Urban Shield Task Force
Friday, August 25, 2017
9:00 a.m.

Dr. Muntu Davis, Chair

Location: Alameda County Training and Conference Center
125 ~ 12th Street, 4th Floor
Oakland Room
Oakland, CA 94612

Summary Minutes

I. Call to Order

Muntu Davis, MD, Department of Public Health, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Roll call

Jim Betts, Surgeon-in-Chief, Asst. Director, Trauma Services, Children's Hospital Oakland
Marla Blagg, BART Police
Mike Grant, Owner, Guns Unlimited Training Center
Lara Kiswani, Executive Director, Arab Resource and Organizing Center
Lily Haskell, Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
Cheryl Miraglia, Castro Valley resident, District 4
John Lindsay-Poland, American Friends Service Committee**,** District 5
Muntu Davis, Alameda County Health Officer, Chair, Urban Shield Task Force
Scott Dickey, Alameda County, County Counsel
Brett Keteles, Assistant Sheriff, Alameda County Sheriff's Office
Omowale Satterwhite, Facilitator
Kathleen Harris, Facilitator
Paul Rolleri, Alameda Police Department
Dan Bellino, Chief of Staff, Alameda County Office of Education
Carol Burton, Supervisor Keith Carson's Office, District 5
Ann Kronenberg, Director, SF Department of Emergency Management
Glen Katon, Katon Law
Meryl Klein, County Administrator's Office
David Wanneker, Alameda County Fire Department
Bob Maginnis, Sheriff's Association
Travis Kusman, Alameda County Emergency Medical Services

II. Approval of Minutes: August 11, 2017

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes of August 11, 2017, be approved with the following corrections/amendments:

Page 4, Group report 2:

Alameda County's interagency coordination is improved, **with 1 member dissenting**, however there are some negative effects in terms of impact, which need further review and ongoing monitoring.

Page 4, Group report 2:
Deleted – There was consensus on negative community impacts as a result of Urban Shield.

Page 5, Group report 3:
Add "There was a statement made that there is a negative impact on the community.**"** The following comments were made by different Task Force members during the discussion:

- It is difficult to assess community relationships with the various responders (such as fire, transportation agencies) because the problem with Urban Shield is the coupling of all of them and the highly militarized training.
- One of the impacts to communities is lack of trust, generated by the perception of militarized response by agencies including transportation, EMS and other non-law enforcement first responders.
- Discussion on if all these agencies are grouped under the same umbrella, does that have a negative impact of increasing mistrust and they all tied back to a militarized response - Did not come to a consensus but there was a lot of discussion.
- The group is diverse and there was some disagreement on impacts to the community given the diversity of the group.
- Discussion on who is the community and what does impact actually mean.
- Urban Shield makes the community feel safer, higher collaboration and better response to multiple casualty incidents (MCI).
- The collaboration with law enforcement and other entities and volunteers the community is better prepared - Did not reach consensus.
- Urban Shield actually damages community relationships with law enforcement.
- Could Urban Shield be repackaged as something else and what would that look like?
- Conversation around decoupling law enforcement from all the other trainings such as Red Command and other trainings that don't seem to be militarized. Why do they have to be a part of Urban Shield?
- Look at framework, funding and infrastructure to do something alternative and outside of Urban Shield.
- Would like more community involvement, but not as is with its current framework and infrastructure.
- Organized regimented response not necessarily militarized.
- Decoupling is not the answer, given the community, environment and where we live.
- Urban Shield has evolved and is a unified command.
- Militarized definition: Using military style weapons, trainings and practices; armored vehicles.
- The Impact of the relationships is negative; creates concern as to why agencies are participating in highly militarized trainings.

Motion passed unanimously to accept the minutes with the corrections, deletions and amendments.

III. Recommendations to be considered by the Urban Shield Task Force

Dr. Muntu Davis distributed a list of draft responses to the learning questions and draft recommendations to be considered by the Urban Shield Task Force at today's meeting.

Scott Dickey, County Counsel, addressed a question regarding Task Force member Susan Abdullah not being allowed to participate by phone. Ms. Abdullah submitted information as to her location, to be contacted by phone to participate in the meeting, however it was not submitted in time for the Brown Act posting deadline of 72 hours prior to the meeting. Since phone participation was not offered to the general public, Susan Abdullah would not be allowed to participate by phone.

IV. Discussion of Recommendations: Learning Questions 1 & 2

Dr. Davis explained that the Task Force would go through each learning question response and recommendation separately and make motions and votes on each.

Learning Question 1: Does the Urban Shield Project meet federal guidelines set out in the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant?

Draft Response: **"**Yes. The Urban Shield training receives approval from the Bay Area UASI Approval Authority, which uses the criteria for reginal funding proposals.

All proposals must meet the following criteria:

- Have a clear "nexus to terrorism", - i.e., the proposal must specify how the activities will support terrorism preparedness
- Directly benefit at least two operational areas
- Enhance the region's priority capability objectives (see Section 12)
- Include only allowable expenses under UASI grant guidelines (see Section 15)"

It is our understanding that:

1. Urban Shield also meets federal Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) guidelines, which require the development of exercise plans, exercise evaluator handbooks, Master Scenario Events Lists (MELS), Team Binders, Exercise Evaluation Guides and After Action Reports (AARs); and
2. The Bay Aurea UASI funds have been spent in accordance to the federal guidelines that govern the UASI grant as specified in the Homeland Security Act of 2002.**"**

Public Comment

Brian Geiser stated that the public does not have access to the Draft Responses and Recommendations document. In addition he stated that the draft recommendations include **"**…free from racists stereotypes…**"** however the Sheriff's Office includes racist stereotypes; the equipment for Urban Shield has very vague terminology.

Blair Beekman thanked the Urban Shield Task Force for their work on the recommendations.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the draft response to Learning Question 1..– ***Motion passed unanimously*** *to accept the draft response to Learning Question 1.*

Draft Recommendation

"1a. Require and ensure execution of the following Principles and Guidelines established and outlined in the Sheriff's January 6, 2017, Board Letter for the Fiscal Year 2016 Urban Area Security Initiative Agreement.

- Expand community involvement and awareness
- Urban Shield will be free from racist stereotyping
- Work to expand training the medical profession for critical incidents

- Urban Shield will not include crown control training
- Continue to evaluate existing equipment
- Urban Shield will exclude any and all vendors who display derogatory or racists messages in any form
- Urban Shield will exclude the sale or transfer or any assault weapons and firearms
- Will exclude vendors displaying non-law enforcement related tactical uniforms and equipment
- Urban Shield will strive to maintain the finest first responder training possible.

1b. Before each UASI funding request, require reporting on adherence to these principles and guidelines.**"**

Discussion
Motion was made and seconded to accept the draft recommendation and add to the bulleted list: "Urban Shield should disallow countries from participating in Urban Shield who have documented Human Rights abuses, which was previously approved by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.**"** – ***Motion passed by majority*** *and the language will be added to the recommendation.*

Motion was made and seconded to add: **"**The Sheriff's Office shall provide an annual report to the Board of Supervisor prior to the consideration of UASI funding for 2018 by the Board of Supervisors.**"** – ***Motion passed by majority*** *and the language will be added to the recommendation.*

Motion was made and seconded to add: "The Sheriff shall report to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors on the implementation of the twelve (12) guidelines for Urban Shield approved by the Board in January 2017. Such report shall be public, and shall include, for each of the 12 guidelines: description of steps taken to implement the guideline; who was responsible for implementing the guideline; definitions used in implementation of the guidelines for key terms, including but not limited to: 'human rights', 'racists stereotyping', 'crowd control' and 'surveillance' and, for the guideline on international human rights violations, a list of all sources of information consulted and implementation of other Task Force recommendations that may be adopted by the Board**."** – ***Motion failed by majority*** *and the language will not be added to the recommendation.*

Motion was made and seconded to modify recommendation 1b to read as follows: "The Sheriff's Office shall report to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors on the implementation of the twelve (12) guidelines for Urban Shield approved by the Board in January 2017 and implementation of other Task Force recommendations that may be adopted by the Board.**"** – ***Motion passed unanimously*** *and the language will be added to the recommendation.*

Learning Question 2: Is Urban Shield strictly an emergency preparedness program?

Draft Response: "Yes, with room for improvement in implementing the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) "Whole Community" approach to emergency management through activities for a) preparedness, b) crisis response, c) community and economic recovery.

Preparedness is defined by the national Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as:

1) ‘a continuous cycle of planning, organizing, training, equipping, exercising, evaluating and taking corrective action in an effort to ensure effective coordination during incident response’ and;
2) ‘a shared responsibility; it calls for the involvement of everyone – not just the government – in preparedness efforts. By working together, everyone can help keep the nation safe from harm and help keep it resilient when struck by hazards such as natural disasters, acts of terrorism and pandemics.’

Because the federal UASI grant program’s objective is to assist ‘high-threat, high-density Urban Areas in efforts to build, sustain, and deliver the capabilities necessary to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to and recover from acts of terrorism’ and 25% of the grant funding is to be used for law enforcement, Urban Shield activities have focused mainly on trainings and exercises for law enforcement but have expanded to include first responders and other emergency management personnel. It has also recently implemented the Grey (and Green) Command to include some activities for community preparedness.

The Urban Shield Task Force Remains unclear on both the determination and application of the Threat Hazard Identifications and Risk Assessment (THIRA) in drafting exercise scenarios, prioritizing capability targets and gaps, and selecting capabilities to be tested and gaps to be addressed each year and over multiple years.**”**

Public Comment
Laura Magnani does not agree that Urban Shield is strictly emergency preparedness, as long as the framework is seen through the lens of terrorism. The biggest threats to communities are fires and earthquakes.

Michael Yoshi stated that he does not think Urban Shield is strictly an emergency preparedness program; it’s not comprehensive; there needs to be an expansive preparedness program with more of a buy-in from others including the faith community.

Blair Beekman stated that he hopes the County will not be trading new emergency preparedness programs for others that have been working.

Sharif, Arab Resource Organizing Center, expressed that with a nexus on terrorism this is not the emergency preparedness that the County needs. As a member of the Arab/Muslim community, it is very disingenuous that they say they support our community while simultaneously using tactics against us.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the draft response and add: **“**Some members expressed deep concerns that Bay Area UASI’s Risk Relevance Ratings show core capabilities such as ‘Health and Human Services’, ‘Economic and Community Recovery’, ‘Long-Term Vulnerability Reduction’, ‘Housing’, ‘Public Health and Medical Services’, and ‘Natural and Cultural Resources’, ALL as having low risk relevance, while ‘Cyber Security’, ‘On-Scene Security and Protection’, and ‘Screening, Search and Detection’ are rated as having the highest risk relevance.**”** – ***Motion passed by majority*** *and the language will be added to the draft response.*

Draft Recommendations
“2a. Develop and implement a plan for FEMA’s “Whole Community” approach, in Alameda County. Residents, emergency management practitioners, organizational and community leaders and government officials can collectively understand and assess the needs of the communities and

determine the best ways to organize and strengthen their assets, capacities and interest to prepare for, respond to and recover from a natural disaster.

2b. Include the "Whole Community" in planning and exercise, e.g., conduct tabletop exercises with the community in the 13 Bay Area UASI counties leading up to a full scale exercise in September. The example could be 4 tabletop exercises using the UASI Urban Area HUB (East Bay, West Bay, South Bay and North Bay).

2c. Report on emergency preparedness activities in publicly available exercise documentation and/or summary reports, if not done already.

2d. Train and exercise non-terrorism scenarios that can justifiably support terrorism preparedness, including prevention and recovery and be in alignment with FEMA's "Whole Community" approach to emergency management.**"**

Motion was made and seconded to accept the draft recommendation and delete 2a. from the draft recommendation. – ***Motion passed by majority*** *to accept the recommendation with the deletion of 2a.*

Public Comment
Cindy Shamban it's ironic that part of the process, move it towards a community planning approach, and taking it away from the nexus of terrorism. The discussion has assumed that Urban Shield will continue, it seems contradictory.

Blair Beekman stated that the County may have to think about a whole community approach.

Motion was made and seconded to add language to the draft recommendation: "2e. Alameda County and multi-jurisdictional emergency preparedness shall dedicate as many or more resources and time to prevention of and recovery from critical emergencies than to respond to such emergencies.**"** – ***Motion failed by majority*** *and the language will not be added to the recommendation.*

V. Discussion of Recommendations: Learning Questions 3 & 4

Learning Question 3: In the event of an emergency/attack or natural disaster, will public safety agencies, public health and other emergency response departments, be adequately trained and equipped to respond to such disasters without the training offered by Urban Shield?

Draft Response: **"**In relationship to public safety, public health and other emergency response departments, interagency coordination between them has improved with Urban Shield.

No other significant sources of funding appear to be available for large scale preparedness trainings and full scale exercises.**"**

Public Comment
Laura Magnani stated that communities don't see enough alternatives as long as we continue to only look at Urban Shield.

Megan Clark expressed that question three (3) is misleading; it surmises that Urban Shield is the only option and it's vital; it is concerning that she has put money into Urban Shield while it is criminalizing and policing black and brown communities.

Mohamed stated that prioritizing Urban Shield has led to deprioritizing and defunding other programs; local funding no longer allocated for local emergency preparedness.

Katie Joaquin has deep concerns with responses to the question three (3) and its nexus to terrorism; people of the community feel they are being treated as the enemy. Urban Shield can't be reformed, it must be ended.

Katie Loncke stated that the County should find other non-militarized ways of protecting the community; Urban Shield causes disproportionate harm to already marginalized communities.

Sharif Zackout stated that Urban Shield creates the responses they see in the communities. It doesn't make sense to respond to environmental disasters in a militarized fashioned; need creativity in understanding an autocratic community response.

Lauren Holtzman stated that people feel powerless to stop the police militarization; communities respond and prepare for what the police exacerbate and it has an impact on generations.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the draft response with the following additions (underlined): "In relationship to public safety, public health and other emergency response departments <u>that have been involved</u>, interagency coordination between them has improved with Urban Shield.

No other significant sources of funding appear to be available for <u>regional</u> large scale preparedness trainings and full scale exercises.**"** – ***Motion passed by majority*** *to accept the draft recommendation with the amendments.*

Draft Recommendation: "Assess County and regional willingness to commit local funds for large full scale trainings and exercises. This would allow for more local/regional flexibility for preparedness and response training activities.**"**

Public Comment
Jesse Yurow stated that his concern is that they only way to adequately fund emergency preparedness training is to participate in this program that has a history of demonstrated racism, which is unacceptable. To incorporate the concerns of the community find an "out" to Urban Shield and recommend it to the Board of Supervisors.

Mohamed is concerned that Urban Shield style militarized policing is being used to criminalize Arab, Hispanic and African American communities as part of the war on terrorism. If the nexus to terrorism is at the root of all of the bad treatment, why should it be a requirement?

Motion made and seconded to accept the following draft recommendation: "Identify and seek additional grant funding for local regional large full scale training and exercises for community preparedness and response training activities that is consistent with the Urban Shield Task Force Recommendations.**"** – ***Motion passed by majority*** *to accept the new draft recommendation.*

Motion was made and seconded to add 3b to the draft recommendation: **"**The funding source for multi-jurisdictional disaster preparedness exercises coordinated by Alameda County shall not require that the exercise have a 'nexus to terrorism'.**"** – ***Motion failed by majority*** *and the language will not be added to the recommendation.*

Motion was made and seconded to add to the draft recommendation: **"**The funding source for future multi-jurisdictional disaster preparedness exercises, outside of UASI, funding coordinated by Alameda County shall not require that the exercise have a 'nexus to terrorism'.**"** – **Motion failed by majority and the language will not be added to the recommendation.**

Motion was made and seconded to add to the recommendation: "The Board of Supervisors advocate to revise the priorities of federal emergency preparedness funding to remove the requirement of 'a nexus to terrorism'.**"** – ***Motion failed by majority*** *and the language will not be added to the recommendation.*

Motion was made and seconded to add to the recommendation: "The Board of Supervisors assess emergency preparedness funding and activities in relationship to the twelve (12) guidelines previously approved by the Board of Supervisors, applicable to Urban Shield.**"** – ***Motion failed by majority*** *and the language will not be added to the recommendation.*

Continued to September 22, 2017
Learning Question 4: Do the terms, conditions and guidelines of this program meet the demand for the Bay Area Region to be prepared to respond to natural disaster (fire, earthquake, etc.) or a terrorist act?

VI. *Continued to September 22, 2017*
Learning Question 5: **"**is the impact of Urban Shield on the community's relationship with law enforcement and other emergency preparedness responders such as the public health department; health care agencies; public education agencies; public transportation agencies; fire departments; and emergency medical services?**"**

VII. *Continued to September 22, 2017*
Summary of Recommendations to the Board of Supervisors

VIII. Public Comment
Blair Beekman thanked the Urban Shield Task Force for their work.

IX. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned to Friday, September 22, 2017.