

**From:** [ROBERT GAGGIANO](#)  
**To:** [DPH.HFSRB.PublicHearings](#)  
**Subject:** [External] E-003-21 MERCY HOSPITAL  
**Date:** Friday, March 19, 2021 8:43:32 AM

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My name is Robert Gaggiano and I live in the Bridgeport neighborhood in Chicago, approximately 2 miles from Mercy Hospital. I have used the services of Mercy Hospital many times, as have numerous extended family members. I am writing to ask that the Board delay its decision on the exemption application, or deny the application pending future consideration. I support the Chicago Health Equity Coalition position that all potential buyers be given an opportunity to submit a proposal, and that all proposals be considered in a fair and transparent manner.

It is in the best interest of the people of the surrounding communities that Mercy Hospital be preserved as a full-service public safety-net hospital with a comprehensive Emergency Department, OB-GYN, including care for high-risk pregnancies, behavioral health, and a primary stroke and cardiac center.

Mercy Hospital should be sold to any responsible and invested group committed to the community, and the preservation of the full extent of Mercy Hospital's mission of community health care and education. As part of this commitment, any group seeking to purchase Mercy should actively seek input from community groups and elected representatives to determine how to provide the best possible medical care to the surrounding communities. Before approving the sale of Mercy, the Board should request each proposal include a clear public plan to restore Mercy to a fully operational teaching hospital, and a full-service public safety-net hospital.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

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