



## CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Monday, August 15, 2022, at 6:00 PM  
Council Chambers and YouTube Livestream

### MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the City of Forest Park to enhance, strengthen, and grow our city by collaborating with our community to provide the highest level of service. Striving to be recognized as a diverse community that values and respects all members. We will strive to provide fair, professional, and courteous service through transparency and open communication. As we work to achieve this mission, we will have integrity beyond reproach while employing fiscal discipline and innovation. In this work there are no praises and raises for mediocrity.

**Website:** [www.forestparkga.gov](http://www.forestparkga.gov)  
**YouTube:** <https://bit.ly/3c28p0A>  
**Phone Number:** (404) 366.1555

**FOREST PARK CITY HALL**  
745 Forest Parkway  
Forest Park, GA 30297

The Honorable Mayor Angelyne Butler, MPA  
The Honorable Kimberly James  
The Honorable Hector Gutierrez  
The Honorable Allan Mears  
The Honorable Dabouze Antoine  
The Honorable Latresa Akins-Wells  
Dr. Marc-Antonie Cooper, City Manager  
S. Diane White, City Clerk  
Mike Williams, City Attorney

### APPROVED MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Mayor Butler who read the Mission Statement.

**ROLL CALL - CITY CLERK:** A quorum was established.

Attendee's Name	Title	Absent	Present
Angelyne Butler, MPA	Mayor, At-Large		✓
Kimberly James	Council Member, Ward 1		✓
Dabouze Antoine	Council Member, Ward 2		✓
Hector Gutierrez	Council Member, Ward 3		✓
Latresa Akins-Wells	Council Member, Ward 4		✓
Allan Mears	Council Member, Ward 5		✓

Joshua Cox, IT Director, Javon Lloyd, Public Information Officer, Chiquita Barkley, Finance Director, Diane Lewis, Deputy HR Director, LaShawn Gardiner, Management Analyst, Latosha Clemons, Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, David Halcome, Bobby Jinks, Public Works Director, and Arthur Geeter, Purchasing Manager, Deputy Police Chief, Michael Brunson

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:** Dr. Marc-Antonie Cooper, City Manager**PRESENTATION(S):****1. Omnilert Gun Detect – Chief Executive Office****Background/History:**

Omnilert Gun Detect using artificial intelligence (AI) with existing or newly installed cameras to automatically respond to potential gun threats.

**Jim Crumbley, CEO of Risk Response Team Inc.** - They are partnered with Omnilert, he is a former marine and he has done a lot of consulting over the U.S. and Europe. Since he is working more with I.T. than security directors and law enforcement, he decided to take his background and integrate with a high-level security system company. They are a bridge between I.T., law enforcement and corporate security and has a good understanding of I.T. and security measures.

They are excited about Omnilert and believe the program will benefit a lot of communities. Omnilert is a software company that was founded in 2004, and the foundation was on mass notification and how to manage incidents. It is a platform where you can take different modules and put what you need into that platform. We are talking about today the weapons protection platform which you all are most interested in, and it goes beyond notifications.

The platform is about prevention response, they can do management automation, communication and engagement and notification broadcast. So, if you have an incident the platform will communicate with anyone you want within your city, within the law enforcement community of a potential life threat, which involves the detention of a weapon.

Today, there are more threats happening, they do a lot of work in k-12 because a lot of things are happening in schools. He is part of a non-profit for k-12 that advises schools on how to enhance their security, which they have a good understanding of.

With all the mass shootings, a proactive approach of how to respond, is needed to help mitigate the risk, and that is what Omnilert provides for people and municipalities. There are layers of security: human detection, metal detection, gun detection is a great layer and Shot spotter has that, but you would rather have visual detection, using artificial intelligence to detect someone brandishing a weapon and there is a threat. It will then send out a notification and video to law enforcement so they will know what they are approaching. Cameras are for after the fact to see where the perp went, to see what happened and to get a description and where they are right now. You will get real-time intelligence in a command center.

They will be able to add to the system in place, by having an open platform with the cameras and video management. With the right video management platform this can be tied into the community, like convenient stores restaurant and bars. You can tie into their cameras and if there is an incident the law enforcement can check things out quickly, because they have immediate access to it. They would like to further talk to anyone on council to discuss what they think will be a great approach and most of value to the city.

**Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:**

**Mayor Butler** - Stated they did meet with both companies, Deputy Chief Brunson, I.T. Director Josh was present also. She stated one of the things she fears the most is having a mass shooting within the city.

While talking to various mayors at other conferences, she learned of both companies' similarities and differences. She thinks as a community the city will be able to capitalize ideally on both, but one or the other if the governing body so chooses to do so.

**Councilmember James** - There was mentioned about open platforms and I would like to know how to tie it into the other cameras. Is this more so for protecting the city and the city buildings and how do you get into the communities where the shootings are happening?

**Jim Crumbley** - They would need a platform were they can integrate from the community. Genetec, is a good one because they have a process called federation. It is a connection and control of a camera, and you have necessarily financial responsibilities. It allows you to have cameras in the community that the business owners pay for it, and it can get federated into your system. Jason can talk more about the integrations because he is more of a I.T. person.

**Jason Hardy** - Stated, if it can see the feed, it can so the detection notification of it. This does depend on the federation or the connections of the VMS platform the city choose to go with, to be able to pull in the feeds. You can get community involvements to come in and allow you access to those feeds. If it can see it, then it can process it and make those alerts happen.

**Jim Crumbley** - Eagle Eye, is an option as well and they have a great cloud system. They have worked with Archie Lee's, where you can integrate with access control and do lockdowns. They would have to look at the city system and discuss long term plans before they could fully answer that.

**Councilmember James** - Range of motion, if I am a homeowner with a sophisticated camera could you integrate with that or would you look into the business and other things?

**Jason Hardy** - That would depend on what the city wants to do. If the community is involved and allow you access to it and it can be brought into one of the systems, it is up to you and what you would like to do, technology wise it is capable.

**Jim Crumbley** - Community improvement districts, homeowner association, all are good avenues and is a great way to get the word out and to get people involved. You may have flock cameras in different neighborhoods and locations, and it will work like that.

**Councilmember James** - Is there a set cost, a range cost or does it depend on the camera? What is the starting cost?

**Jason Crumbley** - It depends on how many cameras. I would suggest you start on your most needed areas that you want to cover and start building from there. We will start a pricing structure off that and as you begin to expand, the more cameras the lower the cost per camera and they are willing to work with the city on that.

You will find some of the cost is offset through the communities, especially If you have a night club of business that wants to be monitored. A lot of the time they are willing to upfront that cost for you.

**Councilmember James** - You mentioned, we could train our dispatch. How much training will it take and are we responsible for the monitoring once the city gets it installed?

**Jim Crumbley** - They will be happy to manage the system because that is what they do as a business. They are not looking to make a sale and then walk away. They are in the business of providing long term

services and it is value based. They will help manage it and work with law enforcement, they will also make sure they are trained and set the system up that is going to meet the long term needs of Forest Park.

**Councilmember Antione** - I understand the security aspect, but when it comes to private areas like homes what is the legal aspect of the invasion of privacy piece?

**Jim Crumbley** - Typically cameras do not go where there is an expectation of privacy. Ex: you can place them outside a restroom to see who goes in and out, but not in the restroom or close to the door where you can see someone adjusting their clothes. So, they will not go where there is supposed to be privacy. It is of value to be put in neighborhoods in areas and you might need cooperations from residents. They can go on poles, and you may need cooperation from Georgia Power or someone else and Forest Park may own some of their own poles.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** - Let us say the software is installed and there is an alert, the next step whomever is monitoring the cameras, will they to action or is there a speaker to warn or scare them off?

**Jim Crumbley** - Those are the flexibilities built into these systems, so yes. There are speakers on a football field in one district and if someone shows up the dispatch clicks on a link and the speaker activates and tell people they are trespassing. So, you can set that up as a proactive approach, law enforcement is notified, you are visibly seen, you can do something like that.

**Councilmember Gutierrez**- If I wanted to see your work, where in Georgia, could I find it, if I wanted to ask someone about your technology?

**Jim Crumbley** - We will get with Onmilert and can provide you with a full list of municipalities and other places where they have implemented this, and we can help coordinate a visit.

**Councilmember Wells** - How will it alert someone? Who would respond? I know they have cameras in the city, and something happens, and the cameras do not work. So, you can work with the camera systems we already have?

**Jim Crumbley** - Absolutely, we will be happy to, I would like to sit with you all and present you with somethings to do which will send you in the right direction and you have success, business is going to eventually come to us.

**Councilmember Wells** - There are a lot of apartments that have gang activities, hanging out and posting guns, how would it work with that being private property? If this is an area of concern and we want to put cameras out, how would that work?

**Jim Crumbley** - Typically through Memorandum of Understanding, the city attorney could establish if you push out to the community and say here is what we want to establish as a community. You can let the apartment complex know this is your camera, you must maintain it and we are not going to monitor it except through A.I or virtual patrols, you do not want to over promise something.

**Mayor Butler** - Have you ever had municipalities where you worked together with ShotSpotter and was able to tie things in together?

**Jim Crumbley** - I would be happy to work together with someone to build safety, it is layers of security and what is important for the community, not that our system is better, but they both take a proactive approach. There are ways to work together depending on what systems they integrate with.

**Mayor Butler** - One point of distinction is Omnilert, is visual, visually detecting weapons, and ShotSpotter is Audio.

**City Manager** - The council did approve the FLOCK Cameras, and we are in the process of working with them, they know that they are just license plate readers and want to know if they integrate with them.

**Jim Crumbley** - FLOCK is a great system and huge benefit, but no, they are not, FLOCK is a stand along system, which is there for one thing only.

## 2. **ShotSpotter Gun Shot Detection** – Chief Executive Office

### **Background/History:**

ShotSpotter Precision Policing Platform is a technology used to help law enforcement identify gun shots within neighborhoods and other areas to actively respond to an incident.

**Ron Teachman** - I 38 years in law enforcement and eight of them as chief of police, in New Bedford Massachusetts and South Bend, Indiana. He installed Shotspotter in both cities where he served. They are in 135 cities across the country. Shotspotter is a gunshot detection and location service, and the motto is “to detect, protect and connect.”

Shotspotter will tell you what happened when it happened and where it happened. 80% of gunfire goes unreported. The reason it is not always reported is because they are not sure the noise heard is gunfire, they think someone else is calling or they are afraid to call the police because of retaliation.

You determine the neighborhoods that you want covered and that area is set up. We will build an infrastructure of our solution. We will put sensor on rooftops of buildings or utility poles as needed. Once the system is deployed and a gun is fire that acoustic event radiates out, hits the sensors at measurably various times. It calculates the initiation of each sensor engagement to determine the precise location of the gunshot fired.

They are used to detect and to determine if it is gunfire, each sensor has a modem, which sends all the data up to a cloud. The machine then filters out the noise and if there is a probability that it is gun fire, we send that information up to an acoustic incident review center. Next humans go through a series of test to confirm gunfire before it is dispatch to a police officer. So, we are very accurate to filter out false positives and dispatch the police as necessary. The entire process takes under 60 seconds from trigger point.

Shotspotter can determine speed of travel and direction of travel to let officers know if there is a moving car, like a drive by shooting. It detects a sequence of shooting, and it is time stamped, the audio is captured and can be listened to as well. This information can be sent to any smart device and integrates with google maps, so we can identify from the dot where the nearest partial address is. When police are dispatch, it can show them what the neighbor looks like, so they are not driving into a danger zone. Shotspotter puts you at the crime scene in real time. We can integrate with cameras, license plate readers, and video management systems.

**Jason Silva** - Former police officer for Richmond, California, stated he used this system and the most benefit he got out of it for the community was what has been touched on. He used the system to connect with the community and to better prepare for entering a crime scene as a police officer.

### **Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:**

**Councilmember James** - Thanks for the presentation. There are issues we have in our city with gunfire and in some places it seems common. She states there are two apartment complexes that are adjacent. Sometimes she thinks it is firecrackers and then other times she thinks it is gunfire. When talking to residents they talk about gunfire they hear on the other side.

I have called a few times and it is hard to pinpoint which direction it come from, but I heard it. So, this is great technology. You mentioned that the officers are not called, and the signal do not go out until it is verified unless it is an actual gunshot. Who looks at this to send it out?

**Ron Teachman** - There are a team of folks in the Incident Review Center, which does this. It is a team of folks that take the data input and review it. They work 24/7/365 and the information goes through the modems instantaneously, it is reviewed and guaranteed that we will take that noise and determine if it is gunfire and give an alert to the police in an average of 60 seconds.

**Councilmember James** - Wants to make sure it was not something staff needed to be trained on.

**Ron Teachman** - Your subscription and all the services that I talked about, expert testimony, forensic analysis is provided as part of the subscription.

**Councilmember James** - Concerned about being on the phone and the call drops. How reliable is your technology to be sent somewhere, being where we are located?

**Ron Teachman** - If it were a problem our agents would tell you up front, we would not service you or take a contract. But, with all that I am seeing right now it is doable.

**Councilmember Antione** - Great presentation. We are putting these devices on top of buildings about 780 ft radius. How wide does it cover?

**Ron Teachman** - No. the 780 ft is our customers telling us conventionally with 911 is how far away your caller is from the actual crime scene. The sensors are placed with sufficient density according to our engineers, so that we have absolute coverage in the area that you articulate. It covers the entire area that you outline, not the whole city, but where the gun violence has happened historically. You do not pay per sensor, but per mile of coverage.

**Councilmember Wells** - I am excited. How did you hear about Forest Park? I thank Omnilert and I am picturing you all doing something together.

**Mayor Butler** - I reached out to them.

**Councilmember Mears** - Enjoyed the presentation and, in his ward, around the holidays, there are 4 or 5 firecrackers, 4 or 5 gunshots, from dark to 1 or 2 in the morning. How can we distinguish this so, that we do not have all the police in Forest Park in one ward? This happening continuously for 4/5 hours.

**Ron Teachman** - We are very skilled and New Year's Eve is not a holiday at Shotspotter, and it is all hands on. Shotspotter will save police from chasing fireworks call. We can accumulatively take that data and share it with the police and alerting them with the gunfire so they can distinguish and send the resources where they are most needed and that is where the gunfire, is not the fireworks. We also have a proactive program where we work with our customers on suppressing celebratory gunfire. Making sure we go beforehand to the neighborhoods to let them know, people will be held responsible for discharging a firearm in the city limits.

**Councilmember Mears** - How many square miles do we have in the city? If the panel agrees that type of coverage is needed over the whole city, because gunfire is everywhere.

**Mayor Butler** - Thank you for your presentation. It appears the governing body is pleased with both. It would be the desire to come back with some contracts, and we can start negotiating in about the next week or two.

**Councilmember James** - The police department is working on some other things with the county as far as bringing technology and wants to make sure they have a conversation with the chief. She stated when we go to the GMA conferences and other conferences that we make different connections, and the mayor is good about going to every table to see what they have to offer. This is to make sure that the taxpayer's money is going to things to better the city. She would like to look at all options that are already in play before they move on to something else.

**Mayor Butler** - Deputy Chief Brunson was a part of the Omnilert and Shotspotter presentations, but do not know where Clark was. There was representation from the Police Department, as well as Josh the I.T. director, to make sure that this was something that would be feasible for the city.

**City Manager** - We are looking at all the technologies that come in are working together, which is why they brought up FLOCK cameras and license plates readers. They want it all to work together so, P.D. is in on it from day one. This is why there were only presentations today, no contracts or cost, just to make sure it is something council would like to move forward with.

We can now sit down with both groups to discuss the coverage, how they would need it and how it would look. We will have the cost, and any other information needed to bring back to council.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **3. Confirmation of New Director of Planning and Community Development – Chief Executive Office**

##### **Background/History:**

Confirmation of a New Director of Planning and Community Development.

##### **Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:**

City Manager- We did do our due diligence, along with several interviews. We had the perfect shining star among us. I would like to present to council for conformation, Mrs. Lashawn Gardiner, as the new Director of Planning and Community Development.

#### **4. Recycling Discussion – Legislative Offices**

##### **Background/History:**

The City of Forest Park and its current sanitation partner Waste Management provides residents with single stream curbside recycling. Educational materials and information, as well as a list of items that can be commingled and recycled is available via the city's and Waste Management's websites.

However, it has come to the attention of the city that while we are paying for recycling services in our current sanitation rates, a substantial portion of discarded items is dumped in regular trash. This is due to cross contamination of residents mixing household trash and recyclables.

Per the direction at the City Council meeting of June 21, the recent procurement for a new sanitation contract was thrown out, and the RFP process will start over with a recycling component included. Secondly, we are continuing to work with our current vendor and address residential issues, and recycling.

The City Manager is seeking further direction of the City Council as to how they wish to address the recycling matter moving forward.

**This is for discussion only.**

**Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:**

**Councilmember James** - I had an impromptu meeting that I did not know was happening. One of the things that needs to be done is to find out how they are going to educate the residents. At one of her meetings, they discussed recycling and Ms. Franklin, was not aware that the recycling items were going into the landfill. She stated that they as a council need to decide on how they are going to address this. There are new people coming in all the time. There is only one day for waste disposal, and they need to know this. They are using the trash cans with the yellow tops to put waste in, and we are never going to have good recycling if we have those that are not aware.

What I had proposed, and I am not sure council will agree, to take away the recycle cans if they are not going to recycle. I do not know, but something needs to happen, and we need to have the conversation, and the communication to the residents, to let them know that there is a recycling piece.

I do not know if the audience has this pamphlet, but it has everything, and we will get the information back out to the residents. It tells when waste pick up for each side, and it even tells who to call to put out bulk items, lets you know you can use the recycling center. That is for any residence in the city that wants to take something there. This is the information that we need to somehow drive into our community, on a continuous basis.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** - It starts with us taking pride in our community, we need to get in these schools and make it cool, there are so many modern ways to distribute information. Just sending a regular flyer may not reach everyone. We need to take pride, we have the Adopt-a-Road Initiative and had like three organizations take part in that. I believe in our people, and it is going to take everyone, to take pride in the community to get there. Not just recycling but the littering also. Like using the flower bins such a beautiful area and you can add a plant and add joy to someone commuting. I like the pamphlet and we need to disseminate that to the people.

**Councilwoman Wells** - I agree, because there are people that are and some that are not into recycling. They can look into finding that percentage out and be charged for that and not the entire city, since they are not utilizing that.

**Councilmember Mears** - I agree with getting the information out, but in his ward, there are multiple families living in these houses, that they use the recycling along with the regular trash, especially on a long weekend. He stated all that do not go in the trash can go on the side of the road. He thinks the problem is deeper than education. In his ward his bride is out there every week picking up trash and is telling people how to do the garbage. However, there is still a problem where multiple people are living in the dwellings, and they need to come up with some other answer, other than education.

**Mayor Butler** - Like Councilwoman Wells, said, not everyone recycles and those that do can reach out and request the bins. That way those that are asking for the recyclable bins, are going to do it and do it correctly,



which can eliminate cross contamination. There are funds that the city receives for recycling that can be used to send out mailouts. There is a rental inspection unit that the city has that can be a part of this. They can give them the flyers and when new people coming in, they will know that it is an option. Then there is the PIO, who has been doing a phenomenal job getting information out, we can utilize that and the newsletter. We will just have to be consistent with it, and every time we get a check, we can send out something, and that can help with cost of the mailouts.

**Councilmember James** - How do we go about correcting the yellow trash cans being used for trash, what is the solution for this?

**Mayor Butler** - Sending something out to the residents, and if they want to keep them, they can and if not, they can turn them in.

**City Manager** - It is included in the rate that we are already paying. This is part of the new RFP that has gone out, to have as more of an add-on. As of now we are paying for it. The data we have collected from using the recycling center, the residents are using it as a dump not recycling. It is not one resident, but one person coming multiple times. We try our best with the staff we do have, and it is only open certain hours of the day to make sure of what they are dumping.

One of the things that can be done moving forward, regardless of whom the contract is with, is using it as a piece added on. At this point I do not know if we will be able to and is a discussion to be had with the sanitation group and city attorney. If we would go back to the current vendor and say, we would like to remove this from people who do not want it, and charge people that do want it. We would have to see if that is possible with the current vendor and if not look at the educational aspect of getting things out.

The flyers you are seeing was developed by the public works department. They have been sending them out and constantly updating the information that changes. There is information available, it is going out and it is on the website, about recycling. This can be addressed but must be done in a different way than what is currently being done as far as education. If they want it, they can pay for it, or we must figure out a funding mechanism.

**Councilmember Antione** - Majority of the people here are renters and if you do not have ownership, you do not treat it as yours. He wishes everyone would take pride in this and hopes it work out.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** - The old public works director, suggested labeling the bins. People that are recycling once their bin is contaminated, they get a pin letting them know this has happened. So, if I do it again, they lose that privilege. He thinks it is a good idea to use this thought. If something is not being used but is being paid for needs to be renegotiated.

**Councilmember Wells** - Like Councilmember Mears, said; you cannot control how many people live in a household and some people need more trash cans. She states, I do not recycle and do not think it has anything to do with who rents or own the home; but is that something you are into. Like Dr. Cooper stated, who recycles and who wants the bin.

Councilmember Mears can go to his ward and ask his people if they need 2 or 3 bins. As representatives we cannot just complain about the issues and not do anything about it. If you have a recycle bin and do not recycle, then give them a fine, because this is something the city is paying for. Then people will start thinking well, I do not need this recycle bin, just give me another trash bin and that will take a lot off the city. We play a huge part and can control the narrative and not just put it on the residents, because some do not know better. Advised they go out to the residents to find out what exactly their needs are to help with this.

**Councilmember Mears** - Most of the people use the yellow can because the green can do not hold all the waste. I would like to know, how much an extra trash can would cost?

**City Manager** - Mr. Jinks do you have that number?

**Bobby Jinks** - For recycling they charge the city \$6.19 and solid waste is \$15.00 monthly. They will have to pay more if they receive another can.

**Councilmember Mears** - If they had two green cans would it be about \$5-6 dollars more. This could help alleviate some of the problem.

**Bobby Jinks** - Yes.

**Councilwoman Wells** - This goes back to giving them a fine for using the recycle bin for trash. They would not mind paying the \$15.00 versus a fine, for using the wrong bin.

**City Manager** - I will look at this and bring back a recommendation.

5. **Council Consideration of an Amendment to the Code Enhancing the Boarded Windows Ordinance**-Code Enforcement, Legal

**Background/History:**

In February 2020, the City Council adopted an ordinance regulating the boarding up of windows and doors within the city. The intention of the ordinance was to allow the limited permitting of the boarding up of windows and doors with the expectation that property owners would make repairs to such doors and windows prior to the expiration of such permits.

Since adoption, a number of properties have obtained the necessary permits, but the owners have not made the necessary repairs to their properties. Instead, they have merely renewed their permits, month after month.

It is proposed that the ordinance be strengthened by only allowing one renewal and adding a specific penalty for the failure of a property owner to make the repairs required to be made to get the permit. The fee for a renewal has been increased to take into account the substantial additional staff time involved in monitoring compliance with the ordinance for those owners that have failed to maintain their properties in compliance with the code.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** (When an Executive Session is required, one will be called for the following issues: Personnel, Litigation or Real Estate)

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn the Work Session at 7:30pm

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears