



September 9, 2020

RE: Bakersfield Heart Hospital Employee Safety Petition

Dear Bakersfield City Council Members:

Homelessness is a remediable scourge that needs attention and resources. Homelessness is a multivariate problem with well-documented prevalence of psychological, dependency and financial issues among many others. There are not so infrequent violent offshoots that need to be addressed while seeking to rehabilitate the vulnerable among us.

Healthcare systems seek to address the infirmity and vulnerability in the community. Bakersfield Heart Hospital (BHH) was founded on principles of service, compassion and excellence in healthcare. BHH has lived up to the founding principles with honor, elevating cardiovascular care to world class with a proven track record. BHH had the best record in the world in treating stroke patients with blockages in carotid arteries. BHH pioneered multiple groundbreaking and lifesaving treatments in Kern County. More recently, BHH has established the best record in the treatment of structural heart disease, this side of the Mississippi. Mighty claims, factually supported. BHH's mission to bring the best care to our community can't be endangered by unrecognized consequences of well-intentioned efforts.

Over the years, BHH has been exposed to the occasional shooting, periodic violence and persistent vandalism. We applaud our law enforcement agencies in their prompt attention to flare ups. Vandalism, however, persists on a regular basis with broken cars and stolen properties. Law enforcement is stressed. We need to be partners in mitigating the root cause of pervasive vandalism on the BHH campus.

Employee safety is indispensable to the quality of employee dedication. Patient safety rests on that. It is a sacred bond that can't be threatened, even unknowingly. We are scared about the safety of our patients and employees. We can't have a piecemeal approach, solve one problem and aggravate another. Our staff, nurses, techs and doctors are all concerned. It is not about politics or aesthetics. It's a simple matter of workplace safety. We can't look away.

Let's not allow the known destination of violence and vandalism, to be financially rewarded and sustained to the detriment of patient care.

As Louis Gill, Executive Director of the Bakersfield Homeless Center, eloquently put it in the article *Project to house homeless in hotel postponed following negative community reaction* dated July 13, 2020, "Those of us in crisis service are really good at pivot because people need to be helped and community needs to be safe. We will find a solution." Pivot is necessary. Part of the Hippocratic Oath: First, do no harm.

Safer and more constructive solutions to the homeless problem is surely well within the resourcefulness of the City of Bakersfield. On behalf of our patients and employees, we respectfully plead to the City to uphold their safety. Otherwise, vandalism will worsen and patient care will suffer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rij Rhamp.

Brij Bhambi, M.D. F.A.C.C., F.S.C.A.I. Bakersfield Heart Hospital, Chairman of the Board

<u>Enclosures – Petition Signatures:</u> BHH Employees, Nurses and Physicians Centric Health Employees (More Signatures to Follow)

BAKERSFIELD HEART HOSPITAL • 3001 SILLECT AVENUE • BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308 • 661.316.6000 • WWW.BAKERSFIELDHEARTHOSPITAL.COM

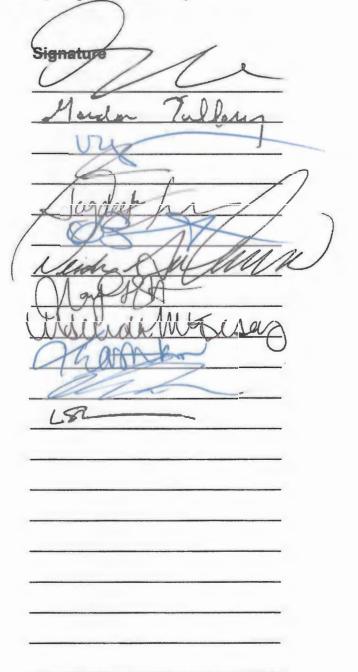
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REC'D & PLACED ON FILE AT BAKERSFIELD CITY COUNCIL MEETING 9/9/2020 Hearing item 10C HEALTH

Centric Health 2901 Sillect Ave., Suite 100 Bakersfield, CA 93308 Main: 661-371-2767 Fax: 661-324-1569

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RE: Centric Health Employees Safety Petition

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Respectfully submitted,

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Brij Bhambi, M.D., F.A.C.C., F.S.C.A.I. Managing Partner, Centric Health

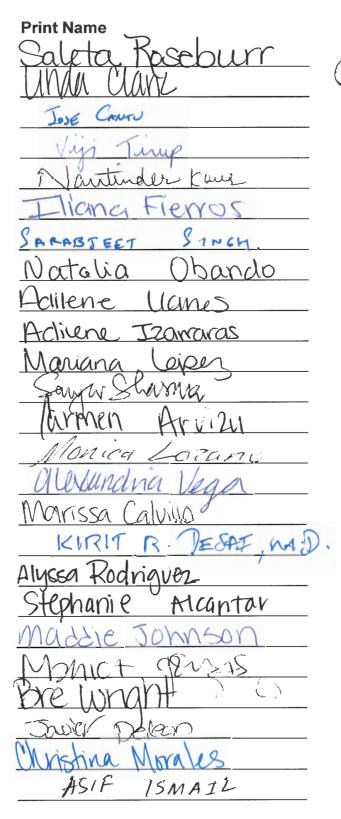
Enclosures – Petition Signatures: Centric Health Employees, Nurses and Physicians (More Signatures to Follow)

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