

## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **SENATOR JULIA SALAZAR TO HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE AT NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS/WOODHULL AFTER PLEDGING \$3.5 MILLION FOR RENOVATION OF ITS WOMEN'S HEALTH PAVILION**

**(Brooklyn, NY—January 6, 2021)** – Senator Julia Salazar's office will be providing NYC Health + Hospitals/Woodhull with a 3.5 million dollar grant to assist with a major renovation project that is planned by the hospital.

To facilitate the relocation of the Women's Health Pavilion from 8-300, 7-300 will undergo a full renovation in order to provide all of the services rendered in its current location. The Women's Health Pavilion provides many essential services including, but not limited to, routine and high risk prenatal care, general gynecological care, postpartum care, family planning / reproductive services, free pregnancy testing, genetic counseling, fertility and reproductive services, fetal assessment services, sexual transmitted infection testing and treatment (male and female) women's options services, a preconception clinic, social services, staff dietitian support services, financial counseling services, maternal care services, and breastfeeding classes.

State Senator Julia Salazar said, "Women's health needs to be prioritized more in our hospitals. It is my honor to bring this grant funding to Woodhull as they lead the fight to improve maternal health outcomes, and to provide resources and care for our families. Across the country, maternal mortality rates are almost three times higher for Black mothers than they are for others, and centers such as the forthcoming Women's Pavilion at Woodhull Hospital will help to lower these rates and racial disparities. Our goal is to ensure that every member of our community regardless of race, gender, or sexual preference will have access to resources that will help to promote good health in our communities. While it is my hope and commitment that we will eventually enact single-payer universal healthcare for all New Yorkers, we must do everything we can right now to improve health outcomes. I am thrilled to support Woodhull in this endeavor, just as Woodhull has been supporting our communities for decades."

"Woodhull Hospital holds a special place in my heart as it is where both of my children were welcomed into this world," said Council Member Antonio Reynoso. "My wife and I trusted the staff at Woodhull Hospital with the birth of our children because we know that the care offered by the hospital's midwifery team is unparalleled. I am delighted that Woodhull will now be able to expand and improve its facilities and the services that they offer to women and families thanks to an allocation from Senator Julia Salazar. I thank the Senator and entire team at Woodhull for their commitment to serving our communities."

"The NYC Health + Hospitals/Woodhull's Women's Health Pavilion provides comprehensive OBS/GYN healthcare services to women and families of the North Brooklyn community," said Gregory Calliste, CEO of NYC Health + Hospitals/Woodhull. "We are grateful to Senator Julia Salazar for this generous contribution of \$3.5 million to renovate and upgrade the Women's Health Pavilion in order to improve the environment and services offered to our patients. We also thank Senator Salazar for her support of Woodhull Hospital and dedication and commitment to improving the health status of the North Brooklyn community."

"Black and Latinx women and nonbinary individuals face stark inequities in access to health, especially reproductive and maternal healthcare across the United States. In our city, Black women are seven times more likely to die during childbirth than white women. This is why it is so important that we have a department at our Woodhull Hospital dedicated to women's health. We are honored to have a dedicated facility to address the health of women and LGBTQ people in Brooklyn through prevention, direct services and human care," said Samy Nemir Olivares, District Leader of Williamsburg and Bushwick and former Director of Puerto Rico's Planned Parenthood affiliate organization, Profamilias. "I am thrilled that a grant from State Senator Julia Salazar will allow this department to expand, because this will save lives in our community. This is the type of positive project that happens when elected officials and the community come together for the wellbeing of everyone."

Paul H. Kastell, MD, Chief of The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology of NYC Health + Hospitals/Woodhull added, "The department of OBS/GYN at Woodhull Hospital is thrilled to be receiving the grant from Senator Salazar. With it, we will be able to continue to provide the very best possible obstetric and gynecologic care to the women we serve."

Senator Salazar and local elected officials will do a walkthrough of the space with staff on Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, which will be followed by a press conference at 12 p.m. in the auditorium of the hospital's facility, located at 760 Broadway, Brooklyn, NY 11206. The groundbreaking is expected to occur next month and the project should be completed by November 2021.

#### About NYC Health + Hospitals/Woodhull

NYC Health + Hospitals/Woodhull is a 388-bed, acute care hospital in Brooklyn that serves the needs of the residents of Williamsburg, Bushwick, Greenpoint, Fort Greene, and Bedford-Stuyvesant. In addition to the quality acute care and emergency services, the hospital offers a wide range of outpatient primary care, dental and specialty care services for children and adults which are responsive to the health needs of the local community. The Pride Health Center at NYC Health + Hospitals/Woodhull is North Brooklyn's first comprehensive health center dedicated to serving the LGBTQ community. The hospital's recent Baby-Friendly designation and Infant Safe Sleep Champion represents a commitment to infant health. In 2020, Newsweek designated the hospital one of the best maternity care hospitals in the nation. In 2017, the hospital delivered a record 26 sets of twins and triplets. For more information visit, [nychealthandhospitals.org/Woodhull](https://nychealthandhospitals.org/Woodhull).