



## **SEIU HEALTHCARE FLORIDA LOCAL 1991**

18441 N.W. 2ND AVENUE • SUITE 502 • MIAMI GARDENS, FL 33169

PHONE: 305.620.6555 • FAX: 305.620.1429 • 1-800-FOR-SEIU

union@seiu1991.org • www.seiu1991.org

*Martha Baker, RN*  
President

*Sam Ruiz, RN*  
Vice President

*Barbara Scollon, RN*  
Treasurer

*Doris Rahming, RN*  
Secretary

February 17, 2010

Katherine Fernandez Rundle  
Miami-Dade State Attorney  
E.R. Graham Building  
1350 NW 12th Avenue  
Miami, Florida 33136-2111

RE: Request for Grand Jury Investigation of Crisis  
At Public Health Trust/Jackson Health System

Dear Ms. Rundle:

We are the 5,000 registered nurses, attending physicians and healthcare professionals in the Jackson Health System. We urgently seek needed assistance in response to the ongoing crisis at the Public Health Trust and Jackson Health System.

We request a Grand Jury investigation of this crisis, which has potentially catastrophic repercussions for this community. Here is what the community deserves to know:

### **A Complete and Accurate Accounting of Public Funds.**

- The current leadership of PHT/JHS appears incapable of calculating the budget shortfall, much less addressing the deficit. First Jackson's executives said it was \$45 million; then two weeks ago it was \$80 million. Now they say they "think" the shortfall may be \$229 million. On Tuesday, February 2, Jackson's executives admitted again to the PHT Board they are still not sure if the numbers are accurate.
- Jackson executives also admit the billing system is inadequate and mismanaged. The administration has consistently miscalculated the amount that could be collected and has no effective means of collection.
- Financial reporting and billing are so unreliable that the CFO was dismissed. He has instead been given a severance package and allowed to retire with benefits.
- Our community has a right to know if public funds have been misappropriated or misused.
- The Jackson Foundation appears to be used as a slush fund for Jackson's Executives. Has it been operated in accordance with law and its mission, or has it been misused?

### **A Determination of How Patient Care Is Suffering and Will Suffer.**

- Jackson is literally a lifeline in our community. Jackson is not just the top trauma

center, but the only trauma center serving patients in this area. It is not only the hospital that serves the poor, but also the hospital of last resort and the source of cutting-edge medical care for the seriously ill from all strata of society. Patient care at Jackson is at stake.

- Jackson executives say they will cut patient care in light of their financial crisis. We need an investigation into whether patients are getting the care they deserve and what the impact of proposed cuts will be on their lives.

### **Analysis of Leadership Failures and Accountability for the Crisis.**

- We should know who first knew of the growing financial crisis, when they learned of the problems that are only now reaching the public and how the crisis remained unaddressed. Dr. Roldan previously served as the Chief Administrative Officer of the Jackson Health System. When did she learn of the growing disaster, and what action did she take?
- As nurses, physicians and healthcare professionals in the Jackson Health System, we have been making every effort to serve as internal watchdogs of the public's healthcare dollars spent at Jackson. On a daily basis we see where money could be saved, additional revenue brought in, systems improved and quality increased. Our suggestions have been rejected.
- The administration at Jackson is often acting in secret, behind closed doors and with disregard for our patients, our employees and our community.

Pursuant to statutory authority under section 905.16, Fla. Stat., a Grand Jury is needed to consider the actions of PHT/JHS and officials in the use of public funds, and to report findings and recommendations as to practices, procedures, incompetencies, inefficiencies, mistakes and misconduct. Grand Juries in the past have performed this role admirably and with good results for the public institutions that serve this community. We urgently need the Grand Jury to invoke these same investigative powers at Jackson.

We urge you to move forward on this request. We stand ready to assist in any way necessary. This vital public resource is at serious risk, and we need your help.

Sincerely,



Martha Baker, RN  
President, SEIU Local 1991