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Anne Kronenberg
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February 8, 2017

The Honorable London Breed
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
City Hall, Room. 244
San Francisco, Ca 94102-4689

Dear President Breed:

I am writing to ask for the opportunity to meet with you in advance of the February 14, 2017 Board of Supervisors Meeting. It is critically important that San Francisco votes to approve a Governing Body Resolution so that we may receive federal homeland security and emergency preparedness grant funding.

The City is the fiscal agent of the Bay Area's homeland security grant funds. We have made the San Francisco Bay Area a more prepared and resilient community through our leadership and collaborative approach. The 12 counties and three cities (Oakland, San Francisco, and San Jose) that make up the San Francisco Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) region have entrusted San Francisco with the fiscal management and oversight of the federal UASI Grant, which provides approximately \$22 million to the region annually. The City also receives approximately \$1.2 million from the State Homeland Security Grant, the Emergency Management Performance Grant, and the Local Government Oil Spill Contingency Plan Grant combined.

We are required to provide the State of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the California Department of Fish and Game Office of Spill Prevention and Response a Governing Body Resolution to Apply for 2017 Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Grants, which includes the UASI Grant, the State Homeland Security Grant, the Emergency Management Performance Grant, and the Local Government Oil Spill Contingency Plan Grant. These funds are used throughout San Francisco for personnel, programs, projects, and equipment dedicated to making our communities better prepared and more resilient. Without this Resolution, we will not be able to apply for 2017 homeland security and emergency preparedness grants.

Last week this Governing Body Resolution was heard at the Budget and Finance Committee with much discussion and deliberation about Alameda County's first responder and emergency management training exercise called Urban Shield. The discussion also included a review of how San Francisco uses its allocation of these grants, which predominately goes to 39 personnel salaries. With amendments, the Resolution was voted to go to the full Board of Supervisors without recommendation.

We would like to meet with you before the upcoming Board of Supervisors meeting to share how San Francisco invests its allocation of the grants; review the 39 City grant-funded personnel positions; explain our role as fiscal agent and how we manage the grants on behalf of the region; and discuss the Urban Shield exercise and the community concerns regarding this first responder and emergency management training event.

Urban Shield is an emergency management exercise that provides training to Bay Area first responders. Urban Shield engages thousands of law enforcement, fire, emergency medical, and emergency management personnel and features real-life scenarios to test preparedness plans and response capabilities to hazards such as mass shootings, terrorist and cyber-attacks, infrastructure collapse, and natural disasters.

You have likely heard from a number of concerned individuals requesting that the City exclude funding the Urban Shield emergency management training exercise with homeland security grants. We stand with members of the community in our commitment to civil rights, community empowerment, and strong relations between law enforcement and the community based on mutual trust. We believe the following recent developments support balancing the need for first responder and emergency management training with community concerns:

- ***Alameda County Board of Supervisors:*** On January 10, 2017 the Alameda County Board of Supervisors conducted a hearing to consider public concerns while deciding whether to continue the agreement to manage the Bay Area UASI training and exercise program, which includes the Urban Shield emergency management training exercise. Over the course of many hours, the Board intently listened to each public commenter and ultimately voted unanimously to continue the agreement.
- ***Oversight Task Force:*** The Alameda County Board of Supervisors also voted to create a task force comprised of representatives from various public and community organizations (including two members of the Stop Urban Shield coalition) to study the design and execution of the 2017 Urban Shield emergency management training exercise. This fall the task force will present to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors its recommendations to continue or discontinue the exercise training in 2018. *[Please note, I have requested to participate on this task force.]*
- ***New Focus and Clearer Standards:*** The 2017 Urban Shield emergency management training exercise will have a greater focus on medical and community emergency preparedness (e.g., Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) and Neighborhood Emergency Response Teams (NERT)). Alameda County also established a clear list of standards prohibiting any elements of training that could be construed as racial profiling and surveillance.
- ***Militarized Equipment:*** “Militarized” or “weapons-grade equipment” are explicitly prohibited by federal grant guidelines. San Francisco’s role as fiscal agent includes ensuring compliance to these and many other requirements.

Thank you in advance for considering the aforementioned points and I look forward to discussing this Resolution allowing the City to apply for these critical emergency preparedness and homeland security grants. I also welcome the opportunity to discuss how the Department of Emergency Management can be of service to you and your community as we plan, train, and prepare the City for emergencies. My staff will contact your legislative aides to find a time to meet.

Sincerely,



Anne Kronenberg
Executive Director

Enclosure: CCSF Grant-Funded Positions and Descriptions
Governing Body Resolution File No.161354

Cc: Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board
Barbara Garcia, Department of Public, Director of Health
Naomi Kelly, Office of the City Administrator, City Administrator
San Francisco Fire Department Chief Hayes-White
San Francisco Police Department Chief Scott
Sheriff Vicki Hennessy