

From: [Robert Esmond](#)
To: [DPH.HFSRB.PublicHearings](#)
Subject: [External] Javon Bea 1-26-22 Hearing
Date: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 8:09:30 AM

Good Day,

I'm writing on behalf of the West Gateway Coalition (WGC). We are a neighborhood association located on the west side of Rockford representing approximately 12,000 residents.

We are opposed to closing of inpatient beds and closing of the emergency department at Javon Bea Rocton Ave campus.

For over seven decades our residents have relied upon the Rockton campus for both primary and emergency medical services. The downsizing of medical services are a detriment the the health and well-being of our residents.

Our residents live in under resourced neighborhoods with daily struggles that include lack of transportation. In order to access medical services that will no longer be on the west side, will require residents to travel to the Far East side of town.

On a personal note, I have worked as a paramedic since the late 80's and the increased travel times to bypass the Rockton campus to go to the next closest ER at Swedish American has the following consequences;

1. Negative outcomes for time critical trauma, cardiac and stroke patients to receive definitive care.
2. Increased task times for ambulances putting more pressure on an EMS system that is already understaffed due to national trends of decreasing licensed EMTs & Paramedics.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Robert Esmond
West Gateway Coalition
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