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February 10, 2014

Rory Levy
New York City Board of Standards and Appeals
250 Broadway, 29th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: New York Methodist Hospital, CEQR # 14BSA057K, BSA Ref# 289-13-BZ

Dear Mr. Levy:

This letter responds to comments presented by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in a letter dated December 17, 2013, regarding the Environmental Assessment Statement (EAS) prepared in connection with the variance application for New York Methodist Hospital (NYM), specifically the air quality and noise analyses. AKRF's responses are as follows:

AIR QUALITY

DEP Comment: We concur with the consultant's conclusions depicted in the document.

Response: Comment noted.

NOISE

DEP Comment: The consultant should assess the potential effect of siren noise from ambulances on the surrounding residential area.

Response: The proposed variances would facilitate the construction of an ambulatory care facility located on the northern portion of the NYM campus opposite the main hospital facilities. The proposed facility would contain an ambulatory surgery center; a new endoscopy suite; clinical institutes for physician practice care delivery; an urgent care center; conference rooms; and a below-grade parking facility with connections to the Hospital's existing parking facilities to the west. The clinical institutes would include, cardiology, neurosciences, orthopedics, urology, a women's center, and cancer care with diagnostic radiology services. The proposed facility would only be used to perform outpatient treatment and, therefore, would not receive any patients arriving by ambulance, or otherwise generate any ambulance-related trips. NYM's emergency department would remain in its present location with an ambulance drop-off area at the corner of 7th Avenue and 7th Street. Therefore, the proposed project would have no effect on the numbers of ambulances coming to the hospital or the ambulance circulation patterns in the area surrounding the NYM campus, and an analysis of siren noise from ambulances is not warranted.

Sincerely,

Stephen James Holley
Vice President

cc: Chung Chan, DEP
Elise Wagner, Esq., and Toni Finger, Esq., Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP