

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to you today regarding the plans for the Ambulatory Surgical Center proposed for the Lawrence Memorial Hospital in Medford, Massachusetts.

There has been a very clear lack of engagement within the Medford community regarding the proposed plans for the Hospital. There have been 3 meetings regarding the plans. The first meeting in April had less than 10 in attendance. As a resident living on Lawrence road, I was NEVER notified about this meeting. The second meeting which took place in early August was again barely advertised. There was a third and final opportunity for residents to address our concerns to the Department of Public Health, with little to no notice again. The last meeting was also held [at 5:00 pm](#). How many people can attend a meeting at that time when they have to work?

As residents we are concerned about not only the lack of engagement with the community, but how this project will affect our neighborhoods. There have been NO definitive plans for a PLACE to build the facility; NO sketches or schematics shown to the public; NO traffic study done; NO parking suggestions for the facility and NO concrete plans for existing Lawrence Memorial Hospital.

Traffic and accidents have plagued Lawrence Road and Governors Road for years with NO remedy in sight, now that the WAZE app feels fit to route traffic to this area. This week alone there have been 3 accidents within 1 block of each other, 2 close to the Emergency Room Hospital entrance. Building a new facility will only bring more traffic to an already fast and dangerous street.

Another concern the I wish to raise is the plans for the existing Lawrence Memorial Hospital. There have not been any verbal commitments on what will be done with this facility, It has been mentioned that a drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility is possible as well as an inpatient and outpatient psychiatric unit. The Hospital will not confirm or deny this possibility. However when the issue of treating sexual offenders was brought up at our second meeting, the answer was "not at this time." Well, at this time the Hospital is treating approximately 23 patients and I can tell you many are discharged or leave the hospital without proper care. Many residents have witnessed patients walking our neighborhoods in their hospital gowns and at one point, banging on a an elderly resident's door to help them. The police had to be called to intervene. An intoxicated man also approached my children asking for directions to Somerville, again the police were called. The Hospital is not managing the 23 patients that they have now, how are they going to manage a multi-care facility!

The final point I would like to address is the failure to demonstrate the needs for an Ambulatory Surgical Care facility in our neighborhood. It is my understanding that there are 11 facilities (in nonresidential neighborhoods) within a 20 mile radius, why do we need another? As a lifelong resident, living in the house I grew up in, I am used to living close to a hospital, listening to the sounds of sirens all hours of the night. Why not renovate the existing facility and defer the ASC unit someplace else. We were told that an additional \$3 million dollars would be needed to make this happen. As tax payers, I'm sure people would support this idea and that it is the more practical use of the Lawrence Memorial Hospital.

I would ask for a delay in any plans for the Lawrence Memorial Hospital due to the severe and what many feel is a purposeful Lack of Community Engagement. The Hospital has failed to meet this requirement and residents would like these issues addressed before ANY action is taken.

Thank you,

Kerry Radochia

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Sent from my iPhone