

# Mike Kuglitsch

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 84<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

DATE: February 12, 2014  
RE: **Testimony on 2013 Assembly Bill 693**  
TO: The Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice  
FROM: Office of Representative Mike Kuglitsch

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Thank you Mister Speaker and Committee members for hearing Assembly Bill 693. One of largest tasks that we as legislators are asked to do is protect our constituents and the citizens of Wisconsin.

I and many of my colleagues have had the opportunity to walk the streets of Alderman Bob Donovan's south side district. We saw firsthand the challenges that face some neighborhoods in the city of Milwaukee.

One of those challenges is gun violence. Since 2010, Milwaukee has been using a technology called Shot Spotter to curb gun violence in Milwaukee. Shot Spotter is a gunshot locator system that uses sensors in high crime areas to pinpoint gunfire. Once a shot is fired, the sound is analyzed and the location is determined. Taking less than one minute to complete, the information is sent to the individual departments in Milwaukee and the officers on the street.

The current Shot Spotter coverage area in 2011 showed that only 14 percent of all gunshots were being reported to police by residents. For a variety of reasons, be it fear or intimidation, citizens do not report gun violence to the police. This technology ensures that all gunshots in the coverage area are reported to police.

Our bill appropriates \$175,000 GPR for fiscal year 2014-2015 to expand the program to cover approximately 10 square miles in Milwaukee. The funds appropriated by the state, would also be matched by Milwaukee County as well.

I would like to personally thank Alderman Bob Donovan and Police Chief Ed Flynn for working with me and my colleagues on this legislation. We feel our support on this initiative will help curb gun crime in the city of Milwaukee. The expansion of this technology in the high crime areas of the city will keep the citizens of the city safe and Milwaukee a place where people will want to live, visit, and do business. When Milwaukee succeeds, the entire state stands to benefit.



# Alberta Darling

Wisconsin State Senator  
Member, Joint Committee on Finance

## Testimony on Assembly Bill 693 ShotSpotter

Last summer was particularly deadly in the city of Milwaukee. Tragically, there were 106 homicides in Milwaukee in 2013.

Making matters more difficult is the fact that neighbors in Milwaukee are less likely to report suspicious activity. Because of that, Milwaukee police are utilizing a system called ShotSpotter to help combat gun crimes in the city.

The Milwaukee Police Department found that fewer people are calling police when shots are fired in their neighborhoods. Its 2011 data revealed only 14 percent of gun crime was reported to police by residents, further illustrating the need for an expansion of ShotSpotter.

ShotSpotter uses hidden microphones which alert police when a gun fires. They only turn on when they hear a noise that matches the sound of a gun firing. The system then gives police a nearly exact location of the sound so that they can respond quickly. The legislation would help expand ShotSpotter from a three square mile radius to a 10 square mile radius.

We need to provide a safe and stable environment in our largest city. ShotSpotter will help police arrive on the scene faster and get criminals off the street. It will help create an environment where neighbors feel safe to call the police for other suspicious activity. Milwaukee is the most important city in the state. It is our economic engine. Without a safe and stable environment, it is difficult to grow jobs there. Shotspotter will help.

When the crime wave hit Milwaukee last summer, Milwaukee area legislators took to the streets to listen and learn more about the issues facing the city. They toured a Milwaukee neighborhood with Alderman Bob Donovan and met with the Milwaukee Police Department.

This fall, lawmakers saw a demonstration of the ShotSpotter technology. The public safety bill will be introduced in the coming weeks. The goal is to pass the legislation with broad bipartisan support before the end of the session, allowing the expansion of ShotSpotter to take place before the summer.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Assembly Bill 693. I would be glad to answer any questions the committee may have.





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**City of Milwaukee Testimony on AB 693 to Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice**  
**February 12, 2014**

I would like to thank Chairman Kleefisch and members of the Committee for hearing AB 693 related to expanding ShotSpotter technology in the City of Milwaukee to strengthen our fight against gun violence. On behalf of the City of Milwaukee, I would like to also thank Representative Kuglitsch and Senator Darling for authoring the bill.

ShotSpotter is a gunshot locator system. It utilizes acoustic sensors that have been installed at various points in high-crime areas of the City. These sensors are calibrated to activate and record the acoustic sounds of gunfire, and then triangulate the sound to pinpoint the location, within just a few feet, of where a gun has been discharged. Using analysts located at office headquarters in California, a trained professional analyzes the gunfire to determine the type of gun being used. This information is then sent to several access points in the department, including law enforcement officers on the street. Most significantly, the entire process is completed less than a minute after shots have been fired.

The Milwaukee Police Department implemented ShotSpotter in 2010 through a grant that has since expired. Currently, ShotSpotter covers approximately three square miles. With this bill and in addition to the funds awarded to the Police by Milwaukee County, we will be able to expand the ShotSpotter technology from three square miles to ten square miles of the City in areas experiencing high rates of gun violence.

This is more than just dots on a map. For example, within the ShotSpotter coverage area during 2011, data revealed that only 14% of gun crime was reported to police by residents. Sadly, in some neighborhoods a gunshot does not generate phone calls to police, and it stems from many reasons, including fear and frustration. Gun violence destroys the very fabric of neighborhood stability, and we now have clear and grim view of its impact. ShotSpotter technology provides officers who are working in the neighborhoods of Milwaukee with accurate and instantaneous data to help them arrest violent offenders creating chaos in Milwaukee's neighborhoods. This experience has been replicated in other cities using ShotSpotter and has resulted in dramatic improvements in law enforcement's ability to successfully respond to and investigate acts of gun violence.

We ask that you support AB 693. Thank you.

For more information, please contact:  
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