

Stop the war on Bay Area communities

We believe holistic and sustainable approaches to safety and emergency response are vital for the future of the Bay Area. However, since 2007 the majority of funding that could be supporting emergency preparedness in the Bay Area – a region with significant natural disaster concerns including earthquake, fire, and aquatic emergencies – has been poured into increasing the militarization of local law enforcement.

In order to maintain the health and well-being of our communities, **we need emergency response training and systems that build community resilience and prioritize protecting life**, not Urban Shield, the SWAT training and weapons expo that promotes attacking residents with militarized tactics and weapons. As we see regularly in our neighborhoods and across the nation, when emergencies are met with militarized responses, communities of color, particularly Black communities, are targeted for violence.

We are a broad coalition of **over 20 grassroots, social justice, and faith-based organizations** that have united against Urban Shield. Together with over 30 organizations endorsing us, we include **local and national** health advocates, faith-based organizations, human rights coalitions, labor organizers, and racial, economic, and environmental justice organizations.

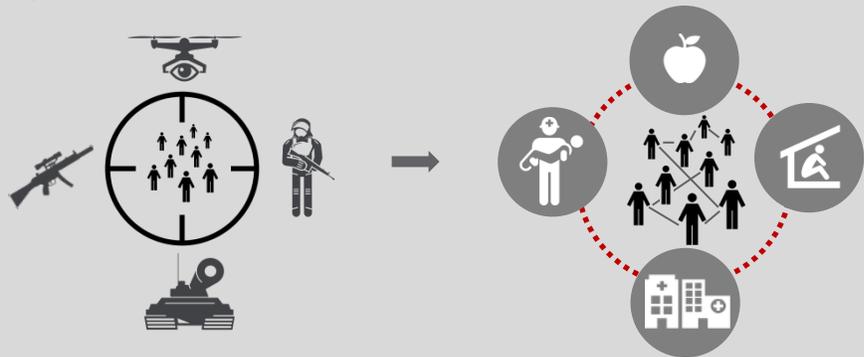
Collectively, we have **kicked Urban Shield out of Oakland in 2014**, and **successfully mobilized hundreds to disrupt the Urban Shield weapons expo in Pleasanton in September 2016**. We are shifting the narrative and landscape toward realizing a shared vision of community health, justice, and self-determination for all – by ending Urban Shield.

Working together, we will end Urban Shield by...

What is Urban Shield?

Urban Shield militarizes the Bay Area's emergency response system (police and healthcare providers) with SWAT training and weapons. It brings together police military-units from across the country and world - including those from the Apartheid State of Israel- to collaborate on and profit from new modes of surveillance, state repression, and state violence.

Urban Shield was created by Alameda county Sheriff Gregory Ahern in 2007, and uses 81% - nearly 5 million dollars - of the Department of Homeland Security's "Urban Area Security Initiative" (UASI) grant, which the Alameda County Board of Supervisors administers.



1. Defunding Urban Shield and militarized responses

Currently, nearly \$5 million of the \$6 million UASI federal grant is spent on militarized response.

We are educating policymakers about the harmful effects of the militarization of police and the deployment of the tools of war into our neighborhoods, and supporting their efforts to defund Urban Shield.

2. Promoting investment in community preparedness

None of the UASI grant is spent on medical and public health, emergency planning, and community preparedness, though the grant could fund this much needed work.

To develop a robust emergency response system, we need to invest in health, food security, emergency shelter, and approaches that support community coordination and resilience.

Want to join us?

It is going to **take us all**—a broad-based movement of different communities and organizations—coming together to **build power** in the fight **against militarization, policing, and state violence**. We are committed to building relationships, sharing tools and resources, and working under the leadership of most impacted communities to **bring an end to Urban Shield**. Here's how you can join our efforts:

- Write a letter from your organization standing against Urban Shield, and send to Alameda County Board of Supervisors. Email your letter as an attachment to stopurbanshieldnow@gmail.com and CC the supervisors below:
- Schedule a presentation for you organization.
- Follow us on Facebook.

Supervisor Haggerty: shawn.wilson@acgov.org (510) 272-6691
Supervisor Valle: christopher.miley@acgov.org (510) 272-6692
Supervisor Chan: jeanette.dong@acgov.org (510)272-6693
Supervisor Miley: anna.gee@acgov.org (510)272-6694
Supervisor Carson: amy.shrago@acgov.org (510)272-6695