Dear DPH Determination of Need Program,

I would like to ask that the DPH delay any decisions on the proposed Ambulatory Surgical Center on the grounds of Lawrence Memorial Hospital until we, the local residents, have a clearer understanding of the proposal and its impacts on our community.

As it stands, the proposal leaves many questions unanswered, even though it seems to me that Wellforce could already be reasonably expected to convey to us more detailed plans and calculated inferences, such as those made by comparing the LMH ideas to other joint-ventures (such as the ASC that Shields operates in Shrewsbury.)

I don't understand why the DPH implemented the moratorium on new ASC licensure in such a way that it drives new facilities like this one into quiet neighborhoods. Obviously, unlike that Shrewsbury site, Lawrence Memorial is nested in a residential community, and we deserve to more fully understand how the proposal will affect the traffic in and character of our neighborhood, and how Wellforce proposes to mitigate and offset the likely adverse affects.

Although discussion of the existing hospital structure was out-of-bounds at the recent public hearing, we would like to know what kind of affect the ASC could have on the development of the campus.

In addition to those questions I heard at that hearing, I know my neighbors and I have others: What kinds of jobs might be made available to the community? How will changes to the campus affect the beauty of our community? Will trees be lost? Will medians be refurbished? Does the proposal envision potential opportunities for expansion (including upward expansion) on the site? Does Tufts University, as an ASC partner, intend to engage with our community (as the Tufts Veterinary Campus does in Grafton, for example)?

Thank you for making sure that your agency and the members of our neighborhood community all have a clear understanding of -- and ability to respond to -- the Wellforce ASC idea before any related building project is authorized.

thank you,
Kirk Davis