SUMMARY

At the June 8, 2006 Special City Council Mid-Cycle Budget meeting the City Council approved funding for a lease agreement with Shotspotter, Inc., to install a gunshot location system in the City of Oakland. In an effort to deploy the system as soon as possible to combat gun violence in the City, this resolution requests that the Council authorize the City Administrator to negotiate a contract for lease of the system from Shotspotter, Inc.

FISCAL IMPACT

The City Council has budgeted $288,509.00 for a one-year lease of the system. The City would have the option to continue a lease or purchase the system after the first year.

Funds totaling $288,509.00 are available within the Police Department General Purpose Fund (1010), Special Investigations – Internal Organization (101140), City Council Priority FY 2006-07 – Shot Spotter Project (P292410).

BACKGROUND

Many cities in the United States, including Oakland, have seen an alarming rise in the number of gunshots being reported. Gunfire remains the leading cause of homicide death in the United States. The Oakland Police Department currently responds to reports of gunshots fired only when reported by citizens who have called 911. It is believed that many incidences of gunshots go unreported. Further, residents often report hearing gunshots but are unable to identify the specific location from which the shots were fired. In additions, there is often a significant time lapse between the shot(s) fired, the time it takes residents to call 911, and the amount of time it takes for officers to be dispatched to the scene.
SOLE SOURCE JUSTIFICATION

Police Department and City staff have interviewed and talked to at least 5 other cities using this system including, Gary Indiana, Charleston S.C., Los Angeles CA, Rochester NY and Glendale AZ and have determined there are currently no other companies that have deployed production systems or posses the experience of having deployed systems that were operational over similar coverage areas required by Oakland.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

Over 12 cities nationwide have deployed some form of Gunshot Location System technology. Preliminary findings suggest that the systems are considered a useful tool by local law enforcement.

- An independent test of one system, the Shotspotter, took place in Redwood City in 1998 to address the rise in random gunfire. An independent study by the National Institute of Justice found that the device accurately detected 80% of test shots, and triangulated 72% to within 25 feet.

- In 1998, Redwood City law enforcement officials recorded nearly 400 gunshots on New Year’s Eve. Since the implementation of Gunshot Location System technology and an aggressive media campaign, less than 10 gunshots were recorded on New Year’s Eve in 2002. A city program that awards residents $500 for reporting neighbors who discharge firearms was also implemented during the same time period.

- In Los Angeles County, the Sheriff’s Department credits Gunshot Location System technology with reducing gunfire in a targeted area by 60%. The Sheriff’s Department also discovered that only 11% of all gunfire was being reported by residents in the target area.

- Many arrests have also been attributed to Gunshot Location System technology. On New Year’s Eve 2005, the Gary Indiana Police Department made the largest number of gun-related arrests in its history utilizing Gunshot Location System technology. That evening Gary PD recovered 27 automatic pistols, 1 revolver, 7 assault rifles, 8 shotguns, 2 rifles, and made 15 gun-related arrests.

- Decreases in the number of gunshots in cities that use Gunshot Location System technology were often attributed to a deterrent effect; shooters became aware that law enforcement could accurately identify and pinpoint the location of gunfire and respond rapidly to the scene.

Summary of Impacts:

- Computer mapping of shot locations within 5-15 seconds of occurrence
- Enable faster police response time
- Improve police officer safety
- Deterrent effect on random gunfire and celebratory gunfire
- Identifies hotspots for police deployment and heightens community awareness
- System can be made mobile to target different areas

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Gun Shot Location System technology is a new crime fighting tool for law enforcement officers. When officers are given the ability to immediately respond to shots fired the probability of catching and arresting offenders of illegal weapons possessions and other criminal violations is increased. With more illegal weapons confiscated and removed from streets, neighborhoods are safer and citizens are more secure.

DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS

This report contains no ADA or senior citizen access issues.

RECOMMENDATION(S) AND RATIONALE

OPD recommends that City Council approve this report and authorize the City Administrator to negotiate a one-year lease of Gunshot Location System technology with Shotspotter, Inc.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

OPD requests that the City Council authorize the City Administrator to negotiate a lease of a Gunshot Location System technology with Shotspotter, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne G. Tucker
Chief of Police

Prepared by: Lt. Pete Sarna
Special Operations, OPD

APPROVED FOR FORWARDING
TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

Office of the City Administrator
OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. ________________ C.M.S.

RESOLUTION WAIVING THE COMPETITIVE BID PROCESS AND LOCAL/SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO A ONE (1) YEAR LEASE AGREEMENT FOR A GUN SHOT LOCATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM WITH SHOTSPOTTER, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY EIGHT THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED NINE DOLLARS ($288,509.00)

WHEREAS, the City Council allocated funds for the lease of a gunshot location technology system on June 8th 2006; and

WHEREAS, OPD and staff have interviewed and talked to at least 5 other cities using this system including, Gary Indiana, Charleston S.C., Los Angeles CA, Rochester New York and Glendale AZ and have determined that there are no other companies besides Shot Spotter, Inc. capable of delivering a similar production system; and

WHEREAS, this gunshot location technology which has been proven to work in practice in multiple metropolitan deployments is a unique product offered only by ShotSpotter, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, there are currently no other companies that have deployed production systems or posses the experience of having deployed systems that were operational over the same or similar coverage areas required by the City; and

WHEREAS, the deployment of ShotSpotter has been proven to reduce illegal weapons possession and gunfire as much as 60% in some target areas; and

WHEREAS, the ShotSpotter system will allow the City to detect and respond to gunfire incidents within 10-15 seconds without a citizen calling 911; and

WHEREAS, the ShotSpotter system will record weapons discharge events for instant replay as well as archiving their locations for the City’s forensic, prosecutorial and crime mapping purposes; and

WHEREAS, the ShotSpotter system is the only system that has been accepted and in compliance with a sole source grant from the US Department of Justice, Office of Community Policing Services; and
WHEREAS, the Oakland Municipal Code permits waiver of the City’s competitive bidding process when the City Council finds and determines that it is in the best interests of the City; and

WHEREAS, it is the belief of OPD that immediate implementation of such a system may save lives in Oakland and should therefore be pursued without delay; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That pursuant to Oakland Municipal Code Title 2, Chapter 2.04, Article 2.04.050.1.5, the City Council finds and determines that it is in the City’s best interests to waive the competitive bidding process for the lease of a gun shot location system because the system is only available from one vendor, ShotSpotter, Inc.; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council waives Local and Small Local Business Enterprise Program requirements for the ShoSpotter, Inc. lease agreement; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Administrator is authorized to award and enter into a one (1) year lease agreement for a gun shot location technology system in with ShotSpotter, Inc. an amount not-to-exceed two hundred eighty eight thousand five hundred nine dollars ($288,509.00); and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Attorney shall approve the lease agreement for form and legality and copy shall be filed in the Office of the City Clerk.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BRUNNER, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, QUAN, BROOKS, REID, CHANG, AND PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE

NOES –
ABSENT –
ABSTENTION –

ATTEST:

LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the City of Oakland, California