



CITY OF LONG BEACH

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SCOTT J. MANDEL
CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

June 21, 2013

Nirav R. Shah, M.D.
M.P.H. Commissioner
New York State Department of Health
Corning Tower, Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12237

Dear Commissioner Shah:

On behalf of the City Council and the residents of the City of Long Beach, I am requesting that you, under the auspices of your emergency powers, and in the interest of public safety, explore all options to expedite the restoration of services at the Long Beach Medical Center, placing a priority on emergency/urgent care capable of receiving 911 calls. Each and every resident of the City suffers without a functioning emergency room.

It is critical that our emergency services have access to a local emergency room. We stand on the brink of the summer season when the demand for emergency services in Long Beach increases tremendously. I am aware that transportation time has tripled as patients in need of emergency medical care are transported to hospitals outside of the City. This can delay the patient's receipt of proper medical care provided by an emergency room. In addition, the ambulances are unavailable for longer periods of time potentially depriving other residents of prompt emergency ambulance care.

I am also aware of the fact that Long Beach Medical Center is the largest private employer within the City of Long Beach. Consequently, since its closure after Superstorm Sandy, countless residents employed by the Medical Center are without jobs. The unemployment rate in Long Beach has jumped from 6.9% in December 2011 to 10.9% in December 2012. This statistic received prominent attention in Newsday and is one of the highest levels in New York State. This in turn adversely affects numerous families trying to recover as well as the local economy.

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I understand that a Memorandum of Understanding is moving forward between Long Beach Medical Center and another entity and we implore you to help that to move forward as quickly as possible for both the residents of Long Beach and the employees of the Medical Center.

The City of Long Beach needs and desires a functioning emergency room, especially as the summer season officially begins this Saturday, June 22nd, bringing tens of thousands of visitors to our beaches and City.

It has been almost eight months since Superstorm Sandy and we are on the road to recovery. In order to fully recover, we need Long Beach Medical Center to be fully restored and open, providing medical care for our residents.

Very truly yours,



Scott J. Mandel
City Council President

cc: The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Howard Glaser, Director of State Operations
Douglas Melzer, Long Beach Medical Center