



April 30, 2025

VIA EMAIL (Walter.Mackie@state.ma.us)

Walter Mackie, J.D.
Licensure Unit Coordinator
Division of Health Care Facility Licensure & Certification
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
67 Forest Street
Marlborough, MA 01752

Re: Berkeley Retirement Home (License #0802)
Notice of Intent to Close Pursuant to 105 CMR 153.023

Dear Mr. Mackie:

This letter is to provide notice to the Department of Public Health (DPH), the Berkeley Retirement Home Residents and Families, Staff and other Interested Parties¹ pursuant to 105 CMR 153.023 of the intent to voluntarily discontinue operations and close Berkeley Retirement Home, effective August 31, 2025.

For 130 years, Berkeley Retirement Home has served countless residents from the Greater Lawrence community in its 19-bed skilled nursing and 25-bed rest home facility (the Facility) located at 150 Berkeley Street, Lawrence, MA 01841. However, the time has come to make the difficult decision to close Berkeley Retirement Home for financial and aging physical plant reasons. This decision was not made lightly and every effort was made over the last few years to identify a long-term solution to ensure the best future for the Facility. The Berkeley Retirement Home's Board of Directors voted to support this decision at a meeting on April 28, 2025.

The following provides DPH with additional information about the Facility's operations and closure plan:

- (a) The Proposed Date of Closure. Berkeley Retirement Home proposes to cease operations and close the Facility at its current location as of August 31, 2025.
- (b) Reasons Leading to Closure. Berkeley Retirement Home has made the difficult decision that the continued operation of the Facility is not viable due to two financial factors. First, despite the Berkeley Retirement Home's best efforts, the Facility incurs significant monthly losses. Second, the Facility is located in an older building that requires extensive renovations and repairs.
- (c) The Facility Representative. Residents, family members, staff or other Interested Parties may contact Leslie Russo, Administrator, at (978) 682-1614 or LRusso@BerkRetirement.org with

¹ Other Interested Parties (a) The Offices of the State and Local Long Term Care Ombudsman; (b) Representative Estela A. Reyes and Senator Pavel M. Payano; and (c) Lawrence Mayor Brian A. DePena. The Facility does not have a labor organization, a Resident Council or a Family Council.



questions or concerns they may have regarding the proposed closure.

(d) Draft Closure Plan. Berkeley Retirement Home is submitting the enclosed draft closure plan (the Closure Plan) to DPH on April 30, 2025, along with this letter. At the same time, Berkeley Retirement Home is announcing the closure to the residents, families and staff and reviewing the closure process with them at separate meetings. To get the message out to everyone in a timely manner, Berkeley Retirement Home will also be providing this letter and the Closure Plan to the residents and families, staff and other Interested Parties via email, if available, and First Class mail. The Closure Plan will also be posted at the Facility and available from the Facility's Administrator upon request.

(e) Public Hearing. We will work with DPH to schedule a public hearing on the proposed closure at least ninety (90) days prior to the proposed closure date. The Facility and DPH will provide notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing as soon as it is available. A copy of the public hearing notice will also be posted at the Facility and be made available by the Facility's Administrator upon request.

(f) Public Comments. Comments on the proposed closure and the draft Closure Plan may be filed with the Facility and/or DPH up until the date of the public hearing.

Please contact Leslie Russo, Administrator, at (978) 682-1614 or LRusso@BerkRetirement.org, if you have any questions or should you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Leslie Russo, Administrator

Enclosure