

JOAN HARTMANN
Third District Supervisor



County Administration Building
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101
Telephone: (805) 568-2192

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

December 18, 2021

Mona Miyasato, CEO
Santa Barbara County Executive Office
105 East Anapamu Street, Room 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Letter of Support for Hedges House of Hope Naming for County Owned property at 6549 El Colegio Road

Ms. Miyasato:

I would like to provide my strong support for the naming of the County owned property at 6549 El Colegio Road, Isla Vista, California as the *Hedges House of Hope*. The County acquired 6549 El Colegio Road on November 12, 2021. According to the County's Naming County Assets policy adopted in November 2021, all requests for naming are to be submitted in writing to the CEO's office. Father Jon-Stephen Hedges, who passed away February 25, 2021, meets criteria guidelines of contribution and service, and residency. Staff has consulted with the Hedges family and they support this asset naming. While the County's policy requires that naming County assets after a deceased individual is not allowed when the death occurs less than a year from the date of the request, an exception shall be made when there is unanimous approval by the Board of Supervisors.

The Very Reverend Father Jon-Stephen Hedges, Assistant Pastor at St. Athanasius Church in Isla Vista, was a highly regarded community spiritual leader. He served as chaplain with the County Sheriff's Department, Isla Vista Foot Patrol; worked with several community service agencies such as Doctor's Without Walls, American Red Cross and County Departments (CSD, Probation, Public Defender, DSS, BeWell), among others. He trained as a board-certified crisis chaplain with the American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress; Certified Trauma Responder (CTR) and Emergency Medical Technician EMT-B) and his training and experience made him uniquely qualified serve and advocate for the unsheltered residents in his community.

He helped develop the St. Brigid Fellowship, which serves unsheltered community residents, and his support for the County Isla Vista Temporary Emergency Shelter and Navigation Center at the Isla Vista Community Center and IV Recreation and Park District site was critical to winning community acceptance of the effort. He also supported the development of a permanent South County Navigation Center, which makes the naming of the current County property as "Hedges House of Hope" a fitting memorial to a brave and dedicated public servant.

Father Jon tended to his flock with devotion, energy, compassion, and kindness as a community organizer, spiritual leader, and social justice advocate. He was known for his ministry to the houseless of Isla Vista, members of his church, victims of tragedy, and first

Jefferson Litten
Chief of Staff
jlitten@countyofsb.org

Meighan Dietenhofer
District Representative
mdietenhofer@countyofsb.org

Gina Fischer
District Representative
gfischer@countyofsb.org

Alma Hernandez
District Representative
ahernandez@countyofsb.org

responders. Father Jon consistently went towards the pain, the suffering and confusion rather than shrinking from it. His mission was to bring comfort to people in dire circumstances. He was known for his compassion, tenacity, and dedication to serving others in Isla Vista and beyond. He lived and led in Isla Vista for 50 years. He was a founding board member of the Isla Vista Community Services District. He was called to comfort and guide countless County residents through times of disaster and tragedies.

Father Jon dedicated his life to three noble endeavors: helping those impacted by tough circumstances, misfortune, bad choices or calamity; nurturing, supporting and fortifying those who are called to respond to their needs; and serving God by doing the first two. Nothing would be more appropriate than naming this building after Father Jon.

Sincerely,



Joan Hartmann
Third District County Supervisor



Administration Office
Recovery Point Outpatient Services
P.O. Box 5908
245 E. Inger Drive Ste 103-B
Santa Maria, CA 93458
Office: 805-346-8185
Fax: 805-346-8656

Emergency Shelter
Family Transitional Shelter, H.E.L.P. Program
Recovery Point Acute Care Detoxification Center
401 West Morrison Avenue
Santa Maria, Ca 93458
Office: 805-347-3338
Fax: 805-347-3392

Another Road Detox
113 'M' Street
Lompoc, CA 93436
Office: 805-736-0357
Fax: 805-737-0389
Turning Point Outpatient Service
Recovery Way Home
604 W. Ocean Avenue
Lompoc, CA 93436
Office: 805-736-0357
Fax: 805-737-0389

Project P.R.E.M.I.E
First Steps
Transitional House
412 East Tunnel Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454
Transitional House Office: 805-922-1200
Office: 805-925-0315
Fax: 805-346-1787

December 14, 2021

Mona Miyasato, CEO
Santa Barbara County Executive Office
105 East Anapamu Street, Room 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Letter of Support for Hedges House of Hope Naming for County owned property at 6549 El Colegio Road

Ms. Miyasato:

On behalf of Good Samaritan Shelter, I would like to provide my support for the naming of the County owned property at 6549 El Colegio Road, Isla Vista, California as the Hedges House of Hope. My personal experience working with Fr. Jon began 15 years ago with our mutual work on the 10 year plan to end chronic homelessness, and focusing on housing first options for our houseless neighbors across Santa Barbara County. When Good Samaritan Shelter first began the Pallet Shelter Project in Isla Vista in partnership with the county in December 2020, Father Jon quickly became an avid supporter and was so excited to know that many of his unsheltered friends in the encampments would be soon sheltered, and ultimately housed. Father Jon came by the Pallet Shelter Program to visit me and our Director of Homeless Services, Kirsten Cahoon at that time. In typical Father Jon style, he even gave a cash donation out of his wallet to make sure that all participants would be able to receive a Christmas gift.

In addition to his role as Assistant Pastor at St. Athanasius Church in Isla Vista, he was also known for his work with the County Sheriff's Department, Doctor's Without Walls, American Red Cross and various County Departments. His training and experience made him uniquely qualified to meet the needs of, and actively advocate for, the unhoused residents in his community. He helped develop the St. Brigid Fellowship, which serves unsheltered community residents, and supported the County Isla Vista Temporary Emergency Shelter and Navigation Center at the Isla Vista Community Center and IV Recreation and Park District site. He also supported the development of a permanent 'South County Navigation Center', which makes the naming of the current County property as "Hedges House of Hope" a fitting memorial to a brave and dedicated public servant.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Barnard
Executive Director

Mission Statement: "To Provide Emergency, Transitional and Support Services To the Homeless and Those in Recovery throughout the Central Coast."

GREGG HART
County Supervisor, Second District
ghart@countyofsb.org
805-568-2191
www.countyofsb.org/bos/hart.sbc



Board of Supervisors
105 E Anapamu St, 4th Floor Santa
Barbara, CA 93101

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

December 16th, 2021

CEO Miyasato:

I would like to provide my strong support for the naming of the County owned property at 6549 El Colegio Road, Isla Vista, California as the “Hedges House of Hope.” The County acquired 6549 El Colegio Road on November 12, 2021. According to the County’s policy on Naming County Assets, as adopted in November 2021, all requests for naming are to be submitted in writing to the CEO’s office. Father Jon-Stephen Hedges, who passed away February 25, 2021, meets criteria guidelines of contribution and service, and residency. Staff has consulted with the Hedges family and they support this asset naming. While the County’s policy requires that naming County assets after a deceased individual is not allowed when the death occurs less than a year from the date of the request, an exception shall be made when there is unanimous approval by the Board of Supervisors.

The Reverend Father Jon-Stephen Hedges served the people of Isla Vista and the County of Santa Barbara in many different capacities over many years. In addition to serving as Assistant Pastor of the St. Athanasius Church, Father Jon served as a chaplain to our first responders, advocate and care provider for people experiencing homelessness (including through his work at Pescadero Lofts for many years), emergency medical technician, leader of numerous nonprofit organizations, and Director of the Isla Vista Community Services District. In all of his work, Father Jon met people where they were at and did everything in his power to lend a helping hand. Additionally, Father Jon was a stalwart champion for the development of supportive housing and services for people experiencing homelessness in our community. Our County is a more compassionate place because of Father Jon’s work. With all of this in mind, “Hedges House of Hope” is the most fitting name for the County owned property at 6549 El Colegio Rd.

Sincerely,



Gregg Hart
Santa Barbara County Supervisor
Second District