University of Maryland
Department of Public Safety
College Park, Maryland

NOTICE:	**16-0002**
SUBJECT:	**ShotSpotter Gunfire Location, Alert, and Analysis System**
EFFECTIVE DATE:	**December 1, 2016**
ORDERED BY:	David B. Mitchell Chief of Police

A. POLICY

The ShotSpotter Gunfire Location, Alert and Analysis Service is intended to enhance the Department's ability to respond effectively to and investigate violent crime involving gunfire. The service uses acoustic sensors placed in selected areas to identify the location of gunshots. ShotSpotter incidents may be replayed to hear the actual gunshot(s), aid in the collection of evidence at crime scenes, and aid in the investigation and prosecution of crimes. ShotSpotter alerts shall be dispatched in accordance with the dispatch of crimes in progress involving the use of firearms. The purpose of the service is to reduce violent crime and incidents of indiscriminate gunfire at the University of Maryland College Park and assist in the Department's overall violent crime reduction efforts.

B. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Special Order is to create consistent policies and procedures for the receipt, dispatch, and investigation of gunfire alerts that are received by agency personnel using the ShotSpotter Gunfire Location, Alert and Analysis Service. This directive encompasses:

- Initial assessment and dispatching protocol
- Field unit response
- Evidence collection at scene
- Investigative Follow-up
- Crime Analysis Utilization
- Program Management

Commentary: The ShotSpotter Gunfire Location, Alert and Analysis Service is a reliable and accurate means for law enforcement agencies to have greater and faster awareness of illegal gunfire and explosion incidents occurring within their jurisdictions. The technology and combination of real-time alerts and accumulated data with accurate incident locations significantly changes how law enforcement officers respond and investigate these incidents. The ShotSpotter Gunfire Location, Alert and Analysis Service increases the reporting and awareness of these incidents, provides precise location information of each incident within seconds of the discharge(s). Fast, accurate audio information captured with an acoustic surveillance system can provide invaluable situational intelligence that can illustrate the severity of an incident which is critical to determine the appropriate level of field response. It will also better prepare first responders so they can safely manage a gunfire or explosives event which can include the dispatching of medical emergency personnel, investigative units, crime scene investigators and additional support units. ShotSpotter Gunfire Location, Alert and Analysis Service allows multiple entities within an agency to have simultaneous access to current, and historical incident information. This information access can create an environment where illegal gunfire and explosives can be comprehensively addressed on a short term basis (tactical/operational use) and a long term basis (strategic use). These previously unavailable benefits change the dynamics involved with the receipt, dispatch, and investigation of gunfire incidents.

C. PROCEDURE

This section of the policy has been redacted consistent with Public Safety Article 3-515 section B.

D. STORAGE OF WRITTEN DIRECTIVE

This Special Order is being electronically distributed to all agency personnel with document receipts being similarly documented.

1. Printed copies of this Special Order are retained in:
   a. Accreditation files; and
   b. Master Notice files.
2. An electronic copy of this Notice is accessible in the UMPD Shared/Manual or through the Manual application in the UMDPS Portal System.