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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Matt Wickenheiser

207-662-6679 / awickenhei@mmc.org

## **MMC Staff Garage Approved by Portland Planning Board**

*Garage to Hold 2,450 Parking Spots, Accommodate all MMC's Current, Future Parking Needs*

PORTLAND, Maine – The City of Portland Planning Board voted Tuesday evening to approve Maine Medical Center's second site plan application as part of its ongoing expansion and modernization plan. This approval allows permitting and construction to begin on a new staff garage at 222 St. John St. that will accommodate MMC's current and future parking needs.

The garage will contain 2,450 parking spots within a short distance of the Bramhall campus, consolidating numerous MMC parking facilities into one convenient and safe location. The garage will be serviced by shuttle buses transporting MMC staff to the Bramhall Street entrance and, after it is constructed, to the medical center's new Congress Street medical tower.

"This approval allows us to make a significant improvement to the parking environment, both for our colleagues and for our neighbors. Coupled with the additional parking we have added for our visitors, this new garage will meet our staff parking demands and depressurize parking throughout the immediate area," said Jeff Sanders, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. "We're very pleased to be able to offer convenient, predictable and, above all, safe parking for our colleagues who come to work each day ready to provide the highest quality of care for our community."

The new garage will be well lit, with a 24/7 security presence and the latest technology to make accessing parking quick and easy. In addition, the garage will have a number of charging stations available for electric vehicles.

The planning and siting of the garage was done in thoughtful collaboration with the city and with MMC's neighbors. The original proposed site was adjacent to the current staff garage on Congress Street. Neighbor and city feedback led MMC to instead site the garage at 222 St. John St. This move also

allowed MMC to increase the size of the garage to house 2,450 spaces, adding \$13 million to the overall project, now at \$525 million.

MMC plans to begin construction this fall, and to be using the new garage toward the end of 2019. Following completion of the new garage, MMC will demolish the old staff garage at the corner of Gilman and Congress streets. Following the careful deconstruction of that garage, MMC will develop a new medical building in that space featuring modern single-bed patient rooms and procedure rooms centered on enabling modern cardiac care.

MMC expects to file the site plan application for the Congress Street medical tower within the next month.

The Planning Board approval came a day after MMC officially opened the new floors in its patient and visitor garage, several months ahead of schedule. The new floors provide 225 much-needed new parking spaces for MMC's patients and visitors.

For more information and to receive regular updates on the MMC Modernization project's progress, please visit [www.mmc.org/modernization](http://www.mmc.org/modernization).

#### **About Maine Medical Center**

Maine Medical Center (MMC), recognized as a Best Regional Hospital by U.S. News and World Report for 2018-2019, is a complete health care resource for the people of Greater Portland and the entire state, as well as northern New England. Incorporated in 1868, MMC is the state's largest medical center, licensed for 637 beds and employing nearly 8,700 people. MMC's unique role as both a community hospital and a referral center requires an unparalleled depth and breadth of services, including an active educational program and a world-class biomedical research center. As a nonprofit institution, Maine Medical Center provides nearly 23 percent of all the charity care delivered in Maine. MMC is a member of the MaineHealth system, a growing family of health care services in northern New England. For more information, visit [www.mmc.org](http://www.mmc.org).

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