

Brackbill, Robert

From: Demme, Melissa [melissa.demme@pittsburghpa.gov]
Sent: Friday, April 13, 2012 11:42 AM
To: Brackbill, Robert
Subject: Fwd: Highmark Testimony
Attachments: Highmark_Testimony.doc

Attached are Mayor Ravenstahl's remarks.

Thank you.

Melissa M. Demme
Senior Administrator to Mayor Ravenstahl
414 Grant Street, 512 City-County Building
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412.255.2612 direct / 412.255.8602 fax
melissa.demme@pittsburghpa.gov **PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS**

Notice: The information contained in this e-mail, and any attachment, is private and confidential and is intended solely for the use of the intended recipient. Access, copying, re-distribution or re-use of this e-mail or attachments, or any information contained therein, by any other person is not authorized. If you are not the intended recipient please return the e-mail to the sender and delete it from your computer. Although we attempt to scan e-mail and attachments for viruses, we do not guarantee that either are virus-free and we accept no liability for any damage sustained as a result of your use of this electronic communication.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Doyle, Marissa <marissa.doyle@pittsburghpa.gov>
Date: Fri, Apr 13, 2012 at 11:04 AM
Subject: Highmark Testimony
To: Melissa Demme <melissa.demme@pittsburghpa.gov>

Here are the Mayor's remarks.

Marissa Doyle
Communications Specialist
The Office of Mayor Luke Ravenstahl

412-255-2619
412-498-1333 (cell)
Marissa.Doyle@pittsburghpa.gov - **PLEASE NOTE THE NEW EMAIL**
pittsburghpa.gov



HIGHMARK PUBLIC INFORMATION HEARING

Thank you. I am proud to represent the people of the City of Pittsburgh at this important hearing.

I wanted to express my appreciation to the state Insurance Department for calling this gathering and for permitting leaders across this region to convey their perspective on these vital issues of the day. The fact that we are meeting in Pittsburgh leads me to a number of thoughts.

If you were to travel throughout Pittsburgh, and really get into our individual neighborhoods, you would quickly find that each one has its own distinct flavor and personality.

You also would find that, even with all of these differences, there still exists a single, unifying idea. We love our city. The phrase "Pittsburgh Pride" has a real and very tangible meaning.

The longer you would stay in Pittsburgh and talk with Pittsburghers, you would learn that we also stick together and stick up for each other in this city.

When we see something good start to happen, we pull together to see it through – especially when it helps to keep more of us employed in good, long-term, well-paying jobs.

That's the situation we find ourselves in right now, and that's why I am happy to be offering this testimony to you today.

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield and the West Penn Allegheny Health System have a plan to join forces, and as far as the City of Pittsburgh is concerned, we believe it is a great idea that should receive a strong vote of confidence from the Commonwealth.

Pittsburgh has been attracting more and more attention across the nation as a model of fresh thinking and level-headedness in terms of economic development. We steadily emerged with a viable economic strategy that continues to solidify a positive employment picture and a reasonable cost of living.

We believe the Highmark-West Penn Allegheny alliance will play a key role in keeping this city and the entire southwestern Pennsylvania region on that same steady path to growth.

The evidence is irrefutable. Here are a few highlights:

The alliance will keep 11,000 people working. That fact alone should be enough to win the argument. That 11,000 figure doesn't even include additional jobs in architecture, engineering, and construction to accommodate upgrades to existing facilities and the expansion of new units down the road.

It means more competition in the local healthcare industry. This translates into retaining more family physicians and various medical specialists practicing here, while offering patients more choices.

The Highmark-West Penn Allegheny affiliation feels like a very Pittsburgh-style solution to a potential problem of limited choice in healthcare. It sounds like a solution that just makes sense and keeps us steadily moving forward.

That is why the City of Pittsburgh applauds Highmark and its willingness to advance its proposed alliance with West Penn Allegheny. It will maintain and expand jobs for citizens of the city, while presenting more viable options for quality healthcare.

After all, this is Pittsburgh, where we stick together and stick up for each other. We see something good here, and are pulling together to see it through. Knowing that it will help to keep more of us employed in good, long-term, well-paying jobs.

Thank you for considering my request that the Pennsylvania Insurance Department award its approval of the Highmark-West Penn Allegheny alliance.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss this in greater detail, or if you need any additional information from my office. Thank you very much.