

MOTION

In January of 2020, St. Vincent Medical Center (St. Vincent) in Westlake closed its doors after a century of providing medical care to Los Angeles' residents. The closing of one of Los Angeles' oldest hospitals resulted in the loss of over a thousand jobs and the disappearance of a critically needed medical facility to provide care to some of Los Angeles' most vulnerable residents, many of them elderly, low income or both. Approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ of the patients were on Medicare and another $\frac{1}{4}$ of the patients qualified for free or low cost state assistance.

The history of St. Vincent is critical to understanding its importance. Though named St. Vincent Hospital in 1918, the history goes much further back. The arrival of the Daughters of Charity in 1856 laid the foundation for what would become the medical Center. The Daughters of Charity cared for the sick, elderly, orphaned and poor. The quality and dedication to their healthcare mission did not go unnoticed continuing throughout the 20th century, and into the 21st century.

St. Vincent Medical Center, however, began to face financial challenges that are not unique to hospitals that are dependent on government reimbursements for income. St. Vincent Medical Center made every effort to remain economically viable by leaving networks and joining others but this merely postponed the inevitable and they ultimately ended up declaring bankruptcy in 2018. The U.S. Bankruptcy Court authorized the sale of the 10-acre, nearly 400 bed hospital to Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong.

Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong stated, "St. Vincent is Los Angeles' oldest hospital with a storied history of innovation and caring for the poor. St. Vincent was in the center of the storm and the hospital that cared for Los Angelenos during the smallpox pandemic of 1876-77. The legacy of innovation and caring for the poor must continue." His acquisition of the hospital and dedication to medicine ensure that St. Vincent continues as a medical facility. It also provides a unique opportunity for the City and County of Los Angeles to be a partner to work to maintain and honor the core mission started by the Daughters of Charity when they arrived in Los Angeles in 1856.

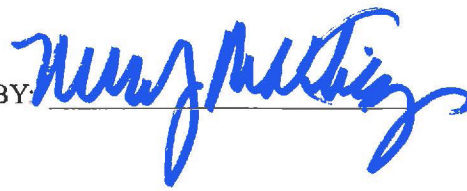
I THEREFORE MOVE that the Chief Legislative Analyst and City Administrative Officer, in coordination with Los Angeles County, initiate discussions with Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong and/or the Soon-Shiong Foundation on how the City and County of Los Angeles can partner to provide medical and mental health services to the residents of the City of Los Angeles, particularly low income, elderly, uninsured/underinsured, and people experiencing homelessness in need of acute care at St. Vincent Medical Center.

PRESENTED BY:



MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL



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