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Gunshot detection tech ignites controversy



Springfield, Illinois, Police Officer Timara Pflug demonstrates in 2021 how officers can see a notification of gunfire on a map from Shotspotter, now called SoundThinking, in their squad cars. JUSTIN L. FOWLER/SPRINGFIELD STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Critics cite concerns about privacy, accuracy

N'dea Yancey-Bragg USA TODAY

When gunshots ring out on America's streets, bystanders face an instant, high-stakes dilemma. • *Do I call the cops? Were those even gunshots? Maybe it was just fireworks.* • Every moment of hesitation risks a delay in medical treatment or gives a suspect extra time to escape. But a high-tech solution to the problem has ignited a fresh round of controversy in cities across the nation.

Law enforcement officials in states including New York, Georgia, California, Michigan and Virginia have credited one system with helping them make arrests and alerting them to gunshots that would have otherwise gone unreported.

The system – part of an arsenal of police surveillance technology that advocates have warned about – is a network of audio sensors designed to record the sound of gunshots and tell authorities where the shots were fired.

That's where the problems start.

The technology has faced a host of controversies: concerns over privacy and eavesdropping; complaints about accuracy; and even reports of many devices being installed in the wrong places.

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The Springfield, Missouri, Police Department has installed gunshot detection devices through Flock's gunshot detection system, Raven. NATHAN PAPES/SPRINGFIELD NEWS-LEADER

Kern County passes on Clint Curtis for ROV position

Drew Askeland
Redding Record Searchlight
USA TODAY NETWORK

Shasta County Clerk/Registrar of Voters Clint Curtis applied for an open registrar position in Kern County, though it seems he didn't make the cut.



Curtis

On July 27, Curtis appeared on Bakersfield based news channel KGET News discussing Kern County and how he believes he could make their elections more secure and transparent.

Curtis applied for the open elections chief position in Kern, but received an email from third party recruiting firm WBCP, Inc. stating he was not selected to move forward to interviews, according to KGET News.

The email did say, however, that Curtis is still "an active applicant" who

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Clear Creek district water shutoff begins Monday for repairs

Michele Chandler
Redding Record Searchlight
USA TODAY NETWORK

The water supply to the entire Clear Creek Community Service District will be temporarily shut off starting at 5 a.m. on Monday, August 10 through Tuesday, August 11 to repair a significant leak in a major water main along Hawthorne Avenue, officials said.

The temporary water system outage is expected to last between 24 to 48 hours, according to the district's alert.

The Clear Creek Community Services District is located south of Redding in the Happy Valley/Anderson area and provides drinking water to about 8,000 residents.

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Good morning!
William Lakey

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