

PRESS RELEASE

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COUNCIL APPROVES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH SPECIALTY HOSPITALS OF AMERICA

COUNCIL ALSO VOTES TO APPROVE “STUDENT ACCESS TO TREATMENT ACT OF 2007” ON FIRST READING

Washington, D.C. – The Council of the District of Columbia voted to unanimously approve the Public/Private Partnership Agreement between the District and Specialty Hospitals of America. The agreement included up to \$79 million in loans and grants to facilitate the purchase of Greater Southeast Community Hospital – the only District hospital east of the Anacostia River.

“Today marks a great milestone in the history of this hospital,” said Councilmember David Catania (At-Large), Chairman of the Committee on Health. “I look forward to working to ensure a bright future for Greater Southeast.”

The agreement provides a \$20 million loan for working capital, which will be paid back over 10 years and secured by a lien on the hospital building and land. It also includes \$30 million for equipment, subject to a variety of performance measures and a stipulation that the District will receive half of any proceeds from the future sale of the hospital by SHA. Finally, the agreement includes \$29 million in acquisition costs, the majority of which would be paid to local healthcare vendors, including doctors and nurses, who have not been paid for their services by the current owner.

“The current staff and vendors of Greater Southeast deserve our deepest appreciation for their dedication and perseverance through trying times,” noted Catania. “All our efforts were taken on behalf of the patients and staff who rely on this hospital.”

The Council also voted to initially approve the “Student Access to Treatment Act of 2007,” which will allow thousands of District schoolchildren to possess and self-administer prescribed inhaled medications and auto-injectable epinephrine while on school property. Currently 47 states allow students to carry and administer inhalers and 40 allow students to carry and use epinephrine pens to treat severe allergic reactions. The legislation will receive its final reading and vote at the Council’s November 6, 2007 Legislative Meeting.

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