

Introduced by: Councilmember Smith

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

**RESOLUTION 2015-5**

**RESOLUTION COMMENTING ON THE CERTIFICATE OF NEED  
APPLICATION FILED BY ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE TO RELOCATE THE  
WASHINGTON ADVENTIST HOSPITAL ACUTE CARE LICENSE AND  
CERTAIN SERVICES TO WHITE OAK IN PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE  
MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION, DOCKET NO. 13-15-2349**

- WHEREAS,** Washington Adventist Hospital has been an important and valued part of the Takoma Park community for 107 years; and,
- WHEREAS,** Adventist HealthCare is seeking to relocate the acute care hospital license and all related acute care hospital services of Washington Adventist Hospital, Inc. ("WAH") from Takoma Park to a new campus in the White Oak area of Montgomery County, Maryland; and,
- WHEREAS,** WAH is the only acute care hospital located in the City of Takoma Park and provides acute, emergency and primary health care to many Takoma Park residents; and,
- WHEREAS,** the City wishes to ensure that Takoma Park residents continue to have convenient local access to quality health care, particularly urgent and emergency medical care and routine health care services; and,
- WHEREAS,** the City is concerned about health care access for its residents and loss of the hospital will mean loss of access; and,
- WHEREAS,** the City wishes to ensure that its residents retain a high quality and economically viable health care delivery system; and,
- WHEREAS,** Adventist HealthCare must obtain a Certificate of Need (CON) from the Maryland Health Care Commission ("Commission") before it can relocate the hospital; and,
- WHEREAS,** Section 19-103 of the Health-General Article of the *Maryland Code* requires the Commission to promote financial and geographic access to quality health care services at a reasonable cost for all Marylanders; and,
- WHEREAS,** Section (04)(B)(4)(b) of the State Health Plan for Facilities and Services: Acute Care Hospital Services ("Maryland State Health Plan") requires that if a proposed capital project reduces the potential availability or accessibility of a facility or service by eliminating, downsizing or otherwise modifying a facility or service, the applicant shall document that each proposed change will not inappropriately diminish, for the population in the primary service area, the availability or accessibility to care including access for the indigent and/or uninsured; and,

**WHEREAS,** WAH facilities occupy a significant amount of land in a critical location in Takoma Park, and maintenance of that land in accordance with City regulations is important to the economic viability of the City; and

**WHEREAS,** the Maryland State Health Plan requires that health care facilities be developed with consideration of green building standards; and,

**WHEREAS,** the City wishes to be assured that the health care facilities that WAH proposes to retain on the Takoma Park campus will be of high quality in both medical care and physical appearance and will be fiscally sustainable for decades to come; and,

**WHEREAS,** the Commission has the authority to impose conditions upon Adventist HealthCare, including conditions relating to health care services on the Takoma Park campus, in connection with the granting of a CON; and,

**WHEREAS,** the City asserts that the economic viability and health care services of the proposed White Oak facility and the Takoma Park campus will be inextricably intertwined; and,

**WHEREAS,** the revised CON application contains no specific financial investment in the Takoma Park campus and places all commitments concerning Takoma Park outside its formal application; and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Takoma Park accepts the analysis by Adventist HealthCare regarding financial and site specific limitations as the basis for why WAH must move its acute care hospital to ensure the hospital's long term viability; and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Takoma Park supports the ongoing financial viability of WAH and regretfully accepts the likelihood of the proposed relocation; and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Takoma Park has questions and technical comments that may be submitted to the Maryland Health Care Commission and/or Washington Adventist Hospital, as appropriate, to help gather information to assure the City Council and the Takoma Park community that the WAH proposal, as included in the CON application, will protect the medical and fiscal health of the Takoma Park community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND that,** when considering the Certificate of Need to relocate WAH, the Maryland Health Care Commission is urged to affirm that the Certificate of Need application demonstrates that adequate resources are available and designated for use to:

- a. ensure that the availability of and accessibility to excellent 24 hour/7 days per week urgent and emergency health care is not impaired for the residents of Takoma Park; and

- b. ensure that the availability of and accessibility to excellent primary health care services is not impaired for the residents of Takoma Park; and
- c. maintain the Takoma Park campus as an attractive property meeting local and State codes, including those for property maintenance, stormwater control and tree protection.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that** the City of Takoma Park requests to be recognized as a Participating Entity by the Maryland Health Care Commission in this Certificate of Need application process.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that** the City of Takoma Park requests that, within six months of the promulgation of regulations, Adventist HealthCare undertake, in consultation with the City, a study regarding the feasibility and establishment of a Freestanding (emergency) Medical Facility on the Takoma Park campus; and furthermore, if this study concludes a Freestanding (emergency) Medical Facility is financially and technically feasible, then to diligently pursue a Freestanding (emergency) Medical Facility when regulations are formalized.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that** the City of Takoma Park requests that, during the CON review process, Adventist HealthCare work cooperatively with the City to memorialize milestones and a framework to ensure that the Takoma Park campus remains well maintained and is well functioning to serve the needs of the Takoma Park community.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that** the City of Takoma Park requests that Adventist HealthCare assist the City in its efforts to seek resources from County, State and Federal governmental agencies, charitable organizations and other entities to mitigate the economic impact of the relocation of WAH on the Takoma Park community.

**THIS RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED THIS 26<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2015.**

**ATTEST:**

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Jessie Carpenter, CMC  
City Clerk