

October 7, 2016

Dear Supervisors Haggerty, Valle, Chan, Miley and Carson,

We represent a large cohort of public health professionals, medical workers and clinicians in Alameda County and San Francisco. As we've learned about the controversial Urban Shield training and weapons expo held in Alameda County, we've developed deep concerns about the priorities that the County has chosen to set in regards to health and public safety.

We have also learned that funding proposals to the Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) will be due on October 14th. We feel strongly that the Board of Supervisors should *exclude* Urban Shield from *any* funding proposals for Fiscal Year 2017. Alameda County has an opportunity to seek funding for emergency response resources that prioritize health and wellbeing and not militarized policing. We hope the Board takes this opportunity to defund Urban Shield now.

As public health professionals working in Alameda and San Francisco counties, we are extremely supportive of Alameda County developing, supporting, and increasing its capacity to respond to emergencies. We know that Urban Shield is billed as an emergency preparedness activity. However, the training exercises perpetuate racist and xenophobic stereotypes, increase the use of militarized weaponry and tactics in everyday law enforcement, and cost taxpayers millions of dollars. This ultimately hurts our communities' safety and security, perpetuating existing trauma in communities that have seen a disproportionate presence of law enforcement. The climate of increased police killings, militarized SWAT raids and sweeps, and surveillance technologies including drones has frayed already tattered community/police relations, destabilized neighborhoods, and broken up families across the Bay Area.

We were disturbed to read the report recently released by the Stop Urban Shield Coalition showing that the lion's share of funding that could be supporting emergency preparedness in the Bay Area has been poured instead into increasing the Urban Shield exercises and militarization of local law enforcement. Our priorities could look very different.

Urban Shield is failing our communities when it comes to preparing ourselves for the emergencies to which we are particularly vulnerable. Health and wellbeing should lead our efforts, but currently it appears that none of the UASI funding is being directed toward goals that could bolster our preparedness and long-term wellbeing. We advocate for redirecting the funds, toward the following goals, as identified by the UASI grant:

- Goal 1: Planning and Risk Management
- Goal 5: Medical and Public Health
- Goal 6: Emergency Planning and Community Preparedness
- Goal 7: Recovery

We know that cities in Alameda and San Francisco counties already fund a number of important emergency preparedness and health planning programs, but they are being overlooked when a militarized approach is prioritized instead. The Stop Urban Shield Report includes some specific organizational partner recommendations that have succeeded in improving community safety related to the above goals.

As a key Alameda County decision maker, you play a critical role in determining the nature, form, and implementation of the county's emergency preparedness priorities. Shifting disaster preparedness toward community strength and resilience and away from war games and militarization is an important way to demonstrate a commitment to security without making the county's communities vulnerable. We ask that the Board of Supervisors use its power to restrict or approve the resources for which the Sheriff's Department applies and receives, and reject or pull any proposal for UASI funds that include Urban Shield.

Thank you for your attention and action on this important matter. As always, we would be enthusiastic about meeting with you and discussing these issues further.

Sincerely,

1. Lana Tilley, MPH, Researcher, University of California, San Francisco, *Alameda County resident, District 5*
2. Sophia Simon-Ortiz, MPH, Faculty, San Francisco State University, *Alameda County resident, District 5*
3. Angelica Cardenas, MPH, Health Educator, San Francisco Department of Public Health, *Alameda County resident, District 5*
4. Carlos Martinez, Med Anthro PhD student, UCSF/ UC Berkeley
5. Laurence Padua, Alameda County Public Health Emergency Preparedness, *Oakland Resident, District 5*
6. Cameron Kephart, MPH, Artist, Advocate, Ally. Oakland CA, *D-13*
7. Caitlin Miller, RN, CNM, WHNP, Alta Bates, *Oakland resident*
8. Jennifer Phoenix Smith, Acting Director Alameda County Office of AIDS
9. Monique Hosein, Student, UC Berkeley School of Public Health, DrPH program
10. Ariana Thompson-Lastad, Doctoral Student, UCSF School of Nursing, *District 5*
11. Lily Walkover, Doctoral Student, UCSF School of Nursing
12. Jade Rivera, MPH, Faculty, San Francisco State University
13. Dan Meltzer, MPH, Public Health Researcher, *Alameda County resident, District 5*
14. Josh Neff, MS, Third Year Medical Student and Public Health Researcher, University of California, San Francisco; *Alameda County resident, District 5*
15. Alexis Phemera Hoffkling, MS, Medical student, UCSF, *Alameda county resident, District 5*
16. Pamela Gudiño, RN, MPH, Student, UCSF School of Nursing
17. Wes Falatoonzadeh, RN BSN, Nurse Manager at SF Veterans Affairs M
18. Sarah Shannon, Executive Director, Hesperian Health Guides (Berkeley), *Alameda County resident, District 5*

19. Tara Gonzalez, Fourth Year Medical Student and public health researcher, University of California, San Francisco, *Alameda County resident, District 5*
20. Julia Klems, MPH, Needle Exchange Emergency Distribution (NEED), *Alameda County resident, District 5*
21. Laura Coelho, MPH, Public Health Consultant, *Alameda County resident, District 5*
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23. Swati Rayasam, MS Candidate, *Alameda County Resident, District 5*
24. Anna Steiner, MPH, MSW, Analyst, University of California, San Francisco, *Alameda County resident, District 5*
25. Jillian Botkin, MPH, Research Analyst, Impaq International, *Alameda County resident, District 5*
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29. Amber Akemi Piatt, MPH, Program Associate, PolicyLink, *Alameda County Resident, District 5*
30. David Modersbach, Management Analyst, Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless, Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, *Alameda County Resident District 4*
31. Amy Preut Duncan, MPH, Lecturer, San Francisco State University, *San Francisco County, District 12*
32. Sergio Martinez, City College of San Francisco, *18th assembly district*
33. Perry Kramer RN, UCSF
34. Lisa Moore, Associate Professor, San Francisco State University Medical Center; *San Francisco County Resident District 12*
35. Kate Dubé, Graduate Student School of Social Welfare, University of California, Berkeley; *Alameda County resident, District 5*
36. Alina Kung, Medical and public health student at UC Berkeley-UCSF Joint Medical Program; *San Francisco County Resident District 12*
37. Nadia Gaber, MD-PhD student, University of California San Francisco; *Oakland resident, District 3*
38. Michael D'Arcy, Ph.D. Candidate in Medical Anthropology, UC Berkeley - UC San Francisco; *Oakland Resident, District 1*
39. Florencia Rojo, PhD Candidate in Medical Sociology, UC San Francisco, *Oakland resident District 3*
40. Adeola Oni-Orisan, MD-PhD Candidate in Medical Anthropology, UC San Francisco/UC Berkeley and Harvard Medical School
41. Margaret Mary Downey, MSW; Doctoral Student in Social Welfare, UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare, *Oakland resident, District 2*
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44. Maisa Morrar, Emergency Medical Technician, EMS, *Alameda County resident, District 3*
45. Erika Céspedes, Health Equity Program Manager, Youth Leadership Institute, *District 5*
46. Danny Kim, MPH, MD Candidate, UC San Francisco, *Oakland resident, District 5*
47. Miriam Eisenhardt, MPH, RN, Samuel Merritt University, *Oakland, District 5*
48. Seth Holmes, Associate Professor, University of California Berkeley
49. Martha Ockenfels-Martinez, MPH Candidate, University of California Berkeley, *Alameda County Resident, District 5*
50. Sam Dubal, MD candidate, PhD, Harvard Medical School, *Alameda County Resident, District 5*
51. Claudia Greene, MPH Graduate Student, UC Berkeley School of Public Health, *Alameda County resident, District 5*
52. Daniel S. Madrigal, MPH, Public Health Institute, *Oakland resident, District 3*

**Note: We are signing as individuals with various organizational affiliations; our professional titles are included for identification purposes only not as endorsements by our places of work*