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## **Beth Israel Offers State of the Art Digital Mammography in Brooklyn**

August 10, 2009 -- A new Breast Imaging Department at Beth Israel Medical Center-Kings Highway Division (KHD) opened on Wednesday, August 5, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by elected officials whose efforts helped bring to the Brooklyn community the latest innovation in digital screening and diagnostic mammography, breast ultrasound and interventional breast procedures.

“The convenience of this breast imaging facility will encourage more people to come for screening who might otherwise forgo this important component of their healthcare,” said New York State Assemblywoman Helene Weinstein, who along with fellow Assembly members Steven Cymbrowitz, Alan Maisel and Peter Abbate, helped secure partial funding for the community initiative. “The state-of-the-art machines provide better images and a more pleasant experience, hence patients will be more likely to return for regular screening.”

Built at a cost exceeding a million dollars, the new KHD suite features the Hologic Selenia®, an advanced digital mammography machine that delivers superb high resolution image quality while reducing radiation dose to the patient as compared to standard mammography. The facility is open Monday to Friday, with plans to expand as needed, according to Rhona Hetsrony, KHD Vice President for Administration.

Board-certified radiologist Frimmit Forman, MD, who guided the visitors on a tour of the suite, cited additional benefits associated with digital mammography, including decreased exam time, decreased recall rates, and increased detection of breast cancer in certain groups of women.

“This mammography unit will help in the early diagnosis and treatment of women with breast cancer,” said Harris Nagler, MD, Interim President of Beth Israel, who also recognized the support of City Council members Mike Nelson and Lew Fidler, and the important contributions of State Senator Carl Kruger.

“Having the facility to diagnose and treat breast cancer on-site at the Kings Highway Division offers not only convenience for patients, but more importantly, the expertise necessary to accurately diagnose and treat breast cancer which annually claims the lives of an estimated 40,000 people,” said Merab Krikhely, MD, KHD Chief of Surgery and Vice Chairman, Department of Surgery at Beth Israel.

Most medical experts agree that women who have no previous breast symptoms or problems should begin getting mammograms at age 40 and repeated every one or two years. Women with symptoms or family history may need to have it done more often. Getting regular mammograms are an effective way to detect changes in the breast.

Beth Israel-Kings Highway Division is located at 3201 Kings Highway, between East 32<sup>nd</sup> Street and New York Avenue. To make an appointment for mammography in Brooklyn, please call 718-951-2930.