

Project Abstract

Between 2017 and 2019 the City of Peoria has seen a 58% increase in violent crime such as Homicide, Aggravated Assault and Aggravated Battery, including a 127% increase in homicides alone – experiencing a record high 25 homicides in 2019. The City of Peoria Police Department has deployed many different initiatives and technologies to combat violent and gun related crime in local neighborhoods. These include ShotSpotter gunfire detection coverage throughout violence-affected neighborhoods, the NIBIN National Integrated Ballistic Information Network, coordination with Federal Law Enforcement Agencies and the Focused Deterrence Program – whose members attempt to intervene and mitigate violence by reducing targeted offender involvement.

Many of these technologies and initiatives are “stand alone”, do not automatically communicate with each other and/or contain large amounts of datasets that make manual correlation by Department staff time consuming and burdensome. This means that the time it takes to get usable information from the datasets to personnel in the field can have a significant delay. This can take precious time away out in the field for an officer who is responding to a “shots fired” call in an area which has seen recent gang violence – and can prolong the search for the shooter. While patrol responds to these types of calls, our Focused Deterrence Program team is heavily involved with the prevention of violent crime. Team members reach out to those involved with or affected by violence and offer many services such as drug treatment, G.E.D. programs and other services to deter individuals from a return to crime. The datasets in this program are tracked manually, which can delay getting services to individuals and leave room for manual processing errors. Coupled with lack of needed technology infrastructure upgrades, the Department is lacking the capabilities to share data effectively and in real-time.

The City of Peoria is proposing the “Peoria Police Department Data Sharing Initiative” project in order to combat these deficiencies, improve data processing technologies, use data integration technologies to provide real-time information to personnel in the field, and ultimately mitigate the precipitous rise of violent and gun-related crime in our City. With funds from the BJA’s Strategies for Policing Innovation grant the city will purchase real-time data sharing and integration software, address the database needs of our Focused Deterrence Program with a custom module and upgrade existing computer hardware in order to use these systems efficiently.