

April 15, 2024

RE: Regional Medical Center Specialty Care Services Reduction Impact Assessment

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express my deepest concerns regarding the closure of Trauma center, ST-elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) program, and its Stroke Center at San José's Regional Medical Center (RMC) effective August 12, 2024.

As the Councilmember that represents East San José and Evergreen, I strongly oppose this decision due to the significant negative impact it will have, particularly on seniors, low-income residents, and historically marginalized communities. The closure of these vital healthcare services will undoubtedly result in longer transport times for patients in need of urgent care. This delay could potentially worsen outcomes for individuals suffering from major trauma or stroke, where timely intervention is crucial for survival and recovery.

Furthermore, it is well-documented that historically marginalized communities already face significant barriers in accessing quality healthcare. The closures of the Trauma Center, STEMI program, and Stroke Center will only exacerbate these disparities, disproportionately affecting our Latinx and Asian communities.

It is imperative that we prioritize equitable access to healthcare services for all members of our community. Instead of closing these facilities, I urge you to explore alternative solutions to address any financial or operational challenges the hospital may be facing. I strongly urge you to advocate on behalf of our community and do everything in your power to continue these services.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,



Domingo Candelas
Councilmember, District 8 - City of San José