

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Necole Brown, Healthy Families**

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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**SHOW OF SUPPORT FOR LICH, DOWNSTATE MERGER AT JULY 14 MEETING**

**WHO:** The Rev. Dr. Paul Smith, a member of the Board of Directors of Continuum Health partners, the SUNY Council and founding board member of the Arthur Ashe Institute of Urban Health, and C. Murray Adams, immediate past president of the Cobble Hill Association, on behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee for Long Island College Hospital (LICH).

**WHAT:** Meeting convened to show the Brooklyn community's support for the consolidation of LICH and SUNY Downstate Medical Center as proposed by the recently announced Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions.

**WHERE:** First Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn Heights, 124 Henry Street, Brooklyn in the Main Sanctuary. (Note: Rev. Dr. Smith is Pastor Emeritus of First Presbyterian Church.)

**WHEN:** Tuesday, July 14, 2009 at 6:00 PM

**WHY:** Rev. Dr. Paul Smith and C. Murray Adams have invited the area's U. S. representatives - Hon. Yvette Clarke, Hon. Ed Towns and Hon. Nydia Velázquez - along with New York State and New York City elected officials, members of the newly established Good Health Brooklyn coalition, patient advocates from Healthy Families Brooklyn, members of the SUNY Council, members of the clergy from all faith traditions, leaders of community organizations in Brooklyn, representatives of healthcare institutions throughout the Borough of Brooklyn and community activists to this meeting to seek their continued support for the creation of the best university hospital and medical center and one which will serve all of Brooklyn.

“The members of the Ad Hoc Committee for LICH want to urge the establishment of an expanded network of primary health care facilities, backed for tertiary care by SUNY Downstate and LICH, to provide an improved and more comprehensive health care system for the residents of our Borough of Brooklyn, especially those in minority and under-served communities,” said Rev. Dr. Paul Smith.

“We believe that all the interested parties should attend the meeting to show that Brooklyn supports Long Island College Hospital's pending merger with the SUNY Downstate Medical Center,” said Murray Adams.

**Coverage is invited.**

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