



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Rushern L. Baker, III
County Executive

January 23, 2017

Dr. Craig Tanio, MBA, Chair and Members of the Commission
Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Re: Anne Arundel Medical Center – Docket No. 15-02-2360

Dear Chair Tanio and Members of the Commission:

On behalf of the citizens and residents of Prince George's County, we strongly recommend that the Maryland Health Care Commission ("MHCC") remand the Anne Arundel Medical Center cardiac surgery application (Docket No. 15-02-2360) back to the Commission's reviewer for more analysis, especially as it relates to the negative impact it will have on the existing cardiac surgery program at the Prince George's Hospital Center ("PGHC") in Cheverly, Maryland.

As you know, the Regional Medical Center ("RMC") is a critical component of expanding and improving the healthcare system in Prince George's County and Southern Maryland and is strongly supported by Prince George's County, the State of Maryland, the University of Maryland Medical System ("UMMS"), Dimensions Health Corporation, and numerous community and business stakeholders. We appreciate the Commission's approval of the certificate of need application for the RMC (Docket No. 13-16-2377) on October 20, 2016 by a unanimous vote with one recusal. The RMC will enable us to significantly enhance a very good cardiac surgery program at PGHC.

Together, the County and the State are investing \$416 million in capital funds, and \$140 million in operating funds between 2016 and 2021 as required under Chapter 13 of the 2016 Laws of Maryland, to dramatically improve access to high quality, comprehensive healthcare services in the Prince George's County region. This includes making the replacement hospital project a success. In addition, UMMS will assume ownership of Dimensions within months and continue to invest in the transformation of health care delivery in the County and Southern Maryland.

The PGHC has worked diligently to reduce the number of residents who leave the County for health care services. Among the most important of services needed in Prince George's County is comprehensive cardiovascular health care, which includes cardiac surgery. UMMS and Dimensions have made large investments of resources in these services, and the investment is beginning to produce some impressive results.

County Administration Building
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772
www.princegeorgescountymd.gov

Dr. Craig Tanio, MBA, Chair
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In FY 2016, more than 100 cardiac surgeries were successfully completed at PGHC and over the past two years, the cardiac surgery program has obtained a "3-Star" rating for isolated Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting ("CABG") surgery by the Society of Thoracic Surgeons ("STS"). Less than 10% of hospitals nationally receive such a rating by STS. These results clearly indicate that the revival of the cardiac surgery program at PGHC has begun. This is why the approval by the Commission of a new cardiac surgery program at the Anne Arundel Medical Center concerns us. We believe it will create unnecessary level of competition for case volume and impede the revival and growth of PGHC's cardiac surgery program. In addition, it could put at risk the nearly \$1 billion in investments and commitments by the State and Prince George's County to make the future-UMMS affiliated system a success.

Under the State Health Plan, within three years after commencing services in the replacement hospital, PGHC is required to obtain a Certificate of Ongoing Performance, which requires, among other things, that it maintain an annual volume of 200 or more open heart surgery cases (COMAR 10.24.17.07). Also, existing programs are subject to evaluation for closure if they fail to achieve at least 100 cases in two consecutive years. If the Anne Arundel Medical Center is granted approval for a cardiac surgery program, it is possible that PGHC will not be able to maintain sufficient annual volume and, therefore, may be subject to a plan of correction or closure (depending upon the volume and other circumstances), leaving the residents of Prince George's County looking for care outside the County again and wasting the substantial investment of resources by the State, the County, and UMMS.

As a result of the partnership between Dimensions, UMMS, the State of Maryland and Prince George's County, the trajectory of our healthcare system is rapidly heading in the right direction. This progress should not be impeded, which is why we strongly urge you to remand the application for a Cardiac surgery program at Anne Arundel Medical Center back to the reviewer for additional analysis to assess the impact this action will have on our healthcare system.

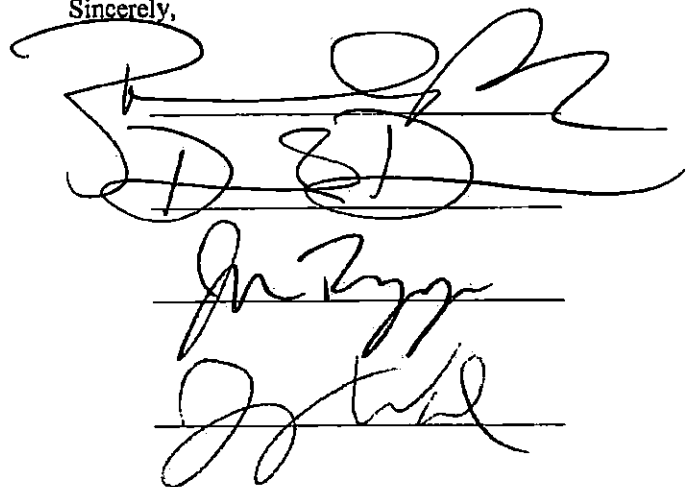
Sincerely,

Rushern L. Baker, III, County Executive

Derrick L. Davis, Chair, County Council

Senator James Rosapepe, Chair,
Prince George's County Senate Delegation

Delegate Jay Walker, Chair
Prince George's County House Delegation

The image shows four handwritten signatures, each written over a horizontal line. The signatures are: 1. A large, stylized signature that appears to be 'R. Baker'. 2. A signature that appears to be 'D. Davis'. 3. A signature that appears to be 'James Rosapepe'. 4. A signature that appears to be 'Jay Walker'.

Dr. Craig Tanio, MBA, Chair
January 23, 2017

Prince George's County Senate Delegation

Senator Joanne C. Benson

Senator Ulysses Currie

Senator Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.

Senator C. Anthony Muse

Senator Douglas J.J. Peters

Senator Paul G. Pinsky

Senator Victor R. Ramirez

Handwritten signatures of the Prince George's County Senate Delegation members, including Joanne C. Benson, Ulysses Currie, Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., C. Anthony Muse, Douglas J.J. Peters, Paul G. Pinsky, and Victor R. Ramirez.

Prince George's County House Delegation

Delegate Angela Angel

Delegate Ben Barnes

Delegate Darryl Barnes

Delegate Erik L. Barron

Delegate Dereck E. Davis

Delegate Diana M. Fennell

Delegate Barbara Frush

Delegate Tawanna P. Gaines

Delegate Anne Healey

Delegate Marvin E. Holmes, Jr.

Delegate Carolyn J. B. Howard

Delegate Michael A. Jackson

Delegate Tony Knotts

Handwritten signatures of the Prince George's County House Delegation members, including Angela Angel, Ben Barnes, Darryl Barnes, Erik L. Barron, Dereck E. Davis, Diana M. Fennell, Barbara Frush, Tawanna P. Gaines, Anne Healey, Marvin E. Holmes, Jr., Carolyn J. B. Howard, Michael A. Jackson, and Tony Knotts.

Dr. Craig Tanio, MBA, Chair
January 23, 2017

Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk

Delegate Susie Proctor

Delegate Carlo Sanchez

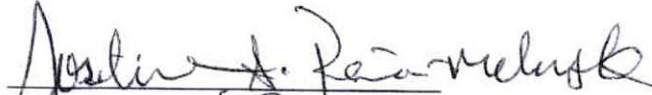



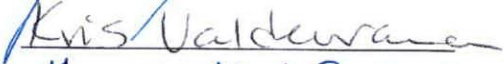

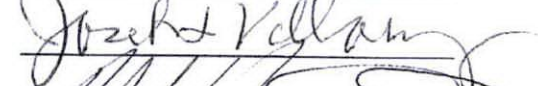
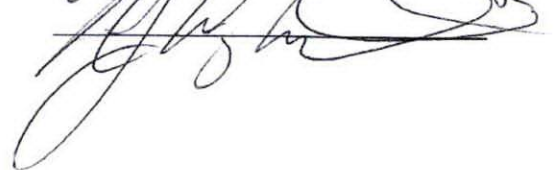
Delegate Jimmy Tarlau

Delegate Kriselda Valderrama

Delegate Geraldine Valentino-Smith

Delegate Joseph F. Vallario, Jr.

Delegte Alonzo T. Washington

Dr. Craig Tanio, MBA, Chair
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Prince George's County Council

Vice Chair Dannielle M. Glaros

Council Member Mary A. Lehman

Council Member Deni L. Taveras

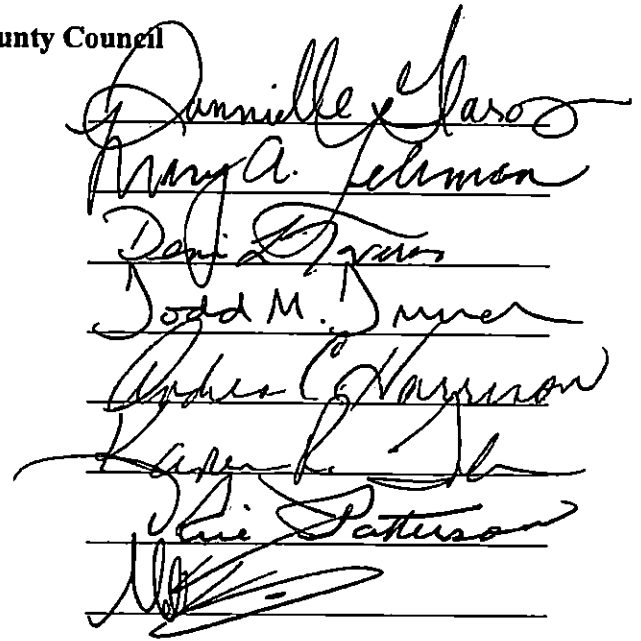
Council Member Todd M. Turner

Council Member Andrea C. Harrison

Council Member Karen R. Toles

Council Member Obie Patterson

Council Member Mel Franklin



The image shows seven handwritten signatures on lined paper, each corresponding to a name on the left. The signatures are written in black ink and are cursive. The names and their corresponding signatures are: Dannielle M. Glaros, Mary A. Lehman, Deni L. Taveras, Todd M. Turner, Andrea C. Harrison, Karen R. Toles, and Obie Patterson. The signature for Mel Franklin is partially obscured by the bottom edge of the page.