



**California
Nurses
Association**



**National
Nurses
United**

A Voice for Nurses. A Vision for Healthcare.

OAKLAND

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February 28th, 2017

Alameda County Board of Supervisors
1221 Oak St #536
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Alameda County Board of Supervisors,

We, the California Nurses Association / National Nurses United, the largest U.S. organization of Nurses, are writing you to express our deep concern over the Board of Supervisors' priorities when it comes to emergency preparedness in Alameda County, especially in regards to the Urban Shield training and weapons expo.

Nurses are frontline responders to natural and man-made disasters. Through our RNRN program, we have responded to disasters all over the world, including Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy at home, Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines, Hurricane Matthew in Haiti, and numerous other crises abroad. We see first hand the suffering and devastating consequences of not having a strong emergency plan in place.

We strongly support the development, support, and expansion of true Emergency Preparedness programming in Alameda County. We are distressed to learn that our Board of Supervisors plans on allocating five of the \$6 Million dollars granted by UASI Urban Shield, while not spending a single dollar on many of the emergency preparedness goals, such as Goal 1: Planning and Risk Management, Goal 5: Medical and Public Health, Goal 6: Emergency Planning and Community Preparedness, or Goal 7: Recovery.

We do not support programs that train first responders and law enforcement officials to see the people who live in our communities as their greatest threat. We do not support increasing the use of militarized weaponry and tactics in everyday law enforcement. These training exercises perpetuate racist and xenophobic stereotypes and increase trauma in communities already suffering under the massive number of police killings, militarized SWAT raids and sweeps, and surveillance technologies and are further eroding already fragile community / police relationships. This decreases public safety, destabilizes communities, and puts more cops at risk.

Urban Shield is failing our communities and the officers it trains. It diverts millions of dollars from being invested in true emergency trainings for the disasters we know will inevitably arise.

As Nurses, we recognize that our patients are also our community members; they are our neighbors, fellow members of the PTA, coworkers, grandparents, and friends. If you as the Board of Supervisors think the greatest threat to our communities is the people who live here, we have a serious problem.



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We feel strongly the Board should prioritize the health and well being of our communities, not militarized policing. **We urge you to exclude Urban Shield from ANY funding proposals for 2018 or future years.** We urge you to direct that funding towards goals 1, 5, 6, and 7, as identified by the UASI grant. As our Board of Supervisors, you are instrumental in determining the County's Emergency Preparedness priorities. Disaster preparedness should be focused on community resilience and strength. It needs to shift away from war games played against our children, our neighbors, and our friends. We ask the Board of Supervisors to use its power to restrict or approve the resources for which the Sheriff's Department applies and receives, and to reject or pull any proposal that for UASI funds that include Urban Shield.

Thank you for your attention and action on this matter. We are always happy to meet with you and discuss this issue further.