

An Open Letter to Senators Elizabeth Warren (MA), Ed Markey (MA), Ron Wyden (OR) and Representative Ayanna Pressley (MA)

ShotSpotter Saves Lives: Local MA Chiefs Support Gunshot Detection for Public Safety

Dear Senators Markey, Warren, Wyden and Rep. Pressley:

As the top law enforcement officials in 11 Massachusetts communities - responsible for the safety of well over one million Massachusetts residents - we write to correct the misleading and false information about the ShotSpotter acoustic gunshot detection technology that has been amplified recently by the Massachusetts chapter of the ACLU. We are writing to you because your May 14, 2024, letter to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Inspector General unfortunately included this information.

We believe you have been misinformed and this formed the basis of your May 14 letter - a letter that draws misleading and, frankly, dangerous conclusions that compromise public safety.

Let us be clear: ShotSpotter is effective, accurate, and welcomed in our communities, and has the proven capability to save lives and help us effectively respond to gun violence.

ShotSpotter helps our officers respond quickly to shooting incidents. Indeed, the system alerts us to gunfire in our coverage areas within 60 seconds, increasing our ability to save victims' lives, collect evidence, and locate and arrest assailants. When every second matters, the immediacy of that information is crucial to responding patrols.

We respectfully submit that the best judges of the efficacy, fairness, and value of ShotSpotter are not distant elected officials in Washington, but, rather, those of us on the ground locally, including our fellow civic and community leaders who live daily with the threat of gun violence and who rightfully welcome the use of this technology to help keep their neighborhoods safe.

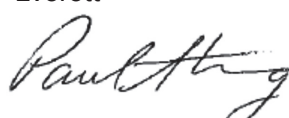
Finally, our colleagues take a sworn oath to serve and protect all - efficiently, effectively and equitably. We can all agree that gun violence is a particularly intractable and costly issue especially when viewed through the lens of victims. As a profession, we are compelled to leverage all the tools at our disposal, including gunshot detection, to address this challenging issue.

Respectfully,

Commissioner Michael Cox
Boston




Chief Paul Strong
Everett



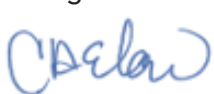
Chief David Pratt
Holyoke



Capt. Matt Hill
Pittsfield PD on behalf of
Chief Thomas Dawley, Pittsfield



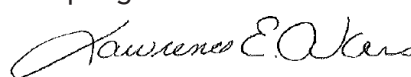
Commissioner Christine Elow
Cambridge



Chief Keith Houghton
Chelsea



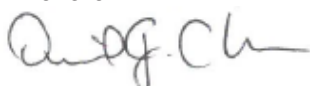
Superintendent Lawrence Akers
Springfield



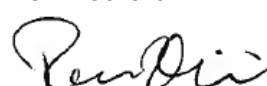
Provisional Chief Melix Bonilla
Lawrence




Chief David Callahan
Revere



Chief Paul Oliveira
New Bedford



Interim Chief Paul Saucier
Worcester



William Bratton
Former Police Commissioner Boston PD
Former Police Commissioner NYPD
Former LAPD Chief of Police

