

# Application Form

## Profile

Sonja  
First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Middle Initial

Shephard  
Last Name

██  
Home Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Suite or Apt

Pittsburg  
City

CA  
State

94565  
Postal Code

██  
Primary Phone

██  
Email Address

## District Locator Tool

### Resident of Supervisorial District:

District 5

Retired  
Employer

Litigation Paralegal  
Job Title

## Length of Employment

### Do you work in Contra Costa County?

Yes  No

### If Yes, in which District do you work?

### How long have you lived or worked in Contra Costa County?

30 years

### Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?

Yes  No

## Board and Interest

### Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Racial Justice Oversight Body: Submitted

**Seat Name**

District 5, Racial Justice=Faith Based-Good Shepherd Church & Veteran,  
Sustainability=District 5

**Have you ever attended a meeting of the advisory board for which you are applying?**

Yes  No

**If Yes, how many meetings have you attended?**

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**Education**

**Select the option that applies to your high school education \***

High School Diploma

**College/ University A**

**Name of College Attended**

Laney College

**Degree Type / Course of Study / Major**

AA Liberal Arts

**Degree Awarded?**

Yes  No

**College/ University B**

**Name of College Attended**

SFSU

**Degree Type / Course of Study / Major**

Paralegal Certificate

**Degree Awarded?**

Yes  No

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**College/ University C**

**Name of College Attended**

Oakland College of Law

**Degree Type / Course of Study / Major**

Law School

Sonja Shephard

**Degree Awarded?**

Yes  No

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**Other Trainings & Occupational Licenses**

**Other Training A**

Sam Brown Private Investigator School

**Certificate Awarded for Training?**

Yes  No

**Other Training B**

**Certificate Awarded for Training?**

Yes  No

**Occupational Licenses Completed:**

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**Qualifications and Volunteer Experience**

**Please explain why you would like to serve on this particular board, committee, or commission.**

What my Urban Habit training has taught me is that some issues can be resolved with resources and other issues can be solved with policy changes. I would be honored to use my legal background and Board and Commission experience to solve issues and create policies to help make Contra Costa a better place for all residents to live. I am committed to working with the unhoused, no one should be sleeping on the streets. As a minority female, social justice is always a goal for me as I wish for a more equitable world especially in regards to legal outcomes. My work as a Solar Ambassador and training with Urban Habitat has opened my eyes to environmental justice issues as well.

**Describe your qualifications for this appointment. (NOTE: you may also include a copy of your resume with this application)**

I am a former Board President of Stoneman Village HUD subsidized housing. I served on the board 9 years. We dealt with budgets, tax credits, and running an onsite dining hall. In 2018 as Chair of the Food Service committee I collaborate with my colleagues to establish a policy change that would allow the residents to use EBT at the dining hall for a hot meal. I am the current Vice President of the Pittsburg Fifty Plus Club a club that helps seniors keep their mind and bodies active. I am on their Finance committee which makes budget decisions. I am also the current Vice President of BART Police Citizen Review Board. We receive citizen allegations of on-duty police misconduct and recommend changes to police polices to increase the public's confidence in BART;s policing services. I was the 2024 Chair of the Nominations Committee of the East Contra Costa NAACP and have been an active member since 2022. I am also a 2024 graduate of the Urban Habitat Board and Commissions Learning Institute (BCLI). Urban Habit mentors us to be dedicated leaders who help create a more equitable Bay Area through advocacy, policy development and community empowerment. HOMELESSNESS: I volunteered at Saint Vincent De Paul at Good Shepherd church working with programs to feed and clothe the unhoused from 2010 to 2021. I have organized clothing drives at my church and volunteered at the food pantry on Saturdays where we put together special food packages for the unhoused who had no way to cook. In 2024 I also coordinated the pick up of food donations from Safeway by Fifty Plus Club volunteers to be donated to Loaves and Fishes an organization that feeds anyone needing a hot meal. RACIAL JUSTICE: I started my legal career in 1979 as a HUD Fair Housing Discrimination Investigator at ECHO Housing. From there I went on to become a Paralegal. I am a US Navy vet and sit on BART's Citizen Police Review Board. Since 2024 I have been organizing Neighborhood Watch groups and working with local police for safe neighborhoods. I am an active member of the East Contra Costa NAACP. SUSTAINABILITY: i am a solar Ambassador for Grid Alternatives. I paired them up with my local City to obtain low interest loans to fix residents roofs so that they could proceed with their solar panel installations. I would like to be more involved in similar sustainability projects.

Upload a Resume

**Would you like to be considered for appointment to other advisory bodies for which you may be qualified?**

Yes  No

**Do you have any obligations that might affect your attendance at scheduled meetings?**

Yes  No

**If Yes, please explain:**

I do not see any conflict for the Homeless Council or Sustainability Council. I did not locate when the Racial Justice Oversight Board meets.

**Are you currently or have you ever been appointed to a Contra Costa County advisory board?**

Yes  No

**If Yes, please list the Contra Costa County advisory board(s) on which you are currently serving:**

**If Yes, please also list the Contra Costa County advisory board(s) on which you have previously served:**

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**List any volunteer or community experience, including any advisory boards on which you have served.**

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I have served on the Pittsburg Youth Advisory Commission and currently serve on the City of Pittsburg Community Advisory Commission

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### **Conflict of Interest and Certification**

**Do you have a familial or financial relationship with a member of the Board of Supervisors? (Please refer to the relationships listed under the "Important Information" section below or Resolution No. 2021/234)**

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Yes  No

**If Yes, please identify the nature of the relationship:**

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**Do you have any financial relationships with the County such as grants, contracts, or other economic relationships?**

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Yes  No

**If Yes, please identify the nature of the relationship:**

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I personally do not have a financial relationship with the County. However I wanted to disclose that The Fifty Plus Club which I am the Vice President of receives grants from the Los Medanos Health Care and from the Keller Canyon Migration Fund. So please do not consider me for any of these Commissions.

**Please Agree with the Following Statement**

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**I CERTIFY that the statements made by me in this application are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and are made in good faith. I acknowledge and understand that all information in this application is publicly accessible. I understand that misstatements and/or omissions of material fact may cause forfeiture of my rights to serve on a board, committee, or commission in Contra Costa County.**

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I Agree

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Important Information

1. This application and any attachments you provide to it is a public document and is subject to the California Public Records Act (CA Government Code §6250-6270).
2. All members of appointed bodies are required to take the advisory body training provided by Contra Costa County.
3. Members of certain boards, commissions, and committees may be required to: (1) file a Statement of Economic Interest Form also known as a Form 700, and (2) complete the State Ethics Training Course as required by AB 1234.
4. Meetings may be held in various locations and some locations may not be accessible by public transportation.
5. Meeting dates and times are subject to change and may occur up to two (2) days per month.
6. Some boards, committees, or commissions may assign members to subcommittees or work groups which may require an additional commitment of time.
7. As indicated in Board Resolution 2021/234, a person will not be eligible for appointment if he/she is related to a Board of Supervisors' member in any of the following relationships:
  - (1) Mother, father, son, and daughter;
  - (2) Brother, sister, grandmother, grandfather, grandson, and granddaughter;
  - (3) Husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, stepson, and stepdaughter;
  - (4) Registered domestic partner, pursuant to California Family Code section 297;
  - (5) The relatives, as defined in 1 and 2 above, for a registered domestic partner;
  - (6) Any person with whom a Board Member shares a financial interest as defined in the Political Reform Act (Gov't Code §87103, Financial Interest), such as a business partner or business associate.

## **RESUME OF SONJA SHEPHARD**

**Introduction: As a Pittsburg resident for 30 years, I have served the Contra Costa community on several Boards and Commissions. My education is in the legal field.**

### **Education:**

**AA Liberal Arts - Laney College**

**SFSU Paralegal Studies - I am a retired Senior Litigation Paralegal.**

**Sam Brown Private Investigation School**

**Oakland College of Law**

### **Boards & Commissions:**

**Stoneman Village Board - Former President**

#### **September 2015 - September 2024**

Stoneman Village's mission is to provide safe and affordable housing for low-income seniors and disabled citizens. During my 9 years on this Board, for four years I served as Chair of the Project Services and Food Services committees, then Vice President and then I served as the first minority woman Board President. On the Stoneman Board we dealt with budgets, tax credits, maintenance, and repair issues. We also dealt with reviewing staff salary ranges, running an on-site dining facility and resident safety and security concerns.

#### **Pittsburg Fifty Plus Club - Vice President**

##### **2021- Present**

We provide seniors citizens with programs and activities that promote positive social interactions, mental health wellness and physical endurance. I have served on the Grant Writing committee and currently serve on the Executive/Finance committee that makes budget and program services decisions.

#### **East Contra Costa County NAACP - Nominations Chair/Recognition Committee**

##### **2022 - Present**

Our group meets with local leaders to better the community. We support direct-action campaigns to bring attention to local issues. The NAACP supports access to quality education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. We advocate for laws and policies to improve the community.

#### **Bart Police Citizen Review Board (BPCRB) - Vice President**

##### **2023 - Present**

Members of the BPCRB work to increase the public's confidence in BART's policing services by reviewing, recommending and monitoring the implementation of changes to police policies, procedures and practices. They receive citizen allegations of on-duty police misconduct.

#### **2024 Board & Commissions Leadership Institute (BCLI) - 2024 Alumni graduate**

BCLI provides public policy training for area community advocates and then connects these emerging leaders to commissions to advance community-led solutions.

I have served on the Youth Advisory Commission as a mentor and currently serve on the Pittsburg Community Advisory Commission.