



Tiburcio Vásquez Health Center, Inc.

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May 13, 2014

The Honorable Mayor Michael Sweeney
Honorable Members of the City Council
Hayward City Hall
777 B Street
Hayward, California 94541

Re: Measure AA--Support

Dear Mayor Sweeney and Members of the City Council:

Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, Inc. (TVHC) currently representing nearly 270 employees at 5 main and 11 smaller sites throughout our service area, asks for your support for Measure AA, which is on the June 3 ballot. TVHC has been serving the community since 1971 by fulfilling our mission of providing comprehensive, quality health care services to all who come through our doors, regardless of their ability to pay or resident-status. We are proud to be a strong, vital part of the safety net health system for Hayward residents, especially those who are low-income and most vulnerable. We are depending on Measure AA to make sure we can keep our doors open and the services free or low-cost.

Measure AA would preserve an existing, vital funding source for critically needed healthcare services that have directly served more than 5,000 of our uninsured Hayward patients and preserved essential health care resources for the entire community. If passed, this Measure would take effect in 2019 and would sunset in 2034. The language of Measure AA mirrors that of the current Measure A stipulations.

Even as the current health care reform law is helping to improve access to care, TVHC, along with our seven sister health center clinics in Alameda County still face funding needs for the significant number of remaining uninsured in our service areas. For many residents, poverty and economic disparities in the Bay Area are getting worse, not better. Many Hayward residents and scores more throughout our county still do not have health insurance, and remain ineligible for any form of Obamacare. In our county, over 40,000 of the estimated 80,000 remaining uninsured in Alameda County will seek out our health centers. Re-authorization of Measure AA now guarantees that all Alameda County residents, regardless of financial circumstance, will always have a place to go for health care.

Non-profit community-based clinics like ours receive less than five percent of the half-cent sales tax annually, but this five percent allocation is precious. This funding helps us to provide essential health services—basic medical, lab, radiology, pharmacy, and mental health services. Ironically, due to the concerted Outreach and Enrollment efforts for Covered California (our state's Exchange program), TVHC has seen an increase in the number of uninsured patients coming through our doors.

TVHC HAYWARD • 22331 Mission Blvd., Hayward CA 94541
LOGAN HEALTH CENTER • 1800 H Street, Union City CA 94587
TENNYSON HEALTH CENTER • 27035 Whitman Street, Rm. A1, Hayward CA 94544
WIC PROGRAM • 32970 Alvarado-Niles Road, Ste. 760, Union City CA 94587
FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES • SCHOOL BASED/SCHOOL LINKED HEALTH SERVICES • 22211 Foothill Blvd., Hayward CA 94541

The value of maintaining a stable funding source that community health clinics and their clinicians can count on in order to continue our mission is vital to keeping the residents of Hayward healthy and thriving. Good health is critical for students to realize their educational potential and for individuals to attain and retain employment. This funding preserves primary and preventive care at our Mission site, our Silva Pediatric Clinic, our Youth Health Services at our site at Tennyson High School, our (integrated) mental health services, dental/oral health care, and a long list of our supportive and social services programs.

These sales tax dollars have also supported our ability to modernize in this new era of health care. We are installing state-of-the-art electronic health record systems. We track numerous public health indicators on our services including prenatal care, immunizations for children, HIV services, and dental and mental health services.

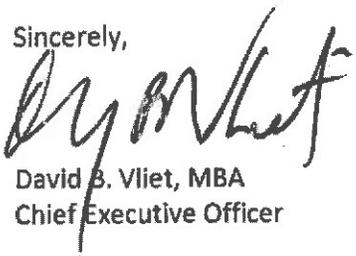
Thanks to additional Measure A allocations by the Board of Supervisors, we were able to invest in badly needed renovations at our sites and in a-soon-to-be opening new clinic in the unincorporated area of Cherryland/ Ashland. Similarly, Measure A funds are directly supporting the new Firehouse Clinic in south Hayward, which as you are of course aware, will be built adjacent to the new Fire Station. This is an innovative, first-of-its-kind-in-the-country project that will bring national attention to our city. Measure AA funding will be critical in sustaining the Firehouse Clinic as the residually uninsured will be seen at this site as well, thus preserving and expanding access to care in south Hayward.

Throughout the county, this funding also supports emergency and trauma care, pediatric and primary specialty care, and an overall more robust county health care system. It is simply not cost-effective to provide primary care in an emergency room. In addition to driving up unnecessary costs, it impedes the system for true hospital emergencies. It is much more preferable for our county and community to focus on cost-effective primary and preventive care in a health center like ours, which keeps people healthy, working--and out of hospitals.

Finally, this funding has also helped us to secure matching federal and foundation grants. Measure A has helped allow us to remain fiscally sound, which has in turn enabled us to expand our services and facilities, which is a primary goal of the Measure. Countywide, every \$1 million in Measure A money brings in over \$7 million in federal state, and private grants.

The support we have received from this funding has been vital to serve our ever increasing numbers of patients at TVHC, and has played an important role in overall community health improvement.

For these reasons, TVHC respectfully asks for your support of Measure AA.

Sincerely,

David B. Vliet, MBA
Chief Executive Officer

c: Fran David, Hayward City Manager
Michael Lawson, Hayward City Attorney
TVHC Board of Directors
Lori A. Baptista, Director of Policy