

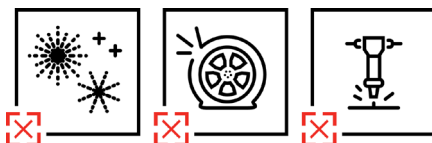
ShotSpotter 101



SoundThinking, Inc. is paid to set up microphones in secret locations throughout our neighborhoods.

ShotSpotter technicians, often with no scientific background or expertise, determine which sounds they think are gunshots and trigger thousands of police responses.

ShotSpotter can mistake everyday noises for gunfire. Fireworks, popped tires, construction noises, slammed car doors, and broken glass **have all caused police responses to people's neighborhoods.**



ShotSpotter assigns a postal address to every alert.

If a ShotSpotter alert occurs in the middle of your street and the system assigns it to your house, police will be knocking on your door.

FAYETTEVILLE'S CONTRACT:

- 3 square miles
- Sensors in Cliffdale & Reilly Roads, Murchison Road corridor, Massey Hill
- \$210k per year

The City of Fayetteville partnered with the Wilson Center (Duke University) to study the effectiveness of ShotSpotter technology.

THE FAYETTEVILLE STUDY SHOWED¹:

- 1 ShotSpotter has no determinable impact on gun violence.**
 - Gun violence rates remained constant in the coverage area while decreasing in the rest of Fayetteville.
- 2 ShotSpotter does not improve police investigations.**
 - Only 23.7% of ShotSpotter alerts were confirmed gunshots.
 - Police found less evidence and helped fewer victims for ShotSpotter alerts without a 911 call, “reflecting challenges including false alarms.”
 - ShotSpotter’s increased alerts do not correspond to an increase in actual gunshot-related incidents, pulling officers from other calls.
- 3 911 works.**
 - Every homicide had a 911 call.
 - Only 1 in every 200 responses with a gunshot victim had a ShotSpotter alert only (without a 911 call).
- 4 Police procedure influences response times.**
 - Fayetteville police can self-dispatch to ShotSpotter alerts but have to wait for dispatch’s authority to respond to 911 calls for shootings.
- 5 Fayetteville PD’s data practices are inadequate.**
 - FPD does not track whether 911 calls for gunshots were confirmed shootings, limiting researchers’ ability to evaluate police practices.

1. Gettleman, Jessica and Kendall, Tyler, “Evaluation of Fayetteville’s ShotSpotter Installation,” Wilson Center for Science and Justice at Duke Law, August 2025.

Why Would Fayetteville Renew?

Fayetteville’s ShotSpotter contract is up for renewal in September. With no improvement to public safety, a large expense to taxpayers, and potential risks to innocent people, why would Fayetteville renew?



**Contact your city council member
Tell them to cancel ShotSpotter.**

Scan QR or visit:

**[fayettevillenc.gov/City-Council/
City-Council-Members](https://fayettevillenc.gov/City-Council/City-Council-Members)**