



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Derrick Leon Davis
Council Member, District 6

APR 19 2017

Mr. Ben Steffen, Executive Director
Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

RE: Certificate of Need (CON) Application for Doctors Community Hospital

Mr. Steffen:

On behalf of my colleagues on the Prince George's County Council, and in anticipation of the successful Certificate of Need application, I wish to express the Prince George's County Council's strong support for the Certificate of Need application filed by Doctors Community Hospital. The purpose of the Certificate of Need application is to establish a 16-bed inpatient psychiatric unit on its Lanham, Maryland campus. We believe that approval of the hospital's Certificate of Need application will allow Doctors Community Hospital to significantly contribute to addressing the unmet mental health needs of Prince George's County residents.

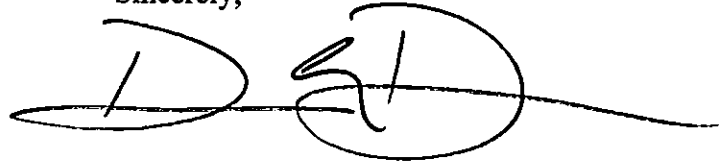
Three factors indicate the need for increased mental health services in Prince George's County. One factor is that adult Prince George's County residents are treated for mental illness at a significantly lower rate than other residents across the state of Maryland. Additionally, almost one half of adult Prince George's County residents who receive treatment obtain these services in hospitals located in other jurisdictions, to include Baltimore, Montgomery County, and Washington, D.C. The third factor is that there is documented shortage of mental health service providers who practice in Prince George's County, including psychiatrists. Having this unit available will provide a great opportunity to recruit these additional care-givers in our community to provide the full range of services that are needed.

The factors mentioned above, along with the daily experience of adult patients who have come to depend on Doctors Community Hospital for high quality medical and surgical care, point to the need for expanding treatment services. Unfortunately, our mentally ill patients cannot obtain these services where need forces Doctors Community Hospital to transfer patients to other hospitals capable of providing high quality behavioral health services. The time is right for opening the proposed unit at Doctors Community Hospital as soon as possible.

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The Doctors Community Hospital continued success is important to our community and a compliment to area hospitals and health care providers. The hospital 16-bed inpatient psychiatric unit aligns with our unreserved commitment to improving and increasing quality healthcare for every Prince Georgian. Please let me know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DL Davis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Derrick Leon Davis
Council Chairman