



When knocking on doors to talk with community residents, keep in mind that many people do not understand the dangers of celebratory gunfire and need to be educated on what comes up, must come down. If they do know, they can be reminded. Talk with them about the dangers surrounding celebratory gunfire—bullets shot upwards do most definitely come back down to fall on something—the ground, a car, a building, or a person.

### How to Canvas Your Local Neighborhoods to Prevent Illegal Celebratory Gunfire

In a strong effort to curb celebratory gunfire during July 4th holiday, the Kansas City Police Department recommends the following community canvassing best practices:

- Go door-to-door to contact residents in areas where gunfire took place over the July 4th holiday last year (use ShotSpotter information)
- Information on how an officer can be contacted should be available for residents. Media can be encouraged to come at a specific time to accompany officers during the canvas trip
- Consider having your officers walk with family members or survivors who were hit or killed by stray bullets in previous years—this is effective in getting the message across
- Use the ShotSpotter door hanger if people aren't home as a leave-behind
- Talk about the ongoing myths of celebratory gunfire

### Kansas City Police Department Best Practices Door-To-Door Canvas Script

**Suggestion:** Good afternoon, I am <your name> from the <your police department>. No one is in trouble (important to reassure people, since some are skeptical why the PD is knocking on their door).

We are going door-to-door ahead of the July 4th holiday to discuss with people the dangers of celebratory gunfire. We want to make sure that people know that when a gun is fired into the air, that round comes down at the same speed it went up. This obviously can be very dangerous to people in the area, as well as damaging to property in the area.

Second, we want to encourage people to call 9-1-1 to report gunfire, although we have a system that tells us where and when there is gunfire (you can mention ShotSpotter without giving out the coverage area details here). We need the community's help to identify who was responsible and where they went.

To whatever extent they have influence with friends, family members, or neighbors that may be planning to shoot a gun to celebrate the holiday, please try to encourage them not to.

**Optional Suggestion:** KCPD has introduced the story of Blair Shanahan Lane the 11-year old girl who was killed in 2011 by celebratory gunfire in Kansas City, and her mother is introduced (who walks with the KCPD officers on the canvas visit). She also urges people to call to report gunfire and talk others out of it. **She says: "One call could make the difference and save a life."**

For more tips on how to reduce celebratory gunfire, visit the [ShotSpotter Celebratory Gunfire Resource Page](#). Have a safe and happy 4th of July!

Detect.Protect.Connect.



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