

Update: Christ Hospital Denies Winning Bid Claim

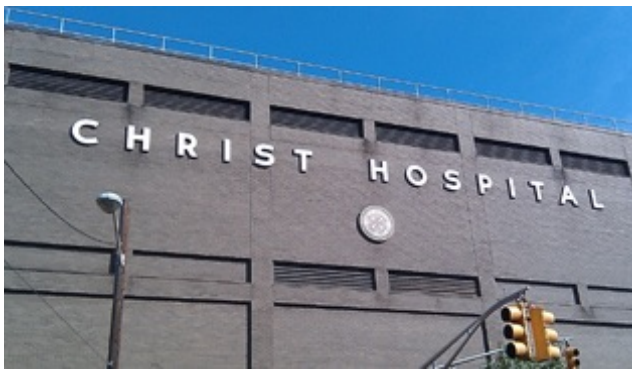
By [Matt Hunger](#) • Mar 21st, 2012 • Category: [Blog](#), [News](#)

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A previous report erroneously stated that Community Healthcare Associates, in partnership with the Jersey City Medical Center, had won the bid for Christ Hospital. A source close to the negotiations had stated the auction had ended with CHA as the highest bidder of \$40 million, but Peter Kelly, President and CEO of Christ Hospital, emphatically denied that there was a winning bid.

“The Christ Hospital Board of Trustees takes seriously its fiduciary responsibility to the creditors and the community to select the best successor to continue its 140 year-old history of providing vital and quality medical care. We regret that a misleading, inaccurate, and premature press report has given the impression that a decision has already been made prior to the completion of the bankruptcy process,” he said in a statement.

Last week CHA had **predicted it was in the best position to win the auction** based on JCMC’s non-profit hospital license and the group’s familiarity with the area. But according to the statement from Christ Hospital, a bid from Hudson Hospital Holdco, a for-profit company that owns both Bayonne Medical Center and Hoboken University Hospital, is also being considered.

Christ Hospital’s Board of Trustees is reviewing both bids and will take into consideration “financial viability” and maintenance of the hospital as a “full service” facility. They expect to return with a recommendation to the bankruptcy court on Friday, March 23rd. The final ruling on the hospital remains with the court, however.

According to Paul Bellan-Boyer, a community leader and representative from Save Christ Hospital, a group dedicated to keeping the hospital a non-profit health facility, the key issue is not who owns the hospital but how it operates.

“As a community coalition, we’ve been clear that we hope that whichever buyer prevails is one that is in it for the long term and is really responsive to the community needs and principals we’ve outlined,” said Bellan-Boyer.

The process, he noted, is not finalized until Christ’s Board chooses a buyer and the decision is ratified as a judge.

“As a coalition we have no preference, and we understand the process is one where the terms are subject to certain conditions imposed by the court,” he continued. “But we’re focused on outcomes, and whichever buyer is destined to deliver those [needs] is the one we’re most excited by.”

Mark Rabson, a spokesman for JCMC, said the group “respects the process” and won’t comment on a deal that is not yet finalized.

Calls to representatives from Holdco and Meadowlands Hospital Medical Center, a group that had previously maintained interest in purchasing the hospital, were not returned in time for publication.

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