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October 29, 2014

To: Kevin G. Munjal, MD, MPH
Founder, NY Community Paramedicine Task Force

Dear Dr. Munjal,

On behalf of Mount Sinai Visiting Doctors and Chelsea-Village House Call Programs, we would like to indicate our support for the efforts of the NY Community Paramedicine Task Force. We support the Task Force's vision of new models of prehospital care including elements to make emergency response more patient-centered and adaptive to changes in the healthcare system, efforts to make out-of-hospital care more integrated into the continuum of healthcare service delivery and to integrate EMS into the public health infrastructure.

We are the largest academic home based primary and palliative care program in the country and we care for frail adults throughout Manhattan. We believe there will be many opportunities to collaborate with NY community Paramedicine Task Force on interesting and new initiatives. These will provide better timely care to our patients.

The ability for EMS to provide higher quality coordinated healthcare and to take on these new roles is greatly limited by the current NYS Medicaid reimbursement policy that emphasizes transport. We are proud to support the Task Force's efforts to realign financial incentives in out-of-hospital care to help unlock a vast potential for EMS to contribute to improving the public health while lowering costs.

We would like to thank the members of the Task Force for beginning a regional dialogue about the potential for prehospital care to contribute more than it does today. We would encourage other organizations, including hospital systems, public and private payers of healthcare, and government regulators to engage in this important discussion about the potential benefits of expanding the role that prehospital care systems play in our society.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda V. DeCherrie".

Linda V. DeCherrie, MD

Associate Professor

Director, Mount Sinai Visiting Doctors & Chelsea-Village House Call Programs
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