

SYN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AGN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

SEPTEMBER 7, 2004

On August 19, 2004 Catholic Healthcare West (CHW) announced its decision to close the Northridge Hospital Medical Center- Sherman Way campus located at 14500 Sherman Circle Drive Van Nuys, CA 91405, by the end of this year. The 209-bed facility is one of the oldest hospitals in San Fernando Valley, and has approximately 25,000 emergency department visits per year. Northridge Hospital Medical Center, as a Disproportionate Share Hospital, serves a large number of low-income, uninsured and Medi-Cal patients.

The announcement to close Northridge Hospital Medical Center- Sherman Way campus comes seven months after Tenet Healthcare Corporation's announcement to divest 27 hospitals by December, 14 of which are located in Los Angeles County and have emergency departments.

CHW has developed a plan to transfer patient services from Northridge Hospital Medical Center's Sherman Way campus to Valley Presbyterian Hospital, located two miles away in Van Nuys, prior to the closure. However, the loss of another emergency room in Los Angeles County further erodes the County's Emergency Medical Service (EMS) system. Patient bottlenecking in emergency departments will be seen not only in the San Fernando Valley, but throughout the County, at large. For this reason, it is

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important for the Board of Supervisors to understand the impact of the closure of Northridge Hospital Medical Center – Sherman Way campus on the County’s healthcare system and in the larger community. It is also particularly important to understand the closure’s impact on access to perinatal services among the Medi-Cal and medically indigent population in the area, including the potential role of county facilities in this regard.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors instructs the Department of Health Services and County Counsel to take the necessary steps to ensure that Catholic Healthcare West and Northridge Hospital Medical Center – Sherman Way comply with all required public notifications to the community, health plans, and health plan enrollees;

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors instructs the Emergency Medical Services Commission to immediately schedule a public hearing on the subject of the closure of Northridge Hospital Medical Center – Sherman Way; that the hearing be held in the community of Van Nuys to ensure maximum participation of the surrounding communities and residents of San Fernando Valley; and that representatives from Catholic Healthcare West, Valley Presbyterian Hospital, and other appropriate stakeholder be invited to participate in the public hearings;

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors instructs the Emergency Medical Services Agency to write an Impact Evaluation Study as required by law and that the Department of Health Services and the EMS Commission report to the Board in 60 days with findings and recommendations.