Mayor de Blasio:

The Commission on Health Care for Our Neighborhoods is pleased to provide you with the enclosed issue briefs on: (1) Reenvisioning Clinical Infrastructure; (2) Building Clinical Partnerships; and (3) Sustaining the Safety Net.

Over six months, the Commission reviewed information and key findings provided by NYC Health + Hospitals to develop consensus recommendations that we hope will guide NYC Health + Hospitals’ necessary effort to modernize the public health care system.

The Commission applauds NYC Health + Hospitals for its commitment to its patients and workforce, as well as its efforts to maintain the highest quality standards, as shown by the recent recognition from the Leapfrog Group. However, reimagining how to deliver high-quality health care, with limited resources that better meets patient needs and helps people stay healthy throughout the course of their lives is an imperative for long-term sustainability.

We cannot underscore enough that NYC Health + Hospitals must continue to be able to serve all who walk through its doors and with ever-improving excellence in care. As the City’s largest safety-net provider, our public health care system plays a vital role in health care delivery, particularly for the City’s most vulnerable residents. To continue fulfilling its mission, NYC Health + Hospitals must be able to overcome the current fiscal challenges and transform into a high-performing health system for all New Yorkers.

We look forward to exciting developments at NYC Health + Hospitals over the coming months and years as New York City’s public health care system continues to evolve to meet the current and future health care needs in our vibrant city.

Sincerely,

Dr. Donald M. Berwick  
President Emeritus and Senior Fellow, Institute for Healthcare Improvement

Pamela S. Brier  
Senior Advisor, Hunter College, and Visiting Senior Fellow,  
The New York Academy of Medicine

Dr. Jo Ivey Boufford  
President, The New York Academy of Medicine

Dr. Rosa M. Gil  
President and CEO, Comunilife, Inc.

David R. Jones, Esq.  
President and CEO, Community Service Society

Dr. Rafael A. Lantigua  
Professor of Medicine, Columbia University Medical Center, and Medical Attending,  
New York Presbyterian Hospital

James R. Tallon, Jr.  
President, United Hospital Fund

Javier H. Valdes  
Co-Executive Director, Make the Road New York