



JNESO
DISTRICT COUNCIL 1, IUOE / AFL-CIO
the professional health care union

TEL: (732) 745-2776
FAX: (732) 828-6343
WEB: WWW.JNESO.ORG
MEMBERS: (800) 292-0542

1225 LIVINGSTON AVE., NORTH BRUNSWICK, NJ 08902

ELFRIEDA V. JOHNSON, RNC, PRESIDENT
DOUGLAS A. PLACA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NEWARK RESIDENTS AND HEALTHCARE WORKERS TAKE TO THE STREETS TO SAVE ST. MICHAEL'S MEDICAL CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, May 27, 2015

Contact: Doug Placa
Telephone: (732) 745-2776

NEWARK – Today, Newark residents and healthcare workers from JNESO District Council 1, IUOE Local 68, and District 1199J took to the streets in the fight to save St. Michael's Medical Center with a rally and march throughout the city. The message from the demonstration was clear: reject the recommendations of the Navigant Report, and approve the sale of St. Michael's Medical Center.

"We are engaged in a fight to save our hospital - to save our healthcare - and we will not back down," said Douglas A. Placa, Executive Director for JNESO District Council 1. "We have been to City Council meetings, to Freeholder meetings, to our legislators, and now we are in the streets. We will not rest until our message is heard and our hospital is saved."

"Today's rally is a demonstration of a city united to save Saint Michael's," said Sue Cleary, President of District 1199J. "Healthcare workers, Newark residents, and community leaders are speaking with one clear voice: Do not restrict our access to care. Approve the sale of our hospital."

"For decades, Saint Michael's Medical Center has provided much needed healthcare services to the Newark and Essex County community. It has fueled our local economy and has provided quality jobs for families," said Assemblyman Tom Giblin, President Essex-West Hudson Labor Council AFL-CIO, "The Labor movement is committed to bringing together community partners to ensure the future success of Saint Michael's Medical Center."

The highly controversial, state-commissioned Navigant Report was at the center of the conversation as residents and healthcare workers urged the State to reject its misguided, out-of-touch recommendation to close St. Michael's Medical Center. Instead, the State is being urged to approve the long-pending sale of the hospital.

"Closing our hospital will have a measurable impact on our members and on the City of Newark," said Placa. "We're talking about 1,400 employees who pay an estimated \$4.5 million to the state in income taxes and generate over \$5 million in revenue to local companies. Closing this hospital will have a devastating impact on this community and we will do everything we can to fight it."

The sale of St. Michael's Medical Center has been pending and the interested buyer has agreed to keep the hospital open as an acute care facility should the transaction be completed.

"We have a buyer interested in purchasing our hospital and in keeping it open to the residents of Newark so that they can continue to have access to the quality healthcare they have come to expect in their City," said Placa. "It's time for the State to act."

JNESO District Council 1 is a professional healthcare union representing over 5,000 healthcare professionals in New Jersey and Pennsylvania and is an affiliate of the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE).

Learn more at: www.jneso.org.

###