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**CITY OF CHICAGO
CITY COUNCIL**

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COUNCIL CHAMBER
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COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

EDUCATION AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(VICE-CHAIRMAN)

BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
COMMITTEES AND RULES

CONTRACTING OVERSIGHT AND EQUITY
FINANCE

HOUSING AND REAL ESTATE
SPECIAL EVENTS, CULTURAL AFFAIRS
AND RECREATION

TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WAY
PEDESTRIAN AND TRAFFIC SAFETY

Tuesday, December 26, 2021

Chairman Savage and Members of the Board
Illinois Health Facilities and Service Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Fl.
Springfield, IL 62761

Mercy Hospital and the Mercy Family Health Center reside in the 4th ward in the heart of Bronzeville. The Mercy Family Health Center is the location where Trinity would like to locate the Mercy Care Center effectively closing the Family Health Center along with the Hospital.

My colleagues (Alderman Dowell, Representative Robinson, Representative Mah, Senator Hunter, Senator Peters, Commissioner Daley, Commissioner Deer and Commissioner Lowry) and I oppose the proposed Mercy Care Center and the decimation of Mercy Hospital. It is rare that you see this many elected officials so passionate and equally committed to one cause but we are all united in this endeavor.

We have watched Trinity under the leadership of their CEO, Michael Slubowski, callously call the dismantling of health care in OUR community Transformation. And We have watched some be fooled by the spin. Please do your due diligence and do not be fooled by Trinity dressing this decimation of health care in our community as transformation.

We have listened to Trinity say with a straight face that they have met with the community and elected's, attempting to pass a brief conversation with us, with no details, off as affirmation of their proposal when this is far from the truth. We have heard them say that they have met with other hospitals about their plans for a smooth transition but after follow-up with those hospitals we have come to find that the conversations were, at best, introductory - nothing substantive. Perhaps they had these brief conversations - void of any details - in mind in anticipation of coming before the Board to insinuate our compliance with their plans. But they have not really talked to elected's, the community or other hospitals in earnest about what they are really doing. In fact, when prompted for details, they would not share. Now we understand why.

Trinity was handed Mercy in great financial condition. In fact, at the time Trinity said it was "... a great bargain." They were given Mercy Hospital with a 140 M in assets. And they took that great bargain and great hospital and have effectively run it into the ground. Their announcement to close Mercy Hospital in the middle of a Pandemic is not only inhumane but effectively killing the Hospital and their Family Health Center because doctors are leaving and slowly care is decreasing. They are dismantling the lives of the hundreds of thousand of patients they see annually at the hospital and the thousands that they see in the Family Health Center all in the name of "transformative care".

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What they are calling transformation is little more than imaging machines and urgent care visits with NO doctors. I hate to even call it urgent care because it brings to mind a setting that would stop unnecessary emergency visits but these rooms would not be staffed with doctors like most urgent cares. No, here you would ultimately get some images and then be sent on your way to another facility with doctors and emergency rooms. Ultimately there would be no connectivity of care or hospital affiliation. How is this transformative?

Not only are they doing all of this but they are doing so while trying to make it seem like they are doing what's best for OUR community, under the guise of transformation, all while actually closing preventative care with the dismantling of the Family Health Care Center.

In its proposed application to open the Mercy Care Center, Trinity does not mention that it would close the Mercy Family Health Center and decimate already existing comprehensive and preventative care in the very place that they are proposing to put this new center. This would actually cut patient care by the thousands. The Mercy Family Health Center has preventative and primary care for internal medicine, family medicine, pediatrics and gynecology that sees thousands of patients a year. And to replace it with imaging and "urgent care" with a dearth of doctors is Not Transformative. Ultimately there would be no continuity of care that even Trinity says is needed.

We demand that TRINITY do what is right (like the Sisters of Mercy did when they handed Mercy to Trinity with 140M in assets) and make sure that there is a smooth transition to another owner that is more compassionate and willing to bring real transformation and care to our community.

Sincerely,

Sophia King

CC: Alderman Dowell
Senator Hunter
Senator Peters
Representative Robinson
Representative Mah
Representative Harper
Commissioner Daley
Commissioner Deer
Commissioner Lowry

Mayor Lightfoot
Governor Pritzker