



Urban Shield Task Force

Friday, May 12, 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/Roll Call

Chairman, Muntu Davis, MD, Department of Public Health, called the meeting to order and roll was called.

Travis Kusman, Director, Emergency Medical Services, Alameda County

Jim Betts, Surgeon-in-Chief, Asst. Director, Trauma Services, Children's Hospital Oakland

Marla Blagg, BART Police

Mike Grant, Owner, Guns Unlimited Training Center

Mike Dayton, Deputy Director, SF Department of Emergency Management

Lara Kiswani, Executive Director, Arab Resource and Organizing Center

Tash Nguyen, Ella Baker Center for Human Rights

Cheryl Miraglia, Castro Valley resident, District 4

John Lindsay-Poland, American Friends Service Committee, District 5

Rhonda Bailey, Clerk of the Board, Alameda County

Muntu Davis, Alameda County Health Officer, Chair, Urban Shield Task Force

Scott Dickey, Alameda County, County Counsel

Tom Wright, Division Commander, 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

II. Desired Outcomes for Urban Shield Task Force (USTF) – Facilitation Team

Omowale Satterwhite, Urban Shield Task Force facilitator, asked members what they would like to see accomplished with Task Force. Task Force members' responses included the following:

- To be able to come together as a group and come to an understanding of both sides
- See more understanding and consideration of alternatives to the dominant paradigm of law enforcement in response to mass emergencies
- The Task Force has an opportunity to educate the public on training programs; a lot of the public don't know what Urban Shield actually is, which is a program that will help the public safety
- Would like to see an acknowledgement that the Task Force does not actually reflect the diversity of the community in Alameda County or the different perspectives

- Some people would like Urban Shield to go away, such as the Stop Urban Shield group, others would like it to continue with adjustments and modifications to the training; it would be good to get to a place where people would be comfortable with a good outcome.
- Urban Shield has had a broader focus it has grown to much more than law enforcement; public health and fire has been integrated into Urban Shield

III. Conflict Management Process

Omowale Satterwhite asked the task members to have a brief discussion on appropriate ways to manage conflict when there are different views. Mr. Satterwhite defined conflict as "...as a difference of opinion amidst a high level of tension; disruptive". Task Force members' responses included:

- Focus on issues and not people
- Try to understand where the origin of some perspectives come from and why something might be offensive to one person and not another
- Opportunity to agree and disagree; be respectful; give each person an opportunity to voice their opinion; being able to step back, seek to understand and be reflective, looking through another lens.
- The Task Force is not an independent party there are many people who are part of law enforcement that participate in Urban Shield and coming to an agreement on the impact of Urban Shield; find common ground shared values; understand that there may be tension that does not get resolved
- Respect and understanding; if it is not possible to get consensus from everyone, identify where there is commonality
- Find common ground where there are truths that are not necessarily recommendations
- Asking questions to get clarity

IV. Learning Questions, Discussion Topics & Data Sources

[Attachment](#)

Omowale Satterwhite asked the task members to give additional feedback on learning questions.

On Learning Questions 3, a task force member asked that "community" be included, as follows: "...In the event of an emergency/ attack or natural disaster, will public safety agencies, public health and other emergency response departments, **(and the community)** be adequately trained and equipped to respond to such disasters without the training offered by Urban Shield?"

In addition, members requested that community be added to the discussion topics and also questions about preparedness of the community should also be added.

V. Sharing Viewpoints & Perspectives: Issues and Options

Task Force member had an opportunity to share their viewpoints and perspectives related to the Learning Questions and Discussion Topics.

- The question about Urban Shield being strictly an emergency preparedness program; we have not defined what emergency preparedness is; we need to develop criteria for what we are measuring
- One goal is to identify and build on how we prepare for and respond to significant events that affect the community; to continue to build resiliency

- We have an opportunity to provide recommendations on how to prepare the community for emergency preparedness; regarding prioritizations: some of the lower prioritizations are still important on the spectrum of resiliency and who would need to be prepared;
- Regarding the two presentations from the last meeting, is there any way of tracking how many lives have been saved due to participation in Urban Shield
- How to define emergency preparedness: does everyone agree with the National Preparedness Goal and their five mission areas and their 32 core capabilities outlined by FEMA
- If we can't come up with a consensus we should go with the national mandate
- Official Urban Shield videos or brochures; is Urban Shield promoting a public narrative about the role of law enforcement and SWAT teams
- The narrative is more about mutual aid and bringing agencies together as with the Alameda County/East Bay Hills Fire (standardized emergency management systems are in use in California)
- The image that is put forward is not a friendly image in terms of preparedness; in terms of the reaction that the public has, that narrative is not seen in a positive light; and is this preparedness
- Learning question 1: federal guidelines are changing; how does the County, how do we respond when guidelines and priorities change;
- Regarding Federal guidelines: The Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP), any regional exercise that is grant funded with Homeland Security funds must be HSEEP compliant to qualify for the funding. Urban Shield is HSEEP compliant. Does everyone know what the 32 core capabilities are? That is a good question for the Task Force.
- The Federal guidelines are designed to be flexible, which may be a struggle for the Task Force due to the lack of specificity
- There may come a time where Alameda County does not want to comply with federal guidelines, such as sanctuary cities being in conflict with the Federal government. The government could redefine terrorism and task force members could be classified as terrorists; Is it a good idea to fit the guidelines?
- Comfortable to sit on both sides of the issues; I feel like we are just spinning our wheels until we actually dig into the facts; we haven't looked at the guidelines as a group; we need to dig into the data so we can move forward as a group; the narrative piece is really important; last month's presentation showed a video of a Fremont police officer regarding a train derailment, but in the background is a heavily armored Fremont police vehicle and that image is at the crux of what the two sides are wrestling with;
- We need to understand the context in which Urban Shield came into existence; why Urban Shield; how were things done prior to 2007
- Prior to 2007 Urban Shield was a rural training exercise; since 2007 EMS, Fire Teams, and emergency management were integrated for mass care and shelter training; moving forward members should keep an open mind; armored vehicles are needed;
- The data is really important and I'm struggling with it; in order for us to talk about priorities and rankings, we really need data; collected information from FEMA and UASI there is a lot to learn before getting to the point of making recommendations
- Data is important from multiple and diverse streams; we need to know what are the unmet emergency preparedness needs in the community; attended an Urban Shield planning meeting and there is more community involvement; we need to know how the gray and green commands were organized and receive community feedback; difficult to come to a set of recommendations asking to extend the Task Force;
- There are some metrics and mechanics that community members can attend such as meetings and participate in some of the events, and be a part of the after action plan; each event has an evaluator and is critiqued

- It's important to note that everyone cannot participate in Urban Shield; if you attempt to volunteer you are vetted and many Stop Urban Shield members have not been allowed to participate
- Militarization and images; the City of Alameda has an armored vehicle, which does not look like community policing; those are not military vehicles as they have no weapons in or attached to them; their use is to shield people and personnel in certain situations
- We should bring the ideas from this discussion back and develop recommendations and strategies; we need a discussion about community involvement; we could make a recommendation that particular community or group be involved in certain aspects
- There are more substantive issues than just the narrative; people are worried about being co-opted into a new public relations initiative that rebrands Urban Shield with the substance not being that different

Omwale Satterwhite summarized that the Task Force needs to properly flush out the range of activities to see where it is in emergency preparedness; know what the guidelines are and where are the gaps, and be intentional to linking to community readiness and preparedness.

VI. Data Collection/Review Process

Omwale Satterwhite and the facilitation team proposed to address Data Collection/Review & Process by inviting individual Task Force members to compile and share any information that they think is relevant to the Learning Questions or Discussion Topics for each question. All information compiled and shared must be linked to a Learning Question or Discussion Topic.

The team will take the information, synthesize it and disseminate to the Task Force. This information will be used in diversified discussion groups within the Task Force at future meetings.

Scott Dickey, County Counsel will give facilitators direction on The Brown Act requirements for distribution of the information collected and discussed.

Carol Burton, District 5, informed the Task Force members that the recommendations must be brought to the Board of Supervisors in the time frame allotted, which could include extending the Task Force.

VII. Public Comment

Blair Beekman thanked everyone for the meeting. The audio recordings of the meeting are available on a CD for \$5.00 and they should be made free to the public. It is a good idea to extend the Task Force. There were some good thoughts and ideas that came from today's meeting that can be put into the narrative the Task Force is forming.

Dr. Muntu Davis will get clarity on the timeline for the Task Force and reminded members that the reason Task Force was created relates to community concern about Urban Shield. The Task Force recommendations should reflect the community concern.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned to Friday, June 9, 2017.