

# Press Release

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## CPMC PLANS TO CLOSE ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL

*California Pacific Medical Center has plans to close St. Luke's as an acute care hospital in 2009. Public hearings on this issue are beginning, the first being:*

**What: Committee Hearing of Board of Supervisors**

**When: Thursday, October 25, 1:00 PM**

**Where: Room 263 of City Hall.**

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There will be a number of persons speaking against the plans of California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC) to close services at St. Luke's Hospital.

**\*CPMC plans on "replacing" St. Luke's with a series of ambulatory care centers in the South of Market area. The proposed ambulatory centers are in Stonestown, Potrero Hill, and the Excelsior districts. Where is the ambulatory access for the most needy?**

**\*This will NOT eliminate the need for an inpatient hospital, which is the only private hospital south of Market. The only other hospital is San Francisco General Hospital, which is already overburdened.**

**\*CPMC has already closed (during the past two years) or is about to close several services: psychiatric inpatient unit, occupational and physical therapy, in process of closing Worker's Compensation Clinic, and wants to close the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and the Pediatric floor.**

**\*If St. Luke's closes, one half of San Francisco will be left with only one hospital, SFGH. It is not easy to get from south of Market to north of Market. Can you imagine someone with a heart attack in the Bayview or Excelsior trying to get across town in rush hour if SFGH is not accepting ambulances, which happens often?**

**\*The Emergency Room of St. Luke's served 28,000 people last year, and 7000 of these visits were "critical." SFGH cannot handle the additional visits.**

**\*What about a disaster? A study says that SF needs 100 MORE beds to deal with a Katrina-like disaster. Do we want ½ the City to have only one hospital available in case of a disaster?**

**\*CPMC is planning to build a new hospital at the Cathedral Hill Hotel site, as well as building facilities in southern Marin County. It appears that they are more concerned about the people of southern Marin and wealthy communities than about the people in the Bayview, Mission and Excelsior districts.**

**\*If St. Luke's closes, it is minorities and the poor who will be mostly affected, including African Americans, Latinos, and Philipinos.**