

West of Twin Peaks Central Council

P. O. Box 27112 • San Francisco, CA 94127
Since 1936

July 18, 2006

Mayor Gavin Newsom
San Francisco City Hall
One Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Dear Mayor Newsom:

On February 17, 2005 at the unanimous urging of the 16 neighborhoods comprising the West of Twin Peaks Central Council, and at the urging of other San Francisco residents concerned that the spirit and mandate of 1999 voter-approved Prop D to rebuild Laguna Honda Hospital to continue to care for San Francisco's frail, elderly, and AIDs patients, you directed San Francisco Health Director Katz to reverse the admissions policies so that this hospital could continue its specific mission to care for these most vulnerable of our citizens.

Unfortunately, to date, no policy reversal has been accomplished. On April 20th, 2006, John Kanaley, Executive Director of Laguna Honda, included the admissions chart (attached) with his letter and quarterly report to you and the Board of Supervisors clearly showing that 52 percent of the admissions for January 2006 to March 2006 were transfers from San Francisco General's Acute Care Facility. This is not a reversal of policy but a continuation of the inappropriate and dangerous mixing of patients that Laguna Honda is not setup to care for. And, this is two years after your instructions to Dr Katz. Because of this improper mixing of patients, the City continues to pay \$1000 per day for these violations.

Again, we strongly urge you to make good on your promise to the residents and taxpayers of San Francisco and instruct Director Katz to immediately remove all inappropriate patients from Laguna Honda Hospital and allow admissions to only those that are frail, elderly or with AIDS and only to those that are San Francisco residents. Caring for this segment of the city's population has been the mission of Laguna Honda for almost one hundred years and through 1999 Prop D voters have re-affirmed this commitment. The West of Twin Peaks council members request that you respond to this letter quickly.

Sincerely,

David Bisho, President

Attachments

Cc District 7 Supervisor Sean Elsbernd
Board of Supervisors
Gloria Young, Clerk of the Board
Health Director Dr. Mitchell Katz
President and members of the Health Commission
Laguna Honda Hospital Executive Administrator Mr. Kanaley

**MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS: Balboa Terrace • Forest Hill
Greater West Portal • Ingleside Terraces • Lakeshore Acres • Lakeside Property Owners
Merced Manor • Midtown Terrace • Miraloma Park • Monterey Heights • Pinelake Park
St. Francis Homes • Sherwood Forest • Twin Peaks Improvement • Westwood Highlands • Westwood Park**