

Office of the Mayor



Jesse Arreguín
Mayor

October 5, 2017

Dear Mr. Babson,

Thank you for your kind letter. I share your concerns on the disastrous impacts the federal administration is having on our society. These are dark times, but it is my priority to make sure that Berkeley can be a beacon of hope. While the president may push forward an agenda that divides community, we stand united.

As I write this letter, I have just been informed that Governor Brown has signed SB 54. This truly is a great victory for the people of California, as we make it clear that we are on the right side of history. We will not be intimidated by threats of funding cuts by the federal government and we will not cooperate with ICE.

My office has been working with regional partners and the School District in forming a Sanctuary City Task Force. The purpose of the Task Force is to develop policies and programs to protect our immigrant and undocumented community. The work we are doing has been so successful, other cities are calling our office for advice on how to set up their own Task Force.

There still is a lot of work that must be done, but I have confidence that we will prevail. Knowing I have the backing of Berkeley community members such as yourself gives me hope, and I thank you for your support. Please feel free to reach out to me with any suggestions you have.

Sincerely,

Jesse Arreguín

Mayor, City of Berkeley

Office of the Mayor



Jesse Arreguín
Mayor

Eric Babson
1094 Cragmont Ave
Berkeley, CA 94708

March 28, 2018

Dear Mr. Babson,

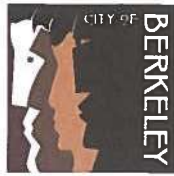
Thank you for your letter regarding your concerns on police militarization. As you may know, last year we established an ad-hoc subcommittee on Urban Shield, to evaluate our participation in Urban Shield and the Northern California Regional Intelligence Center (NCRIC). We are in the closing stages of this subcommittee and aim to present our findings to the full Council in the summer. **It is my intention to leave Urban Shield**, and I want to move away from these militarized trainings and instead focus on disaster preparedness trainings. The City Council has made it clear that we do not want to have militarized equipment. I agree that the presence of such visually militarized gear is detriment to building community trust.

Yesterday, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors voted to end Urban Shield in its current format after 2019. They will also begin a year long process looking into alternatives, and I believe the work we have been doing in Berkeley helped contribute towards the board's decision.

On a final note, if you wish to provide public comment to the Subcommittee on Urban Shield, the meetings are open to the public. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 26th at 12:30pm at 2180 Milvia Street. For updates on the date and location, visit https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Urban_Shield_Subcommittee.aspx.

Sincerely,

Jesse Arreguín
Mayor, City of Berkeley



Dear Eric,

Thank you as always for your letters.

I completely agree with your comments on P&E. They have failed their customers and prioritized shareholder profits and executive pay over safety.

I strongly believe that we must take control of P&E and make it a public or customer owned utility. I will continue to fight for this.

Jesse Arreguín