

From: [Paul Hartzog](#)
To: [DPH.HFSRB.PublicHearings](#)
Subject: [External] Mercy Health Javon Bea Hospital- Rockford, IL
Date: Friday, January 28, 2022 10:12:46 AM

Dear Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board,

The closure of the Mercy Health Javon Bea Hospital on N. Rockton avenue in Rockford IL, will leave a hole in the city's healthcare infrastructure that will endanger low income and underrepresented populations.

When the new hospital was proposed, everyone in town KNEW the end goal of Javon Bea and Mercy Health. It was to get out of the west side, get out of the low profit business of treating public health supported patients and move to the east side of Rockford where more elective procedures and private pay are likely. As a large, new facility located on the highway, private pay patients from the southern region of Wisconsin would also come, opening even greater opportunity for profit. Mercy, led by Bea, figured they could do a couple things: 1: Increase their revenue and margins by INTENTIONALLY abandoning low income (low profit) and underrepresented populations. 2: Leave the "undesirable business" of treating low income, public health patients to Swedish American/UW Health, thereby financially stressing their competitor.

Early in the process and throughout construction Bea, and Mercy, made promises to maintain services on the Northwest side that they never intended to keep. After all, how could they justify to their board of directors the construction and operation of a NEW hospital AND maintain an additional hospital in the same community? The answer? They can't, and they didn't. Bea, Mercy, AND its Board of Directors knowingly and purposely misrepresented their intentions to the Rockford community and its leadership all while following the original plan laid out for the board.

Mercy Health should be ashamed of itself as they have no mercy for the people who relied on their services. By putting profit over people, Mercy Health, led by Javon Bea, INTENTIONALLY MISLED AN ENTIRE COMMUNITY and ripped the healthcare safety net out from under some of the most vulnerable and underserved members of the Rockford community. Mercy's business practices are despicable and are more akin to the operation of a casino than that of a healthcare organization.

The State of Illinois, under Democratic legislative leadership has consistently promoted its efforts to support low income and underrepresented groups. Now is the time to stand up and act in support of your words! Hold Mercy Health and Javon Bea to the promises they made to the Rockford community.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Paul Hartzog
Rockford, IL