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# A Letter to My Brooklyn Neighbors

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June 26, 2014

Dear Neighbor:

You've probably heard that changes are coming to our local hospital. As a parent who lives in the neighborhood, this is personal for me. Emergency care at LICH probably saved my daughter's life. That's why I've been involved, as a parent and a member of the Carroll Gardens Neighborhood Association, in the fight to preserve healthcare in our community.

I was asked by Mayor de Blasio to share my views on what this means for families in Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn Heights, Boerum Hill, downtown Brooklyn and Red Hook.

I've looked into the facts and spoken with experts—and here is what I know.

There is no sugarcoating one central fact. Our neighborhood's full-service hospital is closing. But the outcome, and what we're keeping, is a lot better than we had reason to think one year ago.

Most importantly, under the proposal that is being finalized, **we will have a freestanding, high-quality emergency room**, with up to 20 observational beds. And that's not all.

In addition to an E.R., we will have specialized health care services affiliated with NYU Medical Center including

- an **HIV/AIDS outpatient clinic** administered by Lutheran Medical Center;
- a **cancer center**; and
- **urgent, primary and preventative care**, including dental and pediatrics administered by Lutheran Medical Center, geriatric, OB/Gyn, internal medicine, specialty care, cardiology, gastroenterology, orthopedics, pulmonary, urology, rheumatology, neurology, rehabilitation/physical therapy and other specialties.

These are the kinds of services that we count on in a neighborhood medical center. We will need to go farther for in-patient services like elective surgery and some very specialized forms of care. We will sometimes lose a bit of convenience, but our health care will not suffer.

As a parent, I believe we will be much better-served than if the entire facility were being padlocked and demolished, which is what we were facing in 2013.

The outcome is much better than we expected. In the preceding ten years, at least a dozen hospitals around the city closed, and their neighborhoods ended up with far fewer health care services preserved. *As a member of the community, I'm proud of what we were able to achieve by coming together against overwhelming odds.*

Sincerely,



**Gary Reilly**

Board Member of Carroll Gardens  
Neighborhood Association

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