



The Public Advocate for the City of New York

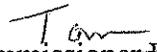
Improving Access to City Services

Betsy Gotbaum
Public Advocate

July 31, 2008

Thomas R. Frieden, MD
Commissioner
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
125 Worth Street, Room 331
New York, New York 10013

By Fax and U.S. Mail

Dear  ~~Commissioner Frieden~~:

I am pleased to inform you that the State Department of Health (DOH) has completed changes to its website to make maternity information more accessible to the public following a request from my office in January 2008. In order to further improve access to this information for city residents, I encourage you to establish an easily accessible link to the DOH website on the city Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) website.

Maternity information can now be found easily on the DOH website at <http://www.nyhealth.gov/facilities/hospital/maternity/> and is presented in a user-friendly format. These changes will allow expectant mothers to more easily obtain the information they need to make informed choices about their birthing options.

During a February hearing on my bill, Intro 575, which requires the DOHMH to display maternity information for New York City hospitals on its website, Assistant Commissioner Deborah Kaplan indicated that the DOHMH, while opposed to my bill, would be open to linking to the state DOH website—if a direct link could be established. Due to the efforts of the DOH, this is now possible.

I look forward to a joint effort to make maternity information more accessible to expectant mothers and the public. If you have any questions, please feel free to have your staff contact Sabine Dyer in my policy department at 212-669-2106.

Sincerely,



Betsy Gotbaum

cc: Deborah Kaplan, Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Maternal, Infant and Reproductive Health, DOHMH

