

Healy makes plea to save Greenville

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Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy might be taking the state to court to keep Greenville Hospital open.

Healy notified the state in a letter this week he is appealing Monday's decision by state Commissioner of Health and Senior Services Heather Howard to allow Greenville Hospital to close on April 23.

If Howard doesn't respond favorably to the March 25 letter, the city would file a formal appeal in state appellate court, said the city's top attorney, Bill Matsikoudis.

In the letter, Healy asserts that Greenville's closure "would result in immediate and irreparable harm to the general health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Jersey City, particularly those living on the city's west and southwestern sections."

At a minimum the mayor asks for "a greater period of time in which to find a buyer to step in and provide vital (medical) care."

Extra time to find a buyer helped save the Bayonne Medical Center, Healy points out in his letter. He also says the city is planning to add upwards of 8,000 units of housing on the west side of the city near Greenville Hospital.

Department of Health and



MAYOR HEALY

Senior Services spokeswoman Linda Nasta confirmed her agency has received Healy's letter, but said the letter didn't represent a formal appeal.

"The department has not been notified about a formal appeal filed pursuant to court rule," Nasta said.

Howard signed off on the closing Monday following a long and fierce battle mounted by local elected officials and community residents who campaigned to keep the hospital open despite the plans by officials of LibertyHealth Systems Inc., the hospital's owner, to close it.

LibertyHealth officials maintain Greenville Hospital is losing \$3 million a year and draining resources from its network's two other hospitals — the Jersey City Medical Center and Meadowlands Hospital in Secaucus.