

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3218
May 16, 2016

Director Denise E. O'Donnell
Bureau of Justice Assistance
Office of Justice Programs
810 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, DC 20531

RE: BJA 2016-9345

Dear Director O'Donnell:

I write in support of the application submitted by the City of Newburgh Police Department (CNPD) to the Technology Innovation for Public Safety program of the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

As you may be aware, the most recent data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation illustrates a significant rise in firearm assaults and shootings throughout the City of Newburgh. More specifically, these statistics continue to grow with 182 gun related calls-for-service in 2016. In response to the rise of shootings, the CNPD has gone to great lengths to employ evidence-based programs geared towards reducing gun violence. While these efforts have had a positive impact on the community, firearm assaults and shootings continue to be alarmingly high and your assistance is critical for reducing its severity.

Award of this application will allow the CNPD to acquire ShotSpotter Technology (SST) analytical services to fortify its efforts to further combat gun violence. The SST uses strategically placed audio surveillance to provide constant acoustic monitoring throughout the City, which in turn instantly records and analyzes cases of possible gunfire. Currently, the Department is challenged by its reliance on the community to report instances of shots fired, which can be inconsistent and unfounded. Conversely, the deployment of nearly a hundred SST sensors will create a network that would instantly alert the CNPD and allow for immediate and appropriate action. The instantaneous alert to the Department will facilitate a quicker response to better aid victims, assess evidence and ultimately apprehend armed and dangerous criminals. As you can see, your assistance is overly critical both for the Police Department and residents of the City as a whole. For these reasons, I ask that you review this application at your earliest convenience.

Therefore, I fully support this request and applaud its approach to policing in the 21st Century. In order to keep my office informed about this opportunity during the allocation process, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my Deputy District Director, Joseph Donat by phone at (845) 561-1295 or via e-mail at Joseph.Donat@mail.house.gov. Thank you in advance for your time and careful consideration of this request as both are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress