

Acoustic Gunshot Location System

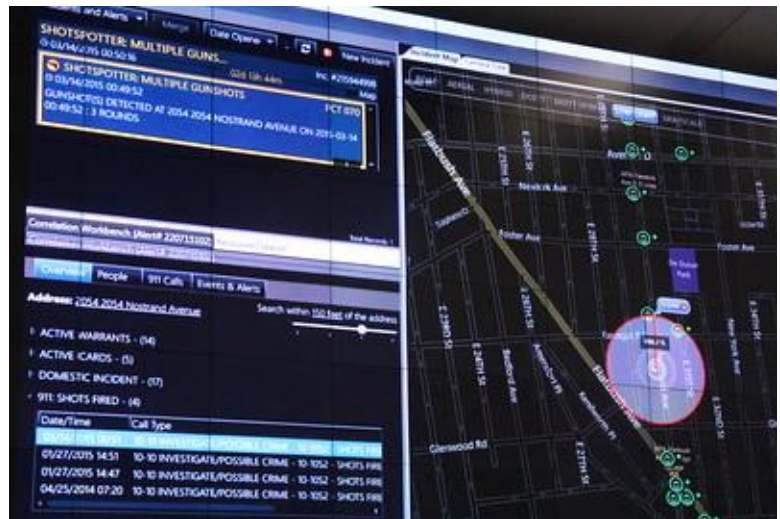
Seattle Police Department

What is the technology?

The Seattle Police Department (SPD) proposes an Acoustic Gunshot Location System (AGLS) to accelerate the response capabilities of police and EMS personnel to aid victims, locate and preserve evidence and hold accountable those responsible for gun violence. AGLS utilizes microphones/sensors placed in a defined geographic area that are programmed to detect the sound of gunshots and locate and alert police to the incident.

Why will we use the technology?

An AGLS will assist investigators in collecting evidence related to incidents of gunfire and provide precise location information to responders. This information will direct officers and EMTs to a more precise location, enhance evidence that helps lead to justice for victims, and remove illegal firearms from the community.



The open comment period for this technology is currently underway. You can provide comments to [Seattle.gov/Surveillance](https://seattle.gov/surveillance).

All comments will be included in the Surveillance Impact Report on this technology and submitted to the City Council.

If you would like to provide feedback outside of the open comment period, please submit them directly to the City Council using the emails at <https://seattle.gov/council>.

Collection

Acoustic gunshot location systems capture audio above 120 decibels – beyond the range of human conversation. This audio is collected for a brief time before and after the incident, as well as during the incident. The system calculates the location of where the shot(s) occurred. [SPD Policy 7.010](#) governs the submission of evidence and requires that all collected evidence be documented in a General Offense Report.

Use

Acoustic gunshot location systems mitigate unprecedented patrol and investigations staffing shortages by leveraging evidence-based and industry-standard technologies to deter and detect persistent felony criminal behavior, gun violence, and human trafficking, where crime is concentrated.

The possible pilot areas under consideration are on Aurora Avenue North, Belltown, Chinatown-International District, and the Downtown Commercial Core.

Protections

Only authorized SPD, OIG and OPA users can access the AGLS data while it resides on the devices. Access to the systems/technology is limited to authorized personnel via password-protected login credentials.

Data may only be viewed or extracted for legitimate law enforcement purposes, as governed by SPD Policy 12.050 and will be securely stored in a cloud-based environment. The retention period is determined by whether the data holds evidentiary value. Data without evidentiary value is overwritten in approximately 30 days.