

From: [Nancy Alexander](#)
To: [DPH.HFSRB.PublicHearings](#)
Subject: [External] Mercy Hospital solution?
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Why won't University of Chicago buy Mercy Hospital and run it as a branch of UofC Hospitals, the way Rush and Northwestern have hospitals all over the county? Arguably, UofC owes the Bronzeville community as much since UofC sold that land to buy its Hyde Park campus. Additionally, the destruction and disruption of the southside neighborhoods by UofC for its own expansion, and especially its hospitals has forced residents of color to Mercy and to Advocate Oak Lawn for routine care. UofC fought becoming a trauma center for years as a way to avoid taking on Medicaid patients and others of limited means. They have never paid reparations to those lives it evicted in Hyde Park, Kenwood, Woodlawn, or to the black businesses it ran out or shut down in those neighborhoods. Reparations for institutionally perpetuated injustice should be repaid through institutions. If they took over and ran Mercy as a satellite, like Rush Oak Park or Evanston Northwestern, Mercy could stay open, and UofC could look good in the communities it's taken from for decades. It'd be good community optics for them.

Something else about Mercy-it's a Catholic institution with a maternity unit. Maternity units are often money-makers for hospitals because one can schedule care during a nine-month pregnancy; predictability of care and the costs of delivery are profitable for hospitals. But because its Catholic roots won't allow post-partums to get birth control of any kind, pregnant women who want birth control don't deliver at Mercy; they go to Rush, Northwestern, UofC, UofI. This should be reconsidered as the bid for Mercy goes forward.

Please find a way to keep Mercy Hospital open as a community hospital. The near southside needs it desperately.

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Sent from my iPhone