

PRESS RELEASE

MARTIN COUNTY GOVERNMENT

MARTIN GENERAL HOSPITAL, WILLIAMSTON, NC

August 26, 2022

There has been some concern regarding the plight of Martin General Hospital (MGH). Currently Quorum is in the midst of a 30 year lease with approximately 6 years remaining in the lease. Quorum obtained the lease from Community Health Systems as a spin-off company in 2016. Martin County Government is the owner of the hospital. Quorum has notified Martin County Government of its desire to end the lease. Quorum and Martin County Commissioners met on March 16, 2022. During this meeting, Quorum introduced the owner and provider of Washington Regional Medical Center as a possible replacement for Quorum.

After considerable due diligence it was determined that the interested party was not the best fit for Martin General Hospital (MGH). At that time Martin County Government engaged in a vigorous campaign with visits to numerous hospital providers such as Vidant, Sentara, Cape Fear, Novant, Atrium, Wake Med, .UNC System, and more. We spoke with their Chief Executive Officers (CEO's). Martin County Government has also reached out to these providers with proposals and letters asking for assistance, guidance, and seeking operations.

The Martin County Board of County Commissioners hired an attorney, Tom Stukes, to assist with the contractual obligation with Quorum. Attorney Tom Stukes as well as Attorney Melvin Bowen are the original architects of the current Martin General Hospital Lease / Contract Agreement constructed on November 1, 1998. Both attorneys have assisted in this ongoing endeavor. Attorney Tom Stukes has been tirelessly negotiating on behalf of Martin County Citizens and the Martin County Board of County Commissioners.

In addition, the creation of the Hospital Committee was convened with individuals from Martin General Hospital Staff, County Commissioners, County Staff, private citizens, attorneys, and health officials who have knowledge and demographic information in regards to this matter. The overall purpose of the committee is for the filtering of information and guidance in this matter.

Most recently, the Board of County Commissioners approved a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a consulting firm to conduct a countywide analysis to support a business case for construction of a new Critical/ Acute Care Hospital or to renovate the hospital.

Martin County Government has always had the concern of the health and welfare of its citizen at the forefront of all discussion and decisions regarding Martin General Hospital (MGH). The registered concern of existing and past employees of Martin General Hospital (MGH) have not gone unnoticed. Martin County Government asks for your patience as this negotiation moves forward.