

RESOLUTION NO. 5973

Resolution of the City Council of the City of Sebastopol Urging Federal, State and County Elected Representatives for Support for the Continued Critical Health Care Services for Sebastopol and the Greater West County Area by Pursuing a Viable Plan that Will Lead to the Reopening of Palm Drive Hospital

WHEREAS, in 1941, Palm Drive opened its doors as a 14-bed general hospital, with four private rooms and three wards, an operating room and a delivery room; and

WHEREAS, today Palm Drive Hospital is the only 24-hour acute care facility in West Sonoma County; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, voters approved a \$5.9 million bond issue and created an independent health care district to own and operate the hospital, and in 2001, voters approved a \$60 annual parcel tax on each property within the health care district to support ongoing operations, and again in 2004, the voters approved an increased and permanent parcel tax (\$155) indicating the tremendous and continued community support shown for Palm Drive Hospital; and

WHEREAS Palm Drive Hospital has been critical to the health and safety of Sebastopol and western Sonoma County since 1941 and has been a vital part of this community, and

WHEREAS Palm Drive Hospital is the only Hospital in Sonoma County west of Highway 101 and is critical to emergency services in western Sonoma County in the event of a natural disaster; and

WHEREAS when the Laguna de Santa Rosa floods, ambulances do not have the ability to reach hospitals in Santa Rosa; and

WHEREAS Palm Drive hospital is not on an earthquake fault as are other Sonoma County hospitals; and

WHEREAS Palm Drive Hospital has been critical to the economic health of Sebastopol and has provided more than two hundred fifty direct jobs as Sebastopol's largest employer, as well as supporting numerous additional health service businesses and related jobs; and

WHEREAS, in June 2010, Palm Drive Hospital was certified as a primary stroke center; and in May 2012 Palm Drive Hospital's Stroke Center received a Superior Performance award from the Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program, a national independent hospital accrediting organization recognized by the federal government, and at that time, the 37-bed Sebastopol hospital was the first, and only, hospital in California to achieve this distinguished ranking; and

WHEREAS, this award was based on the hospital's ability to meet or exceed federal standards and other recognized national standards for patient care and the Superior Performance ranking means that the hospital's stroke center has demonstrated 95 percent compliance with all performance indicators for at least three consecutive quarters; and

WHEREAS, Palm Drive Hospital in March 2014 was ranked by the Consumer Reports Safe Patient Project as the nation's fifth best hospital for preventing patient death and infection.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Sebastopol urges our Federal, State and County elected representatives to work with the Palm Drive Health Care District Board to identify and resolve financial and regulatory issues that have hampered the financial viability of Palm Drive and its emergency room, as well as other similarly situated facilities around the State. Such issues include Medicare reimbursement, licensure issues, and insurance reimbursement rates; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Sebastopol pledges to work together with the Palm Drive Health Care District Board and the community to pursue a viable plan that will lead to the reopening of the Palm Drive Hospital and provision of needed services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Sebastopol City Council directs the City Clerk to transmit copies of this resolution to the Federal, State and County Elected Representatives.

IN COUNCIL DULY PASSED this 6th day of May, 2014.

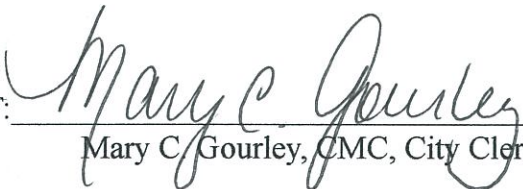
I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the City of Sebastopol City Council by the following vote:

Approved: 


ROBERT JACOB
Mayor, City of Sebastopol

VOTING AYE:	Councilmembers Eder, Gurney, Kyes, Vice Mayor Slayter and Mayor Jacob
VOTING NO:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

ATTEST:


Mary C. Gourley, CMC, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Larry McLaughlin, City Attorney