

Bergen County  
Economic  
Development  
Corporation

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September 4, 2008

Commissioner Heather Howard  
Department of Health & Senior Services  
P.O. Box 360  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0360

Dear Commissioner Howard:

On behalf of the Bergen County Economic Development Corporation, I am writing to express our strong and unqualified support of the Certificate of Need application for Hackensack University Medical Center North at Pascack Valley. This project will provide many construction jobs immediately, an eventual 400 permanent jobs, an estimated \$170 million in revenue for Bergen County by 2011, and a tax ratable for the town of Westwood. This project is particularly important to the financial wellbeing of the region during our current economic downturn.

Pascack Valley Hospital did not close because of lack of need by the community. It closed due to bankruptcy. Community residents, physicians, and local legislators have consistently supported the reopening of the hospital. Now, a unique joint venture will be able to reopen a community hospital at that location using only private financing, with absolutely no public funding at risk. This is a wonderful opportunity for northeastern Bergen County to realize both improved health care services and a huge economic boost to the local economy.

The Bergen County Economic Development Corporation strongly urges you to expedite the Certificate of Need review process, and to approve this Certificate of Need application.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph M. Sanzari  
Chairman  
BCEDC

***Bergen County Economic Development Corporation***  
***Board of Directors***  
***Resolution 2008-02***

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HACKENSACK UNIVERSITY MEDICAL  
CENTER'S APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF NEED TO RE-  
ESTABLISH A HOSPITAL AT THE FORMER PASCACK VALLEY HOSPITAL**

**WHEREAS**, prompt and efficient delivery of medical services is a vital component of our society; 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 in the neighborhood and communities surrounding the Hospital; and

**WHEREAS**, the unexpected closure of Pascack Valley Hospital in November of 2007 struck a severe blow to the region which completely disrupted the long standing system of delivering emergency and non-emergency medical care; and

**WHEREAS**, the remaining hospitals in the region, by reason of distance, travel time, lack of public transportation and case law, have been unable to fill the void left by Pascack Valley Hospital; and

**WHEREAS**, the extra travel time associated with the distance to the surrounding hospital facilities has placed an unbearable burden on 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**, it has been determined that Hackensack University Medical Center North at Pascack Valley has made application to the State Department of Health for a Certificate of Need in order to permit it to reestablish a hospital at the location of the former Pascack Valley Hospital; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bergen County Economic Development Corporation wishes to express its strong sentiment and support for the application of Hackensack University Medical Center North at Pascack Valley.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Bergen County Economic Development Corporation as follows:

1. On behalf of all Bergen County residents, the Bergen County Economic Development Corporation petitions the State of New Jersey Department of Health to

expeditiously approve the application of Hackensack University Medical Center as a matter of extreme urgency and with the very realistic potential to be a life and death decision.

2. The Bergen County Economic Development Corporation specifically rejects the premise that existing hospitals can adequately fill the void left by Pascack Valley Hospital. In the several months following the closure of Pascack Valley Hospital it has been observed, experienced and learned, by 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. Many residents report instances 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 medical care and quality of life in the surrounding communities than has already been experienced.

**THEREFORE**, for all of the reasons mentioned above, the members of the Bergen County Economic Development Corporation held a special voting meeting on October 2 and unanimously agreed to urge the State of New Jersey Department of Health to expedite the Certificate of Need application of Hackensack University Medical Center North at Pascack Valley.

By:

Jeanne Cimiluca

President

Attest:

L. F. Allen 10/20/08

Secretary

Dated: