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BOARD OF HEALTH

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August 22, 2018

Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Determination of Need Program
250 Washington Street, 6th floor
Boston, MA 02108

This letter is in reference to the Determination of Need hearing regarding Medford Surgery LLC's proposal before the Department of Public Health for a free standing ambulatory surgery center (ASC) at the Lawrence Memorial Hospital campus.

The Determination of Need Regulations requires DoN applicants to include plans for addressing state-defined Health Priorities through community based health initiatives (CHIs). CHIs reinforce that access alone is insufficient to tackle health care cost, and therefore, health care providers must address MADPH's goals of identifying, understanding and tackling the underlying and common Social Determinants of Health across the Commonwealth. Authentic Community Engagement is necessary to advance those goals and is critically important to successfully implement both the DoN process generally and the Community Based Health Initiative requirement specifically.

The Medford Board of Health would like to know if Melrose Wakefield Healthcare will ask for their involvement in the DoN project's process for the selection of health priorities and related strategies for the community. The Medford Board of Health is aware that once priorities are selected, they are the priorities for community based organizations to apply for funding various community based initiatives/project (CHIs).

The Medford Board of Health is also aware that prior to the selection of health priorities and strategies Melrose Wakefield Healthcare must submit a plan to engage the community in the process. We would like to know their community engagement plan, how far along they are in the process, who have they/or do they plan on engaging as community partners and/or what is their plan to do so? We are concerned that Medford community is not or will not be adequately represented.

As the municipality's public health entity, we feel Melrose Wakefield Healthcare would be remiss in not including the Medford Board of Health and Public Health Department in any discussions regarding public health needs of the residents of Medford.

Respectfully,

MaryAnn O'Connor, Director