TO: Liz Dunne, President
Charles Prosper, Chief Hospital Executive

PeaceHealth St. Joseph's Medical Center
2901 Squalicum Parkway,
Bellingham WA, 98225

CC: Service Employees International Union 1199NW, Washington State Nurses Association, Union of American Physicians and Dentists (UAPD), Northwest Central Labor Council.

Dear President Liz Dunne and Chief Hospital Executive Charles Prosper,

Thank you for your e-mail received by us on March 24th regarding your ongoing negotiations with three unions representing your employees.

We, the elected members of the Bellingham City Council, are charged with supporting a safe and affordable community, and PeaceHealth St. Joseph is a valued community partner in meeting those goals.

At the February 24th and March 24th meetings of the Bellingham City Council, many physicians, nurses, technicians, and other healthcare professionals employed by you testified to their challenges providing safe, quality patient care, and affording the rising cost of living. We feel that these concerns are vital to our broader community and should continue to be addressed with all three active bargaining units through the collective bargaining process you are currently engaged in, as well as by recognizing and bargaining with the hospitalists organized with UAPD.

As you continue to negotiate, we strongly urge all parties to proceed with a commitment to bargaining for the common good that is predicated on a high-quality healthcare workforce and a safe workplace. This cannot be sustained without competitive compensation and benefits, improved employee retention and recruitment, and adequate staffing.

As the largest local medical institution and one of the largest employers in Bellingham, your decisions resound widely in our community. We are invested in your success in agreeing to fair and equitable settlements that reflect your commitment to providing quality healthcare for our community and addressing the impact of the rising cost of living on your employees in Bellingham and Whatcom County.

Respectfully,

Hollie Huthman, President

Bellingham City Council