

Business organizations call for end to N.O. hospital suit

by CityBusiness staff reports

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Business organizations from five New Orleans-area parishes are calling for plaintiffs to drop a lawsuit against a hospital complex planned for Mid-City.

Those calling for an end to the litigation include the Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region, Black Economic Development Council, Greater New Orleans Inc., Greater New Orleans Biosciences Economic Development District, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Louisiana, Jefferson Business Council, New Orleans Chamber of Commerce, Northshore Business Council, Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry, St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce, Urban League of Greater New Orleans and New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce.

The state and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs plan to build the hospital complex.

A press release from the business organizations says they have signed a resolution and want "those who are blocking progress with litigation to drop the lawsuit against VAMC for the good of



community." It does not mention a specific lawsuit, but the [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#) has sued the federal government, claiming Veterans Affairs and the Federal Emergency Management Agency violated the National Environmental Policy Act by allowing the city to begin the first phase of construction in a historic district before the federal government completed an analysis of the project's impacts.

"The resolution, signed by each coalition member, outlines the opportunities for economic growth and an expansion of the local medical and biosciences industry," the press release says.

The resolution calls for the accelerated development of the complex and the "speedy removal of any and all obstacles to the completion of this project."•

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