

**From:** [Priscilla Ding](#)  
**To:** [DPH.HFSRB.PublicHearings](#)  
**Subject:** [External] IMPORTANT: STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION OF MERCY CLOSING  
**Date:** Monday, November 2, 2020 4:48:23 PM

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Dear City Officials,

I am writing in response to the intention to close Mercy Hospital located in the South Site of Chicago.

I am an emergency medicine resident physician and I have trained and served the community at Mercy for the past 3 years. This hospital serves an already vulnerable population of 1.1 million people and is located in an area of the city that is already a health care desert. From first hand experience, there are large Black, Latino, Chinese, and other underserved communities that rely on this hospital for all their health care needs and closing Mercy would strip them of their access. Closing this hospital, especially during a global pandemic would be an act of negligence and would be a betrayal to the community we have promised to serve.

This hospital has always run at high, if not full, capacity. However, like most other hospitals around the nation and the world, the pandemic has changed the landscape of healthcare. However, this is not an excuse to close a hospital in an area that needs it most. Mercy provides care to one of the busiest and largest labor and delivery units in the area. Is it the receiving hospital for the city's largest homeless shelter. It is also a heart attach and stroke center and in these emergencies, patients' lives require the closest proximity possible to a hospital in order to survive. I have been a provider to many patients who would not have survived if they had to travel another 10 or more minutes just to reach the next closest hospital. It is extremely unfair to us as providers, and to our patients and their families, to not have the same access and level of care that others receive throughout the rest of the city.

I appreciate everything thing that you have done for Chicago and I implore you to continue using your power to advocate for a community that does not have a strong voice. Trinity Health owns Mercy Hospital and has made this decision to close its doors in the middle of a pandemic. There have been reports that there are other parties interested in buying the hospital to preserve it, but Trinity health has not responded to these offers. We ask that you urge Trinity health to either end the closure or to reach an agreement that results in keeping Mercy open. Please use the power given to you by your constituents to do what is right for the community and save Mercy Hospital from closure.

Respectfully,

Priscilla Ding, MD