



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF BAYONNE

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JAMES DAVIS, *MAYOR*

August 19, 2020

The Honorable Phil Murphy
Governor of the State of New Jersey
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Murphy,

I write to express my concerns regarding the future of Bayonne's only hospital, Bayonne Medical Center, and frustration with the Department of Health's pending Certificate of Need (CN) process regarding the hospital.

Unfortunately, the Department declined to expedite the CN application for sale of the hospital to BMC Hospital LLC in June. The prolonged dispute over the facility is creating unnecessary instability within our health system and community --- amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, no less --- and the Department's decision has exacerbated these issues. Continued delay risks closure of the hospital (or many of its services/departments), flight of medical staff, loss of healthcare access and the elimination of hundreds of jobs. None of these outcomes are acceptable to the Bayonne community.

The CN application from BMC Hospital LLC that is now before the Department represents the only viable and well thought out plan for operation of the hospital. This plan also provides for the hospital's sustainability and growth. Furthermore, BMC Hospital LLC's commitment to our community and the integrity of the ownership team underscore my support for their application.

Given the stakes, I would like to request your intervention to ensure timely resolution of this matter.

The Bayonne Medical Center is the cornerstone of our community's healthcare system. In 2019 alone, it provided more than 25,500 emergency visits as well as specialty care, surgeries, radiation oncology and behavioral health services. This year, it is playing a crucial role in fighting the coronavirus pandemic in our City. Bayonne cannot afford to lose this community institution.

Yet, Bayonne's residents have been stuck in a state of uncertainty since CarePoint, the current owner operator of Bayonne Medical Center, announced it would sell the facility due to financial difficulties. CarePoint signed a contract to sell the hospital to a qualified buyer, BMC Hospital LLC, pending approval

of a CN from the Department. The deal stipulates that BMC Hospital LLC will continue operating the facility as a hospital and will expand healthcare offerings to better meet our growing community's needs. As our country continues to reel from the pandemic, Bayonne desperately needs a qualified operator to maintain and expand the health services that have been provided in that facility since 1888.

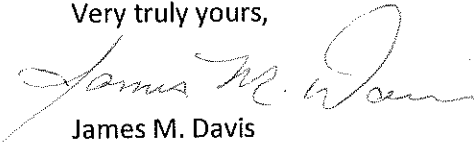
Based on their current plans, its strict focus on Bayonne Medical Center, and on the lack of a viable operational and financially stable alternative that could meet our community's needs, we believe BMC Hospital LLC is that operator.

Our local health system and community deserve the proper attention and action to bring closure to this issue.

I am mindful of the challenges that Department officials faced this year in managing the pandemic across our state, and I have tremendous gratitude for their commitment to keeping the people of New Jersey healthy and safe in this unprecedented time. Approval of this CN is part and parcel to these efforts, because without Bayonne Medical Center and the healthcare heroes it employs, our community would have fared far worse than it did at the height of the pandemic. Your attention to this mounting crisis is needed and critical to moving this process forward.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James M. Davis".

James M. Davis
Mayor of Bayonne