

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 21-0080R
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Stokes, Bullock, Porter
Introduced and read first time: November 15, 2021
Assigned to: Public Safety and Government Operations Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Baltimore City Police Department,
Department of Finance

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – ShotSpotter Program**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting an informational hearing with the Baltimore Police Department
4 and the Department of Finance regarding the ShotSpotter Program.

5 **Recitals**

6 In 2017, the Baltimore Police Department received a grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies
7 for \$5 million to implement a gunshot detection system called ShotSpotter. ShotSpotter alerts
8 law enforcement to gunfire in a certain area through audio sensors installed 30 to 40 feet above
9 ground that record the sound, time, and location of sudden noises. In June of 2018, the
10 Baltimore Police Department began using the system of audio sensors, joining more than 90
11 cities in the U.S. that also use the system.

12 After the audio sensors pick up the sounds, the Incident Review Center analyzes the sounds,
13 and, if they are gunshots, quickly sends an alert to law enforcement users, who respond to the
14 scene. BPD adopted the program to reduce the response time to shootings - many shootings are
15 not reported via 911, and the ShotSpotter system can inform law enforcement of shootings that
16 might not otherwise be reported. It is important that the City Council now review the results of
17 the SpotShotter program to see if the program has been cost-effective and successful and, if not,
18 what adjustments to the program should be made.

19 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
20 Baltimore City Council requests an informational hearing with the Baltimore Police Department
21 and the Department of Finance regarding the ShotSpotter Program.

22 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Police
23 Commissioner, the Director of the Department of Finance, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison
24 to the City Council.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.