

Mayor, Spaulding Announce New Home for Rehab Hospital

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Future in Boston Secured with New Navy Yard Facility

BOSTON — August 9, 2005 — Mayor Thomas M. Menino and the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital announced exciting plans for a new facility to be built in the Charlestown Navy Yard. The announcement is a significant step forward for the nationally recognized rehabilitation hospital and welcome news for the city, which has long awaited the redevelopment of vacant parcels in the Yard's End section of the Navy Yard. The plans ensure that Spaulding will remain a thriving presence in the city. It also elevates the Navy Yard's reputation as one of Boston's emerging centers for research, development, health care, and other Lifetech industries.

"We have waited a long time to see new life come to Yard's End; this project will help bring our vision for the Navy Yard redevelopment to fruition," said Mayor Menino. "Most importantly, Spaulding will continue to carry out its invaluable mission as a rehabilitation hospital in a new and improved facility, with beautiful harbor views and greater access to the waterfront for all. Spaulding will join a growing neighborhood of preeminent biotech and life sciences companies, including the already established Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) research facilities."

The new facility will include 150 inpatient physical rehabilitation beds and replace the current Spaulding facility on Nashua Street. Spaulding officials also announced today that they have chosen an architectural firm, Perkins + Will, to begin the preliminary design process. The hospital anticipates launching its Institutional Master Plan and project review in early 2006. The Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) board approved the transfer of Parcels 6 & 7 to Partners HealthCare in August 2004.

"We are very excited to be making this announcement, and we look forward to sharing our ideas for a new Spaulding with the Charlestown community," said Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital President and CEO Judith C. Waterston. "Spaulding's current facility, which was constructed as a nursing home in the 1960s, is nearing the end of its useful life. For Spaulding to continue to provide world-class care, it needs a new facility and a new home."

Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital has consistently been named one of the top 10 rehabilitation hospitals in the country by U.S. News & World Report. It is a member of Partners HealthCare System and a teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School.

Preliminary plans for the new facility include 150 private rooms, research and conference space, an indoor aquatics center, underground parking and public green space.

The Charlestown Navy Yard was decommissioned in 1974 and acquired by the BRA in 1978. The BRA's efforts have resulted in one of the most successful historic rehabilitation and preservation projects in the nation, combining residential, institutional, retail and public recreational uses. A former military base, the Yard's End site will require remediation. Partners has retained Haley & Aldrich, one of the nation's leading environmental consulting firms, and is working closely with the Boston Redevelopment Authority to coordinate the process.

"We look forward to an open and educational communication process with the Charlestown community as we move forward with our plans," said Waterston. "We will be respectful of their concerns, issues and questions."

The mission of Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital is to enable patients to regain their highest level of function, independence and performance. The hospital provides a full continuum of rehabilitation care and community-based rehabilitation services, contributing new knowledge and treatment approaches to rehabilitation and disease and injury management through research and outcome studies. Spaulding also provides training for physicians, nurses, therapists and other allied health professionals working in the field of rehabilitation medicine.

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