



Kevin J. Frost
Rockford City Councilman
4th Ward

October 22, 2015

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facility and Services Review Board
5525 West Jefferson
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System Project: 15-038, 15-039 & 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

This letter is submitted to support MercyRockford's new project application to your agency. As a life-long Rockford resident and the Alderman of the City's 4th Ward, I attempt to learn and understand the issues of our city's businesses, healthcare provider's and service organizations. I have served on the Wellness Committee for the City of Rockford in our attempts to provide our employees with a Wellness Center and better access to a multitude of healthcare services. Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to meet with senior leaders at MercyRockford to learn about their intention to create an East Riverside Boulevard Campus. I was also informed of their desire to continue to operate the North Rockton Avenue Campus on the City's northwest side.

I strongly endorse the creation of the East Riverside Boulevard Campus. I believe that the creation of the Women's and Children's Hospital, which would serve a fifteen county region for high risk maternity, neonatal intensive care and pediatric care, would be a great asset to the City of Rockford and the entire region. New state-of-the art facilities are needed for the future of these highly specialized regional critical care programs. It would be difficult to build such an addition on the North Rockton Avenue Campus. A new campus would enhance regional access to these critical services, allowing residents of Rockford and the region to stay closer to home and eliminate the need to travel to Chicago or out of state for these crucial and critical services. MercyRockford would have the opportunities to expand these services and draw residents from outside of the Rockford region to travel shorter distances to have access to world-class medical care. Additionally, the development of this community campus would be a major boost for the local economy, not only construction jobs, but also additional healthcare related jobs as this campus grows. I would hate to see the Rockford area lose this campus to a neighboring community across the border in Wisconsin.

I fully understand the importance of the Rockford Memorial Hospital campus on North Rockton Avenue. It will continue to be an anchor of stability on the northwest side of Rockford. I have been assured by the leadership of MercyRockford that they understand the legacy of Rockford Memorial Hospital on Rockton Avenue, providing vital services for those who live on the west side of Rockford. The leadership of MercyRockford has committed that they will continue to provide vital healthcare services for those residents. They will continue to provide



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that the new development on the East Riverside Boulevard Campus will allow for continued investments at the North Rockton Avenue Campus. This will ensure the long standing tradition of providing care to west side residents of Rockford for years to come.

I urge you to support this project. It will have both immediate and long term impacts on the City of Rockford and the entire region, both in terms of economic impacts, and more importantly, healthcare services to all of our residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KJ Frost", written over a horizontal line.

Kevin J. Frost

KJF/ss