



NAACP

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Terry Mills
President

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For Immediate Release:

NAACP brings Its National Voice by Calling on Citizens to Sign Petition to Cease Memorial Hospital Demolition

Corpus Christi, Texas-Sept. 18, 2014-The NAACP has called for an immediate cease to the decision made by the Nueces County Hospital Board to demolish Memorial Hospital. Terry Mills, President, has noted that multiple organizations from the Westside and Northside community along with prominent community leaders from the area have joined forces to appeal to the Hospital Board to retract their stand on the demolition of the hospital. In a statement issued earlier today, Mills noted that without discussion, the Nueces County Hospital District board voted Tuesday to eventually shut down and demolish the county-owned Memorial hospital. Mills stated "The closure and demolition of Memorial Hospital disenfranchises the poor. This travesty will not be tolerated by the NAACP and we will stay in pursuit of a resolution to this matter." Mills further asserted that the NAACP is taking action, noting that under state law, voters may force Nueces County to hold a referendum on closing Memorial. That would require a major campaign-style petition drive, which would have to collect valid signatures from 10 percent of the nearly 188,000 registered voters in Nueces County. Mills further thanked Commissioner Oscar Ortiz, calling him a "champion of the poor" and for being the "sole voice for the people of the Westside and Northside communities."

Mills added that "The NAACP brings our national voice to Corpus Christi in the hope that ethnic and racial disparities affected by the closure of Memorial Hospital will be resolved through the petition."

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest nonpartisan civil rights organization. Its members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities.