

PUBLIC SAFETY SUCCESS STORY

Newport News PD Calls ShotSpotter an “Investigative Game Changer”



CITY
**NEWPORT NEWS,
VIRGINIA**

POPULATION
179,927

COVERAGE AREA
3 SQUARE MILES

PRODUCT USED
**SHOTSPOTTER
RESPOND™**

CUSTOMER SINCE
2018

SITUATION

City leaders, law enforcement and a local hospital came together to address a shared public safety concern in Newport News, a mid-sized city that had seen gun violence steadily escalate since 2012. The coalition funded ShotSpotter’s gunshot detection technology in 2018 with the goal of reducing shootings by responding to incidents faster and having more accurate information to improve investigations.

RESULTS

After deploying ShotSpotter Respond in mid-2018, law enforcement saw immediate results through the coordination of gunshot alerts with PTZ cameras to quickly and accurately locate and arrest violent suspects, and provide the intelligence to solve crime. To bolster investigations, the agency found ShotSpotter guided officers to the scene precisely and quickly so they could greatly improve evidence collection, particularly shell casings, and were notified of crime scenes they might have otherwise missed. With the addition of a NIBIN machine, investigators could use the new trove of evidence for many more NIBIN hits that yielded an increase in useful case information.

15%

Reduction in Shootings
from 2018-2020

24%

Drop in Homicides
from 2016-2020

50%

**Clearance Rate on
Non-Fatal Shootings**
(Above National Average)

The rate for shootings in the city is already down 15 percent from 2018 to 2020, even with the last year of social unrest and some 50 protests. Officials have found that the existence and awareness of ShotSpotter is a deterrent in and of itself and a positive sign to build trust in the community. Police Chief Steve Drew was quoted in the local newspaper saying, “My hope is we’re sending a message that we do care. It’s sending a message that this is a very serious crime we won’t tolerate.”

Image from: YouTube/Drone Operator

HOW SHOTSPOTTER BENEFITS NEWPORT NEWS POLICE DEPARTMENT

✔ IMPROVED INVESTIGATIONS

Officers receive a real-time ShotSpotter alert with **pinpointed location** for fast, accurate response to the scene to arrest offenders and **collect critical evidence**.

✔ BETTER CLEARANCE RATE

Coordination with **NIBIN and PTZ cameras** means more cases solved and **50 percent better** clearance rate (above national average) on non-fatal shootings.

✔ FEWER GUNS ON STREETS

Decrease in shootings tied to the ability to seize more illegal weapons. Officers **seized 1,050 guns in 2020**, up significantly from 886 in 2019, and just 659 in 2018.

✔ STRONGER COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Faster response times help deter and reduce gun violence, **reassuring the community and building trust**.



ShotSpotter is an investigative game changer. We are able to get much more information with NIBIN hits and using our cameras to help solve cases that would not have been possible before.

ERIC RANDALL | Newport News Assistant Police Chief

GET IN TOUCH

If you would like to learn more about ShotSpotter, please visit us at www.shotspotter.com

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