



July 10, 2014

Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli
110 State Street
Albany, NY 12236

Dear Comptroller DiNapoli,

We write regarding the sale of Long Island College Hospital (LICH) by the State University of New York (SUNY). As the elected officials representing the area, we have long called on SUNY to select a new owner and operator for LICH through a process that is transparent, impartial, community-inclusive, and shares the goal of protecting critical healthcare services. However, SUNY has refused to heed our calls. Given this, we respectfully request that—before approving a contract for sale—your office consider the deep flaws in the selection process that has resulted in the disregard of the community’s essential healthcare needs, and resulted in far-higher costs to SUNY than a better-designed, more collaborative and transparent process would have.

When SUNY first announced their intention to close or sell LICH, we asked them to work with us to design a process that would balance maximizing healthcare services, involving the community, and accelerating the transition to a new operator. Unfortunately, they refused to do so and moved forward on their own in a process that failed to achieve any of these goals. Instead, as you know, over the last 18 months, SUNY has released multiple Requests for Proposals (RFP), one of which was rejected by Justice Johnny Lee Baynes in State Supreme Court. The final RFP was negotiated through a court settlement with six community groups that together filed suit against SUNY. However, considerable concern has been raised about the impartiality of the RFP’s scoring and the transparency of the subsequent negotiations between SUNY and RFP respondents: the RFP’s current finalist was not the first-ranked bidder; negotiations with this respondent occurred only because SUNY exited discussions with the first- and second-ranked bidders.

We are concerned that SUNY’s protracted selection process will deny the surrounding communities critical healthcare services. LICH has been providing life-saving medical care to Brooklynites for over 150 years. With the sale of LICH, we must ensure that nearby residents continue to have access to essential healthcare services; this is especially important in Red Hook, a neighborhood which is geographically isolated and currently underserved by healthcare providers. It is also important the school-based health clinics operated by LICH continue to be maintained, and a comprehensive, independent community needs assessment be conducted.

In Justice Baynes’ most recent ruling regarding the RFP, issued June 13, 2014, he notes that a state process currently exists for oversight of RFP sales through the State Comptroller. We therefore ask that in addition to reviewing the final bid and contracts, you also conduct a thorough review of the selection process, with an eye toward impartiality and transparency, as well as the shared goal of protecting critical healthcare services. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Daniel Squadron
State Senator

Joan Millman
Assemblymember

Brad Lander
City Councilmember

Stephen T. Levin
City Councilmember

Carlos Menchaca
City Councilmember