



*City of Naples*

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**BILL BARNETT**  
MAYOR

December 6, 2018

Mariann MacDonald – Board Chair  
Board of Trustees 2018-2019  
NCH Healthcare System, Inc.  
NCH Naples Hospital, Inc.  
1895 E. Gordon Drive  
Naples, FL 34102

Dear Chair MacDonald and Members of the Board of Trustees,

Since I first came to live in Naples in 1973, Naples Community Hospital has been a significant part of the fabric of the town. Since first being elected to Naples City Council in 1984, I have served our residents as Mayor or a member of Council for almost 27 years. I have had, and continue to have, a good relationship with NCH administration, as well as with countless doctors and medical professionals, and those who live in our town. There have been many measurable improvements over the years in health care outcomes, due in no small degree to the efforts of NCH. Efforts I am pleased to support and be a part of, such as the current Blue Zone project.

However, as I expect you already know, I have heard from many unhappy and distraught members of our community since this issue of seemingly restricting personal physicians in favor of hospital employed doctors has surfaced and it has continued nonstop. There have been e-mails, phone calls, and personal communications in the grocery store and elsewhere. The community response against the NCH proposal is almost unprecedented in recent times. At the December 5th City Council meeting residents, doctors, and representatives of the Collier County Medical Society called on us as their elected representatives to take action.

It is understood by City Council that we have no authority to run your hospital, and we do not want to try. We recognize that care and wellness of patients is a top priority for all involved. With this common ground as a starting point, my colleagues on City Council have asked that I draft this letter to you. It is our position that the NCH Board needs to take a step back and listen to what our entire Naples Community is asking them before moving full steam ahead.

The Council is concerned that the quality of health care may be compromised by this new policy. The citizens that we collectively serve are cared for professionally by very good physicians who perform important services. It is concerning to hear public angst over such

an important facility in our community.

To the extent that the City Council may assist in providing a forum for resolving this issue, we would like to offer ourselves, our Council Chambers, and City-resources. Meanwhile, we respectfully request that the hospital defer this decision for now, listen to the Medical Society and local doctors, and hold a series of public forums to garner public input prior to deciding to implement this policy.

Thank you for your consideration of these thoughts.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Barnett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Mayor Bill Barnett  
City of Naples

c: Vice Chair/Treasurer Thomas Gazdic  
Board Secretary John Lewis, M.D.  
William Allyn  
Kevin Beebe  
Jo Bordonaro, R.N.  
Kerry Edwards  
George Ferguson, M.D.  
Stephen Lange, M.D.  
Gregory Russo  
Paula Vyverberg  
Allen S. Weiss, M.D.  
Michael Wynn  
Naples City Council