

The Honorable Phil Murphy  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Ms. Tanya Freeman, Esq.  
Chair, Board of Directors  
University Hospital Newark, NJ  
150 Bergen St.  
Newark, NJ 07103

Dear Governor Murphy, Ms. Freeman, and Board of Directors:

We write to you today as citizens of New Jersey, with a deep love and affection for our state and the city of Newark. While we each serve in a different way, we share an abiding belief in Newark's potential to live up to its ideals as a beacon of equity, inclusion, and health.

University Hospital is one of Newark's and the state's most important institutions. Throughout its history, the hospital has been at the forefront of working to make Newark a city of healthy, vibrant communities. It is with this vision in mind that we wholeheartedly endorse Dr. Chris Pernell to be the next CEO of University Hospital.

Throughout her career, Dr. Pernell has been a champion for health justice, health promotion, and disease prevention and is recognized nationally as a public health expert of the highest credentials. She has used her medical expertise to not only treat patients, but to lead initiatives that tackle the social determinants of health. In her current role at University Hospital, we have been enthusiastic supporters of her efforts to lead the hospital's first health equity and inclusion strategy.

Dr. Pernell is - at her core - a daughter of Newark. She is as comfortable in church, a community center, or a local health clinic as she is in a boardroom. Her lived experience as a woman of color has given her a unique perspective and will allow her to lead with the people and communities of greatest need at the forefront of her decision making. We have no doubt that Dr. Pernell would be an effective systems leader, and we are confident she would also push the mission of the hospital to better meet the needs of our state and Newark's disparate communities.

We know the task before you is not easy, and we urge you to think boldly with this selection and to choose a visionary leader with a passion for equity to lead a critical state asset and one of Newark's great institutions.

Sincerely,

Signatories of the letter include:

- **U.S. Rep. Donald M. Payne, Jr.**, 10th Congressional District of New Jersey
- **Governor James McGreevey**, Executive Director, New Jersey Reentry Corporation
- **Assemblywoman Shanique Speight**, 29th Legislative District
- **Commissioner Wayne L. Richardson**, President, Essex County Board of County Commissioners
- **Commissioner Robert Mercado**, Essex County Board of County Commissioners
- **Juan M. Rivera Jr.**, Essex County Register
- **Tony Vauss**, Mayor, Township of Irvington
- **Sean M. Spiller**, Mayor, Township of Montclair
- **Michael Venezia**, Mayor, Township of Bloomfield
- **Dahlia Vertreese**, Mayor, Township of Hillside
- **Rahaman Muhammad**, Deputy Mayor, City of Newark
- **Luis Quintana**, Council President, City of Newark
- **Carlos Gonzales**, Councilman, City of Newark
- **Anibal Ramos**, Councilman, City of Newark
- **Kim Gilchrist**, Stakeholder Manager, City of Newark
- **Charnette Frederic**, Councilwoman, Township of Irvington
- **Roger Leon**, Superintendent, Newark Public School District
- **Vereliz Santana**, Newark Board of Education Vice President
- **Asia Norton**, Newark Board of Education Member
- **Josephine C. Garcia**, Newark Board of Education Member
- **Dr. Marcheta Evans**, President, Bloomfield College
- **Dr. Perry N. Halkitis**, Dean, Rutgers School of Public Health
- **Dr. Joseph Freeman**, Professor/Graduate Program Director Biomedical Engineering, Rutgers University
- **Dr. Pamela Valera**, Assistant Professor/Director of Doctoral Studies, Rutgers School of Public Health
- **Dr. Ayanna Taylor**, Faculty, New York University
- **Dr. James Pedersen**, Superintendent, Essex County Schools of Technology
- **Matt Brewster**, Director, Newark Board of Education
- **Eric Adams**, Assistant Director of Finance, City of Newark
- **Rebecca Hall**, Associate Director, 1199 SEIU TEF
- **Junius Williams**, Esq., Attorney and City of Newark Historian
- **Shavar Jeffries**, Esq., Partner, Lowenstein Sandler LLP
- **Ryan P. Haygood**, Esq., Lawyer and Newark Resident
- **Ayanna Mishoe-Brooker**, Esq., Law Office of Ayanna K. Mishoe-Brooker
- **Shennell McCloud**, CEO, Be Ready
- **Michele Adubato**, CEO, The North Ward Center
- **Dr. Torian Easterling**, First Deputy Commissioner and Chief Equity Officer, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- **Dr. Andrew Goodman**, Former Deputy Commissioner, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and Former Clinical Professor of Public Health, NYU School of Global Public Health
- **Kym Gilchrist**, Stakeholder Manager, City of Newark

- **Dr. Jennifer Caudle**, Physician, Rowan University-School of Osteopathic Medicine
- **Dr. Neil Horner**, Physician, Atlantic Health System/Overlook Medical Center
- **Atiya Jaha-Rashidi**, Chief Equity Officer, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center
- **Dr. Janice Johnson**, CEO, GrassROOTS Community Foundation
- **Lisa Maxwell**, Board Member, GrassROOTS Community Foundation
- **Jacqueleen Bido**, CEO, Elevate Newark LLC
- **Smita Nadia Hussain**, Co-Founder, Bangladeshi American Women's Development Initiative (BAWDI)
- **Dr. Cheryl Hardy**, Counselor, Professor, Minister, Dr. Cheryl Hardy LLC
- **Princess Williams**, Principal, Kipp Truth Academy
- **Charlene Dixon**, Principal, Life Academy
- **Dominic Prophete**, CEO, Wynona's House
- **Ronice M Bruce**, Executive Director, South Ward Special Improvement District
- **Samuel Gonzalez**, Chief of Staff, North Ward Democratic Committee
- **Emily Manz**, CEO, Have You Met Newark LLC
- **Oscar Nunez Jr.**, Public Relations, Puerto Rican Day Parade Inc.
- **Rev. Dr. David Jefferson, Sr., Esq.**, Pastor, Metropolitan Baptist Church and New Jersey Chairman, National Action Network
- **Bishop Timothy Griffin**, Pastor/CEO, St. Paul Sounds of Praise
- **Pastor Bryant Ali**, Pastor, New Psalmist Worship Center
- **Dr. Brian Rawls**, Pastor, Citi-Church
- **Charles Boyer**, Pastor, Great Mount Zion AME Church
- **Pastor Paul Valerius**, Pastor, Rock of Life Assembly of God
- **Pastor Gale Alvarez**, Pastor, Love of Jesus Family Church
- **Bishop Andre Speight**, Senior Pastor, Sunlight Missionary Baptist Church
- **Pastor Patrick Council**, Pastor, St. John Baptist Church
- **Pastor Roberto Comesanas**, Senior Pastor
- **Alice Terrell-Bryant**, President, South 10th Street Community Initiative
- **Kaleena Berryman**, Former Executive Director, Abbott Leadership Institute
- **Safiyyah Amina Muhammad**, Founder, Urban Matters Advocacy and Action
- **Kyle Rosenkrans**, Executive Director, New Jersey Children's Foundation
- **Kennisha Miles**, Deputy Director, New Jersey Children's Foundation
- **Galen Johnson**, Director of External Relations, New Jersey Children's Foundation
- **Tyneisha Gibbs**, Co-Founder, Nonprofit Professionals of Color Collective
- **Elaine Helms**, Executive Director, LGBTQ RAIN Foundation
- **Amina Bey**, Executive Director, Newark Emergency Services for Families
- **Reginald Bledsoe**, Director, Essex County Office of LGBTQ+ Affairs
- **Dupré Kelly**, Founder, 211 Community Impact
- **Tafshier Cosby**, CEO, Parent Impact
- **Karin Gerald**, CEO, Project Ready
- **Shanell Dunns**, CEO, Roots & Bridges
- **Samantha Lott-Velez**, President & CEO, Early Childhood Consultant Group
- **Bishop Pernell**, CEO, BET HaSHEM YHWH Worldwide Ministries, Inc.
- **Pasha Pernell**, CEO, YAHSquad

- **Mamie Tolbert**, Vice President, Next Dimensions Community Development Corp
- **Archange Antoine**, CEO, Savvivors
- **William Michael Barbee**, CEO, Airmid Counseling Services
- **Marline Francois**, CEO, Hearts Empowerment Counseling Center
- **Citi Medina**, Founder, Equal Space
- **Juan Arias**, Vice President, Fundisavi
- **Sam Adjangba**, Founder, Sterling Funding Inc.
- **Anthony Salters**, CEO, Media Allies LLC
- **Sara Pena**, Executive Director, Clinton Community Hill Action
- **Ja'Meda Reeves**, Grants and Evaluation Manager, Clinton Community Hill Action
- **Joan-Marie Foushee**, Building Manager, Clinton Community Hill Action
- **Chanel Mays**, Community Organizer, Clinton Community Hill Action
- **Tami Brown**, CEO, MilMad Real Estate Development
- **Eric Dawson**, CEO, Grandma Emma's Corp.
- **Hector Corchado**, Manager, C&C Management
- **Jomirys Lozano**, Aide to Councilman Anibal Ramos Jr.
- **Margaret Cunningham**, Auxiliary Member, New Jersey Medical Society
- **Ameenah Poole**, Assistant Principal, Member, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
- **Allison James**, Social Worker, Civic Service
- **Kibwe Franklin**, Former Vice President of Strategy, Data Governance, & Project Management, University Hospital
- **Helen Archontou**, Community Leader
- **Zelma Crump**, Family Service Worker, Newark Resident
- **Anthony Hardaway**, Newark Resident
- **Lauren Agnew**, Member, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
- **Asmeret Ghebremicael**, Government Employee, Essex County Resident
- **Michele Lewis-Fleming**, Lender/Banking Industry
- **Lynette Braxton**, Concerned Citizen, Essex County Resident
- **Rasheen Peppers**, Retired Police Captain, Newark Resident
- **Grissel Nieves Hall**, Retired Police Lieutenant, City of Newark Police Department
- **Ronald Berry**, Manager of Ryan White, NJCRI Pride Center
- **Safanya Searcy**, Homeowner/Community Activist, Concerned Citizens of Clinton Hill
- **Tia Morris**, Lifelong Educator
- **Deborah Sanders**, Retired Educator
- **A'Dorian Murray-Thomas**, Community Leader, Newark Resident
- **Dana M. Murray**, Community Advocate, Newark Resident
- **Sara Pena**, Director,