

Introduced by: Councilmember Barry

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

**Resolution 2009-20**

**RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF THE FINAL REPORT OF THE HEALTH SERVICES IMPACT COMMITTEE**

- WHEREAS, on February 27, 2006, the City Council established the Health Services Impact Committee by adopting Resolution 2006-12; and,
- WHEREAS, the purpose of the Health Services Impact Committee was to gather and share information on the health care and health care access needs of the Takoma Park community and on the potential impacts of the possible relocation of Washington Adventist Hospital on meeting those needs; and,
- WHEREAS, on February 11, 2008, the City Council extended the term of the Health Services Impact Committee until February 27, 2009, by adopting Resolution 2008-13, in order to permit the implementation of the Health Needs Assessment Survey, and to provide adequate time for an analytical report on the results of the survey; and,
- WHEREAS, the Health Services Impact Committee sponsored three public meetings for the residents of Takoma Park to describe their health care needs and express their concerns about the proposed relocation of Washington Adventist Hospital to White Oak, Maryland; and,
- WHEREAS, on March 3, 2008, the City Council executed a contract with The Rivera Group, LLC, to conduct the Community Health Needs Assessment Survey; and,
- WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park and Adventist HealthCare, Inc., jointly funded the Community Health Needs Assessment Survey; and,
- WHEREAS, the Health Needs Assessment Survey was a quantitative instrument that was disseminated to residents, including senior citizens, minorities, persons with limited proficiency in English, persons with disabilities, and members of Takoma Park neighborhood organizations; and,
- WHEREAS, The Rivera Group, LLC, conducted six focus groups: two in Spanish, one in Amharic, one in French, one in Tigrayan, and one in English; and,
- WHEREAS, each non-English speaking focus group discussion was accompanied by a member of The Rivera Group, LLC, to provide simultaneous interpretation of the discussions to the Health Service Impact Committee members who observed the focus group discussion; and,

WHEREAS, on February 25, 2009, the Health Services Impact Committee issued a Final Report, which included responses to questions raised by City Council members during the Council Worksession of February 5, 2009 regarding a proposal for the future use of the Takoma Park campus created by Adventist HealthCare, Inc.; and,

WHEREAS, the Health Services Impact Committee recommended that the City Council advocate for the following health care services in Takoma Park:

1. An integrated Clinic that includes medical doctors and alternative care practitioners (such as naturopathic physicians, nurse-midwives, chiropractors and possibly acupuncturists);
2. A Wellness or Fitness Facility including a swimming pool;
3. An urgent care, after hours facility with 24-hour care;
4. An assisted living facility; and,

WHEREAS, although the Health Services Impact Committee also recommended that the City of Takoma Park assume some of the financial responsibility for the provision of health care for its residents rather than relying on private health care institutions, the City is unable to accept this recommendation because:

1. The City, like other Maryland municipalities, does not have sufficient revenue to continue to provide traditional municipal services and also pay for the provision of health care services; and
2. Private hospitals utilize revenue generated from paying patients and state and federal reimbursements to cover the cost of providing charity care.

WHEREAS, the City has retained a health care consultant, PDA, Inc., for expert advice.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND that the City Council expresses appreciation to the members of the Health Services Impact Committee for their work; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City Council acknowledges the receipt of the Health Needs Assessment Survey and the Final Report of the Health Services Impact Committee and will, to the extent feasible, utilize the information, findings, and recommendations, to guide the City's public policy and will transmit this Report to its consultant, PDA, Inc., for further study.

Adopted this 11th day of May 2009.

ATTEST:

  
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Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk