

de la Guerra, Sheila

Public Comment-Group 1

#3

From: David Washburn <david.washburn64@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 5, 2022 3:19 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Renaming of the El Collegio Project. I support renaming this Building the "The Hedges House of Hope" after the dearly departed Fr Jon Hedges, a wonderful man who cared much for the homeless in your community.



Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

David Washburn, long time resident of Goleta. CA.

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Cheryl <cherylynn.sb@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 5, 2022 3:27 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Naming County owned El Colegio Project

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear County Supervisors,

I am writing to show my support for officially naming the **County-owned El Colegio Property to Hedges House of Hope."**

Thank you,

Cheryl Washburn-Lander

511 Vereda Del Ciervo

Sent from my iPhone

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Deborah McQuade <deborahjmcquade@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 5, 2022 3:47 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Hedges House of Hope

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Father Jon-Stephen Hedges was a shining light in our community, inclining his heart and his resources towards those who live on the streets with great tenderness and constancy. That this much-needed home would be named after him is a deserved honor. Please move forward with this.

Debbie McQuade
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Valerie Yova <valyova@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 5, 2022 4:54 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Naming of new shelter in Isla Vista

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to wholeheartedly support the proposal to name the new shelter in Isla Vista "**Hedges House of Hope**," after Fr. Jon-Stephen Hedges. I cannot think of a more fitting name, given the incalculable contribution made by Fr. Jon to improve the lives of hundreds of people struggling to survive on the streets of Santa Barbara, Goleta, and Isla Vista. Fr. Jon truly loved these people, and they knew it. As a member of his church, I count myself blessed to have had many opportunities to observe him and learn from him how to treat all people with dignity, and to remember that every human being has a story that deserves to be heard. I hope that I can model even a fraction of the kindness and goodwill that were hallmarks of his life in our community. He left us too soon, and it would be a beautiful way to memorialize him and his work by naming this shelter after him.

Thank you for your consideration.

Valerie Yova
3721 Cordero Dr.
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: fay24ry <fay24ry@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 5, 2022 8:14 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Hedges House Of Hope

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Please name the building THE HEDGES HOUSE OF HOPE in honor of the late Fr. JON-STEPHEN HEDGES. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Fay R. Young

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Ann Marie Kopeikin <amkopeikin@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 6, 2022 8:30 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Hedges House of Hope support

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

As a longtime resident of Isla Vista, I had the opportunity to see first-hand the many and varied contributions that Jon provided to our diverse community. Jon was one of those unique individuals who truly led by example. He is deeply missed.

It would be a wonderful tribute to his memory to name the El Colegio Project building after Jon and my family supports naming this property "Hedges House of Hope".

Appreciatively,
Ann Marie Kopeikin and family

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Jason Prystowsky <jprysto@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 6, 2022 11:54 AM
To: sbcob
Cc: Fischer, Gina; Williams, Das; Hartmann, Joan; Hart, Gregg
Subject: Regarding Department Item 3, "Hedges House of Hope", Feb 8

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Unfortunately I am unable to attend the county supervisor meeting February 8 to show my support of item 3, to rename County-owned El Colegio Property to "Hedges House of Hope."

I serve our local community as an emergency physician, public health advocate, educator, and activist. One of the great honors of my life has been to serve our community during crisis, turbulence, and celebration alongside my friend Fr Jon Stephen Hedges. We walked the homeless camps along the railroad tracks providing free medical care to the discarded and destitute, I as a doctor, and Fr Jon as an instrument of hope. I had a stethoscope, he had sheriffs badge, clergy collar, water shoes with dark socks, and a truly ugly satchel over his shoulder filled with mysterious "supplies." I tended to people feet and teeth, he tended to their souls. We responded to mass shootings, fires, mudslides, acts of God, and catastrophes of malevolent intent. In the darkest hours, with bleak uncertainty, and malignant fear, Fr Jon's baritone voice, his shoulder relaxed back, "Oh Mercy. . ." followed by a philosophical tangential poetic rant about moral responsibility and us, the instruments of hope. And after the victims of disaster had their bones reset and splinted to and there bleeding gashes tended to, Fr Jon reminded us all that now the real work begins, as we turn our attention to the warriors, healers, first responders, and public servants who bared the traumatic burden of keeping our community safe during crisis. He said "Jason we are sheepdogs, and we take care of our people." Who is "our people"? . . . cops, firefighters, paramedics, EMTs, social workers, doctors, nurses, community organizers, mental health professionals, teachers, active military, veterans, anyone who has pledged to make the world better and safer tomorrow than they found it today. Our people were often left in the isolated darkness of our own mind after witnessing unthinking horror, and Fr Jon consistently checked in on each and everyone of us to remind us that we are never alone. When hope was lost, Fr Jon always had a calm way of reminding us, that as long as we take care of our community and take care of our people, hope will find us. And hope always did. As we turn the corner of the second year of the worst pandemic in 100 years and as healthcare workers feel the moral injury of burnout to critical levels, I feel Fr Jon's haunting absence. What inspiring words of hope would he give us today? Remind us to wake up tomorrow and keep taking care of sick patients. Remind us to wake up tomorrow and keep taking care of each other. Remind us, that there is always hope, and that hope is ours to build together as brothers and sisters. I miss my friend. Fr Jon, has always been the steady voice of hope and a steady reminder that we have the courage, solidarity, perseverance and grit to get through this crisis together. Naming a building will not replace his voice. But it is a good start, and a reminder for all of us including the students who walk by that building everyday to pick up his mantle and remind each other. . . Oh Mercy. . . we take care of our community. We take care of our people. There is always hope. We serve to the health and safety of our community.

I encourage the SB County Board of Supervisors to name the building "Hedges House of Hope." My only ask, is don't stop there. We must continue to spread his message and share his voice.

Dr Jason Prystowsky MD, MPH
Community emergency physician

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Mimi Elder <elders22@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 6, 2022 3:02 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Hedges House Of Hope

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Members of the Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors,

We write to you in the joyful spirit of our dear “Fr. Jon” to request your approval of the permanent naming of the temporary residential shelter on the 6500 block of El Colegio Road in Isla Vista as “Hedges House of Hope”.

Both of us served with Father Jon-Stephen Hedges in the Santa Barbara Medical Reserve Corps for many years. Together we addressed needs of our community in times of disaster, student celebration or disquiet, and multiple public health pressures, always with consideration of the plight of the underserved and homeless.

Fr. Jon was a dear friend, a colleague, and truly an inspiration to all who ever met the man. He radiated compassion, love, understanding, acceptance and was—quite literally— the voice of calm reason in many a crisis, both at home and across the nation. He taught those of us “seasoned medical professionals” of the MRC how to better respond to the emotions and mental health needs of people in crisis. We may have all thought that we already knew how, but after knowing this great man there was always more to be learned from his wisdom.

Responding to disaster both in Santa Barbara County (both, MRC) and elsewhere in the United States (John, HHS Disaster Medical Assistance Team) and confronted with individuals absolutely devastated by same, we both leaned to first think, “what would Fr. Jon do/say”?, always to the benefit of all in the conversation—be they victim or emergency responders.

Fr. Jon and his beautiful family resided in and love(ed) Isla Vista. Their empathy, benevolence, devotion and considerable insight as to the particular needs of members of that community are, in our experience, quite unique.

There can be no better, more fitting honor than to name this wonderful community Shelter in memory of Fr. Jon. His spirit is already there; adding his name will ensure that his greatness and influence live on.

We urge you to strongly consider our request at your meeting on February 8.

Sincerely,
Mimi Applegate Elder, RN
John G. Elder, MD
(Goleta x 3 decades, now Santa Ynez)
805.570.8468
elders22@gmail.com