

**NARRATIVE SUMMARY
OF
THE INTENT OF THE
PROPOSED ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT**

South County Hospital, Inc. (hereinafter "SCH") is a Rhode Island corporation with a principal office of 70 Kenyon Avenue, South Kingstown, Rhode Island. SCH owns the property located at 70 Kenyon Avenue, designated as South Kingstown Tax Assessor's Plat 64-1, Lot 122 (hereinafter "the Campus"). Pursuant to South Kingstown Zoning Ordinance Section 603.2(C), SCH is required to submit a "Strategic Master Plan" to the Town every five years. The purpose of the proposed Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment is to streamline and simplify SCH's filing requirements. The following is a history of SCH, prior "Strategic Master Plan" filings, and how this relates to the Campus.

HISTORY OF SCH

The land that is now the Campus was once the Town Farm, a municipal refuge for the indigent. During the 1918 Spanish Flu outbreak, citizens of the southern part of Rhode Island grew increasingly concerned that this part of the state did not have a hospital. In 1925, the brick hospital building at 100 Kenyon Avenue was completed, expanding SCH's Emergency Department, which still provides the vital emergency care so critical to residents of and visitors to Washington County.

In 1962, Route 1 was constructed, dividing the Town Farm Parcel. The Town retained ownership of part of the land, and the hospital retained the rest. When a 50-foot charter fishing boat, The Comet, sank off the coast of Point Judith in 1973, the hospital realized the need for rescue helicopters to have quick access to emergency services, and a helicopter landing pad was established in the parking lot.

As the hospital continued to grow, additions were built until the hospital ran out of space to grow. SCH asked the Town for more land in 1983. They asked for six acres, but the Town was concerned about losing recreational land, as the sought-after six acres included one of the ballfields created after Route 1 was constructed. To compensate for this loss, SCH offered land to the Town of South Kingstown, which would net the Town 65 acres. In April 1983, voters approved the deal to give the hospital its six additional acres, and allowing the Town to create Tuckertown Park.

Generous donors, benefactors, and the community at-large have always been the greatest supporters of SCH. SCH is a major employer in South Kingstown, offering over 1,500 employees competitive pay and benefits, and prioritizing local hiring, internal workforce development, and local purchasing. SCH is committed to the community that it was built by and for. As SCH continues to evolve, it places the community first in determining how best to improve services, targeting areas such as cardiovascular

services, digestive health, oncology, and robotic surgery, emergency medicine, behavioral health, and cutting-edge technology.

SCH's Mission Statement commits SCH to being the Most Trusted Health Partner. SCH's vision is for a model health system – advancing high value and wellness for our community by delivering unparalleled quality, service, and innovation. SCH is guided by our core values: Integrity; Caring; Respect; Excellence; Partnership; and Stewardship. Our commitment to these values ensures that our patients receive the highest quality healthcare in a setting designed with patients' comfort, convenience, privacy, and well-being in mind.

THE SOUTH KINGSTOWN ZONING ORDINANCE

Section 603.2 (C) of the ordinance applies only to SCH and University of Rhode Island. Even if the Town approves SCH's "Strategic Master Plan", this quinquennial filing does not give SCH permission to make any changes to the Campus – SCH must file additional applications for development plan review, zoning relief, and building permits as needed.

INTENT OF THE PROPOSED ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT

Amending the Zoning Ordinance as proposed by SCH will streamline the process by which SCH reports its long-range and/or strategic plans for growth. The current text of Section 603.2(C) of the Zoning Ordinance requires hundreds of hours of preparation, multiple experts and vendors; and hundreds of pages of documentation. Over the past eighteen months, when SCH attempted to comply with Section 603.2(C), they received conflicting advice from various Town officials and had to substantially redraft the plan, causing SCH and the Town to expend tremendous effort, energy, and expense. The process is overly burdensome.

As written, Section 603.2(C) does not achieve any goals for the Town and does not benefit SCH. The process does not allow for the approval of even minimal changes to the Campus. SCH's proposed amendments will simplify the process, so that SCH's long-range and/or strategic plans are submitted to the Town and treated as development plan review, versus the more complex process of major land development review.