

48

**Lopez, Donna**

---

**From:** Elaine O'Reilly [eoreilly@governmentalstrategies.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 15, 2014 10:04 AM  
**To:** Lopez, Donna; City Council; Maher, David  
**Subject:** CHA and Emergency Rooms

**Importance:** High

Mayor Maher, City Councilors and Clerk:

I would like to register my concern over the potential closing of the Psychiatric ER at CHA. As a longtime Cambridge resident, I am contacting you today to urge you to work with CHA to keep both ERs open, one for Psychiatric Emergencies and one for all other Emergencies. Specifically trained personnel in each of these ERs are essential to high quality assessments, interventions and medical services in as efficient an environment as possible. Critical interventions can stabilize people in these emergency situations, avoiding more costly services that the city will incur in law enforcement and other areas of city services.

Separate ERs serve the broadest and specialized needs of the diverse population in CHAs service area. Timely responses are essential in psychiatric situations so that trained experiences staff can assess and control behavior as quickly as possible. These cases may take more time to deal with and other medical emergencies may have to wait too long if separate ERs are not maintained.

Thank you for your consideration.

Elaine O'Reilly  
95 Cushing St.  
Cambridge

Governmental Strategies, Inc.  
8 Beacon St., Suite 44  
Boston, MA 02108  
[eoreilly@governmentalstrategies.com](mailto:eoreilly@governmentalstrategies.com)  
Work: 617.523.7808 ext. 124  
Fax: 617.523.7803  
Cell: 617-447-5174