

# **ShotSpotter<sup>®</sup> Missions<sup>™</sup>**

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## Product FAQ February 2019

### What does this product do for a police department?

- Helps to **deter crime** by providing a crime risk forecast for a precise location and time and pushes tactics to officers in the field to reduce those risks.
- It helps an agency dynamically **optimize patrol resources** and better align them with the priorities of the department, city, and local community. Automated patrol missions provide a way to standardize, track and review the way patrols are deployed. Missions are randomized, and specific times are suggested to prevent over-policing. Command staff can review the data, make changes in the patrol tactics for the best and most efficient use of resources relative to goals.
- **Increases the capacity and value of the Crime Analyst function and makes it more easily accessible for patrol officers.** The system automates routine labor-intensive analytical tasks leaving more time for higher value-add activities like developing effective strategies and tactics to address crime. The risk models that are generated are automatically sent to patrol officers in the field, so they have access to the latest information and recommendations without having to directly access analysts.

### Who size agency is this for?

- Agencies of all sizes can use it, but mid-sized to large agencies will get the most benefit as they typically have the most crime incidents and an enormous amount of data to feed the model.
- Crime analysts, patrol officers and patrol command staff are the most common users within an agency.

### What crime types does it forecast?

- Gun violence shootings, homicide, aggravated assault/battery, robbery, burglary, motor vehicle theft, theft

### Can it track only crime types that are of interest to me?

- Yes, crime forecasts can be configured based on those crimes of interest to a police department. For larger agencies, each district may have their own crime type priorities and that can be easily accommodated.
- A separate risk model is created for each crime type enabling the technology to configure for each agency and district that uses it

**What data feeds into the crime risk model?**

- Historical crime incidents, calls for service, seasonality, time of day, day of week, upcoming events, socioeconomic indicators and more.
- ShotSpotter Missions does not use person-specific information to create its predictions. It is focused on predicting where and when a crime will occur, not who will commit the crime. It relies on other data sources such as crime data, calls for service, seasonality, time of day, day of week, upcoming events, and socioeconomic indicators to make its predictions.

**How often are the predictions updated?**

- The predictions are generally updated for each shift, but this is configurable and can be updated more or less often.

**Does Mission replace human experience and intuition?**

- Officers know their beats well and may be skeptical of an analytical tool that can provide further benefits. The product is intended to supplement officer knowledge and hunches with data that is constantly being collected and analyzed. Authorized users can add or suppress Missions based on new information or shift-to-shift or day-to-day swings in capacity.

**What kind of tactical advice does the product have?**

- The product will recommend several tactics based on the agency's preferred tactics such as foot patrol, talking to business owners, knocking on doors, etc. depending on the current crime forecast and patrol location. It also tracks the effectiveness of the tactics to help hone best practices.

**Will Missions cause oversaturation of patrolling and cause community dissatisfaction?**

- Many police agencies have either the same patrol plans for several months in a row or leave it entirely to the discretion of the officers. This can result in patrol oversaturation in some areas. ShotSpotter Missions recommends patrolling only the highest risk areas for the most important crime types as deemed by the agency. The system intelligently meters out when those missions occur and limits their duration to prevent oversaturation.

**What is unique about the product?**

- Use of non-crime data avoids recency bias and makes forecasting more accurate than standard hotspot mapping
- Flexibility of system to configure to an agency's needs such as choosing which crime types to focus on, weighting those crime types relative to each other, which tactics to use and track etc.
- Ease of use of the system for patrol officers

- Proactive suggestion of patrol tactics based on crime type and agency best practices once arriving at forecasted crime area. Tactics can be experimental and measured to determine effectiveness
- Integration with ShotSpotter data and software (this is currently in process)
- Transparency about how it works and what data is used

#### **How long does it take to deploy?**

- It is a relatively straightforward and streamlined deployment process. Step one is getting data integration feeds from police CAD and RMS with historical and real time crime data. There is an option to include vehicle location data via AVL to track officer engagement.
- Step two is having ShotSpotter load and set up the logic for current and experimental patrol tactics and conditions
- Step three is ShotSpotter setting up the system using the police mapping and beat data and configuring the system to an agency's needs
- The deployment process can be completed in a matter of weeks with onboarding of officers and go live following soon thereafter

#### **How much does ShotSpotter Missions cost?**

- There is a tiered annual subscription fee based on the service population
- There is also a one-time set up fee that includes provisioning the account; agency data integrations; configuration of maps, crimes types, and tactics; model creation; and training and best practices.
- Included is 24x7x365 customer support and best practices consulting help

#### **New possible questions based on West Palm and Cincinnati meetings**

**If we are approached a community member to media to explain how the system chooses to place our patrol units at certain locations, what can we tell them?**

**Does this work with AVL?**

**How much time will it take for our people to get his up and running?**

**What is the measure of success?**

**What format can the data in Missions be exported? CSV**

**What part of the city odes the service cover?**

**How granular can the data get about crime data?**

**Is weather part of the forecasting input?**

**How many tactics can be shown**

**How much data do you need? 5 years historical.**

**If physical change in area how product adapt.**

**How often does the product/models update?**

**How is ShotSpotter Missions better than hotspot analysis – more precise, uses additional data, done automatically**