

Jefferson Chamber Releases Statement on Hospital Selection Process

METAIRIE, LA – January 23, 2014 – In light of recent public correspondence from the Chairman of the West Jefferson Medical Center followed by responses and opinions from two East Bank Councilmen, we thought it appropriate to comment and explain our organization’s position.

The Jefferson Chamber has never taken a position on a preferred suitor of the three in consideration, nor have we taken a position on whether the two hospitals should “go their own way.” Instead, since September 6, 2012, we have been consistent in asking for an independent score card and summary. We have stated on numerous occasions that we are not experts in healthcare management or the area of mergers and acquisitions, but believe that some of the criteria review might include the following:

- Retention and Growth of Jobs
- Community Partner Track Records
- Longevity and Investment of Systems in Various Locations
- Other Recognized Healthcare Barometers
- Scope of Services
- Sustainability
- Bond Issues and Costs
- Buy-back Options
- Option of Separating the Hospitals into two suitors
- Revenue to the Parish and how it can be used (this would include lease amount and any additional taxes)

This review should be made quickly utilizing, to the extent possible, the information gathered by the previous consultant.

We understand the anxiety of the respective hospital employees and the public’s fatigued mindset on the issue. An open process guided by an independent expert seems the only way to resolve the current impasse between the hospital boards and Council members. The open process should also assure that we are not still hearing about this issue 3-5-8-10 years from now when we discover that we did not look at each and every detail in the proposals. The stakes are high and the extra due diligence is a small price to pay, considering we all have 30 years to live with the outcome.

These proposals are simply non-binding letters of intent that should be vetted deeper for the good of the 18,000 businesses and 430,000 residents in Jefferson Parish. We trust the parish will move expeditiously in getting the independent evaluator hired along with quick turnaround time for a completed review. We strongly believe that this is in the best interest of all, regardless of which side of the river you live or work on.

About the Jefferson Chamber:

The [Jefferson Chamber](#) is a leading voice for Jefferson Parish’s business community. As a non-profit, membership-driven organization, the Chamber is an effective advocate for small and large businesses at the local, state and federal levels. The Chamber’s mission is to work for the advancement of the business community; to enhance the economic, civic and cultural environment; and to improve the quality of life in Jefferson Parish. The Jefferson Chamber is Four-

Star Accredited by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and was awarded the 2013 Chamber of the Year Award by the Louisiana Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives in the Large Chamber Category.

For more information about the Jefferson Chamber, visit www.jeffersonchamber.org, follow on Facebook (facebook.com/jeffersonchamber) and on Twitter [@jeffersoncoc](https://twitter.com/jeffersoncoc).

###

Contact:

Todd Murphy

President

(504) 835-3880

todd@jeffersonchamber.org