



NAACP
LOUISIANA STATE CONFERENCE
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Via Email at counciladmin@brgov.com

February 17, 2016

Chandler Loupe, Mayor Pro Tem
222 Saint Louis St., Room 364
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Mr. Loupe and Council Members:

On behalf of Dr. Michael McClanahan, President of the Baton Rouge Branch of the NAACP, its Officers and members, please be advised that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People **OPPOSES** the use of any public financial resources and/or tax dollars for the establishment of the proposed private *Baton Rouge Health District* in the "medical corridor—Essen, Bluebonnet, Perkins, I-10."

According to its web page at www.brhealthdistrict.org, the Baton Rouge Health District is already fully aware that all of Baton Rouge's health care resources, "educational institutions, destination shopping, dining parks, and cherished neighborhoods" are concentrated in this "unofficial ... medical corridor."

Now it appears that **K. Scott Wester**, CEO of *Our Lady of the Lake Hospital Inc.*, **Teri G. Fontenot**, President & CEO of *Woman's Hospital*, and **Mark F. Slyter**, President and CEO of *Baton Rouge General Medical Center*, and others, recognizing an impending "\$500 million in additional hospitals and clinics proposed in the area" have formed a sort of consortium "to combine their diverse strengths." [See attached Secretary of State Commercial Record]

Our question is, where was this cooperative spirit and assertion of strength and concern when all of the medical resources of this parish were being diverted from the northern part of the parish—where the majority of African Americans are concentrated???

In August, 2012, Woman's Hospital moved as far south as it could without actually leaving the parish. In April, 2013, not one of these health care giants did anything to tout their collective strength when Bobby Jindal and a complicit majority of Louisiana Legislators closed down Earl K. Long Hospital—a hospital that served North Baton Rouge and poor populations in parishes up to the Mississippi line. Let us not forget that Our Lady of the Lake was a benefactor of this assault on the people of North Baton Rouge, as patient care and medical education programs previously provided at EKL were sent to Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, along with a very sweet financial incentive package.

"Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things"