

**TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION

Introduced by: _____
Devine Giardina Hrbek Schroeder Sobkowitz

Seconded by: _____
Devine Giardina Hrbek Schroeder Sobkowitz

WHEREAS, prompt and efficient delivery of medical services is a vital component of our society; and

WHEREAS, for over fifty (50) years this need was met, in substantial part, by Pascack Valley Hospital and the subordinate medical offices and facilities which were located in the neighborhood and communities surrounding the Hospital; and

WHEREAS, the unexpected closure of Pascack Valley Hospital in November of 2007 struck a severe blow to the region which completely disrupted the long standing system of delivering emergency and non-emergency medical care; and

WHEREAS, the remaining hospitals in the region, by reason of distance, travel time, lack of public transportation and case law, have been unable to fill the void left by Pascack Valley Hospital; and

WHEREAS, the extra travel time associated with the distance to the surrounding hospital facilities has placed an unbearable burden on the Volunteer Ambulance Corps. In surrounding communities and upon the citizens, particularly senior citizens, residing in the area and needing to travel to the hospitals for treatment or assistance of family members at said facilities for treatment; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that Hackensack University Medical Center has made application to the State Department of Health for a Certificate of Need in order to permit it to reestablish a hospital at the location of the former Pascack Valley Hospital; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Township Council of the Township of Washington wish to express their sentiment and support for the application of Hackensack University Medical Center.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Council of the Township of Washington as follows:

1. On behalf of its thousands of residents, the Council of the Township of Washington petitions the State of New Jersey Department of Health to expeditiously approve the application of Hackensack University Medical Center as a matter of extreme urgency and with the very realistic potential to be a life and death decision.

2. The Governing Body of the Township of Washington specifically rejects the situation that existing hospitals can adequately fill the void left by Pascack Valley Hospital. In the several months following the closure of Pascack Valley Hospital it has been observed, experienced and learned, by the Governing Body, its emergency services and citizens, that our communities lack the resources to transport patients over the distances said alternative arrangements necessitate and, moreover, in the case of medical emergency, the survival opportunities for critically ill patients decline in direct proportion to the length of travel to remote locations.

3. Waiting times at the remaining hospitals in the region are excessive and unacceptable. Many residents report instances of hallways clogged with gurneys filled with patients awaiting attention and admission.


4. A system of medical care delivery, including physicians' offices, clinics and off-site medical facilities has grown up around the Pascack Valley Hospital over the last fifty (50) years. The disruption of that system, which would inevitably result from the permanent closure of the former Pascack Valley Hospital, will have, over time, an even greater negative impact on medical care and quality of life in the surrounding communities than has already been experienced.

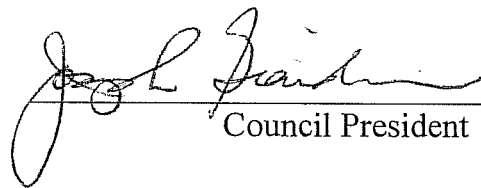
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, for all of the reasons mentioned above, the Governing Body of the Township of Washington does hereby urge the State of New Jersey Department of Health to expedite the Certificate of Need application of Hackensack University Medical Center.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON


Township Clerk


Council President

DATED: September 8, 2008

	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Devine	_____	_____	_____	_____✓
Hrbek	_____✓	_____	_____	_____
Giardina	_____✓	_____	_____	_____
Schroeder	_____✓	_____	_____	_____
Sobkowicz	_____✓	_____	_____	_____