

March 25, 2018  
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Dear Mayor Arreguin:

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 Urban Shield 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 ill advised SWAT drug raids. Trust in our sheriff and police agencies is vital to the safety of our communities.

*Please assure me that you will stop participation in Urban Shield.*

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

s Sincerely,  
Eric Babson