



October 10, 2016

Alameda County Board of Supervisors

Att: Supervisor Haggerty, Supervisor Valle, Supervisor Chan, Supervisor Miley

Dear Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of NISGUA (Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala), we write you today to express our opposition to requesting Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) FY2017 funds for Urban Shield. Staffed by Alameda voters and with an office in Downtown Oakland, NISGUA calls upon Alameda County not to request future UASI funds for Urban Shield. We also call upon you to allocate any remaining funds to programs that center the health and well being of our families and communities.

As a local organization that provides international human rights observation to human rights defenders and groups in Guatemala, we have monitored the disastrous impacts of militarized policing approaches such as those promoted by Urban Shield. Grave human rights violations can be averted and community integrity supported when funds are used for community-driven and community-determined projects in lieu of militarized policing models; NISGUA strongly urges you to consider the alternatives outlined in the 2016 report, "Urban Shield: Abandoning Hope, Not Building Hope", attached.

Thank you in advance for prioritizing the health and safety of communities.

Sincerely,
Bridget Brehen

David Imhoff

Director, Guatemala Accompaniment Project
Berkeley resident

Program and Operations Coordinator
Oakland resident