



July 12, 2016

Honorable Mayor Tom Bates  
and Council Members  
City of Berkeley  
2180 Milvia Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Berkeley, CA 94704

Dear Mayor Bates and Council members:

We were recently informed of a resolution being considered regarding the Alta Bates Summit Berkeley campus. The resolution contains numerous inaccuracies and draws conclusions about future healthcare delivery not supported by the facts. The State of California seismic laws require us to reevaluate the inpatient, acute care services at Berkeley's Alta Bates campus before 2030. Even though this deadline is more than a decade away, hospital transitions are so complex, it is critical that planning be well under way. I have spoken with a number of you concerning our transition and will continue to keep our community leaders informed as we move through the many steps required in this process.

Alta Bates Summit Medical Center recognizes the importance of these matters to the council and city leaders. Based on conversations with Mayor Bates and Council Members Capitelli, Droste and Worthington, we welcome the opportunity to meet with city leaders to solicit the issues most important to the City of Berkeley and its stakeholders.

There have been no changes in our plans since our communications to the community began many years ago, most recently in communications from October, 2015. I know the topic raises many questions and when we have a clearer sense of timing we will continue open communications with all stakeholders. For now please know:

1. Sutter Health is committed to a strong medical presence in the City of Berkeley. We envision Berkeley as our center for outpatient care in the East Bay. This includes access to primary care physicians and specialists and strong partnerships with community providers such as Lifelong Medical Care. Our commitment to behavioral health services and cancer care will continue as they do today. As technology continues to advance, we expect to see an increased demand for outpatient services. Our target is to balance inpatient and outpatient services between Oakland and Berkeley with the goal of sustainability for Alta Bates Summit.
2. Regardless of the seismic deadline, we must adapt to changes in health care if we are to remain viable in today's world. Operating two full service hospitals less than three miles apart is inefficient and inhibits our ability to be most affordable to patients. In today's hyper-competitive environment, employers and consumers are choosing health services based on costs as much as quality. To excel we must be competitive and offer exceptional services.
3. Although the deadline for meeting the new seismic standards for acute care hospitals is more than a decade away, as stewards of health care in the community plans have begun for this important and complex transition of services. Rebuilding on the current site is not feasible.

4. As we relocate, it is our intent to retain all services, patients, physicians and clinicians. Our nursing staffing ratio (staffing requirement) is driven by census (the number of patients served). We need to meet the needs of our patients -- practically and legally. Retention of our dedicated nurses and physicians to care for our patient population is essential.
5. We do not have an exact date or year for the final transition at this time. There are many financial and regulatory requirements that must be satisfied as part of the planning process.

In the past year, we've expanded ambulatory care access in Berkeley, including new office space for primary care, a new urgent care facility and more than a \$2 million dollar investment in community partnerships designed to ensure greater access to primary care for underserved members of our community.

In closing, I assure you that our intent is that these long range plans are thoughtfully developed and communicated. Our transition will be planned far in advance to ensure the community's ongoing health needs are met without interruption.

As we move forward we will continue to communicate with our city leaders and look forward to opportunities for constructive dialogue.

Sincerely,

Chuck Prosper, CEO