## 

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2016-77**

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL OPPOSING SUTTER HEALTH CORPORATION'S PLAN TO CEASE EMERGENCY SERVICES AND ACUTE CARE HOSPITAL OPPERATIONS AT ALTA BATES SUMMIT MEDICAL CENTER BERKELEY CAMPUS

WHEREAS, Alta Bates Summit Medical Center has been providing "full service" acute care hospital and emergency services to Albany and Alameda and Contra Costa counties for decades; and

WHEREAS, Alta Bates Summit Medical Center's Ashby facility is crucial for providing timely healthcare services for the people of Albany and other neighboring cities; and

WHEREAS, Sutter Health Corporation has announced its intention to dramatically alter services by closing the Alta Bates Berkeley facility in light of Senate Bill 1953 to consolidate emergency and inpatient services at its Oakland Summit Medical Center and make the Alta Bates Campus an outpatient hub; and

WHEREAS, closing the Alta Bates Campus as an acute care hospital instead of retrofitting the structure to comply with Senate Bill 1953 is a business decision that does not benefit the communities Alta Bates serves; and

WHEREAS, the number of emergency room visits at the Alta Bates Campus has increased over the last five years the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development reporting over 40,000 emergency room encounters at Alta Bates in 2015; and

WHEREAS, many hospital departments are often at capacity, and all of the local emergency departments already have large delays in service, which will only be exacerbated by the merging of the two full-service acute care hospitals with emergency departments to one Oakland location, increasing wait and admission times; and

WHEREAS, Albany and other East Bay cities are subject to the threat of severe earthquakes, urban wild land fires, industrial chemical releases, mass traffic casualties and other disasters both natural and manmade; and

WHEREAS, when access to health care is made more difficult, patients often delay healthcare but also stop seeking the care that is necessary; and

WHEREAS, paramedics and ambulances that are required to transport patients to an acute care facility from Albany will spend more time at the proposed consolidated emergency room in Oakland resulting in reduced first responders in Albany; and

**WHEREAS**, access to health care should be accessible to all and the City of Albany firmly believes in health equity.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Albany hereby opposes Sutter Health Corporation's plan to close its acute care and emergency services at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center Berkeley Campus, calls upon Sutter Health to cease all actions in furtherance of any and all plans to close Alta Bates Summit Medical Center Berkeley Campus, and requests Sutter Health to begin the planning and execution to bring the Alta Bates Campus up to the necessary standards to comply with Senate Bill 1953 in order to provide an acute care hospital and emergency services at Alta Bates.



## City of Albany

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PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALBANY,

the 3rd day of October, 2016, by the following votes:

AYES: Council Members Barnes, McQuaid, Nason, Pilch and Mayor Maass

NOES: none

ABSENT: none

ABSTAINED: none

RECUSED: none

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF ALBANY, this

4th day of October, 2016.

Elen Harrington

Eileen Harrington

DEPUTY CITY CLERK