



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Medical Center (632)
79 Middleville Road
Northport, New York 11768-2290

In Reply Refer To:

April 20, 2010

Dear Veteran/Neighbor/Advocate:

You are receiving this mailing because you:

- 1) expressed interest in VA's proposal to enter into an enhanced-use lease (EUL) with a private developer for an assisted living facility for veterans and their spouses on the grounds of Northport VA Medical Center;
- 2) attended one of the two public meetings on the proposal; or
- 3) live along local roadways leading to the Medical Center.

VA required Northport VAMC to conduct a public meeting in the fall to inform the public of its intent to pursue a EUL for the assisted living facility. However, since we at Northport are interested in hearing from veterans and the community throughout this process, we committed to conducting several meetings to ensure we work together toward the success of this project for veterans.

At a second public meeting on April 8, the large concerns expressed centered on the proposed site for the facility, increased traffic, the affordability of assisted living for veterans, and increased communication with the public.

These and other concerns are being carefully considered as we plan our next steps. The first step taken was adjusting our timeline for the publication of the request for proposals (RFP) to developers to allow ample time to evaluate the thoughts and ideas shared on April 8.

The next step is to create an advisory group, made up of veterans, community advocates, and VA staff, to ensure veterans and the community -- through the representatives on the board -- have input leading up to the publication of the RFP and after a developer is selected. The goal of this board is to ensure the highest level of success with this project. Once selected, the names and contact information for the advisory board will be posted on VA's website (www.northport.va.gov), along with all other available information about the project.

If you have any related expertise or experience with project planning and assisted living services and you wish to be considered for membership on the advisory group, please contact Philip Weisbrot, Northport's Facility Planner, at (631) 261-4400, ext. 7891, by May 5th. Board members will be selected shortly after the May 5th date.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact Joe Sledge, Northport's Public Affairs Officer, at (631) 266-6074.

Sincerely,

/s/

PHILIP C. MOSCHITTA

Director, Northport VA Medical Center