

From: [Joseph Oshea](#)
To: [DPH.HFSRB.PublicHearings](#)
Subject: [External] Mercy Hospital sale
Date: Sunday, March 21, 2021 1:15:17 PM

To the Members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board,

I ask the Review Board to either delay its decision on the exemption application, or deny the application pending future consideration. I support the Chicago Health Equity Coalition's position that all potential buyers must have the opportunity to submit a proposal, and for all proposals to be considered in a fair and transparent process.

Additional talking points:

- Mercy must be preserved as a full-service public safety-net hospital with a comprehensive Emergency Department, OBGYN, including care for high-risk pregnancies, behavioral health and a primary stroke and cardiac center.
- I support the sale of Mercy to any responsible and invested entity committed to transparency to the community, significant community representation on the board, and preservation of the full extent of Mercy Hospital's mission of health care and education.
- Prior to a sale, I request a clear public plan to restore Mercy to a fully operational teaching hospital.

I belong to St. James (Wabash Avenue) Catholic Parish. Like Mercy Hospital, St. James has been a pillar in the Bronzeville neighborhood for over a century. Both institutions have served the needs of people on the Near South Side, without regard to race, to creed, or to social or economic status.

If one looks at a map of the South Side, there are few hospitals. In my lifetime, Michael Reese, Solbrig, and St. George (among others) have either closed or moved to the suburbs. These closures have put increased pressure on the remaining health care facilities to provide high quality health care to an increasingly financially insecure population.

I do not live in the city myself, but the nearby western suburb of Hodgkins. We have good hospitals close to us, such as La Grange Hospital as well as McNeal Hospital in Berwyn. As a concerned citizen, I feel every person in this state - regardless of zip code - should also have ready access to high quality hospital care.

For the above reasons, I urge you, the members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board, to delay a final action on the sale of Mercy Hospital.

Respectfully,
Joseph O'Shea