

JERSEY CITY CANNOT LOSE CHRIST HOSPITAL: A HEALTHCARE LIFELINE WE MUST PROTECT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JERSEY CITY, NJ - Jersey City must take immediate action to protect uninterrupted acute-care access at the Christ Hospital site. With a population of more than 305,000 residents, national healthcare-planning standards indicate that the city should have 732 to 915 acute-care beds (based on the best-practice benchmark of 2.4–3.0 beds per 1,000 residents). Jersey City is already below this threshold, making the preservation of Christ Hospital not just important but essential. The City should therefore preserve the existing medical zoning while explicitly permitting complementary uses, such as senior housing, assisted living, medical research, and a structured amount of market-rate or mixed-income residential, to help generate long-term revenue to sustain hospital operations. Market-rate housing can support the financial model, but it cannot and must not be the sole solution; the site's primary and legally protected purpose must remain healthcare delivery for the people of Jersey City.

At the same time, Jersey City should launch a formal RFEI process to recruit world-class healthcare partners, including Weill Cornell, Columbia, NYU Langone, RWJBarnabas, Hackensack Meridian, and others, to operate a modern, full-service medical campus. The City can support this transition with capital-investment incentives, infrastructure support, streamlined permitting, and long-term land-use certainty.

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A mixed-use medical district, featuring hospital services, specialty clinics, behavioral health, senior care, education, and modest residential components, can create a financially sustainable ecosystem without sacrificing the city's urgent and growing healthcare needs.

Finally, the City should establish an Emergency Healthcare Continuity Task Force with EMS, labor, state regulators, community health providers, and hospital leadership to ensure services remain uninterrupted during the transition. Best-practice standards also call for at least one full-service hospital for every 150,000–200,000 urban residents, meaning a city of Jersey City's size requires at least two hospitals to meet national norms. Jersey City cannot lose its inpatient beds, emergency services, or maternal and behavioral-health capacity. With careful zoning, balanced development, and proactive recruitment of elite medical partners, the Christ Hospital site can become a sustainable, world-class, community-anchored healthcare hub for generations.
