

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - 904

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ROCKLEDGE, BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, STRONGLY ENCOURAGING ORLANDO HEALTH TO POSTPONE ITS PROPOSED CLOSURE OF ORLANDO HEALTH ROCKLEDGE HOSPITAL FOR THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE COMMUNITY.

WHEREAS, the Orlando Health Rockledge Hospital is located at 110 Longwood Avenue in the city of Rockledge, Florida; and

WHEREAS, said hospital has been in existence for over eighty years, serving the Brevard County community in times of sickness and crisis; and

WHEREAS, Orlando Health has announced the impending closure of Orlando Health Rockledge Hospital on April 22, 2025; and

WHEREAS, on average, the Orlando Health Rockledge Hospital currently receives 55 patients per day via ambulance; this number does not include patients who enter the Emergency Room by other means; and

WHEREAS, if the Rockledge Hospital closes, patients requiring emergency care in an expeditious manner, including heart attack victims, cardiac arrest victims, stroke victims, patients in extreme pain, and patients with altered levels of consciousness will be forced to travel to other distant facilities to receive care; and

WHEREAS, care provided by Emergency Medical Services is foundational, as only a hospital can provide definitive care; and

WHEREAS, the delay of definitive patient care can and will lead to patient detriment, as closure of a receiving facility will increase the time and thus lower the potential for survival of critical illness such as strokes and cardiac events; and

WHEREAS, certain patient cases involve the accompaniment of law

enforcement officers to the hospital with said patient (upwards of 50% of arrestees), and the closure of Rockledge Hospital will force police officers to travel several miles away from their jurisdictions, leaving the remaining officers in the jurisdiction to cover shortages; and

WHEREAS, Orlando Health Rockledge Hospital has a significant patient capacity for admissions, and a closure would force admitted patients to become dependent on other local facilities, which would be detrimental during periods of increased illness; and

WHEREAS, many citizens are either underinsured or uninsured, and often, these patients utilize their local hospitals as their primary source of medical care. A swift closure of Rockledge Hospital would force these patients to seek care elsewhere, which may be problematic for those with limited transportation options, thereby increasing ambulance usage which will cause further delays and wait times for ambulances Countywide; and

WHEREAS, the swift and untimely closure of Orlando Health Rockledge Hospital will cause significant detriment to the citizens of Central Brevard County who are in need of emergent care, as minutes matter, and lives are on the line.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCKLEDGE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Rockledge City Council does hereby strongly encourage Orlando Health to postpone the closure of Orlando Health Rockledge Hospital for a period of no less than twenty-four (24) months.

SECTION 2. The Rockledge City Council implores Orlando Health to work in

conjunction with other hospital systems and specialty healthcare providers in Brevard County to establish a continuum of care after the closure occurs to prohibit interruption of critical services to the community in Central Brevard County.

SECTION 3. The Rockledge City Council strongly encourages Orlando Health to communicate with the City of Rockledge their intentions and proposed actions prior to any actions being made public or taking effect.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a special meeting of the City Council of the City of Rockledge, Florida, this 6th day of March, 2025.

/s/Thomas J. Price
Chairman, City Council of the
City of Rockledge, Florida

ATTEST:

/s/Jennifer M. LeVasseur
City Clerk