

February 18, 2011

Dear Residents,

I am pleased to report that the New Jersey State Department of Health and Senior Services has published notice that it is inviting Certificate of Need applications on a full review basis for a proposed new general hospital in Bergen County.

This is good news and another step forward toward returning a full service acute care hospital to Westwood.

The State Department of Health and Senior Services has stated that the reason the Call for Applications has been issued is because of the documentation submitted that indicates a potential need for a new general hospital in the area. You should know that all of the letters detailing the very real need for the hospital that have been submitted to Commissioner Alaigh are a big part of the documentation that has been reviewed and led to this decision.

Please understand that this is only the first step in the new process. It is an important one, and one that could not have been attained without all of your great support.

Please keep the letters going to Acting Commissioner Mary O'Dowd. Your voices have been heard loud and clear in Trenton. Letters should continue to be sent to:

Ms. Mary O'Dowd, Acting Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
P.O. Box 360
Trenton, NJ 08625-0360

Thank you for your continued efforts. Together we will be successful.

Sincerely,

Borough of Westwood
John Birkner, Jr. - Mayor