# THE POLICE COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

2018

Shots Fired

The NYPD launched a pilot program in 2015 called ShotSpotter, a technology that detects and identifies the locations of gunshots, in several precincts in the Bronx and Brooklyn that were experiencing higher levels of violence and gun crime. The technology identifies and analyzes the sound of gunshots using tiny, strategically placed sensors that immediately triangulate the location of the shots and send data and audio to ITB's Domain Awareness System (DAS). Using this information, the Chief of Department's Operations Unit dispatches ShotSpotter alerts to patrol units in the field.

ShotSpotter technology is built in three-square-mile increments, with each square-mile containing about 60 sensors. The ShotSpotter microphones ignore ambient noise, and the sensors time-stamp loud, explosive

Watch Video

SHOTSPOTTER TECHNOLOGY

SENSORS

GUNSHOTS

SOUNDWAVE FROM GUNSHOTS
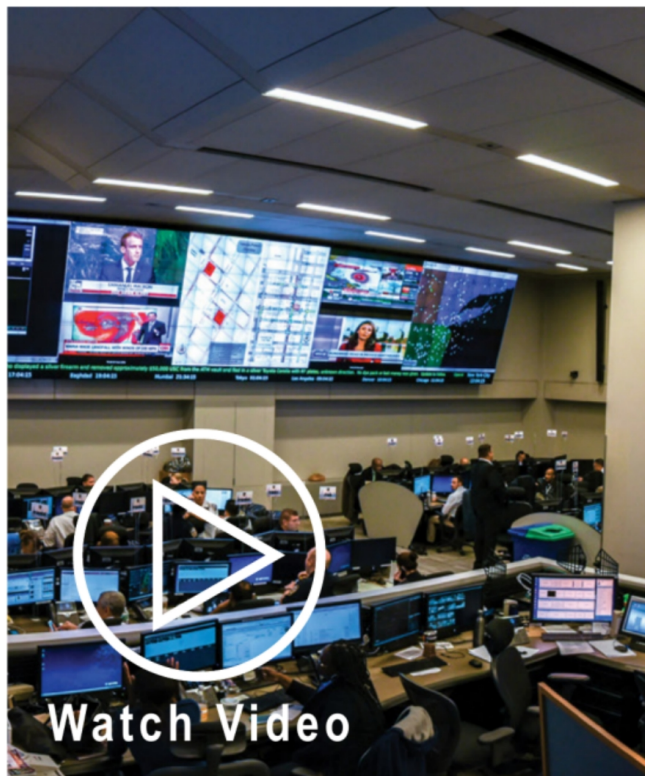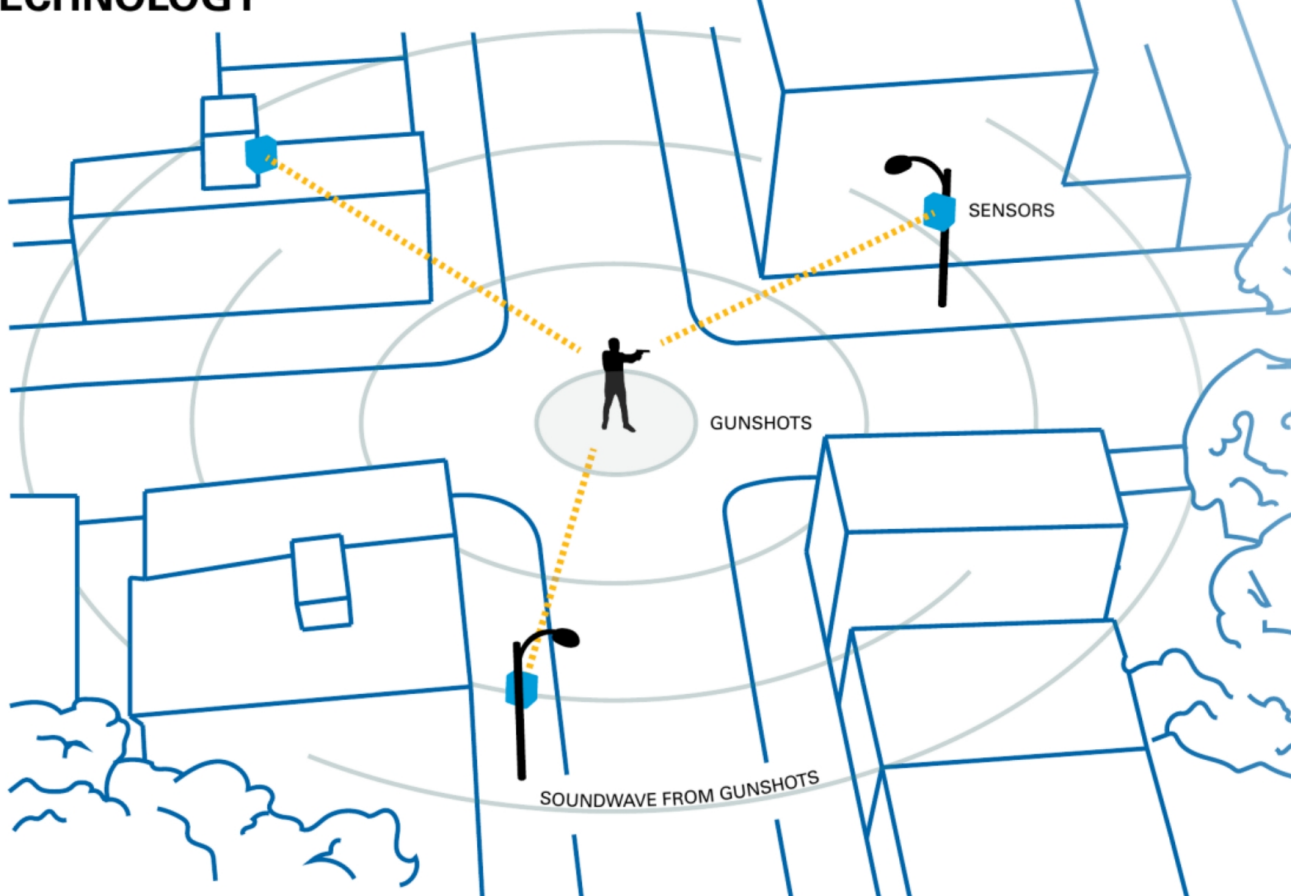
noises down to the millisecond. The sensors contain GPS chips that determine the precise locations of possible gunshots.

The California based company that created the technology, ShotSpotter, Inc., provides a monitoring service, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. All possible gunshot recordings are reviewed swiftly by trained audio experts, who confirm that sounds are gun shots and, in some cases, can determine the number of shooters and even the types of firearms. In the past, between 75 and 80 percent of shots-fired incidents in New York City have gone unreported, so ShotSpotter is adding another critical component to the ongoing effort to control gun crime. Gunshots are often indicators that shootings, and possibly homicides, will follow in the same general locations. ShotSpotter alerts

officers to the scene to suppress further violence; to gather ballistic evidence; to locate relevant surveillance video; and to canvas the neighborhood for people who may have seen or heard something. Any of this evidence might prove decisive when investigators are trying to build a case against gang members or other violent criminals in the area.

The department's deployment of ShotSpotter technology is in its fourth phase, and will soon cover nearly 70 square miles of New York City neighborhoods. The neighborhoods covered—including East New York, Far Rockaway, and Harlem—are some of those most affected by gun violence, based on analysis of shooting and 9-1-1 data.