

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS JOHN FITZGERALD, ED FLYNN, JULIA MEJIA,
BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, DURKAN, MURPHY, PEPEN, SANTANA, WEBER,
WORRELL AND LOUIJEUNE



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH
COMMISSION TO DECLARE A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY
RELATIVE TO THE CLOSING OF CARNEY HOSPITAL**

WHEREAS, Steward Health Care System, LLC (Steward) is one of the nation's largest private for-profit healthcare networks, owning over 30 hospitals in nine states, including Carney Hospital (founded 1863 in South Boston) in Dorchester, which serves a large and diverse patient population in the City of Boston; *and*,

WHEREAS, On July 26th, Steward revealed in its bankruptcy court filings that it is planning to close Carney Hospital and Nashoba Valley Medical Center in Ayer by Aug. 31, citing lack of qualified bids for these two hospitals; *and*,

WHEREAS, The August 31st closure date is about three months earlier than the state required 120 day notice for closing hospitals, leaving patients and hospital staff little time to prepare and transfer their care; *and*,

WHEREAS, The request from Steward to close these two hospitals so quickly is unconscionable, and the closure of Carney Hospital will have devastating and cascading negative impacts on Boston residents who are reliant on care from Carney Hospital; *and*,

WHEREAS, Carney Hospital has a long history of serving patients in our city, as it serves many residents of color living in Dorchester and elsewhere, as well as many immigrant patients, and has strong ties to many South Boston residents who had either visited or worked there; *and*,

WHEREAS, The loss of Carney Hospital would pose significant risk to the health and well being to the communities served these facilities, particularly a significant population from communities of color and economically disadvantaged residents disproportionately impacted by service closures; *and*,

WHEREAS, The loss of Carney Hospital will also compromise and delay access to care for all communities in Greater Boston, as already overcrowded facilities will be forced to absorb this population of patients. The closure would also impact 753 jobs at Carney Hospital; *and*,

WHEREAS, With the anticipated widespread negative public health impact that the closure of Carney Hospital will bring to the City of Boston, it is therefore critical for our city and the Boston Public Health Commission to do all that they can, including declaring a public health emergency, in order to ensure that Steward follow state laws, and prevent the catastrophic loss of access to healthcare access for our residents; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council urges the City of Boston and the Boston Public Health Commission to declare a public health emergency in relation to the closure of Carney Hospital, and take all possible steps necessary to preserve the operations of Carney Hospital, and ensure that Steward is following all state and local laws; ***AND BE IT FURTHER***

RESOLVED: That the City Council urges the City of Boston and State Government to be prepared that if there are no bidders for Carney hospital, to seize the property by eminent domain and to continue to operate the facility until a permanent operator is found.

Filed in Council: August 7, 2024