

Houston Gulf Coast Building and Construction Trades Council

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DEER PARK, TEXAS 77536



December 10, 2025

Esmail Porsa, MD
President and CEO, Harris Health
4800 Fournace Place
Bellaire, Texas 77401

Dear Dr. Porsa,

Thank you for sharing your plans regarding the proposed purchase of Hermann Park land through eminent domain and the construction of a 100-bed facility connected to Ben Taub Hospital. We appreciate the transparency and the clear facts you provided about why this expansion is essential for the future health and safety of our community.

On behalf of the Houston Gulf Coast Building and Construction Trades Council (HGCBCCTC), our Executive Board, and all affiliated unions whose members reside in Harris County and who overwhelmingly supported and voted for the Harris County Hospital bond, we proudly endorse your vision and strongly encourage our community to do the same. Our members and their families take great comfort in knowing that if they ever require emergency or trauma care, Ben Taub Hospital and Harris Health will be ready to provide lifesaving treatment without hesitation.

Representing tens of thousands of skilled construction workers across the region, our Executive Board joins in unified support:

- **Bryan Edwards**, President, HGCBCCTC & Business Manager, UA Pipefitters Local 211
- **Lacy Wolf**, Vice President, HGCBCCTC & Business Manager, Insulators Local 22
- **Wayne Lord**, Treasurer, HGCBCCTC & Business Manager, UA Plumbers Local 68
- **Armando Aguirre**, Recording Secretary, HGCBCCTC & Business Manager, SMART Local 54
- **Zach Popovich**, Sergeant-at-Arms, HGCBCCTC & Business Manager, Boilermakers Local 72

- **Stephen Gonzales**, Trustee, HGCBCTC & Business Manager, IBEW Local 716
- **Mark Maher Jr.**, Trustee, HGCBCTC & Business Manager, IUOE Local 450
- **Ryan Schuette**, Trustee, HGCBCTC & Business Manager, IUEC Local 31

Together with our affiliates and membership, we recognize that Ben Taub Hospital plays an irreplaceable role not only for Harris County but for the entire southeast region of Texas as a Level I trauma center that serves all who walk through its doors, regardless of circumstance.

Your account of patients being treated in hospital hallways due to inadequate bed capacity resonated deeply with us. While your dedicated medical team continues to rise to this challenge daily, none of us should accept this as an acceptable standard of care for any patient, irrespective of income, background, or insurance status. As you noted, Ben Taub never turns anyone away. We, too, believe we cannot turn away from supporting the expansion required to meet the needs of our rapidly growing community.

For these reasons, we fully support your proposed initiative and strongly urge community leaders, stakeholders, and the broader public to join us in ensuring Harris Health has the tools, space, and resources needed to continue its mission. Harris County residents deserve a healthcare system capable of meeting the demands of today and tomorrow, and investments like this are essential to protecting the health and well-being of all.

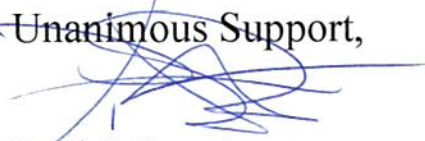
Thank you once again for your leadership, vision, and unwavering commitment to serving our community.

Sincerely,

Houston Gulf Coast Building and Construction Trades Council

Executive Board, Affiliate Unions, and Members of the Houston Building Trades residing in Harris County

Unanimous Support,


Paul J. Puente
Executive Secretary