

DFS HEALTH PLANNING
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**July 31, 2009 Public Hearing Remarks of
Tim Sack, Member, Town Council, Holly Springs, NC**

JUL 31 2009

Medical Facilities
PLANNING SECTION

**Petition From the Town of Holly Springs
To Add 42 New Acute Beds in Wake County
To The Proposed 2010 State Medical Facilities Plan**

My name is Tim Sack and I am Mayor Pro Tem of the Holly Springs Town Council. I have been a resident of Holly Springs for 15 years and I also am a retired DEA Special Agent and presently a contract Special Investigator for the Defense Department. Thank you to the members of the State Health Coordinating Council (SHCC) and the staff of the Medical Facilities Planning Section for allowing me to speak to you today.

We are here today to ask for the SHCC's thorough consideration of a petition from the Town of Holly Springs to adjust the *2010 Proposed State Medical Facilities Plan* to include a need determination for 42 new acute care beds in Wake County. We are aware that the *2010 Proposed State Medical Facilities Plan* also already includes a need determination for three new operating rooms in Wake County. Our petition also asks that any 2010 CON Application deadlines for these Wake County ORs and acute beds be set for the same date. The Town of Holly Springs remains steadfast in their eight year effort to bring additional healthcare services to Holly Springs and the surrounding communities in southern Wake County.

In our petition, we simply suggest that the annual growth rate for patient days in the acute *SMFP* bed need formula be adjusted to 0.42% to address directly a specific need in Wake County. The 0.42% growth rate is based on the acute inpatient days reported by all North Carolina hospitals and found in Column F, Table 5A of the *Proposed 2010 SMFP*. By comparison, the growth rate published in the *2010 SMFP* for all counties in North Carolina is 0.02%. The proposed 0.42% growth rate for Wake County only, is reasonable when

compared to the growth rates of 0.47%, 1.46%, and 1.58% in recent past SMFPs for 2006 to 2008.

When the 0.42% growth rate is applied to base year Wake County patient days and the required adjustment for approved but not operational beds is made, there is a need for 42 new acute beds in Wake County for the *2010 SMFP*.

I'd like to take a moment share with you a few facts with you about Holly Springs and southern Wake County:

- Today, there are no hospital beds located in the five census tracts that include Holly Springs and define southern Wake County, which is home to almost 90,000 people
- There are only limited locally available healthcare services in Holly Springs today: one urgent care center, physician offices (primary care, pediatrics, ophthalmology, chiropractors, podiatry, and part-time allergy/asthma and ob/gyn-women's services), massage therapy, and a few pharmacies
- Holly Springs has been identified as one of "America's Top 100 Places to Live" and as among the fastest growing suburbs in the U.S. from 2000-2006
- These third party acknowledgements validate the town's growth, solid finances, and adaptability to changing economic circumstances.
- Holly Springs is one of three Wake County towns considering budget increases for the coming fiscal year instead of deep cuts
- According to estimates from the Wake County Revenue Department, the tax base in Holly Springs is projected to grow by 10.1% based on both residential and commercial development
- The massive Novartis vaccine plant construction project is nearing completion in Holly Springs and the official ribbon cutting for the opening will occur this fall

- Novartis is expected to add \$213 million to Holly Springs property tax base and to employ 350-400 workers; about 100 workers have already been hired
- The 31-mile Triangle Expressway & Western Wake Freeway, a toll road which connects the Research Triangle Park with Holly Springs, has been funded as of this month
- The new road is expected to open to traffic by late 2011 for the RTP segment and by late 2012 for the roadway segment between RTP and Holly Springs

Clearly now is the time, based on all these developments, for Holly Springs and southern Wake County to act to bring more health services to the people, rather than to require the people to leave to go to the health services.

The reasons are obvious:

- There is a mal-distribution of beds in Wake County with none in the southern-most part of the county
- Once the freeway connecting RTP to Holly Springs is opened in 2012, it is imperative that local access to community hospital services be available in southern Wake County and Holly Springs, as even more businesses and more families will find it beneficial to make Holly Springs their home
- Novartis and other large employers prefer that employees and their families have convenient access close to home to a continuum of health services that can be offered in and around a community hospital setting

I urge you to give your fullest consideration to this petition for an adjusted need determination for 42 new acute beds in Wake County in the *2010 SMFP*

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