

1612 Tacoma Avenue  
Rockford, IL 61103-4340  
January 14, 2022

RE: Mercyhealth-Rockton Ave Campus, Rockford, IL  
Meeting in Springfield, IL January 26, 2022

cc: Mike Constantino, Project Reviewer-IHFSRB  
Rockford Mayor Thomas McNamara  
Crusader Clinic CEO  
Rock River Times  
Northwest News Magazine  
Rockford Register Star

To Whom It May Concern-IHFSRB:

I am a 78-½ years old life-long resident of the WEST side of Rockford, IL and was a young girl when Rockford Memorial Hospital was built. I felt it was time for a long time patient and former employee of RMH to write how I feel about what is happening and also about a recent experience.

The hospital building at 2400 N. Rockton Ave, Rockford, IL will always be known to me as Rockford Memorial Hospital. On that campus are 3 medical buildings, a nurse's residence and a hospital building.

The WEST side of Rockford has not only a food dessert problem, it now has a MEDICAL DESSERT. The East side of Rockford now has **THREE (3)** hospitals, West side -0-, Downtown and that general area is cared for nicely by UW Swedish American. The Far East side has the big OSF St. Anthony. Mercyhealth on Riverside might as well be considered Belvidere, especially for people from the West side of Rockford.

I worked there for 4 years in the day you made bed assignments **MANUALLY** for a **410** bed hospital building. That could be fun, but extremely challenging at times. And be careful not to put 2 patients in the same room with the same diagnosis, surgery procedure or same doctors. And of course, not a MALE or FEMALE in the same room. Yes, they were M or F then.

Some of the old deceased doctors would turn over in their graves if they knew what was happening to the place they gave their lives for.

RMH-Rockton Ave is also a place with 2 doctors-Drs. David Ellis and Mark Zarnke saved my life when I was going into Septicemia from gallbladder. And in case you do not know, with Septicemia if not treated within 12 hrs you are no longer alive.

There are many people in Rockford that if we could do something to the "King" con- man

Javon Bea and get away with it, we would.

He (and his board) has done the biggest injustice to Rockford and especially to the west side.

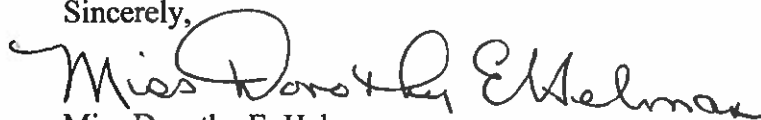
I recently had to have an ultrasound done SOMEPLACE. My primary doctor is with Mercyhealth, but I was not about to drive 9 miles, 25 minutes to the "Palace" on Riverside when Rockford Memorial is 8 blocks and 2 minutes from my home!!! I went to a now a basically closed big empty building, currently called "Out Patient" Hospital. My whole walk through the building I saw 5 employees. I came home and cried. (Well I cried there too.) What a pathetic sight I saw. If I was not medically sick going in, I was sick when I left. A place that doctors saved my life, a place where I worked, and a place where I met many wonderful doctors. One night on TV news a younger man was interviewed. He was more concerned with his elderly neighbor than himself, but both lived across from RMH. I agreed with him and also with all Mayor Tom McNamara says about the situation.

You need to be in good health to go for you testing or whatever, since there is no valet or volunteers to push you or help you get to the Department you need. So don't be elderly or with physical problems and be alone.

There is no way Mercyhealth can maintain that building, the utilities alone, as "BUSY" as it is now. And why did they waste all the money updating the ER and other areas, only to close it down. And they sure don't need a gift shop there anymore.

My hope and prayer is some big corporation, or preferably an other hospital related organization, would buy the "King" out and restore RMH to the BUSY hospital it once was, or make it a living complex maybe for low income or elderly BEFORE we have yet another Barber Coleman complex eye-sore on the WEST side of Rockford!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Miss Dorothy E. Helman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and phone number.

Miss Dorothy E. Helman

1-(815) 964-3116