



Somerville Police Department 	TYPE: GENERAL ORDER			POLICY NUMBER: 134			
	Subject: Shot Spotter						
	Issuing Authority: David Fallon Chief of Police			Signature: 		Effective Date: February 25, 2016	
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Purpose

The ShotSpotter (SST) Gunfire Location, Alert and Analysis system is intended to enhance the Somerville Police Department's ability to respond effectively to and investigate violent crime involving gunfire. The SST system uses audio sensors placed strategically throughout the city to help identify the location of gunshots. SST incidents may be replayed to hear the actual audio component of the incident, aid in the collection of evidence at crime scenes, and aid in the investigation and prosecution of crimes.

Policy

It is the policy of the Somerville Police Department that upon activation of the SST system indicating shots have been fired, department personnel shall follow the protocol set forth below for the receipt, dispatch and investigation of incidents generated by the SST system.

Procedures

1. Initial Assessment and Dispatching Protocol

- A. The Shift Commander, Patrol Supervisors, all sector cars, all 911 operators shall log onto ShotSpotter at the beginning of their shift. ShotSpotter shall remain open and ready for use at all times.
- B. In a timely fashion, information from the SST system indicating shots fired shall be acknowledged and reviewed.
- C. Upon confirmation of the incoming SST system data, the appropriate number of units shall be dispatched, consistent with the severity (one shot, multiple shots, multiple shooters etc.) of the incident. Responding units shall be provided with information relative to the exact time the SST system was activated and the location of the incident.

D. Dispatchers shall provide information of additional calls of the incident by citizens and upon confirmation of an actual shooting, provide timely emergency medical response units when required.

E. Dispatchers shall create a CAD incident using code 991, ShotSpotter Alert.

2. Field Unit Response

A. Responding officers shall take a safe and strategic approach to the incident, bearing in mind that the perpetrator(s) may still be armed and on-scene.

B. Responding officers shall acknowledge the severity of the incident.

C. When appropriate, backup units shall be staged at possible and likely escape routes.

D. If available, responding officers shall review corresponding video from video surveillance systems that could have visibility to the crime scene.

E. If equipped with a field based system, field units shall review the incident audio at the scene to establish a crime scene and isolate potential evidence and/or witnesses.

F. Responding Officers shall canvass the precise location identified via the SST system for victims, evidence and/or potential witnesses.

3. Collection of Evidence

A. Evidence shall be collected and logged in accordance with policy 202 Evidence Collection.

4. Investigative Follow-up

A. Investigating Officers shall have access to acoustic surveillance system (Investigative access to SST), in order to conduct, prepare and present case any potential prosecution.

5. Program Management

A. The Program Manager shall maintain regular information reports relative to the increase or decrease of gunfire activity in the surveillance area.

B. The Program Manager maintains a thorough and general knowledge of the SST systems operation and maintains a liaison with various operational units of the organization that have access and utilize the acoustic surveillance technology.

C. The Program Manager, in conjunction with the records bureau, maintains records or arrests, gun confiscations, and prosecutions of crimes detected through acoustic surveillance technology.

6. Notification

- A. In the event the SST system is inoperable, the on-duty commander shall notify the Administrative Captain by telephone and the Homeland Security Sergeant by email that the system is not functioning.

7. Response

- A. The appropriate number of patrol units shall be dispatched to the location.
 - 1. A supervisor shall be dispatched as well.
 - 2. Responding Officers shall exit his/her vehicle and physically check identified locations.
 - 3. The responding supervisor shall determine what reporting action will be taken.
 - 4. Evidence shall be documented and collected when appropriate.
 - 5. Officers shall contact (attempt to contact) homes, vehicles or properties within the immediate vicinity of the location given. Supervisors shall ensure this takes place within the appropriate radius of the location provided by dispatch.
 - 6. The on-scene supervisor will clear responding officers when appropriate.
- B. Community and citizen contact.
 - 1. Responding/Investigation officers shall contact the owner, renter or occupants of properties within the radius of the identified location by knocking on doors/windows, phone call, or other means necessary.
 - 2. Officers shall inspect persons/property which has been, or may have been affected by gunfire regardless of the number of shots.
 - 3. Officers shall explain the reason they are there, for the citizen's safety and to make sure they are safe. In addition, officers shall use this interaction with the community as an opportunity to possibly look for suspects.
 - 4. Provide your contact information with the citizens you interact with and follow-up any information the citizens may have provided.
 - 5. Follow up with citizens during the course of your next shift.
- C. SST system alerts on or within specific property addresses. Responding officers shall:
 - 1. Visually and physically investigate for victims and/or evidence of a shooting or shots fired.

2. Hail occupants/owners/renter of locations using tactical measures, and question them in accordance with interview or interrogation procedures based on reasonable suspicion/probable cause.
3. Check background information on subjects whom you have reasonable suspicion or probable cause to believe may have been involved in the incident.
4. Document, collect, report and or give citations where applicable. This includes evidence of shots fired (casings, wadding, actual firearm, etc...) Keep in mind, you are conducting an investigation, whether criminal or ordinance based.