

Aug-28-2012-724

WHEREAS, Cooper Green Mercy Hospital ("Cooper Green") relies on a Jefferson County Sales Tax, a Jefferson County Tax on Liquor and third party reimbursements for funding; and

WHEREAS, Cooper Green's expenditures have exceeded its revenue over the past several years; and

WHEREAS, the shortfall in funding for Cooper Green has been supplemented by the Jefferson County General Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Commission has reduced County general fund expenditures in the current fiscal year by approximately \$95 million dollars by, among other things, reducing the County workforce by more than 800 employees, closing satellite courthouses and reducing services provided to the citizens of the County; and

WHEREAS, on or before October 1, 2012, the County must adopt a balanced budget for fiscal year 2013 which will require further reductions of general fund expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the County owns and operates Cooper Green; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Health Care Responsibility Act, Alabama Code §§ 22-21-290, et seq. (the "Act"), imposes limited financial responsibility on Alabama counties for the medical care of certain citizens under certain circumstances. However, the Act does not require any county, including Jefferson County, to operate a hospital; and

WHEREAS, Cooper Green operates at a loss and has historically been subsidized by the general fund and cost the general fund at least \$10 million dollars last year (not including \$3.5 million dollars in unpaid invoices from last year) and is projected to cost the general fund at least \$6 million dollars this year; and

WHEREAS, after careful consideration for more than 20 months, the County Commission concludes and determines that it is in the best interests of the County, its citizens and taxpayers that Cooper Green cease inpatient care and operation of an emergency room as soon as practicable in accordance with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSION that Cooper Green shall cease to admit persons for inpatient care on the first day of a month, no later than December 1, 2012.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSION that the Emergency Room at Cooper Green shall cease operation on the first day of a month, no later than December 1, 2012.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSION that as soon as the Commissioners agree on a new strategic model for the delivery of cost-effective, quality healthcare to the indigent, the County Manager is directed to appoint a transition team of stakeholders to assist in the implementation of the new model.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSION that the County Manager and County Attorney are hereby authorized and directed to take all actions required by state or federal law to effectuate the cessation of inpatient care and emergency room service at Cooper Green as set forth herein.

Motion was made by Commissioner Stephens seconded by Commissioner Knight that the above substitute resolution be adopted. Voting "Aye" Stephens, Knight and Carrington. Voting "Nay" Bowman and Brown.