) 329-9200, or email us at [info@shotspotter.com](mailto:info@shotspotter.com).

## Rochester New York Takes Action

**Rochester New York is putting unconventional methods to work in a successful bid to reduce gun-related crime. ShotSpotter's Metro Gunshot Location System (GLS) is helping the City change its reputation: at one time it ranked as the state leader in per-capita homicides.**

### Problem Overview

Rochester boasts a world-class menu of features, including affordable housing choices, spectacular natural settings, stable industry, and a heritage of creativity. However, at one time in the past, it was known as the leader in per-capita homicides in the state –even surpassing New York City. The majority of those were related to gun crimes.

In spite of a struggle to control gun-related crimes, the annual rate of homicide had been between 40 and 55 per year for the past four years, and continued to climb each year. Naturally, crime can have an impact on economic development, property values and overall citizen satisfaction.

Rochester officials searched for a solution that could both improve the safety and well-being of the citizens of Rochester and help push economic development of the City. According to Mike Bialaszewski, Grants Officer for the City, “In Rochester, the crime occurs mainly in a crescent-shaped area of the City that the former administration dubbed ‘The Crescent’”.

Recently, Rochester experienced a shocking eight shooting deaths in as many days. According to Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter, “for far too long the people of this great city have been victimized by a cycle of shootings, violence and death. The people of Rochester are scared. Families are suffering. And it is unacceptable.”



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### Rochester, NY

**“The deciding factor was an actual clip from a ShotSpotter arrest where... the gunfire was from a drive-by, and it could tell that two cars were involved, how fast and in what direction they were going.**

- Mike Bialaszewski,  
Grants Officer for the  
City of Rochester



Rochester Police work to improve the safety and well-being of their citizens.

#### The Search for a Solution

The Rochester Police Department recognized they needed to look to technology to assist them in their quest to reduce gun-related crime. ShotSpotter was introduced to the department in late January 2003 after an Internet search for new police technology. At that time, the ShotSpotter GLS was deployed in Los Angeles, California and Glendale, Arizona among other cities. Rochester public safety officials contacted both police departments for feedback and the results were very positive: both reported a considerable reduction in gunfire in their respective cities.

After viewing an initial small demo, the Rochester Chief of Police requested a full-scale demo and invited members of the DA's office, people from the 911 system, the command staff, and others, in order to determine if ShotSpotter could help the Rochester Police Department.

According to Bialaszewski, who spearheaded the ShotSpotter Gunshot Location System initiative, "Police are by training a very inquisitive bunch, and the ShotSpotter representatives did a good job of demonstrating the capabilities. The deciding factor was an actual clip from a ShotSpotter arrest where the police were able to determine that the gunfire was from a drive-by, and it could tell that two cars were involved, how fast and in what direction they were going." After the demo, all parties involved believed that ShotSpotter could be of immense assistance to the Rochester Police Department.

#### Due Diligence and Funding

In order to determine that Shot Spotter was the best gunshot detection system on the market, the department investigated three alternative companies. ShotSpotter was the only one that had a solution up and running in several different areas. This was very important to the backers of the initiative, since they did not want to spend taxpayers' money on something that was nothing more than a concept. The requirement in terms of number of sensors per square mile was another concern. "ShotSpotter had the lowest number by far, and therefore was the most cost-effective," according to Bialaszewski.

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After the Shot Spotter solution was approved, the department needed to find a source for funding. They reached out to many sources, including Congresswoman Louise Slaughter who immediately agreed to assist. Congresswoman Slaughter decided to use funds allocated from the federal budget. Processing time was added to the equation when the government routed the funds through the COPS Technology Office. Due in large part to Slaughter's persistence, the project finally received its funding.

#### Going Live - A Multi-faceted Approach

In 2005, the Rochester Police Department was ready to deploy the Shot Spotter Solution. The department held a large press conference, urging to the media spread the word to potential gun-firers that this system would soon be in place. The program installation started late in the fourth quarter of 2005 and went live in the summer of 2006.

Police Chief David Moore called the new tool "exciting", and coincidentally undertook several other unrelated efforts to get guns off the streets. The department decided to hold a second "no questions asked" gun turn-in day (the previous turn-in day netted 12 guns and more than 200 live rounds.) Chief Moore also established a new tip line, where people can report illegal guns anonymously.

Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter lauded the efforts: "People have a right to feel safe in their neighborhoods and homes. Children have a right to feel safe in their schools. With the help of ShotSpotter, we intend to turn the tables on shooters in this city...and ensure that the criminals will be the ones running for cover instead of our law abiding citizens, who have been ducking for cover for far too long."

#### The Results

After the program went live, all eyes were on the ShotSpotter system to see whether it would deliver the anticipated results. The first arrest came within just days. According to Police Chief Moore, the system helped police "take a potentially dangerous person off the street."

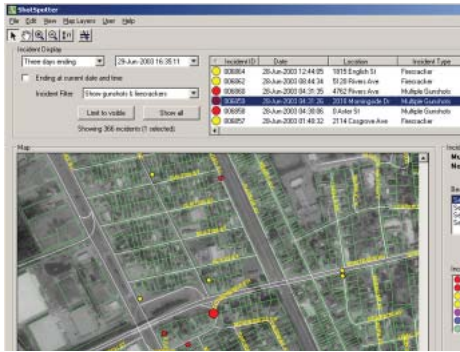


Radio waves from actual gunshots cause the location to pop up on 911 dispatcher's computer screen.  
R-News Channel 108, Rochester New York

**ShotSpotter detected an unexpectedly large number of gunfire incidents - almost 100 - in its first week of operation.**

**Previous data, based solely on citizen reports, averaged only 27 per week. Often, no one calls in to report shots fired.**

## Case Study Rochester, NY



The ShotSpotter GLS Public Safety Console showing location of gunfire events on map, audio clips, incident type and other important information to aid dispatch.

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- Mike Bialaszewski, Grants Officer for the City of Rochester

Rochester Police lauded the system’s performance in the arrest. Often, police rely only on emergency calls from the public, but ShotSpotter can give them a head start. Police credited the system with the arrest because no one called to report the first shot.

During the first week of operation, ShotSpotter detected an unexpectedly large number of gunfire incidents. Even John Merklinger, director of the City’s emergency communications department, commented on the amount of gunfire detected. Within the first weeks, ShotSpotter detected five events that were instrumental in leading to arrests, and is credited with five gun seizures.

The department has been extremely satisfied with the assistance of the ShotSpotter team while deploying this system. Those involved agree that everyone has been very customer-focused, which was a pleasant surprise.

“I have been in law enforcement for 26 years, and ShotSpotter is among the top companies when it comes to vendors who are customer-focused, from the CEO down to folks who have just come on board. The ShotSpotter team worked diligently to make sure the product was deployed correctly and maintained a very professional approach throughout the process,” according to Bialaszewski.

ShotSpotter is, and will continue to be, a key part of the City of Rochester’s multi-pronged approach to reducing crime and keeping the City one of America’s top-rated places to live, work and play.

### 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