



Nomination to Rename El Colegio Property to Hedges House of Hope

February 8, 2022
Presented to the Board of Supervisors
by the County Executive Office and
Community Services Division



Administrative policy: Naming County Assets

- The Naming of County Assets policy was approved by the Board on November 9, 2021
- The Policy 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
- 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 in honor of Very Reverend Father Jon- Stephen Hedges

El Colegio Property

- 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

Nomination: Hedges House of Hope

- Some examples of Fr. Hedges contributions are listed below:
 - Founded the St. Brigid Fellowship, which serves unsheltered community residents
 - Long-standing support of Pescadero Lofts, which provides 33 units of permanent supportive housing to formerly unhoused community residents
 - Advocated for the Isla Vita Temporary Emergency Shelter and Navigation Program, the initial program which led to the purchase of the El Colegio site
 - Served as chaplain with the County Sheriff's Department and Isla Vista Foot Patrol
 - Worked with a number of community service agencies such as Doctor's Without Walls, American Red Cross and County Departments, such as Community Services Dept, Probation, Public Defender, Social Services and Behavioral Wellness
 - 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
 - Deployed by the Red Cross and IOCC as a Disaster Mental Health Worker to many disasters, including Hurricane Katrina
 - Collaborated with Doctors Without Walls and many other organizations