

# Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners



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April 27, 2021

Congressman Christopher H. Smith  
Rayburn House Office Building, 2373  
Washington D.C., 20515

Dear Congressman Smith:

The Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey Community Health Center (VNACJ CHC) is a vital support and partner to Monmouth County. From its earliest work as a mobile clinic operating as a department of the county's then-Organization for Social Services, to its preeminence today as a full-service, multi-located, comprehensive federally-qualified health center, I have long known and appreciated the wide-ranging contributions of the VNACJ CHC to the diverse residents that comprise our central New Jersey County.

In the Borough of Freehold, the VNACJ-CHC opened the Freehold Family Health Center (FFHC) in 2019. In 2020, during the COVID-19, FFHC provided healthcare to 5,159 individual patients, including children and expectant mothers, during 16,710 medical encounters. VNACJ-CHC is planning to expand the Freehold facility to offer badly needed dental care services to the area residents.

The Borough's population of 11,797 is 48.6 % Hispanic/Latino and 9% Black/African American. The 2016 New Jersey Behavioral Risk Factor Survey found that over 40% of this population do not routinely get annual dental visits, in large measure do to the cost of care. VNACJ-CHC provides sliding scale fees and does not turn anyone away due to an inability to pay.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention that in addition to the vital work VNACJ-CHC is doing in providing healthcare to our vulnerable residents throughout Monmouth County, the organization has been the leading FQHC in New Jersey in administering COVID-19 vaccines. To date, they have administered over 70,000 vaccines, over 19% of which have been delivered to African-American and Hispanic residents-- rates that exceed those demographics in the County.

The Monmouth County Board of Commissioners deeply appreciates the great work of the VNACJ-CHC and we wholeheartedly support their expansion in the Borough of Freehold to provide much needed dental care to the vulnerable population.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas A. Arnone". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Thomas A. Arnone  
Director  
Monmouth County Board of Commissioner

"SEPTEMBER 2d, 1609 THIS IS A VERY GOOD LAND TO FALL IN WITH AND A PLEASANT LAND TO SEE."

Entry in the log of Henry Hudson's Ship Half Moon made after the Dutch Explorer became the first European to come ashore in what was later known as Monmouth County



April 26, 2021

## BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD

Representative Christopher H. Smith  
Rayburn House Office Building, 2373  
Washington D.C., 20515

Re: Support for VNA of Central Jersey Community Health Center's Freehold expansion to include dental services

Dear Representative Smith:

The Freehold Family Health Center (FFHC), a division of the VNA of Central Jersey Community Health Center (VNACJ-CHC), has been serving the poor, uninsured and underserved residents of the Freehold Borough with high quality healthcare since 2019. The center replaced the clinic at CentraState Medical Center in Freehold Township.

Since opening this ideally located facility at a former supermarket site in our Borough, population 11,797 (48.6% Hispanic, 39.6% white, 9% black with 31.1% foreign born and 49.4% speaking a language other than English at home, and a significant undocumented population), VNACJ-CHC has established itself and a high quality healthcare provider and a reliable supporter of the community.

In 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the center's heroic staff provided healthcare to 5,159 individual patients, including children and expectant mothers, during 16,710 medical encounters.

In addition to the heroic work they are doing in their health centers, VNACJ-CHA has been a leader in delivering COVID-19 vaccines to the people of Central New Jersey. They have administered over 68,000 shots in Monmouth County, including over 10,200 in Freehold Borough at a site they set up at a closed church to exclusively serve residents of the Borough. Most importantly, they have demonstrated compassion, integrity and leadership in delivering the vaccines to the African-American and Hispanic communities at rates that exceed those demographics in the County.

On behalf of the Borough residents and immigrant population, I was thrilled to learn that VNACJ-CHC is planning to expand the facility and their scope of services to provide much needed dental care.

In 2016, the New Jersey Behavioral Risk Factor Survey found that 40.5% of Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Asian residents had not gone to an annual dental visit. It is disproportionately more difficult for these racial and ethnic groups to access dental care due to the limited access within the county; especially access that includes sliding fee scales. While we don't have more current data, it is a more than reasonable assumption that the need for dental services amongst the communities VNACJ-CHC serves, has increased dramatically since the onset of the pandemic.

On behalf of all the residents of the Freehold Borough, I strongly support VNACJ-CHC's expansion of FFHC to include dental care. I deeply appreciate your efforts on behalf of the people of Freehold Borough.

Very truly yours,

Kevin A. Kane  
Mayor, Freehold Borough



## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

VIN GOPAL  
Senator, 11<sup>th</sup> District  
Majority Conference Leader

April 27, 2021

Representative Christopher H. Smith  
Rayburn House Office Building, 2373  
Washington D.C., 20515

Re: VNACJ-CHC request for federal funding to expand services in Freehold to include dental care

Dear Representative Smith:

As a lifelong resident of Monmouth County with the honor of serving as the State Senator from the 11<sup>th</sup> Legislative District, I am well aware to the important work Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey Community Health Center (VNACJ-CHC) is doing in Freehold Borough.

VNACJ-CHC opened the Freehold Family Health Center in 2019 to replace the clinic at CentraState Medical Center. Since then, several thousand of my vulnerable constituents have received high quality healthcare, including pre-natal and pediatric care, from the organization's highly qualified and compassionate staff of medical providers.

There is a significant need for affordable dental care among the minority and immigrant residents of the Freehold Borough area. I fully support VNACJ-CHC expanding their scope of services to provide affordable dental care to the vulnerable community.

The VNACJ-CHC is a vital support and partner to Monmouth County. I know that our District could not serve its residents without the commitment, professionalism and partnership of VNACJ's health centers. Thousands of my constituents receive quality primary care each year at their locations throughout our County.



**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**VIN GOPAL**  
**Senator, 11<sup>th</sup> District**  
**Majority Conference Leader**

Thank you for championing the VNACJ-CHC's application for federal funding at this site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vin Gopal".

Senator Vin Gopal  
NJ Senate, 11<sup>th</sup> District