

CITY OF LYNN

**Special City Council Meeting, October 15, 2013
Council President Timothy Phelan Presiding**

Ten Councillors Present (Councillor Cyr absent)

Moment of Silence.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Council President Phelan introduced Bob Norton, President of North Shore Medical Center and a member of the Senior Leadership Team of Partners Health Care, and Pam Lawrence, Senior Vice-President of Strategy and Administration.

Mr. Norton read the following statement:

Good evening. I am Bob Norton, President of North Shore Medical Center and a member of the senior leadership team of Partners Health Care. We would ask to share this statement for the formal record. During a time of change in health care, we remain committed to finding the best way to provide care for our patients on the North Shore - care that is high quality and affordable.

It is our intention to provide several forums to share details of our plans so we can hear community feedback. Last week, we met with hundreds of staff and employees. We have scheduled a meeting with Union Hospital neighbors for next Wednesday. An open forum will follow for the broader Lynn community, facilitated by an independent moderator to ensure a full and fair discussion of the plan and to listen to the community's concerns.

Our plan is guided by need and informed by a 2012 Health Needs Assessment completed in partnership with local health policy leaders. Access to primary, specialty and urgent care are a universal demand and mental health and substance abuse services are a top priority.

We believe this plan will provide better care to all we serve and leave on the Union campus those services that Lynn residents use most-primary, specialty and urgent care, lab and radiology and emergency services. And, it will provide access to much-needed behavioral health care operated by Massachusetts General Hospital, a world leader in medicine and research.

Taken in its entirety, this plan will:

- Create a Center of Excellence in Primary Care on the Union Hospital campus that includes primary, specialty and urgent care and associated outpatient services such as lab and infusion as well as support programs including nutrition counseling and diabetes management.
- Create a Center of Excellence in Behavioral Health on the Union Hospital campus, with psychiatry and behavioral health operated by Massachusetts General Hospital. This comes at a time when the state is losing much-needed behavioral health capacity.

Expand primary, specialty, urgent care and behavioral health services throughout the North Shore at North Shore Physicians Group (NSPG) offices.

Invest in the Lynn Community Health Center to support its continued expansion of outstanding Patient Centered Medical Home services.

- Consolidate hospital-based medical and surgical services on one campus in Salem to meet the needs of all of our patients.
- We intend to maintain emergency services on the Salem and Union campuses.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this plan with you.

Councillor Lozzi thanked both Bob Norton and Pam Lawrence for attending the Special City Council Meeting. He also thanked the residents for coming, stating it is an important issue. He stated that his opinion was that it was a business decision by Partners and North Shore Medical Center, however, Lynn was getting the short end of the stick. He stated that it may be a business decision, but this decision impacts our health and safety. Also, the City of Lynn is losing core medical services. He asked if the plans could be revised.

Councillor Cahill asked Mr. Norton to define “behavioral health care”. Mr. Norton stated that it is a generic term to describe people with mental illnesses. Councillor Cahill asked if this includes schizophrenic, bi-polar, mental illnesses, substance abuse. Mr. Norton stated yes and that it also included eating disorders. Councillor Cahill asked if this would be inpatient or outpatient. Mr. North stated both, that there were two mental health units on the campus now. Councillor Cahill asked Mr. Norton about the security and asked if Mr. Norton had been in contact with Chief Coppinger. Mr. Norton stated that he has had no direct conversation with Chief Coppinger. Councillor Cahill asked “where are we with this plan”? He stated that the plan was forwarded one week ago, it is in the beginning of discussions, goes through a State Approval Process and there are Public Hearings, and that it is the beginning of a long dialogue. Councillor Cahill questioned Mr. Norton’s statement that more residents from Lynn go to Salem Hospital. Councillor Cahill stated he does go to Salem Hospital because it is closer to his home, however he stated that the infrastructure improvements at Salem do not match those at Union Hospital. He would like to see them expand Union Hospital and he is opposed to shifting the services to Salem Hospital.

Councillor Barton stated that he thought when Lynn Hospital was closed, was there an agreement at that time that Lynn would always have an ER that was opened. Mr. Norton said he was not sure. Councillor Barton stated he believed there was and asked the Solicitor's Office to look into it.

Councillor Crighton asked about emergency care. He asked if the ER would be opened twenty-four/ seven or will they just do a needs assessment. Mr. Norton answered that they are fully committed to keeping emergency services on both campuses. Councillor Crighton stated in terms of the process, it seems like this is a "done deal". Mr. Norton stated that he's not sure if it's a done deal ...they have already scheduled meetings with the Ward One neighbors. Councillor Crighton stated it doesn't seem like you did. It's seems like you were covering your butt...You didn't speak with the Lynn Police Department, now you're scheduling meetings with the neighbors...the City Council was never notified. Councillor Crighton asked what changes can be made? Mr. Norton stated that was a complex question. It must go through the Public Health Council with many meetings, etc.

Councillor Capano stated that not only was the City Council not notified, but the Lynn HealthCare Task Force feel they were blind-sighted. They did not find out until last week. Salem is much farther along with the process. Councillor Capano stated that he does not understand why Salem knows what's going on and that it's not right that you notified us through a press release and ignored the community group that has worked with you. We weren't involved in the beginning. He further stated that if they are going forward, this is not going to work with this type of relationship. Mr. Norton stated that this was not a done deal. Councillor Capano stated he was glad it was not a done deal so we can fix this. Mr. Norton stated that they do not want a poor relationship with the HealthCare Task Force and that they have had an active and dynamic relationship with them. Mr. Norton stated that this is a three year process and that they were looking forward to input.

Council President Phelan said to Mr. Norton that he mentioned in this opening remarks that this was a full and fair discussion of a plan...however that would mean being part of the process, having input, and finding out what the needs are. How can you say that to the City of Lynn when you've put two full pages of ad and your marketing campaign is going forward. How can you do that and then walk away and go home. Someone from the City of Lynn government should be part of the decision-making process as this plan goes forward. He asked Mr. Norton if he would agree to a committee made up of city officials, residents, and health care personnel. Mr. Norton stated that he did not have the authority to agree to this. Council President Phelan asked if he was willing to go back to the Board of Directors and present this request to them. Mr. Norton said he can do that.

Council President Phelan asked Mr. Norton for a copy of their Five Year Plan for both Union Hospital and Salem Hospital.

Councillor Trahant stated that one third of the population of the residents in Lynn are sixty-five years and older. A good majority live around Union Hospital. Councillor Trahant asked Mr. Norton what was the purpose of this plan...is it money? Councillor Trahant said that in a the city of our size the hospital should be doing good. Mr. Norton said that the changes in health care in our country is one of the reasons. Councillor Trahant asked if there would be job loss at Union. Mr. Norton stated that this was a very difficult question. He said that he thought the job situation will stay stable. Councillor Trahant stated that he was not happy with his answer.

Councillor Trahant asked Mr. Norton how many behavioral-psychiatric patients are located at Union now? Mr. Norton stated sixty, and the plan is to expand to one hundred. Councillor Trahant asked Mr. Norton where are the patients coming from. Mr. Norton stated they are coming from Salem and Lawrence Memorial in Melrose. Councillor Trahant asked why are we were getting patients from Lawrence Memorial. Why aren't they keeping their patients? Councillor Trahant said he is tired of Lynn becoming a dumping ground and is there any chance of moving the current sixty patients to Lawrence Memorial. Councillor Trahant stated he was not happy and the City of Lynn does not want this. Mr. Norton stated that he would say we put a plan on the table and start a conversation and think about our options.

Councillor Net asked Mr. Norton why he chose Lynn. Mr. Norton stated it was the best location to meet the needs of the patients and this led to this idea...to have psychiatry together at one site. Councillor Net asked Mr. Norton to think about the change.

Councillor Crighton stated that he agreed with Councillor Net. We all appreciate the need for mental health....but by adding additional patients to serve the region is not fair to the City of Lynn. Councillor Crighton stated that he appreciates future meetings being scheduled, however he hopes that they count for something.

Councillor Cahill stated that he had concerns regarding jobs. Mr. Norton stated that patients will be move, and staff have to move with the patients and that the impact of jobs will be minimal. Once again, Councillor Cahill stated that going from Lynn to Salem, the infrastructure does not match. He would like them to expand Union Hospital so that there will be more jobs there.

Council President Phelan stated that in speaking with a lot of different Doctors, this has been systematically planned...that slowly services have been taken away from Union Hospital including the administrative offices. Various medical services have been taken away over a period of time. This is something that has clearly been planned. In reading a press release/article from the Salem Evening News, it states "Lynn Union Hospital will close its 84 inpatient beds". Also, "Mayor of Salem already spoke with State Transportation officials to talk about infrastructure improvements on Rte. 107". Also,

“Lynn will close all of its 84 inpatient medical beds and most of them heading to Salem. Lynn to receive psychiatric beds”. Again, Councillor President asked about their Five Year Plan and asked....what will Union Hospital look like in five years and what will Salem Hospital look like in five years? He requested Mr. Norton to forward it to the Council.

Council President Phelan asked Mr. Norton what the financial commitment was going to be to the Health Center, as stated in his opening remarks. Mr. Norton stated that they will be assisting with the Health Center building out their third floor and adding fifteen new Primary Care Physicians and twenty Mental Health staff providers. He said that the total would be \$3.5 Million. Council President Phelan stated that the people of the City of Lynn cannot be bought. He said that Mr. Norton stated that \$200 Million Dollars would be invested in Lynn, Salem, and neighboring communities, however, \$170 Million is earmarked for a new ER and 72 private beds at Salem Hospital, and \$3 Million to Lynn. Council President Phelan stated that all the Councillors brought up good points, and the City of Lynn is not stupid.

Motion made by Councillor Lozzi and seconded by Councillor Barton to suspend the rules and open the discussion with the audience. Motion carried.

Constantine Yanakakis, 14 Border Street, Lynn
 Dale Orlando, Vice President of the Lynn Sluice Pond Association
 Jaine Lowie, 219 Euclid Avenue, Lynn
 Paul Crowley, Executive Director, GLSS
 Carol Dulane, 21 Peach Tree Lane, Lynn
 Jocelyn Almy-Testa, 77 Edgehill Road, Lynn
 Mr. Prioli, 13 Regina Road, Lynn
 Bob Center, 52 Dartmout Street, Lynn
 Joy McNoughton, 49 Verdmont Avenue, Lynn
 Danielle Burns, 1 Douglas Street, Lynn
 Bruce Palmer, 8 Saunders Avenue, Lynn
 Resident, Anchor Road, Lynn
 William Hrubes, 71 Grant Road. Lynn
 Elaine Sweet, 159 Judge Road, Lynn
 David Solimini, Jr., Lynn
 Patrick Quinn, 35 Brookline Terrace, Lynn
 Susan Carroll, 40 Allston Street, Lynn
 Fred Peck, 33 High Street, Lynn
 Bonnie Begin, 3 Taylor Road. Lynn
 Ms. Katzounosi, 12 Cumberland Circle, Lynn
 Arthur Gavin, 654 Western Avenue, Lynn
 Nurse, Surgical Department, Union Hospital
 Katrinia Koudanis, 64 Nahant Street, Lynn
 David Hrubes, 22 Lansing Road, Lynn

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD CLOSED

Council President Phelan asked the audience to show their hands if they are in favor of a full service hospital.

75 Show of Hands

Council Vice-President Ford stated that he would consider Council President Phelan to be appointed to the newly formed Committee

Motion made by Councillor Colucci and seconded by Councillor Ford to adjourn.

Notice of this meeting was posted in the City Clerk's Office at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance.

A True Copy Attest:

CITY CLERK