

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia
Office of the Chief Clerk
Room 402, City Hall
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 090915)

RESOLUTION

Authorizing the Public Health and Human Services Committee to hold hearings on emergency room procedures, and to investigate whether emergency room protocols were followed at the Aria Health care facility on November 28, 2009 in the incident involving Joaquin Rivera.

WHEREAS, Joaquin Rivera died at Aria Health on November 28, 2009 due to a slow response from the emergency staff; and

WHEREAS, According to a December 3, 2009 article in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and a December 3, 2009 article in *CBS Online*, the man was dead 11 minutes after checking into the hospital and it took almost 50 minutes before hospital personnel noticed that the man appeared to be dead; and

WHEREAS, A woman died in the emergency room at the same hospital in November 2007 because hospital doctors failed to respond to her condition in time; and

WHEREAS, On its website, Aria Health ensures that emergency room patients get rapid care from a staff of doctors, nurses, or other staff members who have dedicated their professional lives to providing the best in emergency medicine; and

WHEREAS, According to the CDC, in the U.S., the median time spent in the emergency department is 2.6 hours and the percent of visits with patient seen in fewer than 15 minutes is 22%; and

WHEREAS, Having more effective emergency room procedures would greatly improve the quality of healthcare offered by Philadelphia hospitals; and

WHEREAS, City Council takes this opportunity to reevaluate the emergency room procedures set forth by ARIA Health and all hospitals in the City of Philadelphia to investigate whether current emergency room protocols are being followed; now, therefore, be it

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RESOLUTION NO. 090915 continued

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That City Council's Committee on Public Health and Human Services hold hearings on emergency room procedures, and to investigate whether emergency room protocols were followed at the Aria Health care facility on November 28, 2009 in the incident involving Joaquin Rivera.

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RESOLUTION NO. 090915 continued

CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the tenth of December, 2009.

Anna C. Verna
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Michael A. Decker
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmembers Reynolds Brown and Sanchez

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Reynolds Brown, Sanchez, Goode, Jones, DiCicco, Krajewski, Greenlee, Tasco, Miller, Green, Blackwell, O'Neill, Clarke, Kelly, Rizzo and Kenney