



Councilmember Cheryl Davila
District 2

PUBLIC HEARING
June 20, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Davila and Councilmember Harrison
Subject: Proposal to reject BPD MOU with NCRIC and accept BPD MOU for UASI with condition of non-participation in Urban Shield

RECOMMENDATION

Direct the City Manager to:

- **Reject Approval of Police Department MOU Compendium revised item # 3.12, Relationship with Northern California Regional Intelligence Center (NCRIC).**
- **Approve Police Department MOU Compendium revised item #3.6, Agreement with City and County of San Francisco for Distribution of UASI Grant Funds with the following conditions:**
 - Direct the City Manager to suspend City of Berkeley participation in Urban Shield activities for one year; during that time the City Council shall partner with City staff and the community to evaluate the availability and cost of training that does not utilize racial profiling, orients toward natural disasters and critical incidences (those with highest probability of occurrence), focuses on prevention and recovery as much as response, and prioritizes the engagement of community and non-law enforcement responders.
 - An Adhoc Sub-Committee will be developed to review UASI and mutual aid MOUs, to identify a proposal for alternatives to Urban Shield and to observe the 2017 Urban Shield expo and exercise. *This Sub-Committee will include the Mayor, 2-3 additional City Council members, a representative from the Alameda County UASI task force, a representative of the Stop Urban Shield Coalition, a representative of SEEDS mediation organization, civil rights lawyers and organizations, representatives from the Police Review and Peace & Justice Commissions, representatives of 1-2 emergency response training programs (i.e. CERT, CARD, etc.), and representatives from the police and fire department.*
 - The City Manager shall provide the following information: 1) A detailed description of the tactical team scenarios in which we participate; 2) The cost to Berkeley in salary and overtime for all aspects of Urban Shield participation in the past three years; 3) A detailed list of equipment used by Berkeley in the Urban Shield exercises.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Cost of alternative trainings for disaster preparedness that offer what Urban Shield currently does not – a focus on preparedness and recovery with a commitment to humanitarian rather than military responses to disasters and critical incidences. The task force will work to identify resources for trainings.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No ecological impact.

BACKGROUND

Urban Shield is a police training, expo and exercise started by Alameda County Sheriff Ahern. It uses an anti-terror framework and funding source to train police, fire and first responders in militarized responses to natural disasters and critical incidences. Urban Shield trainings have relied on racial profiling for its scenarios (stereotypes of Muslim terrorists and exclusively white victims) and crowd control strategies that orient and respond to non-violent protests and civilians as enemy combatants. In articles ranging from academic journals to advocate publications to police journals, there is sound evidence that militarized policing is at odds with community-based policing approaches that are accountable to residents and local government and the citizenry at large.

In multiple locations that police have participated in Urban Shield exercises and trainings, we have seen an increase in militarized, heavily armored responses to day-to-day incidences that primarily target people of color. In the context of militarized and authoritarian responses to even natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina, communities, civil rights organizations and lawyers, church and community leaders and activists have called for disaster and critical incidence preparedness and recovery that is humanitarian in its goals, orientation and approach.

These goals and the concern about the fundamental militarized approach and racial profiling at the core of Urban Shield has been expressed by hundreds of Berkeley residents. We have heard much more opposition to continued participation in Urban Shield than from those wishing to continue participation.

In the broader Bay Area, community members and organizations, community-based first responders, churches, synagogues and mosques, religious leaders, labor organizations, health care providers and elected officials have organized to ask cities not to host or participate in Urban Shield. As a result, in Alameda County, a task force was formed of these stakeholders and representatives from police and fire to investigate the concerns about Urban Shield and identify possible alternatives. The majority of participants share a concern about the role of Sheriff Ahern given his anti-immigrant sentiment, opposition to police accountability and Black Lives Matter and agree on the need for alternative

training to that offered by Urban Shield and using more UASI funding for community and non-law enforcement preparedness and recovery. In addition, the City and County of San Francisco have pulled out of the joint terrorism task force.

Berkeley City Council can and should be a leader in setting policies that reduce police racial profiling and militarization in preparing for disasters and critical incidences in ways that reflect our commitment to humanitarian goals.

CONTACT PERSON

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