

# 6 BEST PRACTICES TO REDUCE CELEBRATORY GUNFIRE

**Celebratory Gunfire is a Common Problem in Cities Across the Nation During Holidays. Follow these best practices to improve community safety and help reduce celebratory gunfire during this upcoming holiday.**



## 1. PLAN AHEAD WITH HISTORICAL DATA

Examine historical data from holiday periods during prior years to pinpoint high-risk areas for celebratory gunfire. If your agency uses ShotSpotter, you can easily look up prior year's gunfire around this time with the ShotSpotter Insight™ application and use that information to visit specific locations.



## 2. EDUCATE YOUR COMMUNITY

Many people do not understand the dangers of celebratory gunfire. Debunk common myths and explain to your community that a bullet discharged from a gun, even into the sky, must land somewhere. When it does, the risk of injury or death is significant.



## 3. COMMUNICATE YOUR PLAN

Communicate your zero-tolerance policy with your community by releasing a media alert, social media posts, TV news interviews, even a press conference, before the holiday weekend begins. In your communication, be sure to explain the urgency of the problem and what tactics your agency plans to use in response to gunfire.



## 4. CANVAS NEIGHBORHOODS

Go door-to-door to contact residents in your community, especially neighborhoods where gunfire took place over the New Year's Eve and July 4th holidays last year. Take it a step further by having your officers walk with family members or survivors of celebratory gunfire to get the gravity of the message across.



## 5. LEAVE DOOR HANGERS

If residents aren't home when you canvas, leave behind a notice on their door (in multiple languages) that explains the dangers of celebratory gunfire and with contact information for whom to reach out to if gunfire is heard. You can include tips on how to tell gunfire apart from fireworks.



## 6. ASSIGN SPECIAL UNITS DURING THE HOLIDAY WEEKEND

To respond to gunfire alerts quickly, assign special police units or overtime cars to hotspot areas. Using [ShotSpotter Respond™](#), you can track real-time gunshot location data and enable informed decision-making for faster and more accurate emergency response, while improving situational intelligence and increasing first responder safety.

## **Celebratory Gunfire is Preventable**

Get more resources at

[shotspotter.com/celebratorygunfire](https://shotspotter.com/celebratorygunfire)

### GET IN TOUCH

If you would like to learn more about ShotSpotter, please visit us at [www.shotspotter.com](https://www.shotspotter.com)

All rights reserved. Copyright 2021. The ShotSpotter logo is a registered trademark of ShotSpotter Inc.