



An aerial view of Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow. Photo Credit: FlyingDogPhotos.com / Kevin P. Coughlin

By Celeste Hadrick
celeste.hadrick@newsday.com
 Updated February 20, 2018 6:10 PM

PRINT SHARE

The president of Nassau University Medical Center eliminated nine appointed positions Tuesday and will use the nearly \$1.67 million in savings to fund 37 clinical Civil Service jobs, including 17 nurses and medical technicians, according to the chairman of the health center board.

"Today, nine positions deemed unnecessary were eliminated, and it's just a start," said George Tsunis, board chairman of the the Nassau Health Care Corp., or NuHealth, the public benefit corporation that runs the East Meadow hospital and related facilities.

"The board is taking the first steps in reforming and reinvigorating the hospital by eliminating waste and duplicity and investing in things that are mission-critical to the hospital," Tsunis said. "That begins with hiring 37 clinical positions, all necessary for the proper running of high-quality health care in the hospital."

RECOMMENDED READING
Tsunis takes over as NUMC board chief >
 He replaces Michael Mirotznik, who resigned last week without a public explanation.

Tsunis, who was appointed chairman by Nassau County Executive Laura Curran three weeks ago after chairman Michael Mirotznik resigned abruptly, said the NuHealth board does not have to approve the changes.

He said the eliminations were effective immediately and those in the jobs had been notified. "Their computers have been turned off," he said.

Some of the jobs eliminated by NUMC president Victor Politi were attorney positions held by people with Republican political connections. Two positions were vacant.

Tsunis said, however, that politics was not a factor in deciding whether the jobs were necessary to hospital operations. The decisions were based on merit and need, he said.

Get the Breaking News newsletter!
 Get the latest breaking news as it happens.

By clicking Sign up, you agree to our [privacy policy](#).

The jobs eliminated were:

- Counsel to the board, held by Republican elections lawyer and former county attorney John Ciampoli, \$160,000 salary.
- Institutional research counsel, held by Karen Leslie, \$180,000 salary.
- Lawyer in the general counsel's office, held by Elizabeth Faughnan, a former Oyster Bay councilwoman, \$160,000 salary.
- Lawyer in the general counsel's office, held by Gerald Wright, former chairman of the Hempstead Town Board of Zoning Appeals, \$170,000 salary.
- Secretary to the board of directors, held by Beatriz Fuschetto, \$65,000 salary.
- Vice president of the Ambulatory Corp., held by Laurie Ward, \$300,000 salary.
- Special assistant to the CEO, vacated last year by Craig Rizzo, former chairman of the

- Vice president of revenue cycle, vacated last week by Vincent DiSanti, \$100,000 salary.
- Attorney Eric Zeni, of Levittown, \$199,000 salary. Zeni served as NUMC's Freedom of Information officer.

A Lake Success law firm sued NUMC last year, alleging the hospital repeatedly had refused to provide information requested under the state Freedom of Information Law. Responses to Newsday FOIL requests also have been repeatedly late, beyond deadlines set by law.

Tsunis said he wants FOIL requests answered as soon as possible. "The law is a relevant construct here," he said.

Ciampoli, Zeni and Leslie declined to comment. The four others who lost their jobs could not be reached.

Curran, a Democrat who during her election campaign criticized NuHealth's patronage hirings and lack of transparency, said through a spokesman, "This is why I chose George Tsunis as chairman of the board of NUMC. He is already proving that he is serious about reforming the hospital, cutting spending, eliminating waste and restoring order to NUMC."

NuHealth board member Bobbie Kumar Kalotee said he learned Politi had eliminated some jobs. "I was told this was for hiring more staff, nurses and to provide better patient care. If that's the case, I support the chairman, I support the CEO."

Jerry Laricchiuta, president of the Civil Service Employees Association, said union officials "have been yelling for years that the 19th floor [NUMC executive offices] is going to tip over for being so top-heavy, but we can't get anybody hired in the trenches. We've been asking for nurses, security, housekeepers. This is a step in the right direction."

Said Legis. Arnie Drucker (D-Plainview), "The hospital must use its resources to provide medical care to Nassau residents, not patronage appointments to the politically connected. This is a great step forward in restoring integrity to an essential public institution."

By Celeste Hadrick
celeste.hadrick@newsday.com
 Celeste Hadrick covers government and politics in Nassau County.

[f SHARE ON FACEBOOK](#) [t SHARE ON TWITTER](#)

Comments
[Comments section is temporarily on hold. Here's why.](#)



NEWSDAY RECOMMENDS

[\\$80M development project back on town agenda](#)

[NY distributor moving to \\$2.7M warehouse on LI](#)

[Officials: City may miss payroll after bond fails](#)

[Long Beach cuts bus service, looking at layoffs](#)

[ICE: 225 arrested locally on immigration violations](#)

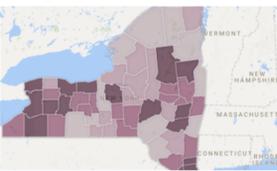
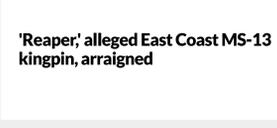


TOP STORIES

- \$10M settlement for Tankleff approved by Suffolk pols**
- 'Reaper,' alleged East Coast MS-13 kingpin, arraigned**
- NUMC chief and president Politi fired by board**
- Sinnreich says he cautioned town against 'bogus' proposal**
- Biden honors Ller shot after stopping rape attempt**
- First came the beer... behind LI hamlet's restaurant boom**



MORE NEWS

 State: Blue Angels to headline Bethpage Air Show	 Inspirational LI science teacher dies at 53	 LI has some of the highest breast cancer rates in NY
 Sinnreich says he cautioned town against 'bogus' proposal	 'Reaper,' alleged East Coast MS-13 kingpin, arraigned	 Biden honors Ller shot after stopping rape attempt

Quick Links

- Subscribe
- Today's paper
- Newsday Charities
- Careers
- Archives
- Funbook
- Obituaries
- Crosswords
- Manage my Newsday
- Sitemap

Partners

- News 12
- am New York
- Newsday Cars
- Newsday Homes
- Newsday Jobs
- Optimum
- Newsday Connect
- Hometown Shopper
- News12 Varsity

News

- Long Island
- Sports
- Opinion
- Politics
- News
- Business
- Towns
- High school sports

More

- Things to Do
- Entertainment
- Restaurants
- Family
- Travel

