

Borough of Hillsdale

11032

Resolution

TITLE: Supporting Hackensack University Medical Center Petition Requesting the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services Call for the Application of a Certificate of Need Establishing a New Acute Care Hospital in Westwood.

WHEREAS, prompt and efficient delivery of medical services is a vital component of our society; and

WHEREAS, Pascack Valley Hospital was integral to our community as an employer of approximately 1,000 local residents and annually serviced approximately 14,000 inpatient admissions, 42,000 patient days, 5,500 operating room procedures, 11,000 same day center visits, over 1,000 births and approximately 23,000 emergency room visits; and

WHEREAS, for over fifty (50) years this need was met, in substantial part, by Pascack Valley Hospital and the subordinate medical offices and facilities which were located throughout the greater Pascack and Northern Valley communities ; and

WHEREAS, the local economy, medical and social services for our community are in large measure dependent upon a hospital, both as an employer of the skilled and unskilled medical work force residing in our area, and as a provider of medical and social services and a healthcare safety net for our residents including a large population of senior citizens; and

WHEREAS, the closure of Pascack Valley Hospital in November of 2007 coupled with the closures of Passaic Beth Israel and Passaic General Hospitals in Passaic in 2007 along with Barnert Hospital in Paterson in 2008 struck a severe blow to the region and disrupted the long standing system of delivering emergency and non-emergency medical care in Northern New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the remaining hospitals in the region by reason of distance, travel time, lack of public transportation, and accessibility have been unable to fill the void left by Pascack Valley Hospital as evidenced by the 100% capacity the of main campus of Hackensack University Medical Center and the documented accounts of Valley Hospital utilizing hallways and multi-purpose cafeteria space as staging areas for patients requiring emergency treatment and awaiting admission to rooms; and

WHEREAS, the extra travel time associated with the distance to the remaining hospital facilities has placed an unbearable burden on the Volunteer Ambulance Corps. in surrounding communities and upon the citizens, particularly senior citizens, residing in the area and needing to travel to the hospitals for treatment or assistance of family members at said facilities for treatment; and

WHEREAS, fourteen municipalities in the Pascack and Northern Valleys placed a referendum question on the ballot in November, 2009 resulting in seventy-three percent (73%) of the voters supporting the efforts to open a full service acute care hospital in Westwood; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that Hackensack University Medical Center has filed petition to the New Jersey State Department of Health and Senior Services to call for the application of a Certificate of Need allowing for the establishment of a new acute care hospital in Westwood; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale wish to express their sentiment and support for the petition by, and subsequent application of Hackensack University Medical Center to operate a full service acute care community hospital in Westwood.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale as follows:

1. On behalf of its thousands of residents, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale petitions the State of New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services to affirm the petition of Hackensack University Medical Center as a matter of extreme urgency and with the very realistic potential to be a life and death decision, call for the application of a Certificate of Need for a new hospital in Westwood.
2. The Governing Body of the Borough of Hillsdale specifically rejects the situation that existing hospitals can adequately fill the void left by Pascack Valley Hospital. In the three years following the closure of Pascack Valley Hospital it has been observed, experienced and learned, by the Governing Body, its emergency services, and citizens, that our communities lack the resources to transport patients over the distances said alternative arrangements necessitate and, moreover, in the case of medical emergency, the survival opportunities for critically ill patients decline in direct proportion to the length of travel to remote locations.
3. Waiting times at the remaining hospitals in the region are excessive and unacceptable. Reports are confirmed of hallways clogged with gurneys filled with patients awaiting attention and admission.
4. A system of medical care delivery, including physicians' offices, clinics and off-site medical facilities has grown up around the Pascack Valley Hospital over the last fifty (50) years. The disruption of that system, which would inevitably result from the permanent closure of the former Pascack Valley Hospital, will have, over time, an even greater negative impact on the availability and accessibility of quality medical care, quality of life, and the economy in the surrounding communities than has already been experienced.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: for all of the reasons mentioned above, the Governing Body of the Borough of Hillsdale does hereby urge the State of New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services to call for the Certificate of Need application and to allow for the establishment of a new acute care hospital in Westwood.

Council member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
DeJoseph, Jonathan		x	x			
Frank, Douglas			x			
Giancarlo, Michael			x			
Hanlon, Marie					x	
Schiavone, Donna			x			
Weinstein, Andrew	x		x			

Adopted: February 1, 2011

Attest: _____
Robert P. Sandt, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Mayor Max Arnowitz