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COMMUNITY BOARD No. 2, MANHATTAN

3 WASHINGTON SQUARE VILLAGE

NEW YORK, NY 10012-1899

www.cb2manhattan.org

P: 212-979-2272 F: 212-254-5102 E: info@cb2manhattan.org

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June 29, 2010

Richard F. Daines, M.D.,
Commissioner
New York State Department of Health
Corning Tower
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12237

Thomas Farley, M.D., MPH
Commissioner
New York City Dept. of Health
and Mental Hygiene
125 Worth Street
New York, NY 10013

Dear Commissioner Daines, M.D. and Commissioner Farley, M.D.:

At its Full Board meeting on June 17, 2010, Community Board 2 (Manhattan) adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION REQUESTING A COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

WHEREAS, the closure of St. Vincent's Hospital has resulted in the community's loss of an emergency room, in-patient hospital, Level 1 trauma center and the capacity to address a widespread public health emergency such as a natural disaster or act of terrorism, creating a significant gap in the health care services available to this community board and the entire Lower West Side of Manhattan; and

WHEREAS, on June 14, 2010, North Shore - Long Island Jewish Medical Center presented its plans for an urgent care center to be located on the site of St. Vincent's within six to eight weeks that will provide community health care, but will not handle life-threatening emergencies, which will require patients with these conditions to be transported by ambulance to area hospitals; and

WHEREAS, as heard by the community board during the June 14 public hearing and at previous community meetings, there is tremendous public concern among residents about the ability of an urgent care center to meet the health care needs of the Lower West Side and the negative impact that such a limited facility will have on the quality and delivery of health care in our community; and

WHEREAS, this Community Board has always supported the establishment of a full-service, acute care hospital on the St. Vincent's site in order to adequately meet the community's health care needs, and reiterates this position today; and

WHEREAS, a community health care assessment is important to understand the community's key health care problems and needs, help make the case for a full-service hospital, and ensure that the facility that replaces St. Vincent's hospital adequately meets local community's health care needs; and

WHEREAS, no such community health care assessment has been conducted in recent years for the Lower West Side of Manhattan.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board No. 2 strongly urges the New York City and State Departments of Health and our local elected officials to commission a community health care assessment as soon as possible and work with the local community in marshalling the data and analysis for assessing the strengths and weaknesses in the local health care delivery system.

Vote: Passed, with 39 Board members in favor, and 1 recusal-(Lederman)

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jo Hamilton". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light blue rectangular background.

Jo Hamilton, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad Hoylman". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Brad Hoylman, Chair
St. Vincent's Omnibus Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

JH/gh

cc: Hon. Jerrold L. Nadler, Congressman
Hon. Thomas K. Duane, NY State Senator
Hon. Daniel L. Squadron, NY State Senator
Hon. Sheldon Silver, Assembly Speaker
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, Assembly Member
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Man. Borough President
Hon. Margaret Chin, Council Member
Hon. Rosie Mendez, Council Member
Sandy Myers, CB2 liaison, Man. Borough President's office
Lolita Jackson, Manhattan Director, CAU