



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER**

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: County Executive Office
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: February 8, 2022
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: **Unanimous**

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s) Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Contact Info: Nancy Anderson, Assistant County Executive Officer
SUBJECT: **Nomination to Rename County owned El Colegio Property to Hedges House of Hope**

DocuSigned by:
Mona Miyasato
41846F5C725B460...

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve the nomination form and renaming request of County owned El Colegio Property located at 6549 El Colegio Road to Hedges House of Hope in memory of Father Jon-Stephen Hedges; and
- b) Determine that the above actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), because pursuant to sections 15378(b)(4) and 15378(b)(5) the recommended actions consist of organization, administrative, or fiscal activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary:

The County Executive Office is responsible for creating and maintaining administrative polices, including proposing new or revised countywide policies. In December 2021, the Community Services Department submitted a nomination packet to the County Executive Office to rename the County owned El Colegio Property to the Hedges House of Hope. Staff has reviewed the request and determined that it meets the criteria of the policy and recommends approval. Because the renaming is occurring less than one year from the passing of the honoree, it requires unanimous vote of the Board.

Background:

On May 4, 2021 the Board of Supervisors approved the General Services Department to begin negotiating with the owner of the property at 6549 El Colegio to be utilized as interim housing for persons experiencing homelessness. The property was officially purchased by the County on November 12, 2021 and serves 36 individuals in 18 rooms, operated by Good Samaritan Shelter. The Hedges House of Hope program provides shelter operations, essential services, case management, housing navigation, public health and behavioral health services, and links to substance use disorder treatment services with the objectives of linking individuals to a permanent or safe housing resource and preventing community spread of Covid-19.

The Naming of County Assets policy, approved by the Board on November 9, 2021, establishes a process to name County assets, such as a building, open space, transportation/flood control structure, object, eligible historic asset, program, or any part thereof, after specific individuals or organizations. The naming, re-naming, or dedication of a County-owned asset in honor of specific individuals or organizations must be considered by the Board of Supervisors following evaluation by the County Executive Office and recommendation to your Board.

Discussion:

The renaming of the El Colegio Property nomination satisfies the criteria guidelines in the policy (Attachment A) with the exception of the “Deceased Individual” criteria. In the Naming Policy, it states generally County owned facilities shall not be named after a person who has been deceased less than a year from date of request less an exception is made by unanimous approval from the Board. Father Hedges passed away on Feb. 25, 2021, which is less than a year from this Board date. In accordance with the policy, the Board will need to make a unanimous determination to approve the renaming of this property.

The Third District Supervisor Joan Hartmann, Good Samaritan Shelter, and County staff began discussing how important Fr. Jon-Stephen Hedges was in the early stages of developing housing and supportive services to unhoused community members in the Isla Vista area. Examples of Fr. Hedges humanitarian work is his founding of the St. Brigid Fellowship, which serves unsheltered community residents, and his long-standing support of Pescadero Lofts, which provides 33 units of permanent supportive housing to formerly unhoused community residents. He also advocated for the Isla Vita Temporary Emergency Shelter and Navigation Program, the initial program which lead to the purchase of the El Colegio site.

Some of Father John’s other contributions include serving as chaplain with the County Sheriff’s Department and Isla Vista Foot Patrol; he worked with a number of community service agencies such as Doctor’s Without Walls, American Red Cross and County Departments, such as Community Services Depart, Probation, Public Defender, Social Services and Behavioral Wellness. Father John trained as a board-certified crisis chaplain with the American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress, Certified Trauma Responder (CTR) and as an Emergency Medical Technician EMT-B. Father John was also deployed by the Red Cross and IOCC as a Disaster Mental Health Worker to many disasters, including Hurricane Katrina. He also collaborated with Doctors Without Walls and many other organizations. Father John’s contributions to the community are highlighted in the nomination from the Community Services Department to rename the El Colegio Property in his honor (Attachment B).

Fiscal Impact:

There are no fiscal impacts with renaming of the El Colegio Property.

Attachments:

Attachment A – County of Santa Barbara Naming Policy

Attachment B – Hedges House HCD Nomination Form

Page 3 of 3

Attachment C – Letters of Support
Attachment D – Family Concurrence
Attachment E – Obituary

Authored by:

Jasmine McGinty, Principal Analyst, County Executive Office