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Mayor



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Dear Meadowlands Hospital and Medical Center Family:

On behalf of the Secaucus residents, I am writing this letter to express their sincere appreciation to the Hospital administration, the Board of Directors and, of course, the entire staff of Meadowlands Hospital for their tireless efforts to provide the best medical care our community has ever had, to make that care safe and affordable, and to provide the most positive hospital experience possible. It is impossible to mention everything that the Hospital has provided to the community in the last two years. Each and every day, Meadowlands Hospital staff goes above and beyond to assist the people they serve.

Those who have visited the hospital before and after the change of ownership have noticed positive changes throughout the Hospital. It looks cleaner, friendlier and busier. Now, the facility has a real outpatient clinic that offers more services than ever before. These days, patients can book appointments with surgeons, internal medicine doctors, pediatricians, orthopedists, cardiologists, gynecologists, urologists and other subspecialty physicians at a single location. Some of our youngest citizens have visited the Hospital's busy Maternal Fetal Medicine department, and I cannot thank their staff enough for their attention and care as well as their dedication and professionalism. The Hospital has a strong Gastroenterology team, Outpatient Neuroscience and Cognitive Rehabilitation Department, and we are pleased that a new Cancer Treatment Center is on the way.

Our residents already appreciate the services of the new Meadowlands EMS, a group of caring and compassionate first responders that stand by at important local events and are always ready to help those who are in need of emergency care. The Meadowlands EMS response time averages 5.19 minutes, barring unforeseen circumstances including weather or traffic patterns beyond their control. In fact, during Hurricane Sandy, the EMS response remained less than 8 minutes.

Meadowlands Hospital offered exemplary service during Hurricane Sandy. It was unbelievable! From preparing for the disaster to staying open and treating patients during the storm, services were provided with exceptional professionalism. Every detail was well thought out, and every member of the staff was in the right place and ready to serve local residents. With the creation of the offsite "Emergency Room" at Huber Street School, the Hospital and its staff were able to accommodate residents who were not able to reach the hospital due to flooding and street closures. In addition, the hospital took in many Secaucus residents during the storm, providing shelter and food to these residents until it was safe to return home. Without their attention detail, residents may have been placed in a significantly higher level of danger.

It is well documented that on the day after the storm, Meadowlands Hospital was the only hospital facility in Hudson County that remained open and fully functional, with a full complement of programs and services. This same type of response was shown last year during Hurricane Irene. For two years in a row, the hospital was invaluable during these times of natural disaster. Who can forget the story last year during Irene of a local woman in labor who had to be transported in an armed forces vehicle because no other truck or ambulance could travel in that weather? The baby was able to be born in the safety of a hospital because of that transport. There is something to remember after Sandy as well. During the storm, the Hospital saved the life of the young man in acute cardiac distress, providing timely diagnosis, stabilization and making arrangements for helicopter transfer to advanced care with a cardiac surgeon in another hospital. Without advanced intervention, it is my understanding the patient had about 90 minutes to live. Everyone at Meadowlands Hospital worked non-stop to make the miracle happen, saving the patient's life. Today, the patient is well and happy, grateful for the emergency intervention of Meadowlands staff during such a stressful time. Our residents are truly lucky that they continue to have such a reliable medical facility in their community.

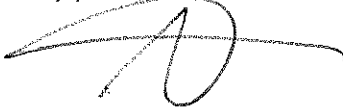
Disasters aside, the Hospital's daily efforts on behalf of the Secaucus community must be recognized as well. We are grateful to Meadowlands Hospital for feeding 50 families in need, helping the town to create our own *Meals on Wheels* program by donating the actual "wheels," providing free vaccinations, establishing complimentary shuttle bus services to the citizens of Secaucus and surrounding towns, and educating residents on health issues. People that live in Secaucus appreciate what the Hospital does for them. They approach me and speak highly about the services that the hospital provides, and praise the active role that it plays within the community. It is also important to note that more than 200 of our residents are Meadowlands Hospital employees.

I would also like to acknowledge the Hospital's community outreach efforts. In 2012 alone, Meadowlands Hospital and its clinical staff were present at almost 25 Secaucus activities, including senior events, local business employee health fairs and community seminars. Many attendees benefitted from the complimentary blood and medical screenings that gave them their basic health numbers. Having a medical presence at town functions made the crowds feel safer. The Hospital's active involvement in the life of the town makes it truly a part of this community. Meadowlands Hospital is OUR community hospital. Those of us at town hall, as well as our residents, are proud of the Hospital's achievements in the last two years and we look forward to continuing our partnership with Meadowlands on future endeavors. Our relationship will enhance our residents' lives, and reinforce the fact that Secaucus is a great place to live.

This all being said, it has come to our attention that for the past several days, representatives of the New Jersey Citizen Action (NJCA) organization have been knocking on the doors of Secaucus residents and distributing a flyer about Meadowlands Hospital Medical Center. Concerned Town residents have brought this flier to my attention. In that regard, I would like to reinforce that the Hospital has been an integral part of our community and provided invaluable services to our residents, especially during times of crisis.

On behalf of the town of Secaucus and its residents, I extend my best wishes for a joyous holiday season to the entire Meadowlands Hospital family.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Gonnelli', written over a horizontal line.

The Honorable Michael Gonnelli
Mayor, Town of Secaucus