Resolution No. 2019-_67_

SUPPORTING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW STATE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL IN TUSCOLA COUNTY TO REPLACE THE CURRENT CARO CENTER FACILITY

WHEREAS, Since the 1990's, the number of state psychiatric beds in Michigan decreased by nearly 50%, forcing acute or chronically disabled psychiatric individuals to hospital emergency rooms and jails and sometimes, homeless situations; and

WHEREAS, Emergency service providers including law enforcement personnel find serving people in acute psychiatric crisis creating growing demands on their resources and facilities; and

WHEREAS, Multiple studies conclude there is a pressing need for long-term, inpatient psychiatric care in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, The State Legislature responded to this crisis by providing $115 million in state building authority financed construction for a new state psychiatric hospital to be built on the grounds of the current Caro Center which was signed into law through Public Act 107 of 2017; and

WHEREAS, The State Administrative Board approved a $5.4 million contract to design a new, 200-bed, regional state psychiatric hospital on the site of the existing Caro Center, increasing the number of beds to 350; and

WHEREAS, In 2018, a ground-breaking for the new 225,000 square- foot state psychiatric hospital at the site of the current Caro Center was held, foretelling the opening of the new facility in 2021 replacing the aging Caro facility; and

WHEREAS, Over $3 million in taxpayer funds have already been spent in preparation for construction at the Caro site; and

WHEREAS, In March 2019, Governor Whitmer halted construction, and contracted with a private consulting firm, at the cost of $277,000, to re-assess the location of a new state psychiatric facility, potentially delaying the availability of new psychiatric beds and the replacement of the aging Caro facility by another 2-4 years; and

WHEREAS, The facility is vital for this entire region of Michigan, including the City of Frankenmuth, as the existing facility infuses an estimated $54 million annually into the regional economy while directly employing 350 people and indirectly employing another 400 people; and, relocation of the facility would have devastating negative repercussions to businesses, schools and families living in communities throughout this region of the state; and

WHEREAS, At the current location, Seventy percent (70%) of employees travel less than 30 miles to work; and, the site is centrally located and accessible to state highways and area medical providers for patient transportation and family visits with 80% of patients coming from Genesee, Oakland and Macomb Counties, just to the south of Tuscola County; and, the 600-acre site is already state-owned and infrastructure is already in place; and, Tuscola County engineers determined the on-site water system can be economically upgraded to serve the new hospital; and

WHEREAS, Building the new facility on the site of the current Caro Center is best for the individuals needing inpatient psychiatric care and for the taxpayers of Michigan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Frankenmuth does hereby urge Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Department of Health and Human Services Director Robert Gordon, and members of the State Legislature, in response to a critical shortage of inpatient state psychiatric beds, continue with the construction of a new 200-bed, state psychiatric hospital on the grounds of the current Caro Center, in Tuscola County, as the best option for quality, accessible services to patients and their families, and as the best value to the taxpayers of Michigan and prevent devastating negative repercussions to businesses, schools and families living in communities throughout this region of the state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Department of Health and Human Services Director Robert Gordon, State Senator Kevin Daley, and State Representative Phil Green and Tuscola County administrators.

Action ___Approved___

Date ___7/9/19___

_____
MARY ANNE ACKERMAN, MAYOR

_____
PHILLIP W. KERNS, CLERK