

Asiatown Angered by MetroHealth Clinic Sudden Closure - OCA **Townhall Meeting**

by Wayne Wong

11 月 20 日 OCA 美華協會大克 利夫蘭組織舉行了亞洲成市政廳會

議,會議討論了 MetroHealth (美健診 所) 突然單方面決定 關閉位于亞洲廣場內 的亞洲城健康中心的

議題。177位亞洲城社區的居民參加了會議 他們大多數是老年人並在該診所看病, 他們激 動地向 12 位 MetroHealt 的代表提出問題並表 達他們的關注。他們建議撤銷關閉診所的決定, 或延遲關閉以便更容易過渡,亞洲廣場甚至提 出極其優惠的財政措施以保持診所繼續開放, 但是這一切都沒有能夠改變美健診

所在11月30日關閉的決定。

對此社區居民感到非常不安原 因是:1) 此家診所爲社區盡心服務了 22年,並能夠爲非英語中老年居民提 供雙語服務的醫務人員, 比鄰社區的 老人們也非常方便前往看病, 而關閉 這樣一家診所的決定是非常嚴重的 事情。2)之前的一個月僅在伊利華報 上刊登了一則廣告就在十一月底將 診所關閉。3)缺乏社區的參與和投入 以緩解過渡。4)沒有通知縣和市議會 他們都是通過美華協會獲悉診所 關閉的。(更多詳情請閱讀下文)

OCA Greater Cleveland organized an

Asiatown Townhall Meeting held on November 20 to discuss MetroHealth's unilateral and sudden decision to close the Asia Town Heath Center located at Asia Plaza. 177 people, mostly Senior Citizens from the Asiatown Community that depend on the clinic attended and raised passionate

MetroHealth 將離開華人超市的消息後, 收到不少讀者來 電來信,讀者十分希望 MetroHealth 能繼續留在亞洲商 場。華人在美華協會和社會關心人士的幫助下,已經舉行 了二次會議,參加的人數都多於 100 人,華人希望能得到 MetroHealth 醫院的支持,能繼續留在亞洲商場來方便華 人,現在亞洲商場還有華人開設的美樂健藥房,尤其方便 居家在克利夫蘭唐人街的華人。

本報記者參與了這次已經有10多年在亞洲商場2 樓的 MetroHealth 準備關閉的整個過程,記者得知華人們 已經把這個診所當家了,華人們喜歡這里的劉醫生與護 重要的是華人們已經對醫生護士十分信賴,這個診所方便 了大家。

華人提出診所是爲廣大居民而設立的公共服務,我們 有需要知道關閉的原因,診所是用政府財政和稅收運作的, 要關閉是通過什么程序決定的?是否有咨詢過社區意見, 診所服務多年,它的存在尤其讓老人生活安定,萬事不求人, 關閉這是改變老人生活。本報記者參與這次診所準備搬遷 的過程,看到華人們的團結,也看到未來克利夫蘭華人的希 望。克利夫蘭唐人街,有相當規模的超市,華人服務組織,華 人商業等等,相信未來一定會有一個屬於華人的娛樂中心。

input to ease the transition, 4) Lack of notification to

County and City Council - who learned of the clo-

dent support provided at the meeting by Cleveland

The community was very impressed by the ar-

niqueness of what is going on over here? ... For you guys to take a walk after 22 years is unacceptable. This is Asiatown!" to the cheers of community. Similarly, Cuyahoga County Coun-

cilwoman Yvonne Conwell was surprised to learn about the closure at last week's pre-meeting

and sent a probing letter of inquiry to Metro-Health and has offered support for Asiatown. Thanks to the Hom Family and Li Wah Restaurant for hosting the event, to OCA President Lisa Wong for organizing the meeting, OCA

VP Administration Wayne Wong for Moderat-

ing the meeting, and OCA VP Communications Johnny Wu for support. Thanks to the speakers: Metro-Heath's Dr. Harry Walker Sr. VP of Ambulatory Network (and responsible for all 17 clinics), Dr. Sheng Liu the Medical Director of the current Asia Town MetroHealth facility, Michael Byun Executive Director of (ASIA) Asian Services In Action who was invited by MetroHealth to discuss the new unaffiliated ICHC clinic. Thank you to translators Henry Lu, William Young, Chia Chen, and Susan Cho-Harris. Further

demonstrating the unique needs of Asiatown, the meeting was conducted in four languages (English, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Korean). Thank you to all the many concerned community members and leaders for attending and sup porting each other.

November, 3) Lack of community involvement and

sure through OCA.

questions and concerns to the 12 MetroHealth repor delay the closure to allow an easier transition,

resentatives. Suggestions to reverse the decision, and even extremely generous financial incentives to keep the facility open offered by Asia Plaza has not changed the decision to close the clinic on November 30.



The community was very upset by: 1) Decision to close the facility that ably served the community for 22 years including non-English speaking elderly for whom bi-lingual medical staff and ease of neighborhood access is critical, 2) Abruptness of the announcement via an ad in Erie Chinese Journal a month prior to closure at the end of

ously represented Asiatown prior to rezoning) who chastised the MetroHealth Senior Management for never approaching City Council or St. Clair Superior Development Corporation regarding the closure or on any concerns over the adequacy of the existing Asiatown facility. Regarding abandoning Asiatown, Councilman Johnson said: "Do you know the u-



At last Thursday's Townhall Meeting, the Asiatown community and its many supporters expressed concern and even anger over MetroHealth's decision to close the critical 22 year old Asia Plaza Health Center after this week. Here is a short video including Cleveland Councilman Jeffrey Johnson rebuking MetroHealth for

in finding a fair solution?. Most of the 177 people in attendance, especially the many non-English speaking elderly, protested the closing with a show of hands. Over two-hundred signed letters have been collected. Asia Plaza has offered gener-





ous financial incentives and additional space for upgrading the current facility?. But at this time, MetroHealth has not indicated a willingness to rescind or delay the closure to ease transition.

Can anything be done before the end of this week to prevent the closure of the clinic? We need to take action now.



Health Center

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開業啓示

位於亞洲城市中心二樓的亞洲民眾服務協會國際社區保健診所 現正式投入運作,歡迎社區各界人士前來預約求診。

本診所接收

Medicaid 保險卡, Medicare 保險卡。 無醫療保險人士可以現金支付醫療費用。

營業時間 星期一、二、和四:上午8時半至下午4時半

星期三:上午8時半至晚上8時 星期五:上午8時半至正午12時

如何預約

請致電(216)-361-1223.或 (216)-881-0330,分機號碼 208

服務範圍:

- ❖基本醫療服務
- 家庭醫學
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❖健康檢查

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- 乙肝病毒測試
- 糖尿病測試
- ❖婦女保健
- ❖男性保健
- ❖轉介到專科門診
- ❖免疫接種
- ◆奥巴馬健保登記及申請





招聘啟示

因業務發展需要,亞洲民眾服務協會克利夫蘭辦事處及旗下的國際社區保 健中心現公開招聘以下相關職位:

1. 亞洲民眾服務協會克利夫蘭辦事處業務助理:

每週工作 40 小時,申請者須具備良好的社交能力,對電腦程式(Word, Excel 等)操作熟練,態度誠懇,責任心強。還需具備高中或以上學歷,能操流利英語、 粵語(或)國語者優先考慮:待遇面議。

2. 國際社區保健中心醫務助理:

全職,申請者須操流利英語及國語(或粵語),能全面協助保健中心日常事務,以 確保正常運作。有醫務助理或診所工作經驗者優先考慮;待遇面議。

凡對上述職位有意者,請以英文電郵方式,並附上個人簡歷,電郵至亞洲民眾服 務協會項目及營運總監 Mao Vue 女士,

mvue@asiaohio.org

為確保不受招聘事宜而影響正常服務, 應聘者謝絕來電諮詢或申請,多謝合作。