



City of Baltimore

City Council
City Hall, Room 408
100 North Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Legislation Text

File #: 21-0080R, Version: 0

* **Warning:** This is an unofficial, introductory copy of the bill.
The official copy considered by the City Council is the first reader copy.

Introductory*

City of Baltimore Council Bill R (Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmember Stokes

A Resolution Entitled

A Council Resolution concerning Informational Hearing - ShotSpotter Program

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

Recitals

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

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

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of Baltimore, That the Baltimore City Council requests an informational hearing with the Baltimore Police Department and the Department of Finance regarding the ShotSpotter Program.

And be it further resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Police Commissioner, the Director of the Department of Finance, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.