

VIA E-mail (Hard Copy to Follow)

February 12, 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:

Thank you for all your continuing very thoughtful and dedicated work on the Seattle Children's Hospital new Major Institution Master Plan proposal. I am writing to provide brief updates and respond to a few questions that have come up. Attached are two documents for your review, an article in today's *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* about Laurelon Terrace, and a memorandum from Children's Chief Nursing Officer about the large number of patients currently at Children's.

1. First, I would like to acknowledge the Design Criteria Sub-Committee for their very impressive work on Saturday, February 2. In order to respond, we are working diligently to determine if and how we could meet our needs for growth within the parameters set out by the Sub-Committee, and we plan to have information for you by the next CAC meeting. We will also try to incorporate tonight's feedback from the full committee regarding the subcommittee work into our analysis, and look forward to further discussion about these options. I want to reiterate Children's desire that the CAC play a very significant role in shaping the master plan, and heartily thank the Design Criteria Sub-Committee for their leadership role in identifying problems and potential solutions.
2. Specifically with regard to Laurelon Terrace, we acknowledge the Sub-Committee's recommendation that a multiple approach to planning should be considered, taking into account two scenarios: 1) that Laurelon Terrace does not become part of Children's campus over the next 20 years; and 2) that Laurelon Terrace may become available over the next 20 years. Related to the first scenario, the Sub-Committee has made some proposals regarding step downs in height and bulk, especially toward the west and Laurelon. Regarding the second scenario, both the City and community members have expressed interest in looking at an option for fuller development of Laurelon in a much earlier timeframe. We would welcome ideas and involvement of the Subcommittee in developing this scenario as well.
3. Questions have been raised about the need for replacement housing for Laurelon Terrace. We understand that Children's must contribute to replacement housing if we expand on that property and replace existing housing units there with hospital facilities. Children's is firmly committed to meeting all replacement housing requirements in the event this occurs, and will work closely with the City, Laurelon Terrace, and the community in doing so.

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Finally, by way of update, I have attached a memo from Susan Heath, our Chief Nursing Officer, about the challenges we are currently facing related to high patient census during this flu season.

Thank you again for all your work on the Preliminary Draft Master Plan and Preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Statement. We appreciate your efforts and insights as we continue to work with the CAC, the Laurelhurst Community Club, the broader community, and the City in developing a preferred alternative plan and the mitigation strategies needed to well address the impact of Children's growth.

Sincerely,

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

Attachments:

Aubrey Cohen, "Children's Hospital eyes condo complex for expansion." *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* (February 11, 2008).

Susan Heath, "High Occupancy Levels at Children's During December 2007 and January 2008," (memorandum to Ruth Benfield; February 11, 2008).

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