



Mercy Hospital & Medical Center Discontinuation  
Project No. 20-039  
Public Hearing: 10/28/2020

**Dr. Michael Davenport, Chief Medical Officer, Mercy Hospital & Medical Center**

My name is Dr. Michael Davenport and I am the Chief Medical Officer at Mercy Hospital & Medical Center. As a resident of the community and a lifelong physician, I am here to ask you to support our plan to discontinue services at Mercy Hospital and transform to an outpatient model of care.

I have seen firsthand how hard it has been for safety net hospitals to operate in this current care delivery model we have today. While many health care systems across the country are transforming to outpatient models, the South

Side network of care seems stuck in the past and has brought about a day where it is almost impossible for safety net hospitals to achieve a financially sustainable path.

The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated what we were already seeing in the hospital – incidence of chronic diseases that impact African Americans more than others which has led to a troubling divide between life expectancy on the South Side that is far lower than life expectancy on the North Side.

Taken together, these challenges – lower reimbursement rates, rising expenses, and the impact of COVID – all demand change.

And while change never comes easy, our patients deserve change. We have worked for many months trying to bring about the change in health care our patients need. While disappointed our initial transformation plans were not approved by the legislature, we remain committed to this transformation with the outpatient clinic that Trinity Health will open to serve our community.

We ask the Board to support our application to continue to serve South Side patients through an outpatient center model.