



CITY OF LAUREL OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Mayor

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April 4, 2023

Mr. Nathaniel Richardson, Jr
President and Chief Executive Officer
University of Maryland Capital Region Health
Largo, Maryland 20774

Dear Mr. Richardson,

I have been holding off on sending you this letter, but it is important for me to express my displeasure with the actions taken by the University of Maryland Capital Region Health and your office regarding what I was told at the time, would be our one-on-one quarterly meetings, which to my knowledge, have never occurred or days proposed. As the closest local government to the Laurel Medical facility, it would seem that these quarterly meetings would have greatly benefited you, the Capital Region Health Board of Directors, and the City of Laurel community. But as you will read, my displeasure has only grown with Capital Region Health and its actions.

As you are aware, the University of Maryland Capital Region Health, of which you are in charge, continues to speak of working with the community. Still, when you had the chance to prove that claim, your system failed our community. Even after reviewing your website, which stated, "*University of Maryland Capital Region Health is a not-for-profit healthcare system serving the citizens of Prince George's County and surrounding area. Our mission is to provide high-quality, accessible healthcare services in partnership with our community*" One would argue that your system has failed in this area.

Additionally, I would like to bring to your attention the many businesses in the Greater Laurel area, businesses that have been established for many years and have supported the Healthcare System at the Laurel Regional Hospital. Yet, in return, the University of Maryland Capital Region Health pushes them aside and provides no support to help them gain access to the Capital Region Health contracts, services, or even support their business.

It seems everyone wants to talk about supporting small, local, and minority-owned businesses. Yet, the University of Maryland Capital Region Health had the opportunity to do just that, but again, in my opinion, failed. This was one of the concerns I wanted to sit down and discuss directly with you, but instead, I received a call from your staff. I can't help thinking that if I were the County Executive, Senator, or Delegate calling, they would have been extended the courtesy of receiving a response back from you personally. I find it insulting that when a local Mayor calls, you do not extend the courtesy of returning my call. I hoped that with your 34 years of experience as a Chief Executive Officer, you would have shown better

judgment. I know members of my staff and yours have been meeting periodically regarding community matters and the new medical center, but those meetings are not the place to discuss important matters such as the ones I wanted to discuss with you first!

The University of Maryland Capital Region Health talks about diversity, equality, and inclusion, yet its actions seem to suggest otherwise. I have grave concerns about the way one of Laurel's long-time supporters of the hospital and community is being pushed aside by the RADNET group, a group the University of Maryland Capital Region Health supports, even after this group abandoned Laurel Regional Hospital and the Laurel community, which should tell you a lot about them.

Capital Radiology was formed in 2005 and has long been a pillar in this community, meeting the needs of many. This business, Capital Radiology, continued to operate even as "Dimensions Leadership" tore the Laurel Regional Hospital apart and failed the community. Capital Radiology is a small business, a local business, and the only black and women-owned radiology business in the Mid-Atlantic. The University of Maryland Capital Region Health System has failed to protect and support this local minority-owned business, in fact, with no support from Capital Region Health, they may even begin to fail due to Capital Region Health taking business from them.

It concerns me that even Dr. Stephen Bartlett, whose name is no longer mentioned as part of the University of Maryland Healthcare System, saw that a small Laurel business such as Capital Radiology had to be protected. What has changed? Dr. Bartlett many times said to me that "Laurel Businesses would not be impacted" and that the University of Maryland Capital Region Health was committed to further diversity; what has changed?

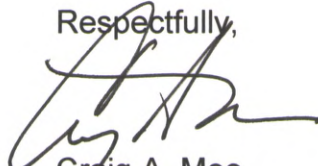
The University of Maryland Capital Region Health has shown to me that my concerns are valid with regards to the proposed "Main Street" development on the current, what I will call a Doc in a box location. My concern, as stated in the past, is that Laurel's commercial real estate will be enticed to move out of the City of Laurel and relocate to the hospitals "Main Street", or that you will bring in other businesses that will affect Laurel's current commercial base. As you know, Laurel continues to feel the impact of the hospital's growth, however getting nothing in return, which is why I wanted to talk directly with you on this matter months ago; but unfortunately, my request for a meeting with you has yet to occur. This is why I support the City of Laurel annexing this property, to protect Laurel's interests, which is not being done by anyone else.

I stopped attending the monthly meetings because they became nothing but Capital Region Health, providing only the information that you want out to the public, nothing substantial or of fundamental importance is discussed. I guess it only allows you to tell your Board that you are keeping Laurel up to date. The quarterly meetings that were proposed to me would have helped address some of the issues I have raised and would have made good on your statement of your desire to tour Laurel. I am hopeful that in the future, when promises are made, those promises will be kept.

It's important that the communication the University of Maryland Capital Region Health has shown improves because, unfortunately, this is the same type of communication "Dimensions Healthcare" provided to the community and elected officials, and look where it got them! There was a lack of leadership and vision, and a Board of Directors that did not do its job! Unless you redirect your efforts, you are headed, along with the University of Maryland Capital Region Health Board of Directors, in the same failing direction as Dimensions Healthcare. When that occurs, the community suffers!

I look forward to the University of Maryland Capital Region Health opening better lines of communication with the City of Laurel and support small local minority-owned businesses like Capital Radiology, a Laurel business with a long history of supporting healthcare needs in the Greater Laurel area and have already demonstrated that they are a business that will not abandon Laurel Hospital and the community.

Respectfully,



Craig A. Moe
Mayor

cc: The Honorable James Rosapepe, Senator, District 21
The Honorable Ben Barnes, Delegate, District 21
The Honorable Mary Lehman, Delegate, District 21
The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Delegate, District 21
The Honorable Angela D. Alsobrooks, County Executive
The Honorable Thomas Dernoga, County Council Chair
Laurel City Councilmembers
The Honorable Alexander Williams, Jr., Chairman, UM Capital Region Health Board of Directors
The Honorable Robert J. DiPietro, UM Capital Region Health Board of Directors
Kristin Jones-Bryce, Senior Vice President and Chief External Affairs Officer, University of Maryland Medical System
Christian Pulley, CPM, City Administrator, City of Laurel
Joanne Barr, Deputy City Administrator, City of Laurel