

Good evening

My name is Rick Catino. A lifelong resident of Medford, I currently live at 6 Teton Lane. I am a retired executive from Hewlett Packard, and currently consult for large companies in Procurement and Supply Chain Management. I sit on a few non-profit and for-profit boards and State Advisory Boards for Developmental Disabilities.

In terms of full disclosure, I also Chair the Patient and Family Advisory Council for the Lawrence Memorial and Melrose Wakefield Hospitals. All hospitals in Massachusetts are required by law to have a PFAC consisting of volunteers from the Community. I am a volunteer, and not an employee of either hospital nor Melrose Wakefield Healthcare.

I'm here this evening in support of the proposed new Ambulatory Surgical Center, as well as the proposed re-purposing of the existing facility into specialty areas serving the greater Medford Community.

Through the course of events, I think everyone agrees (and the Hospital would stipulate) that communications on this project have been less than adequate, and many residents are hearing these proposals as "new news". But, as a PFAC member, I have seen the planning discussions for the ASG unfold over many months and have been excited over the planned expansion and reutilization of the Lawrence. The alliance with Tufts New England Medical Center and Lowell General Hospitals bring additional benefits to our community.

You have heard tonight, and I'm sure observed with your own families, that the ways in which healthcare is delivered has changed substantially over the past several years and continues to change and evolve. Procedures that were in-patient are now out-patient. In some respects, Melrose Wakefield Healthcare is playing "catch-up" on that delivery model.

When asked why a new structure was required for the ASG, there were technical reasons given relative to room size in square footage, ceiling height for installed equipment, etc. and estimates of \$3M - \$4M to convert the existing Operating Rooms. That still doesn't make them "state of the art" in terms of construction, HVAC, workflow, cost of operation and maintenance, etc. and any procedures done in those rooms are under the hospital license at a higher cost to the insurance company and patient.

From a sheer "marketing perspective", if you were given the choice of having Ambulatory Surgery performed safely and efficiently at a State-of-the-Art location built specifically for that purpose at a cost of up to 50% less than if done in a hospital, or an older hospital suite that was re-worked to accommodate the task, which would you choose?

Some of the issues raised at the prior meeting at City Hall were Traffic and Parking. Relative to Parking, the hospital has committed to have an independent third-party review of the parking requirements, and work with the City around Resident Parking Only rules. Medford has resident only parking signage up near

Wrights Pond so I'm guessing that would be on the table in this case. I'm not a zoning wizard but I do not believe the City would approve any construction plan that did not allow for ample parking.

Mayor Burke

No matter what happens or doesn't happen at the LMH, traffic will continue to be a growing issue and one the city has begun to address. I live up by Carr Park in Fulton Heights. Due to Waze, traffic was routed through the heights (narrow, winding, poorly paved roads) so commuters could avoid Roosevelt Circle and other congested areas. In addition to congesting already heavy traffic, it also created hazards for kids walking to school, residents walking their smaller kids, pets, etc. by adding drivers unfamiliar with the area to the mix.

Medford has been conducting traffic studies and has begun action on some bad areas. For instance, creating "Do not enter - Resident only" signage on some streets off Elm Street during peak hours has vastly improved the traffic on and around Fulton Street in the morning. My understanding is that these studies are happening all over the City. Again, this has little to do with the LMH and hopefully, these studies will make your neighborhood safer. I don't know who owns these traffic studies but would guess it's the Medford Police (or at least that's a good place to start if you have questions).

Lastly, the vision for the existing facility has some pretty exciting possibilities...

- The Expansion of Urgent Care
- Women's Health Center (OB/GYN, Breast Center)

- Neuroscience Center) Neurology, Neurosurgery)
- Spine/Back Pain Center
- Pediatric Specialties
- Vascular Center (Vein Center, Vascular Ultrasound, Vascular Surgery)
- Surgical Specialties (GI, ENT, Orthopedics, Plastics)
- Thyroid Nodule Clinic
- Medical Specialties
 - Cardiology
 - Pulmonary
 - Dermatology
 - Travel/Infectious Disease
- Ancillary Services – Imaging, Lab, CT, Mammo, MRI, Wellness, Infusion, Respiratory, Sleep Center, Physical Therapy, etc.

A tremendous amount of work needs to be done to further develop this vision and these proposals, but my purpose here tonight is to express support for the model, a need for these services in the community, and confidence in the proposers - Melrose Wakefield Healthcare.

Thank you for your time.

DPH Testimony
Richard A. Catino

