

Louise C. Jordan



Sept 1, 2018

MA Department of Public Health
Department of Need program
250 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

Re: The Future of the Lawrence Memorial Hospital

Dear Mr./Ms,

After listening to both sides, I found a startling difference between their views:

Those in favor state:

- 1.) It will be cost effective for the patients
- 2.) It will save on parking
- 3.) It will be easier to get an appointment
- 4.) It is controlled by state regulations
- 5.) Patients won't have to drive in the city
- 6.) The doctors, nurses, and health care workers all site that they want this because they want to provide quality health care for their patients
- 7.) This new facility will only take up a vacant piece of green space in the hospital parking lot.
- 8.) It's the wave of the future in medicine

Those opposed feel:

1. There is no evidence that it will be more cost effective. They have not produced any documents showing how much each procedure will save the patient.
2. The parking question is real. Surely it will be free, but at the expense of the neighbors who directly and indirectly abut the hospital. Those streets in and around the hospital are all public access roads and people can park on any one of them, at any time, for any reason at all. This extended parking no doubt will flow north towards South Border Road, and south of the lights towards Medford Square.

In addition you must consider that this facility will be drawing both the regular commuters who fill Forest St., Lawrence Road, and those cut through streets to High Street with additional cars. How difficult and how dangerous do you think this will be for the neighbors including small children who live in the area?

Now that school has started, I already see a steady flow of traffic barreling up Lincoln Road and down Powder House to St. Joseph's in the morning and in the afternoon. And that's just for school, how about all the others who use it as a shortcut to Arlington? Lawrence Road could never hold more cars than it presently does. The line of cars extends from Forest Street to Winthrop Street every day. And now Melrose Wakefield proposes an ASC facility with a staff that will be doing 20-30 (??) procedures a day. Just think about how many extra cars will travel here to drop patients off and pick them up?

3. Certainly it will be easier for someone to get an appointment because you have another facility. I recently had back surgery, but felt more confident in seeking out the best doctor who operated in a hospital with the appropriate life saving equipment and personnel available should the need arise. I would never consider an ASC facility for any procedure without an acute care or trauma center on site.
4. They state that all ASC facilities are controlled by state regulations, as if that were an added perk. All hospitals, CVS pharmacy clinics, and even pet shelters are controlled by state regulations. If they weren't, they couldn't exist!
5. As for driving to the city, I doubt that affects very many people. I'm an elderly person, and I drive to the city. Today most people drive everywhere. When people are too old to drive, they have a caregiver who will.
6. That comment by doctors, nurses, and healthcare providers wanting to provide quality health care to their patients is disturbing. I would like to believe that they are providing quality care right now. The Melrose Wakefield Hospital certainly has reaped the rewards of millions of dollars in their state of the art building to do just that, at the expense of the Lawrence Memorial Hospital.

Doctors I know personally have told me that they always recommend their patients have even colonoscopies in the hospital because they have seen too many patients develop a fib during the procedure. On a personal note, my mother had cataract surgery at one of those outpatient facilities, got an infection, and had to be taken to MA Eye and Ear to have her eye removed. I was talked into it by a family member, and I regret it to this day!

7. Presently, the "Powers that Be," say that the green space in the midst of the upper parking lot is the chosen site. We all **know** that this structure is going to change the local architecture, and parking facility as it now exists. Please remember, every time a home is for sale in The Lawrence Estate area, it is always noted because people are drawn to purchase homes in this chosen

location. And now, Melrose, in their greed, wants to destroy this quality piece of land, and that of its neighbors.

8. I know that facilities like ASC are the wave of the future, but to date the ones that I have checked out are not located in residential neighborhoods. The ASC on the South Shore is located in an Industrial Park in Hingham and just 1 ½ miles from South Shore Hospital. The Winchester ASC facility is in Cummings Park, also a stone's throw from Winchester Hospital. The Waltham ASC facility too is on the campus of a functioning hospital.

9. In closing, I absolutely would never support an ASC facility at LMH unless it became part of the existing Lawrence Memorial Hospital, and included an acute care unit.

I seldom, if ever, become passionate about an issue. However, I am plagued by my two favorite words and compelled to speak out. The first word is "Gift," and **Mr. Lawrence, in his generosity to the City of Medford, deeded this special gift, "The Lawrence Memorial Hospital" to the Citizens of Medford.** I simply defy anyone, including Melrose -Wakefield Hospital, **to take, or to try to re gift** "Medford's Gift" for their own personal greed. This gift belongs to the people of Medford, not Melrose! My second favorite word is "Name." It reflects the "Gift." Melrose took our money, destroyed our hospital, and its "Name," and reputation. I want the people of Medford, to be proud once again of their "Gift" and its "Name," the **Lawrence Memorial Hospital.**

As Mayor Burke, Councilor Caraviello, and others mentioned, Melrose Wakefield must become transparent with their intentions, a quality they've definitely lacked. As a corporator for 28 years, I found it very troubling to be associated with an organization that misinformed me, failed to inform me throughout the years, and actually lied to me! Remember those words "For now" that the gentlemen used so frequently at the City Hall Meeting. They will probably come back to haunt you!

I appreciate your interest in this matter. To date, I do not feel Melrose Wakefield has made a compelling argument for putting this facility on the LMH campus, other than greed. I sincerely doubt if the citizens were apprised of the entire facts, they would ever support such a proposal.

Thank you for giving this matter your attention.

Very truly yours,


Louise C. Jordan

