

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Hector Hernandez

**Date Submitted:** 09/22/2020 08:56 AM

**Council File No:** 20-0147-S46

**Comments for Public Posting:** September 11, 2020 The Honorable Nury Martinez Council President, District 6 Los Angeles City Council 200 N. Spring St. Room 425 Los Angeles, CA 90012 RE: Coronavirus Relief Funds  
Dear Council President Martinez, On behalf of Alta Hospitals System (Los Angeles, Norwalk and Bellflower Hospitals) and the other hospitals operating in Los Angeles County, we are requesting \$25 million from the City's federal allocation of Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) to support hospitals for their unreimbursed COVID-19 related expenses. Hospitals in Los Angeles County answered the calls of Governor Gavin Newson's and public health officials, taking the necessary steps to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. This led to financial crises for many organizations due to increased expenses and the deferment of scheduled and non-emergent procedures to prepare for surges in COVID-19 patients. Our hospital has taken steps to care for our community by: At Alta Hospitals System, like others around the nation we have worked tirelessly to prepare and adapt to care for COVID-19 patients. As we work to support our nurses, doctors, and other health care heroes, we have purchased supplies, retrained employees, and reorganized our facility to ensure we are ready to serve our community. Many of these supplies are hard to find and, when we do find them, they command as much as 10 times the normal price and shipping costs. We have built surge space, tracked down testing kits, worked to secure medications and other supplies to care for the critically ill. The investments we have made are extraordinary. We created a COVID-19 wing to care for these patients, increased the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to provide a safe environment for staff and physicians, obtained additional equipment such as ventilators, etc. In addition to our efforts and expense to prepare, we stopped performing any non-essential services. These services are a significant portion of our normal revenue, and we are now in a financial as well as a health crisis. We do not expect that revenue to return; a knee replacement scheduled for March could be rescheduled for October, but it will only displace another procedure. As we maintain proper health and safety protocols of distancing and sanitizing, as well as surge capacity, we simply will not be able to increase our schedule to recoup the losses we have incurred. COVID impact in our region has been significant

with nearly one-third of all confirmed COVID-19 cases in Los Angeles County. Estimated net COVID-related expenses for hospitals (March to December) are over \$656 million even after taking into account FEMA reimbursement. The CARES Act Provider Relief Funds made by Congress has not been a panacea for California hospitals. To date, hospitals have only received 2.1 percent of the total allocation on a per capita basis while Los Angeles County represents 3.1 percent of the nationwide population, leaving hospitals with limited resources to prepare for additional waves of COVID-19 cases and related surges such as spikes in mental health and substance use disorders due to the pandemic. Hospitals, now more than ever, need your support to continue to serve their communities in the midst of this pandemic. Please contact me with any questions. On behalf of our physicians, nurses and support staff who are on the frontlines of this pandemic rendering life-saving medical treatment, we would like to thank you for your time and attention to our request.

Sincerely, Hector Hernandez Chief Executive Officer Los Angeles| Norwalk| Bellflower Facilities of Alta Hospitals System  
Office (323) 881-2600 | Cell (323) 823-7277  
Hector.Hernandez@altahospitals.com | www.lach-la.com

September 11, 2020

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Council President, District 6  
Los Angeles City Council  
200 N. Spring St. Room 425  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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**Hector Hernandez**

Chief Executive Officer

**Los Angeles | Norwalk | Bellflower**

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