

From: [Michael Sharer](#)
To: [DPH.HFSRB.PublicHearings](#)
Subject: [External]
Date: Monday, November 16, 2020 9:35:00 AM

Dear Sirs,

This review board has approved the closing of multiple hospitals serving black and brown low income communities recently, including Westlake, MetroSouth and Franciscan Health.

These closures have had catastrophic consequences for the communities served.

They've resulted in too many communities—too many black and brown communities—not having access to the life-saving and life enhancing care they need. And now, in the midst of this pandemic and the increased health risks of the virus—and of the increased poverty levels brought about by the failure to help working people during this pandemic crisis—those hospitals are missed even more.

We can't afford to lose Mercy.

It's your job to NOT allow Trinity to close Mercy if the criteria aren't met for their application.

And I want to lift up just one issue for you—

If Trinity closes Mercy, it will mean a serious ICU bed shortage in the Chicago South Side planning area.

At a time when we are all aware how the shortage of ICU beds has a life and death impact on communities, and at a time when black and brown people are dying of this virus at higher numbers than everyone else, we can't afford to lose any ICU beds on the South Side.

The administrative code you work from says that Trinity has to show that closing won't have an adverse impact on access to care...

Well, just looking at the ICU bed shortage—you can see that letting Trinity close Mercy will have an adverse impact. People will die as a result.

It's time to enforce those codes and the standards—for black and brown and low income communities as well as for other communities.

I'm asking you, on behalf of my community and the patients that Mercy serves—don't let Trinity close Mercy. Trinity is a rich hospital system—and it's time they put care—and our lives—ahead of the bottom line.

Thank You,

Michael Sharer, Pharm.D.