



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

Joan Ormsby, Chief Operating Officer, Mercy Hospital & Medical

My name is Joan Ormsby and I am the Chief Operating Officer at Mercy Hospital & Medical Center and have served in this role for the last 3 years.

During my time as COO, we have worked diligently to make changes to ensure our safety net hospital is on a path of financial stability. While we have tried several different courses of action to achieve this goal, it is clear today there is no financially sustainable path for our hospital.

This dynamic exists because of factors that have created a more challenging environment for the entire health care industry, which have affected hospitals like ours across the country for many years. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has simply made an already difficult situation worse.

Like many hospitals in the Chicago market, we have struggled to make ends meet for many years. Since purchasing Mercy Hospital in 2012, Trinity Health has significantly invested in the care and facilities needed by the community. Since acquisition, Trinity has invested more than \$124 million in infrastructure improvements at Mercy Hospital and provided more than \$112 million in funding so Mercy could meet its short-term operating

needs. Our monthly operating losses of \$4 million can no longer be sustained.

In addition, Mercy Hospital's aging facility will require at least \$100 million of additional capital investments in the next five years to maintain a safe and sustainable acute care environment.

The health care delivery system, as it exists today, is not financially sustainable and is not providing access to the care the community needs. Our patients need transformation that strengthens access to the kind of care that will help keep them out of the hospital, which is what has been proposed with the outpatient clinic we hope to establish.

I urge the Board to take the steps needed to transform our system of health on Chicago's South Side and approve our application to discontinue services at Mercy Hospital.