



CITY OF LONG BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

333 West Ocean Boulevard • □ Long Beach, CA 90802 • □ (562) 570-6711 FAX (562) 570-7650

March 8, 2018

Mr. John Bishop
Long Beach Memorial Medical Center
2801 Atlantic Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90806

Re: Decision by MemorialCare to suddenly reduce services at Community Hospital of Long Beach

Dear Mr. Bishop:

Your decision to divert Advanced Life Support paramedic ambulances from Community Hospital of Long Beach (Community Hospital) less than 24 hours after notifying the Long Beach Fire Department, but without advanced notifications to myself, Mayor Robert Garcia, the Long Beach City Council or our community is astounding and unexpected, and leaves the City without the ability to appropriately plan. Since your November 2017 presentation to the Long Beach City Council indicating hospital services would cease by June 30, 2019, the City of Long Beach has gone to incredible lengths to include MemorialCare, as a community partner, in our public outreach and transition process.

The City of Long Beach is committed to exploring every available opportunity to continue hospital operations at Community Hospital. To this end, you received a letter from the City of Long Beach on February 16, 2018 to formally: (1) decline MemorialCare's proposal to allow the General Acute Care Hospital License to expire and transition Community Hospital to an expanded acute care psychiatric hospital; (2) request MemorialCare to renew both the Acute Psychiatric Hospital and General Acute Care Hospital Licenses for the period of April 29, 2018-April 28, 2019 to provide time for the City to identify alternatives to keep the general acute care hospital operational; and (3) provide written approval for the City to engage with future partners including but not limited to buyers, developers and operators.

In response, the City received a 120-day lease termination notice from MemorialCare, which was compounded by today's diversion of paramedic ambulances from the facility. Additionally, MemorialCare does not clearly indicate whether or not the acute and psychiatric care licenses at Community Hospital will be renewed. The rashness and lack of clarity with which these decisions were communicated to and subsequently implemented in our city is alarming, and does not reflect the long and positive history the City of Long Beach and MemorialCare have cultivated over the years.

The City expects the following from MemorialCare:

- (1) Detail MemorialCare's plan to expand emergency room services at Memorial Hospital for Advanced Life Support (ALS) patients in order to adequately serve patients who can no longer use Community Hospital due to your sudden closure of ALS/paramedic services. We are requesting both a short-term and long-term plan to address this critical community need.
- (2) Immediately provide a private inter-facility transport for walk-in patients or other patients at the hospital who are determined to need ALS care, and require transport to Memorial. It is

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not acceptable to rely on the Long Beach Fire Department to transport these patients from Community to Memorial as a result of your decision. It is expected that you remedy this.

- (3) Confirm explicitly that Community Hospital will extend the acute and psychiatric care licenses at Community Hospital through April 28, 2019.

It is my sincerest hope that as we move forward, MemorialCare can provide the City with additional notice and opportunity for discussion before major decisions such as the ones made this week are executed upon, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "P West". The signature is cursive and includes a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Patrick H. West
CITY MANAGER

cc: Long Beach Memorial Medical Center Board of Directors