

Rep. Slaughter Applauds Police for Capturing Shooter with Shotspotter

Rep. Slaughter was joined by Rochester Chief Police, David T. Moore, and Terry Huetter, a technical expert from Shotspotter on July 14, 2006 to announce the first arrest using Rochester's new Shotspotter technology. □

I would like to thank Chief Moore and Terry Huetter, our technical expert from Shotspotter, for being here today.

For far too long, the people of this great city have been victimized by a cycle of shootings, violence and death.

In fact, we recently experienced a shocking 8 shooting deaths in 8 days. My prayers and thoughts go out to the families and loved ones of those victims.

The people of Rochester are scared. Families are suffering. And it is unacceptable.

There is no question: something has to be done to ensure that our streets will once again be safe.

People have a right to feel safe in their neighborhoods and homes. Children have a right to feel safe in their schools.

Now I know that the brave men and women of our police force are risking their lives everyday to protect us. And we all know that they are doing everything they can to keep us safe.

But in this fight against gun violence, the people of Rochester need more help. We need immediate relief. Because this is a fight we cannot continue to lose.

That is why I am proud to announce that our police have a new tool... a new weapon to help them win the fight against gun violence here in Rochester: a weapon called Shot Spotter.

Shot Spotter works by detecting and pinpointing the exact location of any gunshot in Rochester in real time.

And that means that the instant a gun is fired, the police will know about the shooting and be on their way to the scene of the crime before someone can even get to a telephone to call 911.

Since Monday, this new, cutting-edge technology has been fully operational on the streets of Rochester.

And in just a few days, the police have already made an arrest with the aide of this new tool.

Early on Wednesday morning, Shot Spotter enabled police to respond to the site of a shooting crime within minutes, make an arrest and taking a potentially dangerous person off the streets of our city.

It is our hope that the implementation of this new and powerful tool will signal a turning point in our fight against gun violence.

That is why I am proud to have delivered the funding that brought Shot Spotter to the City of Rochester.

Only a handful of American cities possess this new and powerful technology, and I am proud that Rochester is now among their ranks.

With the help of Shot Spotter, we intend to turn the tables on shooters in this city...and ensure that the criminals will be the ones running for cover... instead of our law abiding citizens, who have been ducking for cover for far too long.

And, on behalf of our community, and with your cooperation, I want to say something directly to any criminal or would-be shooter who may be watching:

This is a new day in Rochester. The people of this city have had enough shootings, and enough death.

Starting today, if you fire a gun in Rochester, the police will know the exact location instantaneously, and within minutes they will be on the scene in force.

It is time to holster those weapons for good, because Shot Spotter is listening...and if you fire a gun in this city...the chances are you will get caught, and you will go to jail.

Thank you.