



City of Takoma Park

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, December 17, 2015

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Maryland Health Care Commission Rules in Favor of Washington Adventist Hospital's Request to Move

Takoma Park, MD – On December 17, 2015, the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) took final action and ruled in favor of the Certificate of Need application to move Washington Adventist Hospital's acute care hospital to an area north of White Oak.

Mayor Stewart, who spoke at the MHCC hearing today, stated after the decision, "We receive the news of Washington Adventist Hospital's move with disappointment but readiness to prepare for the future. For many years, City staff, City Council and residents have worked to ensure that throughout the process the needs of Takoma Park residents have been front and center. Now, with the decision made, we have much work ahead. We look forward to working with the Hospital to ensure the Takoma Park campus has a robust array of health care services in an attractive setting."

The Mayor and several members of the City Council and staff attended the meeting in Baltimore where the ruling was issued. This decision followed a recommendation issued in November from the Reviewing Commissioner, Frances B. Phillip, to approve the application with several conditions. The most important of these conditions was the requirement of the immediate establishment of a 24/7 urgent care center when the emergency room in Takoma Park closes. This condition was upheld at the hearing. The establishment of an urgent care center will ensure that there is no gap in primary care services the community needs. "Clearly, the Commissioner recognized the need for these services based on the information the City has presented," stated City Manager Suzanne Ludlow.

The City and Holy Cross Hospital requested the consideration of a free standing emergency department. However, the Commission declined to include it as a condition of their approval. The Hospital has stated it is committed to evaluating the feasibility of a free standing emergency department.

"Washington Adventist Hospital will continue to be an integral part of the Takoma Park community as it has for 108 years. When the acute hospital services relocate to White Oak in

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2019, we will still provide a robust array of health services on our Takoma Park campus, including a 24-hour urgent care center, behavioral health services, physical rehabilitation services, a Federally Qualified Healthcare Center operated in conjunction with Community Clinic Incorporated, and Women’s Health Center. We will work closely with the City in identifying possible other services and facilities that will create a vibrant community health campus in this location,” stated Erik Wangsness, President, Washington Adventist Hospital.

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