

Supervisor Michela Alioto-Pier

NEWS RELEASE



City and County of San Francisco
District 2

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BLUE RIBBON PANEL SAVES ST. LUKE'S WITH GROUND BREAKING TEAMWORK

San Francisco – When Supervisor Michela Alioto-Pier heard CPMC would be closing St. Luke's Hospital in 2009, she knew The City could not afford to lose this essential resource that had served San Francisco for over 137 years. She insisted a Blue Ribbon Panel be convened to evaluate strategies to preserve acute care services on the south side of The City. With Public Health Director Dr. Mitch Katz, Alioto-Pier appointed a panel of experts and community leaders in health care, business, neighborhood organizations, non-profits, community and labor. This public-private collaboration met many times since March with the goal of developing a plan to preserve a home for St. Luke's as an acute care hospital for the next hundred years and to secure access to health care for all San Franciscans no matter where they live.

Last evening, the Blue Ribbon Panel completed its' mission and came to consensus on a unanimous recommendation to rebuild a viable acute care hospital at St. Luke's. "It took 7 exhaustive meetings and several months, but we found a way to come together to protect a San Francisco treasure in St. Luke's Hospital", said Supervisor Alioto-Pier, "I am overwhelmingly proud of our efforts. This is the first time the SEIU, CNA and CPMC have been at the same table, working collaboratively and coming to consensus".

The Blue Ribbon Panel's recommendations include: rebuilding a new acute care, community hospital on the St. Luke's campus that will be a Center of Excellence in Community Health and will promote care models and community organizations that reduce the need for hospitalization. Services included should be those of greatest need to the surrounding community based on today's needs: Urgent Care/Emergency/ICU, Medical/Surgical, low intervention Obstetrics and GYN, Pediatrics, a Center of Excellence on Senior Health and skilled nursing.

The panel recommended merging CPMC and St. Luke's medical and nursing staffs, and making the St. Luke's campus an integral provider of primary and secondary care within the CPMC system.

Architectural plans for the new St. Luke's were evaluated based on three core values: 1) maintaining continuity of service, 2) low impact on the residents of the neighborhood, and 3) the "life cycle planning cost" which considers construction time, new care models, technology and flexibility.

Supervisor Alioto-Pier sees St. Luke's as a vital institution, and though it is not located in her district her citywide perspective on healthcare and the importance of access to urgent and acute care fueled her passion to keep the hospital serving the community it always has. "I want to thank all the Blue Ribbon Panel members for their commitment to this issue, particularly Dr. Martin Brotman and CPMC who were open, transparent and inclusive in this process. I will be watching very closely to make sure the CPMC Board of Directors takes appropriate action and that this process was not done in vain."

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