



ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Nomination for Boards, Commissions & Committees (Rev. 8/29/23)

Agenda Date: September 23, 2025

Item # _____

To: **Members of the Orange County Board of Supervisors**

cc: **Clerk of the Board of Supervisors**

From: **Douglas Becht, Director of Care Coordination**

It is my intent to appoint:

Name: **Benjamin Hurst**

Address: [REDACTED]

City & Zip: [REDACTED]

Day Phone: [REDACTED] Fax Number: ()

E-mail address: [REDACTED]

To the: **Commission to Address Homelessness**
(Name of Board, Commission or Committee)

Position Slot: **Philanthropic Leader**

Name of incumbent being replaced or last known member: **Susan Parks**

Term (Choose One):

- 2 Years Beginning Term Date: 9/23/2025 to Expiration Term Date: 9/22/2027
- Term Concurrent with Supervisor's Term of Office
- Term Concurrent with position

Vacancy occurred due to:

- Resignation (attach letter of resignation)
- Termination (provide reason for termination in remarks) Death
- Expiration of Term Other (provide reason in remarks)

Nomination to: **Appoint** **Reappointment** **Newly Formed Committee**

Qualifications: **Attached (must be attached for appointments and reappointments)**

Remarks: _____

For Clerk of the Board Use Only

Clerk's Initials: _____ File I.D. _____ Needs a COI Send Departure Letter

Contact Name _____ Supporting Agency _____ Mail or Pony

Appoint/Complete: Term Years ____ Term Dates: _____ to _____
 CWS Other _____

Check one: **Scheduled Vacancy** **Unscheduled Vacancy**
Posted on _____ to _____ Certification of posting attached.



APPLICATION FOR COUNTY OF ORANGE BOARD, COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE

Attachment E (FOR COUNTY USE ONLY)

Return to: County Executive Office, Office of Care Coordination, 400 West Civic Center, 3rd Floor, Santa Ana, California 92701

Instructions: Please complete each section below. Be sure to enter the title of the Board, Commission or Committee for which you desire consideration. For information or assistance, please contact the Clerk of the Board of Supervisor's Office at (714) 834-2206. Please print in ink or type.

NAME OF BOARD, COMMISSION, OR COMMITTEE TO WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP (SEE LIST AT HTTP://WWW.OCGOV.COM/GOV/COB/BCC/CONTACT):

Commission to Address Homelessness

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT IN WHICH YOU RESIDE: [] First [] Second [X] Third [] Fourth [] Fifth

APPLICANT NAME AND RESIDENCE ADDRESS:

BENJAMIN

FLEORLEN

HURST

First Name

Middle Name

Last Name

[Redacted address line]

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

[Redacted home phone number]

Home Phone Number

[Redacted cell phone number]

Cell Phone Number

[Redacted email address]

Email Address

CURRENT EMPLOYER: THE SALVATION ARMY

OCCUPATION/JOB TITLE: DIRECTOR

BUSINESS ADDRESS: [Redacted]

BUSINESS PHONE NUMBER: [Redacted]

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY: Please attach a current resume to this application that includes your work history and any additional information that would be helpful in evaluating your application. Applications received without a resume attached will not be considered.

ARE YOU A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES: [X] YES [] NO

IF NO, NAME OF COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP: _____

ARE YOU A REGISTERED VOTER? [X] YES [] NO

IF YES, NAME COUNTY YOU ARE REGISTERED IN: _____

LIST ALL CURRENT PROFESSIONAL OR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND SOCIETIES OF WHICH YOU ARE A MEMBER.

ORGANIZATION/SOCIETY	FROM (MO./YR.)	TO (MO./YR.)
THE KENNEDY COMMISSION	05/2024	PRESENT

WITHIN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, HAVE YOU BEEN AFFILIATED WITH ANY BUSINESS OR NONPROFIT AGENCY(IES)? YES NO

DO YOU OWN REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY OR HAVE FINANCIAL HOLDING WHICH MIGHT PRESENT A POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST? YES NO

HAVE YOU BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY OR MISDEMEANOR CRIME SINCE YOUR 18TH BIRTHDAY? YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO DISCLOSE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING: ARRESTS OR DETENTIONS THAT DID NOT RESULT IN A CONVICTION; CONVICTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN JUDICIALLY DISMISSED, EXPUNGED OR ORDERED SEALED; INFORMATION CONCERNING REFERRAL TO AND PARTICIPATION IN ANY PRETRIAL OR POSTTRIAL DIVERSION PROGRAM; AND CERTAIN DRUG RELATED CONVICTIONS THAT ARE OLDER THAN TWO YEARS, AS LISTED IN CALIFORNIA LABOR CODE § 432.8 (INCLUDING VIOLATIONS OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 11357(B) AND (C), 11360(C) 11364, 11365 AND 11550 – AS THEY RELATE TO MARIJUANA)?

YES NO

IF YES, PLEASE EXPLAIN AND ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS, IF NECESSARY.

1. WHAT UNIQUE SKILLS, EXPERIENCE, OR PERSPECTIVES DO YOU BRING THAT MAKE YOU ESPECIALLY WELL-SUITED TO WORK ON SOLUTIONS TO HOMELESSNESS IN OUR COMMUNITY? ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS, IF NECESSARY.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED.

2. AS A REGIONAL LEADER, HOW WOULD YOU USE YOUR ROLE TO BRING TOGETHER DIVERSE PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT COUNTYWIDE INITIATIVES TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS? ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS, IF NECESSARY.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED.

DATE: 07/14/25

APPLICANTS SIGNATURE: Benjamin Hest

CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS USE ONLY – DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

Date Received: _____ Received by: _____

Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Date referred: _____

To: BOS District 1 BOS District 2 BOS District 3 BOS District 4 BOS District 5
 All BOS BCC Contact Person Name _____

1. WHAT UNIQUE SKILLS, EXPERIENCE, OR PERSPECTIVES DO YOU BRING THAT MAKE YOU ESPECIALLY WELL-SUITED TO WORK ON SOLUTIONS TO HOMELESSNESS IN OUR COMMUNITY?

I have executive-level leadership experience in most facets of homeless services. My Doctor of Social Work from USC – with a special emphasis upon Ending Chronic Homelessness – is a good example of some of my unique skills. I am privileged to be recognized by The Salvation Army national leadership as a strategic thought leader on community-wide homeless response. Specifically, I co-founded one of Orange County’s largest homeless shelters, the 325-bed Anaheim Emergency Shelter. I successfully completed the recent new construction of 70 units of homeless Permanent Supportive Housing. And my entire professional career is dedicated toward efforts to champion bold, innovative initiatives that can produce enterprise-scale solutions to some of our most challenging problems. Currently, I am completing a \$20 million new social science research and new program design center in Anaheim that is dedicated to help lead the way toward breakthrough solutions to chronic homelessness. I am also leading The Salvation Army’s efforts in the Western United States to bring large-scale Substance Use Disorder residential recovery care directly into the homeless services and shelter space.

AS A REGIONAL LEADER, HOW WOULD YOU USE YOUR ROLE TO BRING TOGETHER DIVERSE PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT COUNTYWIDE INITIATIVES TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS?

I truly believe in the mission and work of the Commission to Address Homelessness. As the highest ranking “civilian” employee of The Salvation Army in Orange County, I believe I am uniquely positioned to represent our local Faith Community on the Commission. In general terms, The Salvation Army has the respect of most all the faith community. And, because of our special high-profile emphasis upon social work, we are not regarded as a “threat” to local churches and congregations. In fact, churches and faith communities historically collaborate strongly with us, as evidenced by the 27 local churches actively partnering with us at The Anaheim Emergency Shelter. If I were nominated and approved for a new term as a Commissioner, I would use that term to personally reach out and engage with Orange County community faith leaders with respect to local homelessness. These efforts would include personal calls and visits, as well as speaking to small and large faith groups about our collective local efforts to address homelessness. I would also work with the other Commission members and leadership to help establish new creative strategies to increase local faith community involvement where possible.

DR. BEN HURST

CONTACT ● EXPERIENCE

[REDACTED] phone
 [REDACTED] email
 [REDACTED] address
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ben-hurst-a5a15a59> linkedin
carioc.com website

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY ●

With over 20 years of experience as a community leader and social entrepreneur, I am the co-founder and Director of The Salvation Army's first-in-the-world *Center for Applied Research and Innovation*, and also the 14-acre, \$100 million comprehensive homeless care campus, *The Center of Hope* in Anaheim, California. In 2025, I was selected as a recipient of the national public service "Service to the Citizen" award. I am recognized as one of The Salvation Army's foremost experts on community homeless response in the United States.

I am the principal creator and program architect of the *Homeless Throughput System*, an enterprise-scale model that aims to reduce homelessness and increase self-sufficiency. I recently designed the *Life Transformation Program*, a breakthrough Substance Use Disorder recovery program targeted specifically for the homeless population. I also led the completion of the construction of the 224-bed Anaheim Emergency Homeless Shelter in 79 days. My work has been profiled in various media outlets including *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Orange County Register*, and *Caring Magazine* and recognized as meaningful advances in the quest to end chronic poverty, social isolation, and homelessness.

EDUCATION ●

November 2023
Doctor of Social Work
 The University of Southern California

June 2018
MBA
 Western Governor's University

April 2022 - Present

Director, CARI

The Salvation Army - Orange County

- Established the Salvation Army Center for Applied Research and Innovation (CARI), a social sciences research center, including raising \$12 million for the new CARI facility at Center of Hope
- Secured \$1.5 million in local philanthropic support for CARI program operations
- Designed and led implementation of the Homeless Throughput System concept
- Led the design of the "Life Transformation Program", an innovative new medical detox and SUD residential recovery program designed specifically for the homeless population
- Led the team responsible for all aspects of the design, project and program development of the 72-unit homeless Permanent Supportive Housing project at Center of Hope, completed in October, 2023
- Testified twice before the California State Assembly as a recognized expert on community homeless response

April 2019 - April 2022

Director of Operations

The Salvation Army - Orange County, US

- Led the conception, fundraising and development of the Center of Hope campus, a 14-acre, \$100 million new campus for comprehensive homeless care
- Repurposed underperforming Social Services programs which erased a county-wide, multi-year budget deficit and resulted in a county budget surplus
- Personally raised \$10 million in project funding for the homeless housing PSH project at Center of Hope
- Led the team that established the 325-bed Anaheim Emergency Shelter in a local-record 79 days
- Directed the TSA Orange County response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the mobilization of

June 1997
Bachelor of Arts
Northwest Nazarene University

Attachment E

new emergency pop-up shelters, the staging of mobile isolation units, and the establishment of new food distribution and rent payment programs

- Served as principle organizational liaison with civic leadership at the highest local levels, including Congressmen, State Assembly members, County Supervisors, Mayors, City Council members, City Managers and City Department Heads

October 2012 - April 2019

Director of Donor Relations/Corporate Engagement

The Salvation Army - Orange County

- Pioneered "Project X", an innovative A.I.-powered new donor identification and acquisition tool
- Featured speaker at the Salvation Army National Community Relations Conference in Phoenix, AZ in 2016

January 2003 - October 2012

Senior Pastor

New Season Church, Orange County, CA

- Organized and led a successful church plant in Orange County, CA.
- Developed innovative Christian worship expressions, including house churches and coffee shop churches.
- Provided spiritual guidance and leadership to the congregation by delivering sermons and facilitating faith-based activities.
- Utilized public speaking abilities to effectively communicate messages of faith during weekly services, special occasions, retreats, workshops.
- Facilitated bible studies and small group sessions designed to foster deeper understanding of scripture amongst participants.

March 1999 - January 2003

Executive Pastor

The Living Word Church, Vandalia, Ohio

- Led bible studies for adults focusing on topics such as faith building exercises, spiritual disciplines, and Christian living principles.
- Managed daily operations of the church including financial management, event planning, facility maintenance, and volunteer coordination.
- Championed innovative initiatives that drove increased engagement from congregants while expanding outreach into the local community.
- Developed successful strategies for long-term stewardship campaigns that generated significant donations from members of the congregation.

Attachment E

- Provided pastoral care to members of the congregation through individual counseling sessions, group meetings, and prayer support.

June 1997 - June 1998

Associate Pastor

Melodyland Christian Center, Anaheim, California

- Developed and facilitated meaningful small group studies to foster personal growth and spiritual formation.
- Provided pastoral care for individuals in need, including counseling, prayer support, and crisis intervention.
- Mentored youth leaders by teaching biblical principles and providing guidance when needed.

September 1995 - June 1997

Worship Pastor

Eagle Church of the Nazarene, Eagle, Idaho

- Organized and led weekly worship services.
- Facilitated rehearsals with the praise team to ensure quality music and sound during services.
- Coordinated weekly practice sessions with the band and vocalists to ensure a high level of excellence in presentation.
- Prepared and delivered weekly mid-week sermons.
- Visited people in homes, hospitals, or prisons to provide comfort and support.

REFERENCES

References available upon request

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/VOLUNTEER WORK

- National "Service to the Citizen" Award 2025
- Kennedy Commission "Transformational Community of the Year" Award 2024
- County of Orange Commission to End Homelessness 2023
- City of Anaheim Housing Element Committee Member 2021
- Orange County United Way Unsung Hero of the Homeless Award 2020
- Marvin Cook Award for Doing the Most to Inspire Others to Lofty Ideals of Service 1997
- NNU Board of Trustee's College Scholarship for Public Speaking Excellence 1995
- Junior Rotarian of the Year Award 1990
- "Best Team Attitude" Varsity Soccer Award 1988