

An Update from Mercy General Hospital and Sacred Heart Parish School

Collaboration Creates a Better Plan

Sacred Heart/Mercy Agreement Addresses Future of Each Ministry

Sacred Heart Parish School and Mercy General Hospital have been working together to reach an agreement that preserves both of these long-standing ministries. The agreement allows for an enhanced educational environment for students and a stronger regional healthcare service offering for Mercy. On October 5, we announced that an agreement was reached that will be mutually beneficial to students, patients and the East Sacramento community.

Mercy and Sacred Heart have agreed to move the school from its existing location across 39th Street to hospital-owned property currently occupied by the vacant MercyCare convalescent home and other adjacent property. This move will provide students with a modern facility that is removed from the hospital campus. The current school property will then become part of the hospital's campus.

This combined project for Sacred Heart and Mercy will allow for a number of changes to the project application, including reexamination of issues the community has raised – such as parking and traffic mitigation and the overall campus site plan – along with the following definite changes to the project:

- Mercy will eliminate the proposed addition to the H Street parking structure because the existing school site will become a surface parking lot.
- Mercy will work with the City and community to explore the option of a permanent hospital campus boundary.
- Any housing units that are displaced as a result of this combined project will be replaced. Mercy is determining how to build housing on the edge of the hospital campus to maintain a residential feeling for the area. Currently, the hospital is looking for a builder to make this a reality.

It was important to both the school and the hospital to inform the immediately adjacent neighbors, the parishioners and school parents. In order to do this, these groups were invited to special meetings on October 5. The agreement between the two organizations was shared at these meetings.

Where We Have Been

Several years ago, Mercy General Hospital was faced with making some changes in order to meet seismic mandates set forth by the state of California, and to continue and further improve its regional healthcare services. The options were straightforward: Mercy either had to close its doors by 2013, retrofit its buildings or build new structures to comply with the stricter seismic standards and allow for changing technologies.

Mercy began talking with the community and evaluating a number of options, including building a modern replacement building that would provide the best setting for Mercy's nationally recognized cardiac program. Mercy submitted an application to the City of Sacramento in October 2004 to build the Alex G. Spanos Heart Center, which included a new, modern heart center along with retrofitting one of its current buildings, the North Wing. Following further communication with the community, Mercy voluntarily put the application on hold in March 2006 to reevaluate the project.

At that time, Mercy and Sacred Heart representatives were also involved in discussions about solutions that could address the concerns of the parish and school.

Working Collaboratively with the Community

Community feedback is resulting in a better plan for the hospital, the school and the community. We encourage you to attend a community-wide meeting on Wednesday, November 15 at Sacred Heart Parish School (see back panel for details). Both organizations will be present to discuss the agreement, answer questions and receive additional feedback.



Neighborhood News

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Where We Are Going

In early 2007, Mercy and Sacred Heart will submit a joint application to the City of Sacramento. The city will review the environmental impacts and traffic concerns related to the combined project. Those environmental and traffic impacts will be documented in a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). Once complete, the public will have the opportunity to comment on the DEIR during a 45-day review period. The school and hospital will continue to meet with the community in 2007 to refine the plans.

Talk With Us

Sacred Heart and Mercy are committed to balancing the wishes of our neighbors with the creation of facilities that best serve the medical needs of our community and the education needs of the children.

We have reached an agreement that will be mutually beneficial for regional healthcare, education and the East Sacramento community. East Sacramento has been – and will continue to be – an integral part of this process. Please attend a community meeting and open house to meet with school and hospital architects, review preliminary concept plans, provide your feedback on the combined project and learn more about next steps. Time will be provided following the presentation for questions and answers.

Meeting Notice

Sacred Heart Parish School & Mercy General Hospital Combined Public Meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2006

- 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

- Presentation at 7 p.m.

Sacred Heart Parish School Gym

3933 I Street

Sacramento, CA 95816

For additional information about this meeting, please contact Nancy Heffernan, Sacred Heart Parish School, at (916) 747-5662 or Sandra Meyers, Mercy General Hospital, at (916) 453-4432.

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