

Description of the Issue

The City of Fort Lauderdale has a population of 182,437¹ and encompasses approximately 36 square miles on the southeastern coast of Florida. It is the largest of Broward County's municipalities and the eighth largest city in the state. The Fort Lauderdale Police Department (FLPD) is responsible for the provision of public safety for the residents, businesses, and hundreds of thousands of students, visitors and patrons that come to our area. Unfortunately, the City has experienced a 51% increase in armed incidents between 2018 and 2020. There was an 81% increase in homicides involving a gun, a 69% increase in armed aggravated batteries/ assaults and a 152% in non-fatal shootings in 2020 compared to 2019². In fact, we significantly exceeded the State of Florida's YR2020 crime rate – 2,987.4, per 100,000. Fort Lauderdale's crime rate is 4,658.8 per 100,000³. The trend is unfortunately in an upward trajectory.

Violent Crimes including Aggravated Assaults/Batteries, Robberies and Homicides

	2018	2019	2020
Total Incidents	856	865	901
Incidents involving a firearm	249	274	375
% of incidents involving a firearm	29%	32%	42%

As the table above indicates, while violent crime has been slowing creeping up, the portion of gun related violence is increasing at a faster rate. This precipitous increase has forced the Fort Lauderdale Police Department (FLPD) to respond **all systems go**. Within the last year, we deployed the ShotSpotter and NIBIN (National Integrated Ballistic Information Network)

¹ United States Census Bureau, 2020 Census of Population and Housing.

² Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Uniform Crime Report Data

³ Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Uniform Crime Report Data

programs to curtail this surge of gun violence before it is exacerbated or becomes a permanent situation in our city.

ShotSpotter, a real-time gunfire detection system, was deployed in October 2020 in a four square-mile area of Fort Lauderdale where a high volume of violent crime and gunfire occurs. For the first six months since its launch, we have recorded an average of 15 shots fired per day, twenty two guns recovered, and 718 casings collected. We also discovered that *only* 8% of gunshot incidents detected by ShotSpotter were accompanied by an actual 911 call for service. This tells us that the majority of shots fired in the ShotSpotter coverage area were previously unreported. Gun crime may have been increasing in this area over time but it was not being reported and we were unable to address it.

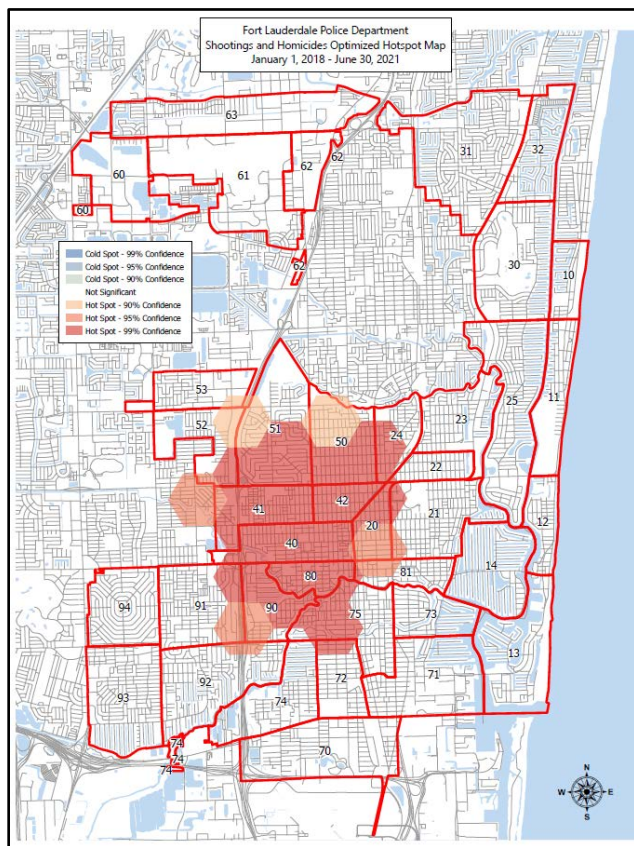


Figure 1 - Shootings & Homicides involving a gun

In addition to ShotSpotter, FLPD acquired a NIBIN machine in April 2021 through a partnership with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), to establish a *BrassTrax consortium site*. The machine was obtained at no cost and will permit our agency and those of surrounding police departments to process bullet casings and firearms in a timely manner with the anticipated results of more frequent and efficient identification and apprehension of violent offenders. Previously, we relied on the Broward County Sheriff's office to complete our NIBIN entry; but their

tremendous workloads made efficient turnarounds times impossible. Obtaining an in-house NIBIN machine will permit us to enter casings and firearm data within 2 days as recommended by the National Crime Gun Intelligence Governing Board⁴.

ShotSpotter and NIBIN have been significant technologic tools for our agency, but we are still left with many questions related to this surge in firearm related crimes. *Do we have an accurate depiction of crime in our City since ShotSpotter had demonstrated that only a small percentage incidents where guns are fired are reported? What are the crime drivers? Who is committing these acts? What are the offenders' motivation? How were these firearms obtained?*

Project Design and Implementation

To obtain answers to these questions, we are focusing our resources to gather all evidence possible by expanding ShotSpotter, providing more resources to our investigation personnel, and closing gaps within the proposed Crime Gun Integration Center (CGIC) that will result in increased case solvability and prosecutorial success.

The proposed targeted enforcement area (TEA) is situated in police districts 2 and 3, the center of Fort Lauderdale. This area has 42% of all homicides involving a firearm and non-fatal shootings. It includes the current 4^{sq} mile Shotspotter area plus an additional square mile to the south (zone 80). The coverage area contains residential neighborhoods along the major East-West thoroughfares of Broward, Sistrunk and Sunrise Boulevards. It is a diverse area that includes five *Opportunity zones* (12011040901, 12011040801, 12011041700, 12011041500, and 12011041600)⁵. American Community Survey Data lists the City's overall poverty rate as 19.3%,

⁴ Crime Gun Intelligence Report: Disrupting The Shooting Cycle, August 2018. National Crime Gun Intelligence Governing Board

⁵ <https://opportunityzones.hud.gov/resources/map>

but it is approximately 30% in these zones⁶. The TEA is adjacent to downtown Fort Lauderdale and draws in workers, students and visitors during the day. It is where City Hall, the County Bus Terminal, Brightline Train Terminal, a Federal Court House, a County Courthouse and other governmental centers are located, in addition to several churches, schools and child care facilities.

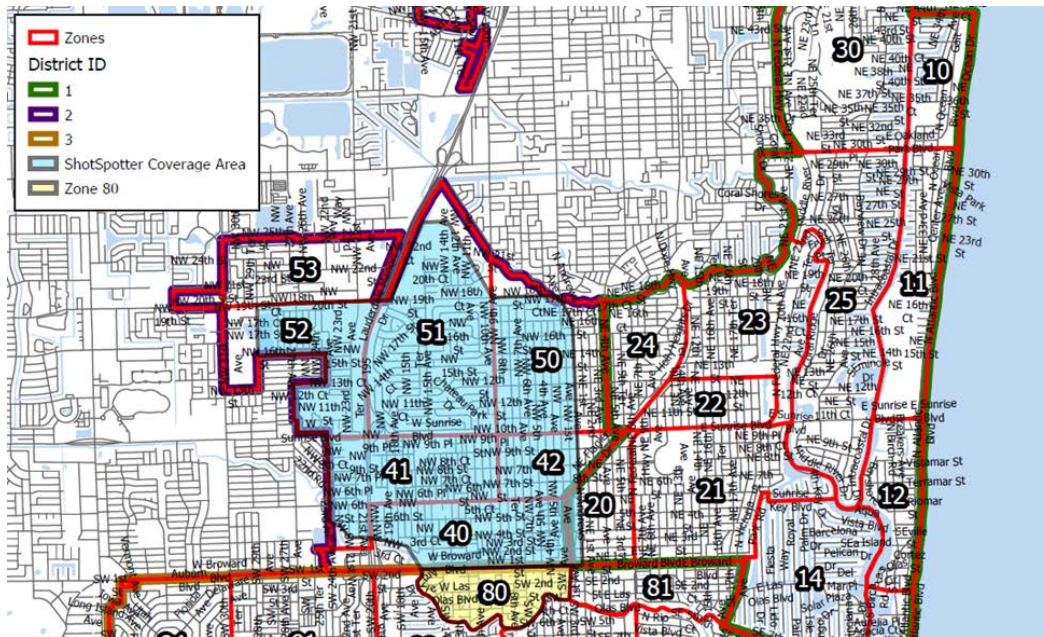


Figure 2 - Fort Lauderdale, ShotSpotter Coverage (Current & Proposed)

The area transforms in the evening, to an entertainment mecca where patrons can visit the Performing Arts Center and numerous bars and restaurants.

Project Objectives	Anticipated Impacts
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify & Arrest Armed Offenders 2. Remove Crime Guns from Circulation 3. Increase Intelligence Sharing & Collaboration (Internally & Externally) 4. Increase the Public’s Awareness of Gun Safety Measures 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improved Quality & Avenues of Video Evidence 2. NIBIN entry completed in less than 48 hours 3. Increased Successful Prosecution Rates 4. Improved Quality and Frequency of Intelligence Shared.

⁶ <https://www.census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/narrative-profiles/2017/>

5. Increase Avenues for Public Feedback on Our Gun Violence Efforts

5. Improve the Public’s Perception of Neighborhood Safety.

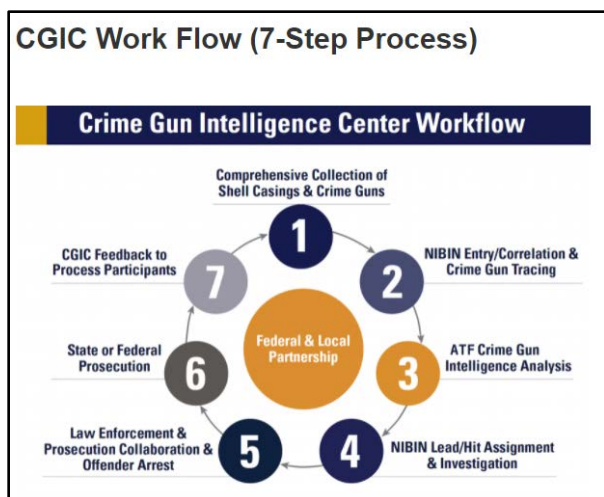
Expanding ShotSpotter: Since ShotSpotter’s launch, as expected, Patrol personnel have responded to an increased number of firearms related incidents. FLPD has had an active ShotSpotter program for less than a year, and our understanding of how to use, interpret and respond to the data we obtain from the program continues to develop. Our Crime Analysis Unit (CAU) has identified Zone 80 to be included for ShotSpotter coverage due to its high concentration of armed offenses.

We are requesting the use of grant funding to add coverage for two years. The contract for our current coverage area will end in 2023, along with the expanded Zone 80 coverage.

Violent Crimes for Police Zone 80 Involving a Firearm Comparison of the First 6 months of 2020 and 2021				
OFFENSE	1ST 6 MONTHS OF 2020	1ST 6 MONTHS OF 2021	Grand Total	2020-2021 % CHANGE
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	2	4	6	100%
AGGRAVATED BATTERY	1	3	4	200%
ROBBERY	2	6	8	200%
WEAPONS VIOLATIONS - ALL OTHERS	0	3	3	N/C
GRAND TOTAL	5	16	21	220%

Surveillance cameras: We intend to use grant funding to acquire cameras for deployment in the TEA. These cameras will feed into FLPD’s Real Time Crime Center and provide a live stream of hot spots. Footage is recorded if required for later investigative follow up. The cameras and our inventory of mobile license plate readers will enhance detectives’ ability to gather intelligence to solve these gun crimes by potentially recording offenders as they perpetrate, enter or exit a crime scene within the target areas.

CGIC Gaps: The FLPD CGIC Initiative is in its infancy. There are no others in this County. This project design as proposed here was derived after analyzing the latest firearm related offenses as compiled by FLPD’s CAU, ShotSpotter and NNCTC (National Correlation and Training Center)



reports, the eight essential elements of a CGIC⁷, and the below listed gaps identified in the CGIC workflow⁸ at *Process Steps 2, 4, 5 and 7*.

CGIC Process Step 2. NIBIN Entry & Gun Tracing. Gap: Completion of NIBIN entries within 48 hours has proven difficult to consistently meet; however entry is always made

with 72 hours. As of the writing of this proposal, only four FLPD staff members have been trained as NIBIN operators: one Crime Scene Unit (CSU) Sergeant and three full time CSU Technicians. Due to their full time job assignments, they are only able to complete NIBIN entries when time permits. The CSU is understaffed and work hard to respond to the increased number of gun crimes. Only CSU personnel can perform these tasks due to the need to process for other evidence. **Solution:** By August, there will be a full time dedicated CSU technician assigned to NIBIN. We intend to have more technicians trained in NIBIN entry as space becomes available in upcoming operator training classes. Any overtime associated with NIBIN entry as it relates to this proposal will be borne by FLPD.

NIBIN operators currently adhere to the following order of NIBIN evidence submission: 1st - Recent fired casing, 2nd – Recent test fires of crime guns, 3rd Backlogged fired casing and 4th Backlogged test fire. A policy that formalizes this as well as evidence intake procedures that

⁷ <https://crimegunintelcenters.org/cgic-concept/>

⁸ Crime Gun Intelligence Report: Disrupting The Shooting Cycle, August 2018. National Crime Gun Intelligence Governing Board

minimize the administrative time required for submitting casing and firearm evidence will be created as a grant deliverable.

Grant funding is being requested to acquire supplies for our MVAC (wet vacuum) machine which is used in the processing of gun related evidence. The machine is able to extract DNA off the most difficult of surfaces to include gun casings. The funds listed would be to increase the MVAC-related processing supplies, such as filters, that have been depleted at a quicker rate as more casings are being recovered since the ShotSpotter program began.

Process Step 4. NIBIN Lead/Hits Assignment & Investigation. Our agency utilizes the NNCTC to review NIBIN entries and receives reports on any leads or hits. **GAP:** Our CAU is lacking in staffing, intelligence software and associated training. **Solution:** After being without a unit supervisor for two years, CAU has welcomed a new supervisor in July, who has recommended the acquisition of the NC4 software platform to incorporate police bulletins and BOLOS and an interactive map that could also be utilized by patrol when responding to ShotSpotter alerts or other armed incidents. It enhances *officer safety* and can provide *immediate intelligence* related to known armed subjects documented in the zone. Grant funding is being requested to add an intelligence analyst position, purchase NC4, as well as analytical training to improve the quality and comprehensive product forwarded for investigative following up on the gun violence incidents.

Process Step 5 Law Enforcement & Prosecution Collaboration & Offender Arrest. **Gap:** Lack of dedicated prosecutorial personnel to pursue enhanced charges/sentencing for CGIC related offenders. **Solution:** The Broward County State Attorney's Office (SAO) has offered to dedicate 3 staff members to participate in case filing reviews with detectives and CGIC Team members to assist in building these cases leading to the arrest of violent criminals and those that are supplying

them with firearms. SAO personnel will also confer with the United States’ State Attorney Office to obtain enhanced sentencing when appropriate and facilitate information sharing about subjects to inform on bail recommendations and strengthen cases. We have allocated 20% of the grant budget towards SAO for their personnel that will collaborate on this project.

Process Step 7 CGIC Feedback. **Gap:** No dedicated team meetings that bring together all relevant investigative parties. **Solution:** We propose to initiate a biweekly formal review with the CGIC Team (or more frequently if crime trends necessitate it) that will focus solely on gun violence investigations to include the ones originating within the TEA. Regional review meetings are anticipated when our neighboring law enforcement agencies commence NIBIN submission for their cases. (Hollywood, Plantation and Lauderhill police departments have all expressed a strong interest). Furthermore, we will provide internal feedback to Patrol personnel to show their impact on ridding their respective patrol zones of these offenders and firearms; and to demonstrate that gun violence reduction efforts need the support of all FLPD members and does not rest solely on with detectives to obtain leads.

To connect all the personnel and technology resources associated with this project, a CGIC Strategy Team will be formed consisting of the key players that will direct resources (technology or personnel), facilitate information sharing, conduct investigations, present case files and pursue prosecution.

Fort Lauderdale Crime Gun Intelligence Center Strategy Team	
<i>FLPD Personnel</i>	<i>Criminal Justice Partners</i>
Criminal Investigation Captain / Team Lead CGIC Intelligence Analyst (grant funded) ATF Taskforce Officer Crime Analyst Supervisor	Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms United States Attorney Office Broward County State Attorney Office, ASA in Charge of Career Criminals

<p>Career Criminal Sergeant Crime Scene Sergeant Homicide Sergeant Violent Crimes Sergeant Lead Crime Scene Technician</p>	<p>Department of Corrections, Probation and Parole Regional BrassTrax Consortium members</p>
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As mentioned earlier, the City’s armed aggravated assaults/batteries and homicide rates have jumped significantly over the last 3 years, and this alarming trend has continued into 2021. A standout incident is the April 4th shooting at _____ in 41 zone. At 21:50hrs, multiple ShotSpotter alerts were received as several suspects exchanged gunfire. Several vehicles were hit with gun fire, as well as two bystanders: a 6yr old female and a 16yr old male. A total of 148 casings were recovered, 22 from an AR Blackout and 52 from high powered rifles. The 6 year old was trauma-alerted and, despite surgery, will have permanent nerve damage. Video obtained shows hundreds of people were gathered in front the store and the general vicinity; however no persons were willing to assist in the investigation. No suspects have yet to be arrested; however NIBIN was vital to determining critical intelligence that revealed 16 shooters were involved and 14 types of ammunitions recovered.

A child victim of gunfire is not a common occurrence in our City. It is shocking, upsetting and will not be tolerated. Violence is public health problem. This proposal is not simply about the collection and analysis of gun casings and firearms. It is about using that intelligence to prevent the trauma that is having a lasting impact on our youth and the community at large.

FLPD is excited to integrate an outreach campaign associated with our gun violence reduction strategy. One of the eight essential elements of a CGIC is prevention and community engagement. The goal of which is to *improve public trust and confidence in the justice system and to prevent*

*community members from committing crimes*⁹. Over the course of the grant, we intend to perform the following activities to improve our positive community impact.

Procedural Justice (PJ) Training: Procedural Justice is the idea of fairness in the process. Research on PJ and community trust shows that people who perceive they are treated fairly and respectfully by police report positive impressions of law enforcement, even when it results in a sanction of some sort. There is a large segment of FLPD that has not been exposed to PJ to include new hires, who can greatly benefit from learning this skill since they will be assigned to Patrol and have a high likelihood of responding to a gun crime. Grant funding is being requested for overtime related to backfilling positions to allow for personnel to be available to participate in this class.

Quarterly Community Round Tables: FLPD Command Staff and CGIC Team members and our community partners (e.g. the Urban League of Broward County and the Justice Project of South Florida) will host residents to discuss the gun violence occurring within their neighborhoods, share our department's efforts and invite public feedback.

Trigger Lock Giveaway: We would like to encourage responsible gun ownership, which includes preventing unauthorized access to a firearm; whether by a curious child or when stolen. It is proposed that locks will be distributed at the community round tables and the police sub-stations.

Online Gun Safety Portal: FLPD will launch a webpage via flpd.org, which will host videos demonstrating firearm safety, how to apply a trigger lock, and recordings from the community round table meetings. This portal will also introduce our City's "Save a Casing" program which was inspired by the one started by Wichita Police Department. Participation in the program is voluntary and requests that a gun owner provide associated casings in the event that their firearm

⁹ <https://crimegunintelcenters.org/cgic-concept/>

is stolen or used in a criminal offense. The casing would then be submitted into NIBIN in order to potentially confirm the identity of the firearm.

Capabilities and Competencies

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department, a sworn force of 535 officers, is an accredited agency that has achieved Triple Excelsior status, having demonstrated a commitment to the highest standard of professional law enforcement service. The agency participates in the FBI's Violent Crime Taskforce and Multi-Agency Gang Taskforce (MAGTF), and has existing relationships with ATF, United States Marshalls Service, Department of Correction Probation and Parole, the United States State Attorney's Office and Broward County SAO.

The City Mayor, City Manager, Commissioners and Chief of Police fully support this proposal. Departmental funds have been pledged to support many of its operational functions to ensure sustainability, including the use of City funds for outreach activities, and costs associated with NIBIN entry, crime scene and investigative overtime. We are actively seeking funding to sustain the CGIC Intelligence Analyst position and ShotSpotter. ShotSpotter has already proven to be valuable and we are confident that the same will occur for the Analyst.

(Team Lead) will be the primary point of contact. He has 24 years of law enforcement experience and currently supervises the units responsible for investigating all homicides, shootings, gun investigations and evidence entry into NIBIN. He will coordinate CGIC meetings, facilitate review of incidents in the TEA, collaborate with the Team members on deployment of resources, and provide oversight for the team. He is responsible for ensuring the overall program accomplishments and providing updates for grant reporting.

CGIC Intelligence Analyst is a new, part time (up to 30 hours per week) grant-funded position that will support the Team Lead, produce grant related reports, share investigative leads, liaise with NNCTC and the BrassTrax consortium. The CGIC Intelligence analyst will also be included in any resources obtained by CAU. Grant funding is requested for a laptop for this position.

(**ATF Task Force Officer**) has 30 years law enforcement experience, which includes 20 years with Police Department where he was involved with investigations focused on the confiscation of illegal guns and Organized Crime. Of his 10 years with FLPD, 6 years have been as a FLPD Violent Crime detective.

is FLPD's new Crime Analysis Supervisor. She has 10 years' experience as an Analyst and has a Master's degree in Criminal Justice. During her time at the Police Department, she was assigned to Violent Crimes. She was later supervisor nine crime analysts who were responsible for division reports, intelligence briefing reports, workups, crime trend reports, prolific offender tracking, and NIBIN hits. She will coordinate the tracking the performance measures with the CGIC Analyst to develop grant reports and deliverables.

Data Collection and Performance Measures

Data will be collected related to the *anticipated impacts* provided in the Project Design section. The Crime Scene and Crime Analysis Units, along with the CGIC Intelligence Analyst, will gather and compile the data, some of which is already being tracked, in order to evaluate our project's impact on gun violence in the TEA, and compare that against the City's overall crime rate. They will also incorporate dispositional data obtained from Broward SAO in any reporting.