

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Don Blubaugh, City Manager

PREPARED BY: Lianne Marshall, Administrative Services Director

SUBJECT: Urging Kaiser Permanente to Continue Existing Services at the Martinez Facility

DATE: February 13, 2007

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution urging Kaiser Permanente to continuing existing services at the Martinez facility.

BACKGROUND:

At the February 7, 2007 City Council meeting, Kaiser Permanente presented its plan to eliminate certain services at its Martinez facility, thereby requiring members to commute to either Walnut Creek or the new Antioch facility for those services. This plan to reduce services would place a hardship on members who live in and around Martinez. Kaiser explained that they are attempting to address the needs of the growing population in East County whiling living within the constraints of resources available to it.

Many Martinez residents attended the meeting to express their concerns regarding the diminution of services at the Martinez facility and the undue burden that would be placed on them to obtain basic medical services.

The City Council reminded Kaiser of the support that this community has provided to them since they opened in Martinez in 1976; that there is growth occurring in Central County that can best be serviced at the Martinez facility; and that the needs of East County, though documented, should not be addressed through a reduction of service to Martinez patients, many of whom have been members for decades. They asked Kaiser to reconsider their plans and requested that a resolution be placed on the next Council agenda to memorialize this view.

Attachment

RESOLUTION NO. -07

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARTINEZ
URGING KAISER PERMANENTE TO CONTINUE EXISTING SERVICES
AT THE MARTINEZ FACILITY**

WHEREAS, the Martinez Kaiser Permanente facility provides essential medical services to a large number of residents of Martinez and surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, Kaiser Permanente has announced plans to eliminate certain vital services at its Martinez facility; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of any services will create undue hardship for patients who use the Martinez facility, particularly our senior citizens, requiring them to travel long distances to obtain basic medical care; and

WHEREAS, since the opening of the Martinez facility in 1976, Kaiser has been and continues to be an important member of the community and has benefited from a long tradition of support from our citizens, many of whom have been members for decades; and

WHEREAS, addressing the medical needs of the growing population in East County should not be through a diminution of services to loyal Kaiser members residing in Martinez and surrounding Central County communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Martinez strongly urges Kaiser Permanente to continue meeting the needs of its patients at the Martinez facility by continuing to provide all existing services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council urges the Mayors' Conference, Special Districts, and other major public employers to pass similar resolutions of support; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor appoint two council representatives to meet with Kaiser leadership to convey Councils concerns about this reduction in services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor is directed to communicate with our State legislative delegation for statutory assistance if any of the proposed service level changes are prompted by State licensing requirements.

* * * * *

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly introduced, approved and adopted by the City Council of the City of Martinez, at a Regular Meeting of said Council held on the 21st day of February 2007, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

RICHARD G. HERNANDEZ, CITY CLERK
CITY OF MARTINEZ



Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.
200 Muir Road, Hacienda Bldg.
Martinez, CA 94553

February 12, 2007

The Honorable Mayor Rob Schroder
City of Martinez
525 Henrietta Street
Martinez, CA 94553

Fax: 925-229-5012

Dear Mayor Schroder: *Rob*

As you know, I made a presentation at the February 7, 2007, Martinez City Council meeting regarding certain service changes that Kaiser Permanente is planning to make at the Martinez medical campus to better meet the overall needs of our members in the Diablo Service Area.

The meeting gave Kaiser Permanente an opportunity to hear some valuable insights and perspectives from both the City Council and members of the community concerning their apprehensions about the changes we are planning. These thoughts were passed on to our senior leaders the next day.

During the meeting, the City Council expressed an interest in having you and another City Council member meet with senior leaders from Kaiser Permanente so there could be a more intimate and thoughtful exchange between the City and Kaiser Permanente about our health care service plans for the Martinez campus, and the possible impact of these changes on Martinez and the surrounding communities. I indicated at the meeting that we would welcome this opportunity to get together.

I am writing to reiterate Kaiser Permanente's interest scheduling this meeting. I will call Mr. Blubaugh this week to identify some possible dates and times for us to meet. It would be beneficial to schedule this meeting soon, even if the date is likely to be several weeks in the future.

We look forward to getting together with the City.

If you have any questions concerning Kaiser Permanente's plans, please don't hesitate to call me call at 372-1475.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Wetter", written over a horizontal line.

Ronald A. Wetter
Community & Government Relations Manager, Diablo Service Area

Copy to: Mr. Don Blubaugh, City Manager