

San Francisco Needs St. Luke's to be a Full-Service Hospital
Come to the SF Health Commission Meeting
Tuesday, July 15, 4 PM
101 Grove St. (at Polk, across Grove St. from City Hall)
2nd Floor Auditorium

Please support St. Luke's Hospital at a SF Health Commission Hearing Tuesday afternoon, 4 PM, at 101 Grove St (across Grove St. from City Hall). SF Gray Panthers can go down right after the monthly meeting.

As the only hospital besides SF General in the poor, minority, medically-underserved South East sector of San Francisco, St. Luke's must be kept alive, thriving, and configured to meet community needs. CPMC had promised to do this to get permission to build a luxury hospital on Cathedral Hill, but CPMC is already breaking its promise, with cuts to St. Luke's Spanish-speaking patient-care staff, diabetes care for pregnant women, mental health care, diagnostic imaging, cardiac care, pediatric care, clinical lab hours and Skilled Nursing Facility beds. Read more about these cuts at <http://tinyurl.com/octadnj>.

In fact, CPMC has signaled an intention to return to their past policies of racist medical redlining combined with a new twist: neighborhood gentrification.

But CPMC's intentions are summed up in their public testimony saying, *"We're primarily working with our medical staff in combination with the demographics of the neighborhood we anticipate serving, not the neighborhood we serve today but the neighborhood we're going to serve in the future, which we hope will be better employed and better educated."*

Technically, Tuesday's Health Commission hearing is only about CPMC's plan to reduce its Skilled Nursing Facility beds, "SNF beds," from 99 to 75. SNF beds are used for patients who need RN care and doctor access but are not acute enough for hospitalization, post-hospitalization care, chronic disease care. SNF beds are in desperately short supply in San Francisco, so CPMC's SNF bed cut affects the entire City. Moreover, CPMC intends to concentrate its SNF beds and "subacute beds" (another category of less-than-acute care) at St. Luke's, so that only 40 of St. Luke's hospital beds would be available for regular acute hospital admissions. Not only would this rob the community of needed regular hospital beds, it would kill St. Luke's ability to be a full-service hospital at all.

Fortunately, the Health Commission is fed up with CPMC's maneuvering and cuts on SNF beds, and will probably pass a motion condemning CPMC's proposed SNF bed cut. But we who are trying to protect St. Luke's Hospital and have it serve the current community want the Health Commission to investigate the whole spectrum of CPMC's cuts to St. Luke's and to re-set the whole conversation to what **the community** wants for St. Luke's, not what CPMC wants. We will ask the Health Commission to request the Board of Supervisors to hold hearings on CPMC and St. Luke's.

This is the right time for this kind of action, because the City is now considering its response to CPMC's Compliance Statement, claiming that it has lived up to its promises to provide jobs, housing, and transportation assistance to the City as well as keeping St. Luke's open and thriving for the community.