

Presentation and Public Hearing

Agenda Item #	1
Meeting Date	January 20, 2015
Prepared By	Suzanne Ludlow Deputy City Manager
Approved By	Brian T. Kenner City Manager

Discussion Item	Public Hearing on Washington Adventist Hospital's Petition to Relocate
Background	<p>A public hearing has been scheduled to accept comments regarding the proposed move of Washington Adventist Hospital (WAH) to the White Oak area of Montgomery County. Members of the public are encouraged to testify as to comments the Takoma Park City Council should make to the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) on the proposal to move as specified in the Certificate of Need application.</p> <p>The Hospital's application was submitted on September 29, 2014 and was docketed on January 9, 2015. The City has 30 days from the date of docketing in which to make comments. The City Council is scheduled to adopt a resolution commenting on the application on Monday, January 26, 2015. A draft resolution is attached.</p> <p>WAH President Wangsness will make a brief presentation before the public hearing.</p>
Policy	The Council is interested in matters affecting the health and wellbeing of the Takoma Park community and of the economic health of Takoma Park.
Fiscal Impact	N/A
Attachments	Draft resolution. Information on the Certificate of Need application is available online at: http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/hcd/wah-relocation-application .
Recommendation	Conduct the public hearing.
Special Consideration	

DRAFT

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK,
MARYLAND RESOLUTION _____**

**RESOLUTION COMMENTING ON TO THE CERTIFICATE OF NEED
APPLICATION FILED BY ADVENTIST HEALTHCARE TO RELOCATE
THE WASHINGTON ADVENTIST HOSPITAL ACUTE CARE LICENSE
AND CERTAIN SERVICES TO WHITE OAK IN PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE
MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION, DOCKET NO. _____**

WHEREAS, Washington Adventist Hospital has been an important and valued part of the Takoma Park community for 107 years; and

WHEREAS, Adventist HealthCare is seeking to relocate the acute care hospital license and all related acute care hospital services of Washington Adventist Hospital ("WAH") from Takoma Park to a new campus in the White Oak area of Montgomery County, Maryland; and,

WHEREAS, WAH is the only acute care hospital located in the City of Takoma Park and provides acute, emergent and primary health care to many Takoma Park residents; and,

WHEREAS, the City wishes to ensure that Takoma Park residents continue to have convenient access to quality health care, particularly urgent or emergent medical care and routine health care services; and,

WHEREAS, the City is particularly concerned about health care access for those who are elderly, poor, uninsured, have chronic disease, or rely on public transportation; and,

WHEREAS, the City wishes to ensure that it retains an economically viable health care delivery system for the benefit of residents of Takoma Park; and,

WHEREAS, Adventist HealthCare must obtain a Certificate of Need (CON) from the Maryland Health Care Commission ("Commission") before it can relocate the hospital; and,

WHEREAS, Section 19-103 of the Health-General Article of the *Maryland Code* requires the Commission to promote financial and geographic access to quality health care services at a reasonable cost for all Marylanders; and,

WHEREAS, COMAR 10.24.20.04 B(4)(b) Project Review Standards require that if a proposed capital project reduces the potential availability or accessibility of a facility or service by eliminating, downsizing or otherwise modifying a facility or service, the applicant shall document that each proposed change will not inappropriately diminish, for the population in the primary service area, the availability or accessibility to care including access for the indigent and/or uninsured; and,

WHEREAS, WAH facilities occupy a significant amount of land in a critical location in Takoma Park and maintenance of that land in accordance with City regulations is important to the economic viability of the City and consistent with COMAR regulations that Maryland health care facilities be developed in accordance with Green standards; and,

WHEREAS, the City wishes to be assured that the health care facilities that WAH proposes to remain on the Takoma Park campus will be of high quality in both medical care and physical appearance and will be able to be sustained fiscally for decades to come; and,

WHEREAS, the Commission has the authority to impose conditions upon Adventist HealthCare, including healthcare services on the Takoma Park campus, in connection with the granting of a CON; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park has questions and technical comments that may be submitted to the Maryland Health Care Commission and/or Washington Adventist Hospital, as appropriate, to help gather information to assure the City Council and the Takoma Park community that the WAH proposal, as included in the CON application, will protect the medical and fiscal health of the Takoma Park community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND that, when considering the award of a Certificate of Need to Washington Adventist Hospital, Inc., the Maryland Health Care Commission is urged to affirm that the Certificate of Need application demonstrates that adequate resources are available and designated for use to:

- a. ensure that the availability of and accessibility to 24 hour/7 days per week urgent and/or emergent health care is not impaired for the residents of Takoma Park, particularly the elderly, indigent and/or uninsured; and
- b. ensure that the availability of and accessibility to the primary health care services currently offered by Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park is not impaired for the residents of Takoma Park, particularly the elderly, indigent and/or uninsured; and
- c. maintain the Takoma Park campus as an attractive property meeting local and State codes, including those for property maintenance, stormwater control and tree protection.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Adventist HealthCare work with the City of Takoma Park on a joint study regarding the feasibility of a Freestanding Medical Facility on the Takoma Park campus, and, if feasible, diligently pursue that goal when regulations are formalized.

THIS RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED THIS ____ DAY OF _____.

ATTEST: