

From: [Mitzi Stephens](#)
To: [DPH.HFSRB.PublicHearings](#)
Subject: [External] I am registering to comment at the January 12 hearing.
Date: Sunday, January 10, 2021 6:53:36 PM

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to ask you to prevent the closing of Mercy Hospital. As you read this, you will know how vitally important it has been for my healthcare and many others in this community.

My first experience at Mercy Hospital began in 1975 when I needed surgery and in-patient care.

Dr. Ruben Nichols, who is on the staff there, became my primary care doctor shortly after that and continues until the present. Dr. Paul Jones and Dr. Tamlyn and Dr. Dasgupta who were on staff at Mercy, were my cardiologist and under their care I had 3 cardiac procedures done.

My Pulmonologist is Dr. Damodaran and previously Dr. Beard. I have been hospitalized there on several occasions due to complications from COPD. Afterward, I attended pulmonary rehabilitation which really helped in my recovery. My last hospitalization was in Jan. 2020 when I was admitted through the emergency room for 5 days of in-patient care for complications of COPD.

I am hoping by sharing my history with Mercy Hospital, of having my primary doctor and the specialists who gave me this care at Mercy, will help show you how vital they all were and continue to be for my survival.

It is unthinkable that replacing this kind of care with a walk-in acute care clinic center shows any kind of concern for the healthcare of our community.

Please do whatever is within your power to prevent the closing of Mercy Hospital.

Sincerely,
Muriel Stephens