



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** April 24, 2012

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Planning Division, Community Development Department

**SUBJECT:** Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital And Neighborhood Update

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council hear an update from the Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital (SBCH) representatives and receive comments from interested members of the public.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The approval of SBCH hospital facilities and Specific Plan 8 (Hospital Zone) included a heliport for emergency use. The heliport became operational on February 5, 2012. During the first week of operation, approximately 13 flights were received, with five flights between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. As a result of this new use, many people in the community contacted the City and SBCH expressing concerns related to the heliport operations including noise, flight path, and frequency of flights. On February 13, 2012, Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital (SBCH) held a community meeting to discuss neighborhood concerns. Ron Werft, president and CEO of Cottage Health System, appeared before the Council on February 14, 2012 under public comment to inform the Council of SBCH plans to manage the heliport and address neighborhood concerns.

Since that time, SBCH held a second community meeting on March 13, 2012, where additional information was provided to the public with respect to the heliport operations, hospital and physician protocols for heliport usage, and medical flight criteria.

Community members offered suggestions to address a number of concerns including: 1) helipad operations and helicopter pilot protocols, and 2) impacts of commercial uses on surrounding neighborhood and its residents. In addition, some residents have expressed interest in a possible rezone of adjacent residential property to C-O zone.

Council and SBCH have a common interest in receiving information and addressing community concerns. SBCH will make a presentation and be available to answer questions and receive comments from the community.

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**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office