## PRESS RELEASE



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 6, 2024

Mount Sinai Medical Center responds to OHkw inquiry to interest in expanding healthcare further in Key West

**OUR HOSPITAL Key West (OHkw)** is a Citizens Advocacy Group comprised of Key West Residents. Our Advisors, Members and Supporters come from all walks of life, including Physicians, Nurses, Hospital Administrators, Past and Present Lower Keys Medical Center Employees, Attorneys, City and County Workers, Business Owners, Hospitality Workers, Retirees, and many other backgrounds. Our mission is to seek the best possible levels of care at our Public Hospital.

In less than 5 years, April 30, 2029 the existing lease of our Public Hospital, Lower Keys Medical Center to Community Health Systems Inc expires with no provision for automatic extension or renewal. As a Public Hospital, Lower Keys Medical Center is governed by The Lower Florida Keys Hospital District, a Florida State governing entity, through its local Board of Commissioners. In latter 2023 the Hospital District Board and the existing Hospital Operator Community Health Systems Inc ascertained preemptively that Community Health Systems Inc desires to renew its lease with the Hospital District Board.

Given that The Hospital District and its Board of Commissioners, and current Hospital Operator Community Health Systems Inc have preemptively ascertained Community Health Systems Inc desires to renew their lease, OHkw, our advisors and supporters are asking the Hospital District Board Members to formally invite additional leading South Florida Hospital Operators to submit detailed Letters of Interest to the District Hospital, perhaps inclusive of, but not limited to Levels of Care / Specialty, Initial Investments and Continued Reinvestment of Operating Income into Facility / Personnel ongoing,

OHkw has also invited Sinai Medical Center and Baptist Health to express their interest into expanding their medical services further into Key West, specifically with our Public Hospital at the end of the current lease term April 30th, 2029 such that the public has knowledge of these options.

Attached is a written response from Mount Sinai to OHkw's request for interest. We're requesting the Hospital District Board of Commissioners pursue this, and other additional Hospital Operators for considerations for the lease term ending in 2029 for our Public Hospital in addition to the existing Hospital Operator's interest, such that an objective operating comparison can be made.





Dear Spencer,

Thank you for your inquiry.

For over twenty years, Mount Sinai has been dedicated to expanding access to expert medical care in the Key West community. Since opening our first cardiology office, we have expanded our presence to better serve the residents of Key West with three convenient locations offering primary care, walk-in care, women's health, urology, gastroenterology, general surgery, diagnostics, and other specialty services.

With over 15 physicians serving Key West, six of whom reside in the community, we are truly committed to enhancing the medical care and services available to the Key West population.

Significant investments on behalf of the medical center continue to be made, with our cardiologists currently rotating through Lower Keys Medical Center on a daily basis. In addition, Mount Sinai accepts all patients for care and/or procedures, regardless of insurance or ability to pay. This is a testament to our commitment to enhancing the health and well-being of the communities we serve.

As it stands, we know that many Key West patients leave the area to receive care for services like cancer treatment, dialysis, and heart procedures, among others. Our ultimate goal is to augment the services available in the community, so that all Key West residents and visitors have access to high-quality, expert medical care, close to home.

Mount Sinai is proud to be engrained within the fabric of the Key West community. We look forward to continuing to address the everchanging needs of the city's diverse and unique population by expanding access to expert medical care for residents and visitors.

Sincerely,

Gino R. Santorio

President and Chief Executive Officer

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