



County of Orange
Memorandum

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CLERK OF THE BOARD
COUNTY OF ORANGE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Doug Chaffee

August 28, 2025

To: Chair Doug Chaffee, Supervisor, Fourth District

From: Michelle Aguirre, County Executive Officer

MAguirre

Digitally signed by
Michelle Aguirre
Date: 2025.08.28
15:29:15 -07'00'

Subject: Recommended At Large Nominations To Commission to Address
Homelessness

1A1

Pursuant to Board of Supervisors (Board) Rule of Procedure 16 amended on July 13, 2021, the County Executive Office recommends the following at large appointments to Commission to Address Homelessness for placement on the September 23, 2025 Board meeting agenda:

1. Reappoint the following one nominee to the Commission to Address Homelessness for a 2-year term effective September 23, 2025 and ending September 22, 2027:
 - Debra Rose, City Manager for the City of Lake Forest as the South Service Planning Area Representative
2. Appoint the following four nominees to the Commission to Address Homelessness for a 2-year term effective September 23, 2025, and ending September 22, 2027:
 - Susan Parks, President and Chief Executive Officer of Orange County United Way as the Business Representative
 - Benjamin Vazquez, Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Santa Ana as the Central Service Planning Area Representative
 - Ivan Pitts, Senior Pastor at the Second Baptist Church as the Faith-Based Community Representative
 - Benjamin Hurst, Director at The Salvation Army, Orange County as the Philanthropic Leader

Information on the recommended at large nominations is contained in the attached Agenda Staff Report and candidate applications.

Please contact Douglas Becht, Director of Care Coordination at 714-834-2323 or Douglas.Becht@ceo.oc.gov if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Recommended At Large Nominations To Commission to Address Homelessness

August 28, 2025

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Attachments

- Agenda Staff Report for At-Large Nominations for Appointment to the Commission to Address Homelessness
- Attachment A – Debra Rose Nomination Form, Application and Resume
- Attachment B – Susan Parks Nomination Form, Application and Resume
- Attachment C – Benjamin Vazquez Nomination Form, Application and Resume
- Attachment D – Ivan Pitts Nomination Form, Application and Resume
- Attachment E – Benjamin Hurst Nomination Form, Application and Resume

Cc: Clerk of the Board



AT-LARGE APPOINTMENT AGENDA STAFF REPORT

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MEETING DATE: 09/23/2025
LEGAL ENTITY TAKING ACTION: Board of Supervisors
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAIR: Chair Chaffee
NOMINATION SUBMITTED BY (DEPT): County Executive Office
DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSON(S): Douglas Becht (714) 834-2323
Zulima Lundy (714) 834-6805

SUBJECT: At-Large Nominations for Appointments to the Commission to Address Homelessness

CEO CONCUR	COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW	CLERK OF THE BOARD
N/A	N/A	Consent
		3 Votes Board Majority

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. Reappoint the following one nominee to the Commission to Address Homelessness for a two-year term, effective September 23, 2025 and ending September 22, 2027:
 - a. Debra Rose, City Manager for the City of Lake Forest as the South Service Planning Area Representative
2. Appoint the following four nominees to the Commission to Address Homelessness for a two-year term, effective September 23, 2025 and ending September 22, 2027:
 - a. Benjamin Vazquez, Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Santa Ana as the Central Service Planning Area Representative
 - b. Susan Parks, President and Chief Executive Officer of Orange County United Way as the Business Representative
 - c. Ivan Pitts, Senior Pastor at the Second Baptist Church as the Faith-Based Community Representative
 - d. Benjamin Hurst, Director at The Salvation Army, Orange County as the Philanthropic Leader

SUMMARY:

Appointment of the recommended nominees to the Commission to Address Homelessness will fill five expired seats to bring together local leadership to address homelessness in Orange County.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Commission to Address Homelessness (Commission) works in collaboration with the County of Orange (County), thirty-four city governments, business sector, philanthropic organizations, community organizations, faith-based organizations, health care, public safety, and other interested stakeholders to promote an effective response to homelessness within Orange County. The membership is comprised of nineteen voting members.

On December 11, 2024, the Commission approved the launch of recruitment process and establishment of a new Membership Ad Hoc Committee to evaluate and make recommendations for appointment for expired Commission seats to be submitted to the Board of Supervisors (Board) for final approval.

The Membership Ad Hoc Committee met multiple times to review the existing recruitment process, the number of seats to recruit for and discuss the expansion of candidate application process given the recent revisions to the Commission Bylaws which further defined the purpose and functions of the Commission, as well as expanded upon the duties of members. The Membership Ad Hoc Committee including the following two application questions to assist them in the evaluation of candidates:

- a. What unique skills, experience, or perspectives do you bring that make you especially well-suited to work on solutions to homelessness in our community?
- b. As a regional leader, how would you use your role to bring together diverse partnerships to support countywide initiatives to address homelessness?

Additionally, the Membership Ad Hoc Committee recommended the recruitment of membership in two phases. Phase I included the recruitment of the following seats:

- a. South Service Planning Area Representative
- b. Central Service Planning Area Representative
- c. Business Representative
- d. Representative of the faith-based community
- e. Philanthropic leader funding solutions to address homelessness in Orange County
- f. Individual who has current or past lived experience of homelessness

Per the Commission Bylaws, the Central Service Planning Area Representative is an individual who currently serves as an elected municipal official or a City Manager in the Central Service Planning Area. The Central Service Planning Area includes the cities of Costa Mesa, Fountain Valley, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Newport Beach, Santa Ana, Seal Beach, Tustin, and Westminster.

Per the Commission Bylaws, the South Service Planning Area Representative is an individual who currently serves as an elected municipal official or a City Manager in the South Service Planning Area. The South Service Planning Area includes the cities of Aliso Viejo, Dana Point, Irvine, Laguna Beach, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, Laguna Woods, Lake Forest, Mission Viejo, Rancho Santa Margarita, San Clemente, and San Juan Capistrano.

The Office of Care Coordination launched the Membership Recruitment process on June 26, 2025. The application deadline was July 31, 2025, at 5 pm. The Membership Ad Hoc Committee met to review the applications received and agreed on the recommended candidates to be presented to the Commission for approval.

On August 20, 2025, the Commission approved the following candidates to serve on the Commission and be recommended to the Board for appointment:

- a. Debra Rose, City Manager for the City of Lake Forest as the South Service Planning Area Representative
- b. Benjamin Vazquez, Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Santa Ana as the Central Service Planning Area Representative
- c. Susan Parks, President and Chief Executive Officer of Orange County United Way as the Business Representative
- d. Ivan Pitts, Senior Pastor at the Second Baptist Church as the Faith-Based Community Representative
- e. Benjamin Hurst, Director at The Salvation Army, Orange County as the Philanthropic Leader

A recommendation to appoint an individual who has current or past lived experience of homelessness will be considered at a future meeting of the Commission and subsequently be recommended to the Board.

Debra Rose has over 30 years of municipal government experience, advancing compassionate balanced solutions to ending homelessness. Ms. Rose has led efforts to fund local non-profits, partner with affordable housing developers, and hire dedicated outreach staff to connect unhoused residents to resources. Ms. Rose is looking to activate her extensive regional network to enable collaboration across government, business, faith, and non-profits. Ms. Rose has been a member of the Commission to Address Homelessness since 2022.

Benjamin Vazquez is a life-long Santa Ana Resident, educator, and public servant with over 21 years of experience teaching local youth. As Ward 2 City Council member and Mayor Pro Tem, Mr. Vazquez has championed affordable housing, rent control, and immigration rights while securing funding for parks and youth programs.

Susan Parks is the Chief Executive Officer of Orange County United Way and leads United to End Homelessness initiative; engaging government, health care, non-profit, and philanthropic leaders to drive change. She has led a team to educate 6,000 residents through, Homeless 101, trained 1,000 homeless champions, and helped secure permanent housing for nearly 4,000 people. Ms. Parks' strategic leadership and coalition building has mobilized funding, resources, and public will to address homelessness in Orange County. Ms. Parks served on the Commission from 2018-2020 and consecutively since 2022.

Ivan Pitts has lived experience of homelessness, pastoral leadership, and military experience. As the Pastor of Second Baptist Church, he has partnered with multiple organization to host resource fairs and community services for underserved populations. Under his leadership, the Second Baptist Church hosted the first OC Same-Day Solutions Fair. His collaborations with civic, faith, and educational institutions demonstrates his ability to unite stakeholders to address homelessness.

Benjamin Hurst has a Doctor of Social Work from University of Southern California specializing in Ending Chronic Homelessness. He brings executive level leadership in homeless services. Dr. Hurst co-founded the 325-bed Anaheim Emergency Shelter, completed new construction for 70 units of permanent supportive housing in Anaheim, and is now launching a \$20 million research and program design center. With his extensive career at The Salvation Army, Dr. Hurst is a respected leader in the faith-based community and is hoping to use his relationships to address homelessness. Dr. Hurst has been an active member of the Commission to Address Homelessness since 2023.

The County request the Board approve the recommended appointments to the Commission to, as referenced in the Recommended Actions.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

N/A

STAFFING IMPACT:

N/A

ATTACHMENT(S):

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