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Science Transforming Life®

November 11, 2011

Denver City Council
1437 Bannock Street, Room 456
Denver, Colorado 80202

Denver City Council Members:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of National Jewish Health (NJH), it is my honor as Chair to detail our desire to expand our mission, our facilities, and our commitment to Denver. Next Monday, November 14th, you will be considering the rezoning application submitted by NJH for the property located between 13th and 14th Avenues on the east side of Colorado Boulevard, the former Gove Middle School property, as well as a smaller parcel of property located between 13th and 14th Avenue on the west side of Colorado Boulevard. We respectfully request your support of our rezoning application, and your affirmative vote for NJH.

Civic commitment has long been a core tenet of NJH -- reflected in our mission and commitment to this great city. NJH has been an integral part of the Denver community for over 112 years. NJH maintains an impressive national and international prominence, having been ranked the #1 respiratory hospital in the nation (*U.S. News and World Report*) for fourteen consecutive years. The continued success of NJH is dependent upon the growth of our campus and the construction of new facilities to accommodate our clinical, research and educational mission. We cannot underscore enough the importance of this rezoning to NJH and its future in Denver.

In addition to an increased ability to provide essential clinical services, the utilization of the Gove Middle School property will have significant economic impact and employment opportunities for Denver. The current economic impact of NJH is estimated to be \$473 million per year with an additional \$235 million yearly impact projected upon the completion of a new facility. NJH employs over 1,700 people with an average salary greater than \$66,000. A new facility is projected to provide for an additional 700 new full time employees.

The purchase of the Gove property from Denver Public Schools is contingent upon appropriate zoning to allow for potential planned expansion. Upon rezoning, NJH will launch a master planning process and engage in a robust capital campaign. We pledge to continue to work closely with the Colorado Boulevard Healthcare District and our adjacent neighbors.

We have been great neighbors in Denver for 112 years and plan to be for another century. Thank you again for considering our rezoning application.

Sincerely,



Thomas Gart
Chair, Board of Directors
National Jewish Health

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