



Pedro E. Segarra
Mayor

**OUR CITY, OUR RESPONSIBILITY:
MAYOR ANNOUNCES *SHOOTING TASK FORCE* AND
INVESTMENT IN *SHOTSPOTTER***

---NEWS AND COMMUNITY RELEASE---

(July 1, 2011) --- Emphasizing that public safety is a top priority of his administration; Mayor Pedro E. Segarra today announced the reinstatement of the *Shooting Task Force* and the investment in the *ShotSpotter* camera system.

“When it comes to preventing crime, we need partners to better enhance our neighborhood policing plan. That is why I am announcing the reconstitution of the *Shooting Task Force* in order to best utilize available resources at all levels. The Hartford Police Department, the Chief State’s Attorney’s Office, and state and federal agencies are all working together to prevent future acts of gun violence and help bring resolution to open cases. As a former prosecutor, I am confident that our Chief State’s Attorney and his investigators will pursue cases to the fullest extent of the law,” said Mayor Segarra.

The Shooting Task Force will be composed of the Office of the State's Attorney for the Judicial District of Hartford, the Office of the Chief State's Attorney, the Connecticut State Police, the Department of Correction and the East Hartford, Manchester and West Hartford police departments. It will work with the Violent Crimes Bureau and the Witness Protection Unit in the Office of the Chief State's Attorney and in conjunction with the Central Connecticut Cold Case Task Force.

Chief State’s Attorney Kevin T. Kane says, “It builds on the successful collaborative approach that we have utilized to solve cold cases. I commend all of these agencies for stepping up to the plate to join in this cooperative effort.”

Anyone with information can contact the tip line at 1-866-623-8058, by mail at P.O. Box 962, Rocky Hill, CT 06067 or by email at cold.case@po.state.ct.us. There is also Hartford’s anonymous tip line -- Hartford Crime Stoppers: (860) 722-TIPS (8477).

Police Chief Daryl K. Roberts says, “The Mayor has made the directive clear. It is important to feel safe and to be safe. He and I have been on the beat already in our neighborhoods talking directly to residents about how community policing is working and what improvements can be made. It is clear that gun violence is a concern and that is why it is so essential that we work together regionally and with the state to address concerns.”

For security and intelligence reasons, certain details and duties of the *Shooting Task Force* will not be disclosed. This initiative was first introduced three years ago and resulted in the arrest of 72 people, in addition to helping build cases on others who were already incarcerated.

Mayor Segarra also announced the city's investment in the *ShotSpotter* program. He specifically thanked Congressman John Larson for his leadership and partnership on this effort.

"I am pleased to join Mayor Segarra, Chief Roberts, Chief State's attorney Kevin Kane and the rest of the Hartford Police Department in announcing the reinstatement of the *Shooting Task Force* and investment in the *ShotSpotter* camera system," Congressman Larson said. "I have supported federal funding requests for the Hartford Police Department to deploy *ShotSpotter* in the past and stand ready to assist the city going forward to ensure that our police department has all the tools needed at its disposal to stop gun violence."

ShotSpotter will focus on the neighborhoods that have experienced the highest concentration of gun violence.

"For the next year we will measure the success of this tool -- through various metrics and qualitative analysis -- and expand if necessary through the addition of coverage area or augmenting with cameras," said Mayor Segarra.