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**GOVERNOR PATRICK CELEBRATES GROUNDBREAKING FOR NEW
MATTAPAN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER****Project will expand services for patients and generate 190 new jobs**

Governor Patrick marches in a parade celebrating the groundbreaking of the new Mattapan Community Health Center. (Photo credit: Matt Bennett/Governor's Office)

BOSTON - Friday, September 10, 2010 - Governor Deval Patrick and Secretary of Health and Human Services Dr. JudyAnn Bigby visited Mattapan today to celebrate the groundbreaking for the new Mattapan Community Health Center. This \$32 million project was made possible with more than \$11.5 million in federal recovery funds that Governor Patrick advocated for with the Obama Administration.

"Community health centers are essential to our health care system and Mattapan Community Health Center is one of the best," said Governor Patrick. "This team and their patients deserve this new state of the art facility, the neighborhood deserves this investment in its future, and we welcome the construction and permanent jobs that come with it."

"Each and every day, community health center physicians, nurses, dentists, case managers, social workers and many others serve the diverse needs of the people of Massachusetts. Community Health Centers are essential to the Commonwealth's health care system," said Secretary Bigby.

"This investment in Mattapan means quality care without the sticker shock, more jobs and ultimately a stronger economy," said Senator John Kerry.

"Community Health Centers play such an important role in the fabric of our neighborhoods, increasing access to essential health care services and creating jobs. The Mattapan Community Health Center is already providing a range of health care services and these funds will make it possible for staff to meet the needs of additional patients and offer additional programming," said Congressman Mike Capuano, who established and co-chairs the Community Health Centers Caucus in the House.

Today's event celebrated the launch of construction for the Mattapan Community Health Center's new 50,000-square foot facility at 1575 Blue Hill Avenue in the heart of Mattapan Square. The four-story, mixed-use development will further support the Center's work serving Mattapan, Dorchester, Hyde Park and the surrounding areas. The new building, which features an additional nine exam rooms and four dental units, is expected to increase patient visits by 75 percent over three years. The Center is also

seeking LEED Silver green building designation.

Currently located at 1425 Blue Hill Avenue, the Mattapan Community Health Center (MCHC) has provided primary care, dental care, breast health, OB/Gyn and preventive health services - including nutrition services, health education, diabetes care and social services - since 1972. The new facility will allow MCHC add onsite mammography, expanded public health programs, including teen outreach directed at preventing violence, infant mortality, obesity and other health problems.

The Center estimates that the development of the new facility will create more than 100 construction jobs. In addition, the new facility will create an additional 90 health care, administrative and other jobs. The site will also feature space for a bank and pharmacy, the first in Mattapan Square in more than 30 years.

"This marks the realization of a long time goal for the Mattapan community and this facility will be a catalyst for many great things to come. I am pleased to have played a role in advocating for these funds, along with our partners in government, especially Governor Patrick, whose voice was essential to our success," said Representative Linda Dorcea Forry.

"The Mattapan Community Health Center will be good for people's physical health, good for the City's economic health and good for the neighborhood's health. Everyone talks about Boston's renowned hospitals and rightfully so but I think our community health centers are just as impressive, offering quality care right around the corner from people's homes. When our residents need help, their doctors, nurses and volunteers provide them with the best care," said Mayor Thomas M. Menino.

"This has been a very long journey for the Mattapan Community Health Center, and we are so very grateful for all of the support we have received along the way -- from President Obama, Governor Patrick, Mayor Menino, and all of our elected officials, as well as our donors, supporters and many friends," said Azzie Young, Ph.D., MPA, President and CEO of the Mattapan Community Health Center. "This capital project will not only increase access to health care for our community but will also create jobs for the revitalization of Mattapan Square."

Last month, Governor Patrick signed into law legislation that will expand community health center access to capital bond funding.

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