

West of Twin Peaks Central Council  
Laguna Honda Hospital Committee

December 19, 2004

Mr. John Kanaley  
Director of Laguna Honda Hospital  
San Francisco, CA 94116

Dear Mr. Kanaley:

Thank you for attending our neighborhood town hall meeting this past Thursday night. Our neighborhood organizations such as the District 7 Council, West of Twin Peaks Central Council, the Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association and the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods look forward to working close with you in addressing the existing problems at Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH). These problems of increased aggressive behavior, safety of staff and patients, and citations from State Licensing and OSHA stem from the change in admissions policy back in March, 2004. We want the prior admissions policy back with the admissions staff being able to decide who they can manage safely.

At that Thursday meeting, you were asked to provide a report, signed off by Dr. Katz, the Director of Public Health, to the Laguna Honda Hospital Committee of the West of Twin Peaks Central Council addressing the following concerns:

- What is the current and future intent of LHH? If it is the intent to convert LHH into a “social rehabilitation center for the urban poor” the neighbors have a right to know.
- What is being done to get back the \$25 million bond monies that were used to balance the City’s budget two years ago?
- Written copy of the new admissions policy. The before mentioned neighborhood groups want this admissions policy to reflect the policy prior to March 2004 which primary focus was on the San Francisco’s elderly. None of the problems mentioned above would have happened if the admissions policy had not changed. To insure that this policy has been changed back we would like to see notifications sent to other San Francisco Hospitals accepting there patients and a quarterly status report with statistics reflecting this admissions change.

- Copy of the safety plan to be implemented to address citations from State Licensing and Cal-OSHA for the protection patients and staff and of our surrounding neighborhoods.
- Copy of policy on the handling of sex offenders at LHH.

At the June meeting of the Board of Supervisors City Services Committee District 7 Supervisor Tony Hall recommended a follow up meeting to address the admissions issues. This follow up meeting has not occurred to date.

We recommend that at this follow up meeting that this report being written up for the Laguna Honda Hospital Committee of the West of Twin Peaks Central Council be provided to our District 7 Supervisor Sean Elsbernd to be presented at that meeting.

We look forward to this report within the next few weeks and hope the existing problems at LHH are addressed before it is too late.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John Farrell

Laguna Honda Hospital Committee,  
West of Twin Peaks Central Council

cc Dave Bisho, President, West of Twin Peaks Central Council  
Barbara Meskunas, President, Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods  
Bud Wilson, District 7 Council  
Mary Burns, Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association  
Sean Elsbernd, District 7 Supervisor  
Arla Escontrias, Community Relations, LHH