

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 211

Approved April 10, 2019

WHEREAS, CharterCARE Health Partners (“CharterCARE”) operates a healthcare system in the City of Providence and the Town of North Providence which includes Roger Williams Medical Center and St. Joseph’s Health System of Rhode Island and Our Lady of Fatima Hospital (“Fatima Hospital”); and

WHEREAS, The CharterCARE healthcare system has considerable economic impact on the City of Providence and the State of Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 550 of CharterCARE’s employees reside in the City of Providence; and

WHEREAS, Recently, CharterCARE entered into an agreement to form a partnership with Prospect Medical Holdings, Inc. (Prospect), creating a new healthcare system called Prospect CharterCARE, LLC (“New Hospitals” or “Prospect CharterCARE”); and

WHEREAS, As a result of the for-profit hospital conversion, the City of Providence no longer receives payments in lieu of taxes and thus executed a tax stabilization and exemption treaty with Prospect CharterCARE; and

WHEREAS, However, since January 2019, members of Local 5110 of the United Nurses and Allied Professionals (“UNAP”) at Fatima Hospital have protested Prospect CharterCARE to bring attention to their “abhorrent record on patient and worker safety”; and

WHEREAS, According to the President of UNAP Local 5110, Cindy Fenchel UNAP members have filed 150 incident reports with the Fatima Hospital since 2016; and

WHEREAS, According to UNAP, a 2017 internal review of Fatima Hospital’s operating rooms revealed serious deficiencies related to surgical instruments and procedures; and

WHEREAS, Due to frustration with the work environment and concern about the safety of patients and workers at Fatima Hospital, the UNAP Local 5110 membership voted in March to authorize issuance of a 10-day strike notice, “if necessary”; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, according to a Providence Journal story dated March 15, 2019, the National Labor Relations Board found that Prospect CharterCARE violated federal law by withholding patient- and worker-safety information; and

WHEREAS, Providence Journal Reporter G. Wayne Miller reported that Administrative Law Judge Donna N. Dawson found Prospect in violation of the law as they did not provide the Local 5110 access to a survey that disclosed inferior operating-room conditions; and

WHEREAS, As the elected representatives of the people of the City of Providence, the City Council has a duty and obligation to ensure that any agreements for subsidies between the City and for-profit entities includes good faith efforts towards the communities and employees of the institute receiving subsidies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council urges CharterCare Health Partners to remedy any and all issues related to patient and employee safety at Fatima Hospital.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby request that all future re-negotiations of subsidies, tax stabilizations, or exemptions with Prospect CharterCARE take into consideration the entity's efforts to engage their employees, patients, and the community in a safe and transparent manner.

IN CITY COUNCIL

APR 04 2019

READ AND PASSED

Sakima Nato

PRES.

Tina L. Mastroianni

CLERK

ACTING

I HEREBY APPROVE.

[Signature]
Mayor

Date: 4/10/19