

January 11, 2021

Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Quincy Medical Group Hospital, Project #20-044

Dear Ms. Avery,

My name is Jim Kent and I am the owner of Pappos Pizza. We opened our location in the Quincy Mall in September of 2020. Pappos is located at the front entrance of the Quincy Mall. We chose this location because of Quincy Medical Group's investment in revitalizing the large vacant department store that is located just adjacent from Pappos.

As you can imagine, the decision to open a new restaurant takes a lot of planning – like every other business, we were impacted by COVID-19. There were a lot of things to consider but one of them was the fact that we were opening next door to a healthcare facility that continues to expand, bringing with it patients and families. Visitors to the QMG Cancer Institute benefit from picking up a pizza on their way home instead of cooking.

At this time cancer patients can't always be accompanied by a loved one during their visits and the mall gives caregivers a place to go to make the time go faster and warm comfort food helps too. To some, the concept of medical facilities inside former department stores may seem unusual. This is actually a trend throughout our nation as retail transforms and trends change. QMG is doing the same thing for local healthcare – transforming.

I know that others will see the continued investment QMG is making with the QMG Hospital as a very attractive reason to bring their business to the Quincy Mall campus. There are many complimentary restaurants and shops that would benefit people who are visiting someone at the hospital or waiting for someone who's having surgery. Imagine not only a gift shop but an entire campus at your ready – it really is an innovative way to stimulate the Quincy economy. I support QMG Hospital and I look forward to being their neighbor at the Quincy Mall.

Thank you,



Jim Kent, owner
Pappo's Pizzeria
3364 Quincy Mall
Quincy, Illinois 62301