

OPERATION SUMMER GUARDIAN 2022

Constance Kostelac, PhD

*Assistant Professor, Institute for Health & Equity, Division of Epidemiology and Social Sciences
Director, Division of Data Surveillance and Informatics, Comprehensive Injury Center*

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Operation Summer Guardian Overview

Initiative developed
by the Milwaukee
Police Department
(MPD)

Proactive strategy to
address gun violence

Built on the concept
of “hot spot” policing

With a community
engagement
component

Focused on specific
areas with a high
concentration of Shot
Spotter activations

Evaluation Background

- Being conducted as part of the data work under the Violence Response Public Health and Safety Team (VR-PHAST)
- Led by the Medical College of Wisconsin in collaboration with the Milwaukee Police Department
- Focus on:
 - program implementation
 - immediate program outputs
 - change in violence, specifically homicides and nonfatal shootings
 - planning for future implementation and recommendations

Program Goals

To initiate proactive deployments in areas with a high concentration of Shotspotter detections

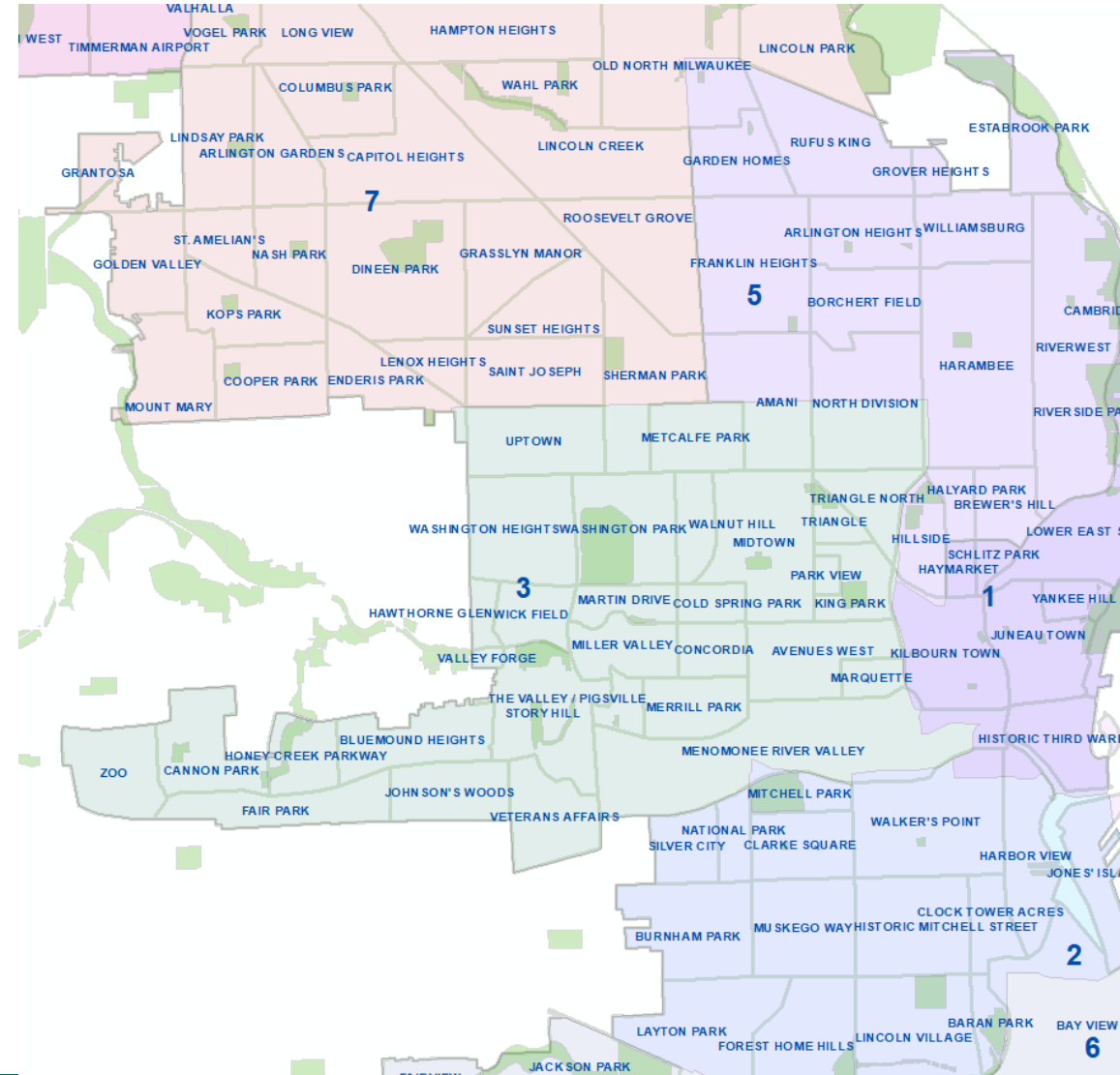
To provide enhanced visibility and engage community members in the deployment areas

To arrest individuals involved in firearm-related crime by rapid response to ShotSpotter activations

To demonstrate a reduction in gun violence in the deployment areas

Program Implementation

- Concept based on “hot spot” policing which has evidence of as a strategy for crime reduction within a specific geographic area
- Modification to have a more direct community engagement component
- Not intended to be a heavy enforcement focus
- Deployments occurred between July 2 and October 2, 2022
- Deployments were across police districts 2, 3, 5, and 7



Program Implementation

- Deployment structure:
 - Marked specialty unit vehicles from the Special Investigation Division (SID) and the Tactical Enforcement Unit (TEU) each with two officers
 - Undercover SID vehicle with two plain clothes officers
 - Marked patrol vehicle with two officers from the district that was the focus of the deployments for the day
 - Marked SID supervisor vehicle
 - Total of 8 officers and a supervisor for each deployment
- Deployments were Thursday through Sunday, for half shift (four hours); times varied but primarily between 1200 and 2200 hours

Goal: To initiate proactive deployments in areas with a high concentration of Shotspotter activations

- 12 specific zones for areas identified based on the density of Shotspotter activations
 - Indication of shots being fired in a particular geographic area based on the gun shot detection system
 - Zones were reassessed each month
 - One zone per district for a week each month
 - Some overlap of zones
- 57 total deployments total over the 3-month period
- Training and communication as part of implementation

Goal: To provide enhanced visibility and engage community members in the deployment areas

- Currently do not have a way to measure enhanced visibility in the area
- However, the after-action report identified specific situations in which community engagement occurred
- Examples
- Recommendation for future data collection

Goal: To arrest individuals involved in firearm-related crime by rapid response to ShotSpotter activations

- This was an initial stated goal of the effort, but this goal was not a primary focus
- Emphasis on presence and community engagement
- A total of 10 arrests were made during the deployments
- Examples

Goal: To demonstrate a reduction in gun violence in the deployment areas

Multiple indicators were assessed related to this goal:

Shotspotter activations

Homicides and nonfatal shootings

Key results

Recommendations

A series of recommendations were made for modifications to the implementation in summer 2023. The recommendations centered around:

- *Reviewing the goals, structure, and approach to the implementation areas*
- *More specifically identify and track activities during deployments*
- *Enhance community outreach, including data collection on community feedback*
- *Gather feedback from officers and team members involved in the initiative*
- *Review options for measuring each goal*
- *Sharing deployment plans with partners and tracking how the zones overlap with other initiatives*

Intent is to continue the evaluation process and enhance the information available for program follow-up



Questions and Comments