

**CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION**

Briefing on Harborview Medical Center

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**DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL****INFORMATION  
ONLY**

Harborview Medical Center (HMC) is a comprehensive healthcare facility owned by King County. Interim Chief Executive Officer Sommer Kleweno-Wally and Harborview Board of Trustees President Steffanie Fain will brief Council on Harborview's services and response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**RECOMMENDATION**

N/A

**BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS**

Harborview provides vital healthcare services to patients throughout the Pacific Northwest, including the most vulnerable residents of King County. Harborview is the only Level 1 trauma center in the four-state region that includes Washington, Alaska, Idaho, and Montana. Level 1 is the highest level of comprehensive care for people with major injuries. Founded in 1877, Harborview consists of a 413-bed inpatient teaching hospital and is the designated disaster control hospital for the region.

Patients given priority for care at HMC include the non-English speaking poor; the uninsured or underinsured; victims of domestic violence or sexual assault; people incarcerated in King County's jails; people with mental illness or substance abuse problems, particularly those treated involuntarily; people with sexually transmitted diseases; and those who require specialized emergency, trauma or burn care.

HMC is owned by King County, governed by a county-appointed board of trustees and managed under contract by the University of Washington (UW). The medical center plans and coordinates with Public Health Seattle and King County, other County agencies, community providers, and area hospitals, to provide programs and services.

Harborview and Overlake Hospital in Bellevue are the medical control centers for Bellevue's emergency and incident response. Doctors at these two medical centers provide direction and guidance to Bellevue's paramedics in the field. Most patients are sent to Overlake Hospital for emergency medical treatment while patients experiencing multi-system trauma or serious burns are triaged to Harborview. Bellevue Citizen Advocates for Referral and Education Services (CARES) works with Harborview to coordinate care when CARES clients are receiving outpatient services there.

The City's paramedics receive training from Harborview in partnership with UW. As the disaster medical coordination center, Harborview organizes the region's emergency response.

**Harborview Bond Program**

King County has provided for major capital facility improvements and expansions through voter-

approved financing, generally occurring every 15-20 years. In 2020, King County voters approved a \$1.74 billion Harborview capital improvement bond measure to fund:

- New construction and renovation of existing buildings to increase critical health care capacity, update and expand infection control capability, and expand behavioral health services.
- Renovation, retrofitting, and improvements to existing buildings to increase seismic stability.
- Upgrade of mechanical, electrical, way finding, and other building and physical plant systems.
- Street improvements, landscaping, and mitigation required in connection with the above improvements.
- Demolition of buildings.

King County will issue several series of 20-year bonds to finance the project. The average annual tax levy rate is estimated to be \$0.08 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The 2021 median home value in Bellevue is approximately \$960,000 and incurs about \$77 per year on average. The County estimates the last series of bonds will be issued in 2029 with bond repayment ending in 2049. The tax rate in each year of the repayment period will vary based on the annual debt service. The actual annual rates will vary between less than 1 cent to 13.7 cents based upon the capital needs of the project and the debt service for outstanding bonds.

### **COVID-19 Response**

Harborview is playing a lead role in the COVID-19 pandemic response. As the first COVID-19 cases appeared in Washington, Harborview served as the state disaster management control center, coordinating with regional medical centers and public health officials. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Harborview has prioritized treatment, testing, and vaccination for vulnerable populations. To reach these communities, Harborview is offering testing at homeless shelters and delivering vaccinations through mobile care teams, community clinics, and hospital-based clinics.

### **Health and Human Services**

In addition to providing comprehensive care for major injuries, HMC also provides health and human services. This includes care for substance abuse and addiction, mental health care, and care for survivors of trauma. Bellevue has provided human services funding to Harborview since 1988. The City contributes approximately \$35,000 to support Harborview's services to victims of sexual assault. By providing funding to these programs, Bellevue is ensuring that resources are available for residents who are survivors of sexual assault or who have experienced trauma.

## **POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS**

### **Policy Impact**

Harborview's mission of providing healthcare for the most vulnerable residents of King County is aligned with City Council's vision that Bellevue enjoys high community population health and the entire community experiences equitable access to services.

### **Fiscal Impact**

There are no fiscal impacts associated with tonight's briefing.

**OPTIONS**

N/A

**ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS**

N/A

**AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

N/A