

April 19, 2017  
Eric Babson  
babson@math.ucdavis.edu  
1094 Cragmont Avenue  
Berkeley CA, 94708

Dear Supervisor Carson:

I am concerned by militarization of policing. I worry that there is too much emphasis on training for large scale attacks and disasters rather than more frequently encountered incidents. This type of training may condition officers to overreact rather than deescalate situations. This trend appears to be driven partly by federal programs but has been enthusiastically embraced by the Alameda Sheriff's office through, for instance, their annual competition. Even the appearance of military type equipment will tend to distance officers from the public and reduce trust. Owning such equipment will also encourage finding a use for it, a trend which has led to many reports of overuse of poorly SWAT drug raids. Our sheriff and police agencies are vital to the safety of our communities.

*Please assure me that you will work to keep training correlated with the actual demands of the jobs.*

I am very proud to be a California resident and a large part of that derives from our sensible progressive government.

Sincerely,  
Eric Babson