

BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD

Mayor John Birkner, Jr.



TELEPHONE (201) 664-7100 EXT. 106 • FAX (201) 664-5340 • 101 WASHINGTON AVENUE • WESTWOOD, NJ 07675
EMAIL: JBIRKNER@WESTWOODNJ.GOV • WEBSITE: WWW.WESTWOODNJ.GOV

September 25, 2008

Commissioner Heather Howard
New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
Health & Agriculture Building
John Fitch Plaza
P.O. Box 360
Trenton, NJ 08625-0360

Re: Resolution supporting Certificate of Need for HUMC

Dear Commissioner Howard,

I am writing to you to ask for your support regarding the efforts to see that the re-establishment of a full service acute care community hospital in Westwood will soon become a reality.

As you are aware, tens of thousands of our residents in northeastern New Jersey have suffered as a direct result of the closing of Pascack Valley Hospital in November of 2007. Our emergency service personnel and residents of all ages have been adversely affected. Travel times to obtain emergency medical treatments have quadrupled, delays in hospital admissions have increased, and the discontinuation of local rehabilitation services and medical treatments are all only a portion of the negative impact felt in our communities.

The good news is that Hackensack University Medical Center intends to open and operate the full service acute care community hospital that we so desperately need. Their plan is real, and calls for no financial commitment on the part of the municipality, county, or State. In fact, the revenue that will be generated and the jobs created as a result of this hospital plan will serve as an economic stimulus for an entire region. In order for this to happen, we have been seeking help and receiving support from every level of government.

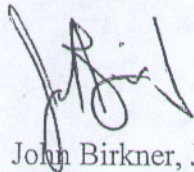
Enclosed please find one (1) copy of Resolution #08-272 that was adopted by the Borough of Westwood on August 19th in support of the transfer of the "Certificate of Need" for Hackensack University Medical Center to open and operate a 128 bed hospital on the site of the former Pascack Valley Hospital. Similar resolutions have been adopted by many other communities affected by the hospital closing, and many more are committed to join this effort at upcoming town meetings. Additionally, the Pascack Valley Mayors Association (10 towns), Northern Valley Mayors Association (17 towns), and the Bergen County League of Municipalities (70 towns) all have endorsed the license transfer with resolutions of their own. Thousands of private citizens have signed a petition expressing

their desire to see that a hospital will once again provide much needed medical services to a densely populated and congested area.

It is because of the overwhelming level of response received from throughout our region that I urge you to please support the transfer of the Certificate of Need. The health and well being of our residents are dependent on accessible quality health care. With a strong and unified effort the voices of our residents can be heard, and world class medical services can be brought to our region. We are counting on your leadership to help make this happen

I will look forward to your support in this crucial matter. If you should have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (201) 664-7100 ext. 106.

Sincerely,
Borough of Westwood

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Birkner, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

John Birkner, Jr.
Mayor

Enclosure