

April 27, 2023

Boca Grande Historic Preservation Board Members
Lee County Southwest Florida

Dear Historic Preservation Board Members and Lee County Officials:

I am writing in support of the Boca Grande Health Clinic's project to expand primary and urgent care services to the island with the construction of a new, two-story building where the Annex currently sits. Having access to urgent care services, state-of-the-art physical therapy, vastly improved diagnostic imaging, lab services and telemedicine – on island – is much needed by our community.

As someone who has benefited greatly from the Health Clinic's stellar team of caregivers, I have seen the Clinic grow and expand over the years to the very physical limits of the current space available in the Clinic and Annex buildings. If our community is to continue to receive the best healthcare available, we must make room for changes that provide for the advancement of care.

Over its 75+ years of service to the island, the Clinic has been a steadfast partner to the people, businesses and civic organizations that comprise the community. As demonstrated throughout the years – and most recently in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian – the Clinic fulfills many vital community needs and contributes significantly to the enhancement of community life. The Clinic's leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic ensured residents, visitors and island employees were kept updated with the latest health and safety information, understood what precautions were necessary and provided vaccines and booster shots.

I believe the Health Clinic has taken steps to design a new clinic that is consistent with and respectful of the unique architecture and design character of Boca Grande, one that will make the Island proud.

For many of us, without the Clinic, there is no way we could live on this special island. If you have ever had personal need of the Boca Grande Health Clinic, you know the expertise, concern and caring nature you receive there is atypical of most healthcare experiences where patients are rushed through appointments. Updated facilities, equipment and services are necessary to ensure the Clinic is able to attract and retain the excellent physicians, nurses and outstanding support staff that can provide the kind of personalized, "Boca Grande-style" care our community desires.

I urge you to approve the Boca Grande Health Clinic's project and support the improvement of the health and wellbeing of the Boca Grande Island community.

Sincerely,
