



Date: April 30, 2018

To: Patrick H. West, City Manager

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Community Hospital – Status Update**

Introduction

The City of Long Beach (City) is in receipt of MemorialCare's new license at Community Hospital of Long Beach (Community Hospital). It is for 158-beds from April 29, 2018 through April 28, 2019. With that said, MemorialCare is continuing to take every step necessary to wind down operations. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors is scheduled to adopt written findings and recommendations on the closure of Community Hospital on May 1, 2018.

Background

The City and MemorialCare entered into a property lease agreement in 2011. At that time, both parties were aware of an earthquake fault under the hospital. However, the City was not made aware of the full severity of that fault line until MemorialCare presented their findings at a Study Session on November 14, 2017. The City immediately commissioned a peer review of the seismic study and was presented with information in February 2018 that confirmed the severity of the seismic fault.

Additionally, at the November 14, 2017 Study Session, MemorialCare additionally informed the City that a seismic extension for Community Hospital had been secured through June 30, 2019.

The City was not informed in November, that Memorial would turn in their 120-day lease termination notice to the City on March 5, 2018, effectively terminating hospital services by July 3, 2018. Further, the Los Angeles County Emergency Services Agency (LESMA) began diverting Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulances on March 8, 2018.

Long Beach Actions

Hospital license. Recognizing the current hospital license at Community Hospital expires on April 28, 2018, the City, twice, requested MemorialCare to confirm they would renew their hospital license. On April 24, 2018, a new license was issued to MemorialCare for Community Hospital for the period of April 29, 2018 to April 28, 2019. This license is for all 158-beds at Community Hospital; it is attached for your information.

Seismic requirements. On April 17, 2018, the Long Beach City Council approved a contract with a hospital architect to determine whether the City can meet State seismic compliance at Community Hospital. This work is ongoing.

New hospital provider. Concurrently, the City is moving ahead on securing letters of interest in providing hospital services at Community Hospital. This work is ongoing.

State legislation. Long Beach is continuing to work with Assemblymember O'Donnell on State legislation to extend the seismic compliance deadline at Community Hospital. AB 2591 was presented at the Assembly Health Committee (Committee) Hearing on April 17, 2018. Assembly Health Committee Chair, Jim Wood, expressed the Committee would not approve any seismic extension requests without a viable construction plan, and a hospital operator. With that said, Chair Wood did publicly commit to revisiting this issue with the City, when a seismic compliance plan and new hospital operator are identified.

Upcoming County Actions

On May 1, 2018, the Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services Agency (LEMSA) is requesting the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to adopt written findings and recommendations in the LEMSA's Impact Evaluation Report of the closure of Community Hospital. This report is attached for your information. It finds that there will be negative impacts associated with the closure of Community Hospital, including:

- Longer travel times to reach emergency services
- Longer out-of-service times for EMS personnel engaged in patient transports to more distant hospitals resulting in possible delays in emergency services
- Loss of geographic availability of basic emergency department services for residents of east Long Beach, Signal Hill, and northwest Seal Beach
- Longer wait times for patients experiencing non-life-threatening illness or injury in emergency departments of surrounding hospitals
- Loss of 30 critical care beds
- Loss of 28 psychiatric beds
- Relocation of only Sexual Assault Response Team in Long Beach which currently operates out of Community Medical Center Long Beach

The top three LEMSA recommendations to the Board of Supervisors are:

- Advise the California Department of Public Health that the closure of Community Hospital will have a negative impact on the community and the closure does not serve the best interest of the community
- Support AB 2591 (O'Donnell) to delay State seismic compliance requirements at the facility
- Support the addition of psychiatric beds within the County, particularly in the geographic area of East Long Beach

LEMSA concludes MemorialCare has met the regulatory requirements of notifications to date; and the closure of the hospital will have a negative impact on access to, and delivery of, emergency medical and psychiatric services in East Long Beach, Signal Hill and northwest Seal Beach.

Community Hospital – Status Update

April 30, 2018

Page 3

Next Steps

The City will continue to work with:

- Perkins + Will to develop conceptual seismic compliance plans for the City Council's consideration; and
- Various hospital operators to secure letters of interest for the provision of hospital services; and
- Assemblymember O'Donnell to secure an extension to the State's deadline for seismic compliance.

On May 1, 2018, the City of Long Beach will provide testimony on our concerns related to LEMSA's findings at the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisor meeting.

For more information, please contact John Keisler, Director of Economic Development, at (562) 570-5282 or Diana Tang, Manager of Government Affairs, at (562) 570-6506.

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ATTACHMENT

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