

# PRESS RELEASE

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Greig Smith Council District 12



## LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMAN GREIG SMITH

### Council Votes to Move Forward on Holy Cross Hospital Expansion

**Los Angeles** – In a major victory for the community, the City Council approved a motion by Councilman Greig Smith on Friday, March 6 that, with court approval, will allow construction to resume on the expansion of Providence Holy Cross Medical Center in Mission Hills.

“At a time when we are losing hospitals left and right, and facing an unprecedented economic crisis with massive unemployment, we need this expansion and the jobs it creates now more than ever,” Councilman Smith said. “With this vote, the Council signaled its strong commitment to ensuring that our communities have access to hospital services. I commend my colleague, Councilman Richard Alarcon, for stepping forward to help resolve this impasse so we can put people back to work.”

Construction work on the expansion was stopped in December by a Judge based on a technicality after a lawsuit was filed as part of a labor dispute. We have worked consistently to get the hospital expansion back on track.

Holy Cross is the second busiest private trauma center in the County, with 254 beds, an emergency department, a heart care center specializing in the most severe heart attacks, women's services and a comprehensive cancer center.

When complete, the expansion will bring, at no cost to the City:

- 101 new inpatient beds, and the capacity for another 35 beds. 10 semi-private rooms for overnight emergency patients.
- 12-bed Neonatal Intensive Care Unit for premature and high-risk babies.
- A new surgery department, a larger gastroenterology lab, additional ICU beds, and new labor and delivery suites.
- Seismic upgrades to meet State requirements and energy-efficient design, making Holy Cross the first "green" hospital in California.

Our region has lost 14 hospitals since 1998, seriously eroding our community's access to health care and emergency rooms. The need for the Holy Cross expansion was dramatically underscored during last year's Metrolink train disaster, when 17 passengers were brought from Chatsworth and treated at Holy Cross.

Resuming the expansion will also mean that 300 construction workers on the project can now get back to work so they can support their families and keep their homes.

At this time, our nation, state and City have faced an unprecedented, continuing and worsening economic crisis with millions of people losing jobs. Working families in the Northeast San Fernando Valley, with its generally higher unemployment rates, are among those suffering the most. Official estimates for the area show general unemployment rates above 11% while the construction workforce unemployment numbers are 25% or higher.

Many laid-off workers are now struggling to provide for their families and others face the loss of their homes. It is therefore important, given the severe job losses, to re-examine any opportunity the City has to gain temporary and permanent jobs, especially in heavily impacted areas such as the Northeast San Fernando Valley. The expansion of Holy Cross offers such an opportunity.

To see Councilman Smith's motion in its entirety, [click here](#).

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