



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

March 30, 2011

Mr. Randall P. Worthington, Sr.
Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Dear Commissioner Worthington:

I am writing as County Executive of Montgomery County to express in the strongest terms possible my full support for Washington Adventist Hospital's Certificate of Need (CON) filing with the State of Maryland to relocate its hospital to White Oak and to continue to use its Takoma Park campus as a Village of Education, Health and Wellbeing.

Washington Adventist Hospital has served Montgomery County and the Greater Washington metropolitan region for more than 100 years, and is dedicated to providing everyone – insured, underinsured and uninsured – high-quality, compassionate health care.

Washington Adventist Hospital provides critical clinical services to the community, such as surgical services, orthopedics, cancer care, maternity, and emergency services. These services save lives every day and extend necessary health care for tens of thousands of patients annually.

Residents of Montgomery County and the region also greatly benefit from the hospital's ongoing partnerships with the county and community groups, such as the Montgomery County Maternity Partnership, CASA de Maryland, Mary's Center and Mobile Med. In addition, the hospital's commitment to promoting health and wellness and improving access to health care for all sets a high standard for community engagement.

Washington Adventist Hospital's commitment to improving the health of the region is also reflected in its charitable contributions. Furthermore, in the past two years, Washington Adventist Hospital has provided some \$69 million in community benefits for the region.

Relocating Washington Adventist Hospital to White Oak will keep it viable, and allow the hospital to continue providing these crucial levels of charity care and community benefit to the people of Montgomery County. The hospital will have more space for vital health-care services and be more accessible in its new location, which is important for the health-care infrastructure of the entire region.

In addition, the relocated hospital site is immediately adjacent to the consolidated headquarters of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, a project which has continuously grown in scope and size since its initiation some ten years ago. Washington Adventist and the FDA (with approximately 10,000 employees at its White Oak campus) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding laying the groundwork for health research and medical innovation. The partnership will open up new areas of medical research and discovery, funding and cooperation that are critically important to protecting and promoting public health.

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The relocated Washington Adventist facility is also contiguous to the County-planned East County Center for Science and Technology, and to the Percontee site. The County's 115-acre Center for Science and Technology is programmed to become a world class bio/life sciences, education and research park, similar to what the County has successfully developed along the I-270 corridor in the western portion of our community. It is envisioned that the 200+ acre Percontee site will soon be developed into a mixed-use commercial, residential and retail center.

All of the above mentioned properties will be the thrust behind the upcoming East County Science Master Plan, a plan which will take a comprehensive look at the synergies that can be created through these new and exciting assets. The Plan will create a tremendous opportunity for eastern Montgomery County to become a gateway for that which is steadily becoming the foundation of our economic future – biotech and life sciences.

Another great benefit this project will bring to the region is new jobs. The new hospital campus itself will ultimately create more than 1,000 new permanent jobs for the Montgomery County and Prince George's County region, and more than 275 additional construction jobs will be created during the building of the hospital and campus. These numbers are in addition to the positive economic development ripple effect this project will create for other businesses in the region.

I appreciate Washington Adventist Hospital's decision to retain its existing campus in Takoma Park to provide health-care services, educational opportunities and other services to the community. In addition to primary and urgent care services, officials are working with Washington Adventist University to plan for the utilization of hospital space for classrooms, University functions and other expanded educational opportunities.

Hospital officials have been open and collaborative in working with individuals, organizations and communities throughout the region regarding plans to relocate the hospital and develop health-care services on the Takoma Park campus. The new hospital site has major traffic and land-use approvals in place, respecting the environment and blending effectively into the surrounding community while employing principles of smart growth.

The combined development of a 21st century hospital and medical campus, and the continued use of the Takoma Park campus for education, health-care and community services, is a win-win for our communities. I proudly support Washington Adventist Hospital's CON application and urge the Commission's rapid approval of this important project.

Sincerely,



Isiah Leggett
County Executive

cc: Valerie Ervin, President, Montgomery County Council
Uma Ahluwalia, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
William Robertson, President, Adventist HealthCare, Inc.