Mercy Phila. breaks ground on emergency space

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Dignitaries and Mercy Philadelphia Hospital executives commemorated the $15 million emergency department renovation and expansion project. — PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANNE KLEIN COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

Mercy Philadelphia Hospital’s emergency department is slated for a major overhaul.

Officials broke ground Thursday morning on a $15 million, 10,000 square foot renovation and expansion to its emergency department. This marks the largest investment since the department was constructed in 1996.

The institution has served the region for 100 years and this investment exemplifies its continued dedication to the West Philadelphia community.

“Mercy Philadelphia is deeply rooted in the community. We’ve been here for 100 years and we hope to be here for 100 more,” said Susan Cusack, executive director of Mercy Philadelphia Hospital. “This investment will provide the West Philadelphia community with greater access to
compassionate care and we believe everyone should have safe, high quality health care and we will continue to provide that to our friends, neighbors and partners.”

Dr. Anthony Mazzeo, chair of Emergency Medicine at Mercy Philadelphia Hospital, highlighted how the department, which serves more than 48,000 patients annually, would be enhanced by the expansion.

The expansion will increase the number of patient beds in the emergency department from 14 to 30. The improved ED will feature an updated entrance, waiting area, reception area and security facilities. The new addition will include an enlarged triage area and a new separate ambulance entrance adjacent to high traffic areas of the ED. The expansion will also include two triage rooms, three fast track rooms and a secured holding room.

Trinity Health, of which Mercy Health System is a member, provided $14.5 million in funding for the project.

State Sen. Anthony H. Williams and state Rep. James R. Roebuck were instrumental in securing a $500,000 state grant from the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program.

During the groundbreaking ceremony, the elected officials highlighted Mercy Hospital’s important role in serving the health care needs of the community.

“Mercy Hospital is a gem in our community,” Roebuck said.

“It is a vital center. When you have an institution which is doing right by the community, you make sure that the institution continues to thrive and provide the services that we need.”

Expected to be fully operational in 2019, this project will bring 25 new jobs to West Philadelphia during its construction. CBRE | Heery is the architect and designer of the expansion and renovation project.
From left, Susan Cusack, executive director, Mercy Philadelphia Hospital; State Sen. Anthony H. Williams; State Rep. James R. Roebuck Jr. and Dr. Anthony Mazzeo, chair of Emergency Medicine, Mercy Philadelphia Hospital are pictured during the groundbreaking ceremony.