Progressive Cheverly

progressivecheverly.org



3020 Parkway Cheverly, MD 20785

September 26, 2012

The Honorable L. Rushern Baker, III County Administration Building, Room 5032 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Dear County Executive Baker,

We are writing on behalf of Progressive Cheverly to urge you to ensure that the new regional medical center is located at a Metro station such as New Carrollton, Largo Town Center, or Morgan Boulevard.

Locating the medical center at a metro station coupled with strong bus service will have the following benefits:

- The many low- and middle-income patients and visitors who do not own cars will have affordable access to the facility.
- Metro stations such as those mentioned above are easily accessible to the Beltway, which
 means residents not near transit options could reach the hospital by car. The New
 Carrollton Metro also offers additional access through bus lines, MARC trains, and
 Amtrak. We know from experience that good bus service to the Prince George's
 Hospital Center has made a difference in terms of ensuring good access.
- The use of mass transit means fewer cars on the road to reduce pollution and improve air quality.
- The Metro station also allows the job pool of potential physicians, allied health professionals, and other service personnel the option to use mass transit, expanding the geographic base of capable workers at the hospital.
- The Metro station helps you to realize one of your major goals of expanding transit oriented development, creating jobs for Prince George's residents both at the facility and at other ancillary businesses that are sure to follow.

We know from such hospitals as George Washington University Hospital, Johns Hopkins' main campus hospital and the University of Maryland's Weinberg Building in Baltimore (Washington Post op ed 9/9/12), that large plots of land are not necessary. Accessibility is what is critical.

We are counting on you to consider the points outlined above as major factors in choosing the best Metro location for this new medical center. We understand that the University of Maryland Medical System and the State are part of any final decision, but whatever decision is made it is Prince George's County residents that will be most affected. We trust that the decision will be part of a public process giving communities and civic leaders an opportunity to be heard and participate.

Once again, thank you for your leadership in helping to make this new regional medical center a real possibility.

Sincerely,

Barbara Guest Leon Harris
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cc.: Prince George's County Council Members
Bradford L. Seamon, Chief Administrative Officer, Prince George's County
Betty Hager Francis, Deputy CAO for Health, Human Services, and Education