



**NEXT comments to Chapel Hill Town Council Regarding Proposed Eastowne Medical Office Building
September 19, 2018**

My name is Sue Hunter. I am a resident of Chapel Hill, and have lived in the area for 30 years. My husband and I are both UNC graduates, and we, our two children, as well as my mother in law are all UNC Healthcare patients.

I am also a member of the community-based group known as NEXT. This organization is made up of a collection of residents of Chapel Hill and Carrboro who seek to take advantage of the potential we have here in Chapel Hill and Carrboro. This is a great place and we see many opportunities to make this place even better - an economically sound, environmentally friendly, equitable, and sustainable community that everyone can call home. It is as a representative of NEXT that I speak to you this evening.

UNC Healthcare's proposal to develop a medical office building in Eastowne aligns with our hopes and visions for our community. It will provide the following benefits:

- Bring together a diverse set of healthcare clinics that are currently scattered throughout Chapel Hill and Carrboro.
- Provide more opportunities for collaboration in provision of healthcare services to our residents.
- Locate those clinics in a strategic spot in Chapel Hill:
 - Close to a planned Light Rail Transit station that will increase accessibility to the clinics;
 - Location at the edge of Chapel Hill that provides opportunity to capture automobile trips from visitors to our community, eliminating car trips and parking demands within Chapel Hill and Carrboro.
 - In a location that was planned decades ago as an area to contain offices and institutional services, and which has served in that role for decades.
- There are a few issues that I want to highlight, especially:
 - UNC Healthcare has acknowledged that the proximity of this site to the future Gateway Light Rail station is an enormous asset to this location, and has committed to efforts to accommodate access. UNC is about to begin a master planning process for the remainder of the 40+ acres of Eastowne Healthcare Campus, and planning for access to the station is to occur in the coming year.
 - UNC Healthcare has expressed commitment to multi-modal access. One of the components in this first project is attention to access to the facility from the nearby bus stop and sidewalk.
 - As this project is developed, and as the master planning process for the remainder of the Eastowne Campus moves forward, we believe that a critical component of the planning needs to be attention to mobility issues: bike, pedestrian, bus, and transit accessibility.
- On a personal note, as a UNC healthcare patient, I've accompanied every member of my family, including my mother in law with Alzheimer's, to appointments at UNC clinics on campus, as well as the

ER. Driving into campus and parking in the parking deck is a time consuming process, one made even longer if you need to take a shuttle from the parking deck to the clinic. From a patient perspective, I encourage you to support the Eastowne project to allow more clinics to be moved off campus.

- Core values for all of us include having a healthy and inclusive community. UNC Healthcare is an important community partner in helping to achieve these goals. Our organization strongly supports this proposal to locate health clinics in Eastowne, and urge the Town Council to approve this Special Use Permit.