

April 15, 2008

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) for Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center
c/o Steve Sheppard
Department of Neighborhoods, City of Seattle
P.O. Box 94649
Seattle, WA 98124-4649

Dear Citizens Advisory Committee Members:

Thanks again for all your great work on Seattle Children's Hospital new Major Institution Master Plan proposal!

I am very excited about the work of the Design Criteria Sub-Committee and the development of Alternative 7. Alternative 7 would enable us to fully respond to many of the concerns expressed by our neighbors and to design a better hospital for our patients and families.

Specifically, this alternative eliminates the need for increased height on the existing campus by moving the expansion downhill and it eliminates the need for access points on NE 50th Street and NE 45th Street, among other advantages we will discuss tonight. This alternative creates a real win-win for the community and for Children's.

I am writing tonight to provide an update about our urgent need for additional beds, our changing plans for the Emergency Department, and to respond to some questions that have come up about housing.

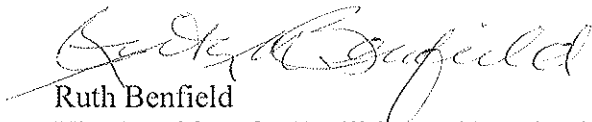
1. As you have heard from us, our bed shortage has been very significant this year. Because of that urgent need we have decided to delay the expansion of our Emergency Department and commit some of the remaining square footage under our existing Master Plan to add beds. We are studying the feasible options and will bring to the committee our plan at a future meeting.
2. Children's continues to receive inquiries from homeowners in the area who may desire to sell their homes to Children's. As you know, Children's has purchased several homes directly on the east and south perimeters of the hospital campus. Children's Board of Trustees approved these purchases in order to obtain some homes to lease to Children's faculty and staff who want to be near the hospital and avoid commuting, and to provide an option for homeowners who wished to sell. The intent of the home purchases along the east and south was not related to obtaining property for expansion.

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3. As I indicated at the previous meetings, Children's must contribute to replacement housing if we expand on the Laurelon Terrace property. Children's is firmly committed to meeting all replacement housing requirements in NE Seattle and will work closely with the City, Laurelon Terrace, and the community in doing so. We will work in partnership with public agencies, nonprofit organizations, housing developers and neighborhood groups to maximize the opportunity to leverage more affordable housing in NE Seattle. We will be discussing this more in upcoming meetings.

We appreciate all your efforts as we continue to work together, with the Laurelhurst Community Club, other surrounding northeast Seattle Community Councils, the broader Seattle community, and the City of Seattle to develop the preferred alternative plan and the mitigation strategies needed to address the impacts of Children's growth.

Sincerely,



Ruth Benfield
Vice President for Facilities and Psycho-Social Services
Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center

cc: Diane Sugimura, Director, Seattle Department of Planning and Development
Stella Chao, Director, Seattle Department of Neighborhoods
Cliff Portman, Principal Planner, Seattle Dept. of Planning and Development
Scott Ringgold, Planner, Seattle Department of Planning and Development