

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR HEARINGS REGARDING
GUN-VIOLENCE REDUCTION EFFORTS IN CITY OF CHICAGO**

WHEREAS, community safety in general, and gun violence in particular, is one of the biggest challenges facing Chicago; and

WHEREAS, rates of gun violence in the early 1990s were comparable across New York City, Los Angeles, and Chicago; and

WHEREAS, while gun-violence rates fell steadily across all three cities, the rate of decline in Chicago was more gradual than the rates in New York City and Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, for many years, Chicago-based nonprofit organizations including Ceasefire have helped reduce gun violence by engaging in street outreach, including in the immediate aftermath of numerous shootings; and

WHEREAS, shootings and murders in Chicago spiked in 2016, following the release of the video showing the murder of Laquan McDonald, and in 2021, following the murder of George Floyd; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, the City of Chicago (City) contracted with Shotspotter (now known as SoundThinking) to install gunshot detection sensors in sections of four Chicago Police Department (CPD) patrol districts. In 2018, the City extended the contract in order to allow Shotspotter to install numerous sensors across portions of 12 CPD patrol districts; and

WHEREAS, in a 2021 report, the City's Office of Inspector General (OIG) concluded that "CPD responses to ShotSpotter alerts rarely produce documented evidence of a gun-related crime, investigatory stop, or recovery of a firearm." OIG further argued that Shotspotter's "law enforcement value ... is not clearly demonstrated by presently available data"; and

WHEREAS, in a separate 2021 study, the MacArthur Justice Center similarly found that "89% turned up no gun-related crime and 86% led to no report of any crime at all"; and

WHEREAS, in February 2024, the Johnson administration announced that it would not renew the City's contract with Shotspotter. In the ensuing weeks, the Johnson administration and Shotspotter agreed that the contract would end in September 2024; and

WHEREAS, a recent CPD report found that the Department responded over two minutes faster to a ShotSpotter alert than to a 911 call of shots fired, based on self-reported data from responding officers. However, a 2023 Northeastern University study that relied on GPS data

involving patrol car location concluded that, with regard to nonfatal shootings and shots-fired calls, CPD responded approximately 10 seconds faster to ShotSpotter alerts than to 911 calls. The Northeastern study also found that, with regard to fatal shootings, CPD responded approximately three seconds slower to ShotSpotter alerts than to 911 calls; and

WHEREAS, in May 2024, three U.S. Senators and one U.S. Congressperson sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requesting the Department to “open an investigation in DHS’s funding of the ShotSpotter system to determine whether it is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars, including the critical question of whether such funding may lead to Title VI violations”; and

WHEREAS, all Chicago neighborhoods, including those in which Shotspotter devices are located, need continued and expanded investments to improve community safety; and

WHEREAS, these investments could include expanded support for violence-prevention organizations including, but not limited to, Communities Partnering for Peace, Chicago CRED, and READI Chicago, which have helped reduce gun violence in Chicago by working collaboratively to provide a mix of street outreach, cognitive behavioral therapy, paid job training, and job placement; and

WHEREAS, researchers from Northwestern University have concluded that the number of fatal and non-fatal gunshot injuries across all Chicago CRED participants decreased by nearly 50%, and the number of arrests for violent crimes fell 48%. Researchers from the University of Chicago similarly found that READI participants had 65% fewer shooting and homicide arrests; and

WHEREAS, the City budgets millions of dollars annually to support violence-prevention organizations and other efforts to reduce gun violence; and

WHEREAS, the City must increase its support for these efforts to achieve a more significant and permanent reduction in gun violence across Chicago; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the City Council for the City of Chicago, do hereby call upon the Committee on Public Safety to hold one or more hearings to discuss the ongoing efforts of violence-prevention organizations in Chicago—particularly in areas where Shotspotter sensors are currently located.



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