



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR JUNE 15, 2013

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March & Rally to Keep Interfaith Medical Center Open for Care Patients, Caregivers, & Nurses Unite to Save Bed-Stuy Hospital

What: Brooklyn healthcare activists will march through Bedford Stuyvesant from P.S. 3 to Interfaith Medical Center where we will hold a rally and speakout to keep this vital community hospital open for care.

Where: March starts at P.S. 3 at the corner of Bedford Ave. & Hancock St. in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. March route will go along Fulton Street and end at Interfaith Medical Center at 1545 Atlantic Avenue.

When: **Saturday, June 15, 2013 at 1pm, March begins from P.S. 3. Rally & Speakout at Interfaith Medical Center at 2:30pm.**

Who: Interfaith patients, New York State Nurses Association, 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, New York Communities for Change, elected leaders, and community supporters.

Confirmed speakers include: 1199SEIU Secretary-Treasurer Maria Castaneda, NYSNA Executive Director Jill Furillo, RN, New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, City Council Members Al Vann, Darlene Mealy, Mathieu Eugene, Tish James, the office of Charles Barron, Assembly Woman Annette Robinson, the office of Marty Markowitz, the office of Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, Senator Eric Adams, the People's Coalition to Save Interfaith, New York Communities for Change, and other elected leaders and community allies.

Background:

Nurses and healthcare workers care about the Bed-Stuy community and all of Central Brooklyn, and are proud of our hospital. But years of financial mismanagement have left Interfaith Medical Center (IMC) in a state of crisis. The merger between IMC and Brooklyn Hospital, which was planned to shore up IMC finances, has screeched to a halt. Without support from the state, IMC could run out of money by next month and be forced to close its doors.

IMC is the only hospital in Central Brooklyn. It's located in Bed-Stuy, an area already suffering from a shortage of medical services. The hospital serves patients from throughout Central Brooklyn, in mostly low-income neighborhoods, including Brownsville, Crown Heights, Weeksville, East Flatbush, and Cypress Hills.

IMC must stay open to meet the healthcare needs of these underserved communities. That's why we're calling on the Department of Health to intervene to keep this vital hospital open for care.

Brooklyn is the fastest growing borough in New York City, and we should be investing in quality care for our expanding population instead of cutting services. Brooklyn healthcare advocates have called for a moratorium on all hospital closures in the borough and we're encouraged that Governor Cuomo is seeking federal assistance for financially distressed Brooklyn hospitals. We will continue to work with state and federal elected leaders on solutions to keep our hospitals open for care.

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*The **New York State Nurses Association** is the voice for hundreds of thousands of frontline nurses. We are New York's largest union and professional association for registered nurses.*

***1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East** is the largest and fastest-growing healthcare union in America. We represent over 350,000 nurses and caregivers throughout Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Florida. Our mission is to achieve quality care and quality jobs for all.*