Ad Hoc Committee on
Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)
Thursday, January 10, 2019
1:00 p.m.

Location: County Administration Building
Board of Supervisors’ Chambers
1221 Oak Street, 5th floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Summary Minutes

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Erin Armstrong, Chair, UASI Ad Hoc Committee, called the meeting to order. The roll was called
members present included Matthew Snelson, Cinthya Muñoz-Ramos, Erin Armstrong, Ana-Marie
Jones and John Lindsay-Poland. All members were present.

Meetings added: January 14, 2019 - 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
January 22, 2019 - 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

John Lindsay Poland made a motion, seconded by Ana-Marie Jones to approve the minutes of
November 30, 2018.
Motion passed 5/0

The minutes of December 7, 2018 will be reviewed by the clerk and re-submitted for approval at a
subsequent meeting.

III. Consent Calendar

John Lindsay Poland made a motion, seconded by Ana-Marie Jones to approve the Consent
Calendar, including:

Design Goal #2 – Developing guiding principles for UASI in Alameda County

Strategic Direction - B. Alameda County’s guiding principles for UASI funded programs and
other emergency management providers in the region.

Recommendation 5
Recommendation 8
Recommendation 10
Recommendation 11

Design Goal #3 – Define the goals of UASI in Alameda County

Strategic Direction – C. Alameda County’s goals for UASI funded programs in the region

Recommendation 2
Recommendation 4 a. & b.
Design Goal # 4 – Develop strategic recommendations for disaster prevention, response, recovery, preparedness and resilience that should be implemented in Alameda County and the Bay Area region

Strategic Action - A. Exercise Redesign

Recommendation 4

Strategic Action - B. Expanding the role of non-emergency personnel

Recommendation 1
Recommendation 3
Recommendation 6
Recommendation 7

Strategic Action - C. Evaluation

Recommendation 3
Recommendation 7 – amended

Strategic Action - D. Project Management & Resources

Recommendation 1
Recommendation 7

Design Goal # 5 – Identify the appropriate people, communities and institutions that should be a focus (target audiences and participants) of UASI grant applications in Alameda County (including who should be trained and for what purpose)

Strategic Action - F. Community Engagement

Recommendation 7
Recommendation 8

Strategic Action - G. Expanding the role of community first responders

Recommendation 1
Recommendation 3
Recommendation 4

Design Goal # 7 – Develop community accountability guidelines for the UASI program

Monitoring and Compliance – B. Accountability Guidelines

Recommendation 1a. b. c.

Motion passed 5/0

Speakers
The Committee received public comment from Sandi Soliday, Amber Piatt, Public Health Justice Collective, Mohamed Sheik, Critical Resistance, Lara Kiswani, Arab Resource and Organizing Center, Erida Sanchez, California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance and Jose Bernal, Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, Starchild of the Libertarian Party, Corliss Smith and Blair Beekman prior to voting on recommendations on the Consent Calendar.
IV. Discussion of UASI/Urban Shield Framework

Committee members discussed and or amended and voted on the following recommendations in:

**Design Goal #2 – Developing guiding principles for UASI in Alameda County**

**Strategic Direction - B. Alameda County’s guiding principles for UASI funded programs and other emergency management providers in the region.**

**Recommendation 4.** UASI-funded resources should build capacity in Alameda County and in the Bay Area UASI region for prevention of and recovery from critical emergencies.

Motion passed 5/0

**Recommendation 6.** Agencies and organizations participating in or observing UASI-funded training and exercises should respect the confidentiality of all community members.

Motion passed 4/1

**Recommendation 7. - Deleted**

Motion passed 5/0

**Recommendation 9.** Exercises should be sensitive to community concerns related to militarized law enforcement, including military language and appearance. Exercises should not express or reinforce law enforcement tactics that prioritize the use of force or protocols for armed conflict over other means for addressing conflict in civilian contexts. (Militarization does not refer to defensive equipment such as helmets or protective vests, unless specifically made to appear military – i.e. by using jungle camouflage.)

Motion passed 5/0

**Speakers**

The Committee received public comment from Philip White, Traci Rosenberg, Valerie Buell and Starchild, Cindy Shamban, Amber Piatt, Mohamed, Blair Beekman, Lara Kiswani and Tano Trachtenberg prior to voting on recommendations in the section Strategic Direction B) Guiding principles for UASI-funded programs and other emergency management providers in Alameda County.

Committee members discussed, and or amended and voted on the following recommendations:

**Design Goal # 3 – Define the goals of UASI in Alameda County**

**Strategic Direction - C. Alameda County’s goals for UASI-funded programs in the region.**

The Committee received public comment from Philip White, Mohamed, Lara Kiswani, Ellen Brotsky, Starchild, Blair Beekman, prior to voting on recommendations in the section Strategic Direction C) Alameda County’s goals for UASI-funded programs in the region.

**Recommendation 1.** Community Empowerment: Build the capacity of vulnerable populations to have an authentic and meaningful voice in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of UASI-funded exercises

Motion passed 5/0

**Recommendation 3.** (a) Community Outreach: Develop and implement a research-based, culturally competent outreach plan that both informs the public and encourages community participation in UASI-funded exercises within the region.

Motion passed 5/0
Recommendation 5. Seek to be a model in disaster preparedness, that continually learns from and is useful to other communities.
Motion passed 5/0

Committee members discussed and or amended and voted on the following recommendations:

Design Goal # 4 – Develop strategic recommendations for disaster prevention, response, recovery, preparedness and resilience that should be implemented in Alameda County and the Bay Area region

Strategic Action - A. Exercise Redesign

Recommendation 1. Develop new guidelines for designing, implementing, and evaluating UASI-funded exercises that focus on de-escalation and law-enforcement’s role in prevention and recovery as well as response.
Motion passed 5/0

Recommendation 2. Balance the focus of UASI-funded exercises between prevention protection, mitigation, response and recovery.
Motion passed 4/0, Muñoz-Ramos, excused

Recommendation 5. Conduct mock evacuation exercises
Motion passed 4/0, Muñoz-Ramos, excused

Recommendation 6. Eliminate the vendor show from the UASI-funded exercise.
Motion passed 3/2

Recommendation 7. Eliminate the competition aspect of UASI-funded exercises, while retaining standards-based evaluation.
Motion passed 3/2

Recommendation 9. All law enforcement scenarios shall include in the assessment criteria the participants’ capacity for de-escalation of risk of violence.
Motion passed 5/0

Speakers
The Committee received public comment from Mickey Duxbury, Tracy Rosenberg, Tano Trachtenberg, Blair Beekman, Ellen Brotsky, Starchild, Lara Kiswani and Philip White prior to voting on recommendations in the section Strategic Action A) Exercise redesign.

Committee members discussed and or amended and voted on the following recommendations in:

Strategic Action - B. Expanding the role of non-emergency personnel

Recommendation 2. Build in and provide leadership roles in planning, implementation, participation and evaluation of those exercises that do not involve law enforcement participation.
Motion passed 5/0

Recommendation 4. Involve various law enforcement personnel in UASI-funded exercises including patrol, detective and other units
Motion passed 4/1

Recommendation 5a. Require a significant increase in the level of participation of non-law enforcement teams in UAIS-funded exercises.
Motion passed 3/2
**Recommendation 9.** Continue to utilize SWAT members during the tactical portion of the exercise, recognizing that they are the subject matter experts within most departments who are relied upon to receive and attend more training allowing them to then assist in shaping departmental policies and procedures. All SWAT teams are a collateral assignment within Alameda County with members assigned to primary positions throughout the departments to include patrol, detectives and other specialized assignments.

*Motion failed 3/2*

**Recommendation 10.** Exclude SWAT teams as such from UASI-funded training exercises, recognizing that non-SWAT law enforcement frequently encounter and must be prepared for emergencies; that SWAT is disproportionately deployed to households of color and to serve warrants; and that SWAT have had disproportionate participation in UASI-funded exercises over 12 years.

*Motion passed 3/2*

**Recommendation 11.** Eliminate the requirement that SWAT teams participate in UASI-funded exercises and encourage participation beyond SWAT team members but leave the decision up to the participating jurisdiction.

*Motion passed 3/2*

**Recommendation 12.** Re-design law enforcement portions of the exercise, so that they are not SWAT deployment scenarios.

*Motion passed 3/2*

**Speakers**

The Committee received public comment from Tano Trachtenberg, Philip White, Blair Beekman, Dennis Houghtelling and Mohamed Sheik White prior to voting on recommendations in the section Strategic Action B) Expanding the role of non-emergency personnel.

Committee members discussed and or amended and voted on the following recommendation(s):

**Design Goal #5 – Identify the appropriate people, communities and institutions that should be a focus (target audience and participants) of UASI grant applications in Alameda County (including who should be trained and for what purpose.)**

**Strategic Action - G. Expanding the role of community as first responders**

**Recommendation 2.** Involve volunteers so that we can benefits from the diverse knowledge that volunteers bring.

*Motion passed 5/0*

**Speaker**

The Committee received public comment from Blair Beekman prior to voting on recommendations in the section Strategic Action G) Expanding the role of community as first responders.

**V. Public Comment**

Ellen Brotsky thanked the Ad Hoc Committee for their work and encouraged the committee to keep in mind that the goal is for a whole community exercise.

Lara Kiswani thanked the Ad Hoc Committee and stated that she was happy that there was more conversation around community involvement.

Blair Beekman thanked the Ad Hoc Committee and encouraged the committee to support emergency preparedness work in the community.
Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned to Monday, January 14, 2019.