



# MT. PISGAH MBC CHICAGO

4600-22 S. King Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60653

**Rev. Ernest F. Ledbetter III, M.Div., Pastor**

2019 Vision: *The Year of Labor (Matthew 9:35-38)*

## MT. PISGAH MBC CHURCH CHICAGO: Reference Letter for Provident Hospital (CCHHS)

September 2019

To Whom it May Concern:

**Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church** is a historic church in Bronzeville Chicago who believes in helping those who need it most. Our leaders and members are proud to be in partnership with businesses and organizations within our community whose values align with ours, one of whom we are proud to share residence with is that of *Provident Hospital on Chicago's Southside*. On many occasions our Pastor (my husband) and I visit and Pray with families who are seeking healthcare at our neighboring health institution. We are proud to say that Provident Hospital has been a positive beacon of light in our community helping not only to care for members of our church, but we can share that we have heard great testimonials from that of our sister church congregations as well as the residents of Bronzeville and neighboring communities in general regarding the excellent service and care that is provided at Provident Hospital.

Mt. Pisgah MBC Chicago has a long-standing history in the city. A few points of note are that our current edifice was opened in 1912 and served as the original Chicago Sinai Temple. It is the only remaining structure of five built by that congregation (outside of their current location in River North). In the 1960s Rev. Jesse Jackson held his earliest services of what is now the Rainbow Push Coalition at Mt. Pisgah. Additionally, when the *Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)* founded the Chicago Freedom Movement in 1966, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. established a branch in Chicago with its original headquarters being located at Mt. Pisgah. Speaking of, Dr. King preached a sermon called "*Why Jesus Called A Man A Fool*" at Mt. Pisgah on August 27<sup>th</sup>, 1967, which is arguably one of the last sermons that he preached in Chicago. Also, the largest memorial service for Dr. King in the city following his death, was held here in 1969. Our church has a strong and respected history in Bronzeville. We recognize and are proud to also share in the long-standing history of our neighbor, Provident Hospital who has opened many doors for African-American leaders within the health space.

We understand the significance of a new medical facility being built within our community. We are grateful for the possibility of new jobs for our residents as well as increased support from City Leaders that a new state of the art community hospital will add to the Bronzeville area. We look forward to the many positive partnership opportunities that will develop between our organizations as we are excited to build on an already long and storied history of Bronzeville by marrying the honored past with a great future, standing as a strong example for the rest of the city.

**On behalf of Reverend Pastor Ernest F. Ledbetter III - M. Div.,** the Church Leadership, and the 1,500+ members of Mt. Pisgah MBC Chicago, we without any doubt recommend a new Provident hospital be established in Bronzeville Chicago.

If you need additional information, please contact me.

Blessings,

**First Lady LaToyia M. Ledbetter**

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