

**PROTECT OUR HEALTH -- SAVE OUR HOSPITALS**  
**A Resolution in Support of Preserving Hospitals and Health Services for All New Yorkers**

Whereas: a health care crisis exists in the City of New York.

Whereas: Community Board No. 3 expresses its strongest support for

Whereas: New York City Hospitals have been closing at an alarming rate, on average two hospitals a year over the past ten years. At present ten to twelve additional hospitals are teetering on the edge of closure or are eliminating vital health services.

Whereas: Three health care facilities have closed since 2008 (Cabrini Medical Center, St Vincent's Medical Center, and Cabrini Nursing Home) that served the residents of community Board No. 3 and therefore created an undue burden on access to health care.

Whereas: These closures stem from financial and political pressures often resulting in approval of the transfer of hospital property to private developers.

Whereas: New York City and New York State failed to replace critical life-saving services provided by these closed facilities creating health care disaster zones in low income, immigrant communities and communities of color.

Whereas: There are already vast health care disparities leading to dangerous overcrowding of facilities in neighboring communities.

Whereas: Currently, the State of New York has primary jurisdiction over hospital closures and the allocation of hospital resources.

Whereas: The people of the City of New York have no direct say in these matters. Communities have tried but are not always successful in preventing hospital closures.

Whereas: The one process we can control is how the land on which a hospital sits may be used.

Therefore be it resolved that: To protect our health, communities and vital healthcare services we have come together to call upon our elected City

Council members to amend the City Charter to create democratic local bodies with the power to make land use decisions concerning hospitals and other health care facility sites.

Be it further resolved that: the community board urges that these local bodies should also be empowered to assess community health care needs, identify deficiencies, and formulate plans to correct such deficiencies.

Be it further resolved that: Community Board No 3 strongly urges the Mayoral administration and City council adopt the Protect Our Health Care Coalition' s principles and proposal details calling for the City Charter to be amended to address the decisions made concerning hospitals and other health care facilities.

**SIGN-ON AGREEMENT**

**PROTECT OUR HEALTH – SAVE OUR HOSPITALS**  
**A Coalition to Preserve Hospitals and Health Services for All New Yorkers**

**General Principles for a City-Wide Referendum**

**PROTECT OUR HEALTH – SAVE OUR HOSPITALS is a coalition calling to preserve hospital and health services for all New Yorkers.** In New York City, our healthcare system is in the midst of an ongoing crisis. Against the backdrop of historical inequities in access to quality health care services – especially in low-income, immigrant and communities of color – we have seen private development take over hospital property and leave communities without critical emergency room and other hospital services. We therefore demand that the City use its land use authority to preserve all hospital and medical facility property for hospital or medical purposes until and unless the City or State puts in place adequate replacement for all areas and people served by a hospital or medical facility. This campaign will work to utilize and broaden the city’s current urban planning process in order to address and improve the health status and healthcare access in local neighborhoods throughout the city.

**CORE COMMITMENTS for Coalition members:**

- Accountability & Planning based on community health needs as formulated by the community and in conjunction with health care professionals.
- Access to quality health care services for every New Yorker regardless of race, ethnicity, immigration status, language spoken, gender, sexual orientation, neighborhood, diagnosis, disability, or ability to pay.

Participating organizations signing on to the General Principles are asked to help develop and adopt agenda items and strategies in support of direct advocacy, organizing, and preparation of any policy recommendations. This can happen in the following ways (**check all that apply**):

- Discuss and publicize the referendum proposal amongst your members/contacts.
- Organize volunteers to collect signatures.
- Participate in regular face-to face meetings and/or telephone conference calls.
- Provide “People Power”- for example, participate in work-groups, conduct research, host presentations, and recruit/identify volunteers for various tasks or actions.
- Provide “Money Power”- Financial/Pro-bono support for the advocacy efforts. This is based on an organization’s size, budget and ability, and can range from making copies to hosting meetings to helping fund this effort.
- Support other fundraising efforts of the campaign which may include outreach to foundations and other funders.

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I have read and agree with the general principles of the campaign and the various ways to support the efforts of the campaign.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Address:

Name:

Phone:

Organization Name:

Fax:

Date:

Email:

Please sign and return to NYSNA at Fax: 212-785-0429 or [ProtectOurHealthNow@gmail.com](mailto:ProtectOurHealthNow@gmail.com)

## **PROTECT OUR HEALTH -- SAVE OUR HOSPITALS**

### **A Coalition to Preserve Hospitals and Health Services for All New Yorkers**

We call for the City Charter to be amended as follows:

1. The City shall not issue any zoning variance or land use change on a site currently or previously occupied by a hospital or health care facility, or allow any transfer of land or air rights to another site, or provide any tax abatement or tax waiver for any project on such site unless approved by a Borough Health Committee consistent with local health needs and the criteria of the comprehensive health plan provided for in Section 3 below.

2. The City shall not have the power to sell or transfer to any private entity City-owned land that has been reserved by the relevant Borough Health Committee for hospital or health care purposes.

3. The City of New York shall establish an Independent Health Council, modeled on the existing Independent Budget Office, with the following powers and duties:

a) The Independent Health Council shall be vested with the full investigative powers allowable under State Law to analyze and assess (i) the financial conditions and service levels of hospitals and health care facilities in the City and (ii) the health conditions and needs of the people and communities of New York City.

b) The Independent Health Council shall prepare and propose a comprehensive plan to address equal access to high-quality hospital and health services for all communities. The plans and proposals developed by the Independent Health Council shall include, but not be limited to the following elements:

i. Identification and assessment of all local community health needs, including surveys and analyses of the scope, quality and accessibility of health care services and their availability in each community;

ii. Identification of medically-underserved communities and deficiencies in hospital or other health care services based on such assessments and studies;

iii. Formulation of plans and proposals to meet identified health care needs and to resolve hospital or health care deficiencies and to maintain vital emergency and timely ambulance services;

iv. Proposals to identify and stabilize hospitals or health care facilities that are financially stressed or in danger of closing;

v. Recommendations for coordination and cooperation among health care facilities;

- vi. Proposals for responding to disasters and other health emergencies;
  - vii. Assessment and auditing of the distribution and allocation of public funds and health care resources for hospitals and other health care facilities and services;
  - viii. Recommendations for the allocation and coordination of funding for hospital and other health care services.
  - ix. The initial plan shall be made on a five-year basis and shall thereafter be updated annually.
- c) The New York City Council must hold hearings and vote within 90 days on any proposals or plans submitted to it by the Independent Health Council, including any budget allocations necessary to implement any such proposal or plan
4. The City shall establish a Borough Health Committee in each borough, with members appointed by the Community Boards of that Borough. The Borough Health Committees shall have the following powers:
- a) To approve or reject any changes in land use on hospital and other health care facility sites, as set forth in paragraph 1 above;
  - b) To approve or reject the sale or transfer of City-owned land, as set forth in paragraph 2 above;
  - c) To direct the Independent Health Council to investigate and report to the Borough Health Committees on any health or hospital related matter, to develop a neighborhood or borough health needs assessment, and to formulate plans to meet local or borough-wide health care and hospital needs that are identified;
  - d) To adopt local or borough-wide health plans;
  - e) To submit to the New York City Council any proposals or plans for enactment by local law. The City Council must hold hearings and within 90 days vote on any Borough Health Committee proposal or plan.
  - f) Borough Health Committee members shall not be compensated. The Borough Health Committees shall convene at least monthly and shall determine their agendas and consider agenda items referred to them by any Community Board or City Council member or the Borough President of their respective boroughs.
  - g) Decisions of the Borough Health Committees relating to land use, variances, sale or transfer of city-owned land or any other decision pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2 above, may be reviewed and reversed only by a 2/3 vote of the New York City Council.