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# Transcript of Public Hearing E-027-22 & E-028-22

**Date:** April 8, 2022

**Case:** State of Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

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Transcript of Public Hearing E-027-22 & E-028-22  
Conducted on April 8, 2022

1 (1 to 4)

<p>1 ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH 2 HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD 3 BEFORE HEARING OFFICER ANN GUILD 4 5 -----x 6 IN RE: : 7 Public Hearing Regarding : 8 the Application for : E-027-22 9 exemption for a change of : E-028-22 10 ownership for Louis Weiss : 11 Memorial Hospital, Chicago. : 12 -----x 13 PUBLIC HEARING in accordance with requirements 14 of the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act 15 Conducted Virtually 16 Friday, April 8, 2022 17 1:03 p.m. CST 18 19 20 21 22 Job No.: 440683 23 Pages: 1 - 70 24 Reported by: Paula Quetsch, CSR, RPR</p>	<p>3 1 PRESENT: 2 ILLINOIS HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES 3 REVIEW BOARD, by 4 ANN GUILD, Public Hearing Officer 5 GEORGE ROATE, CON Reviewer 6 MICHAEL CONSTANTINO, IDPH Staff 7 MICHAEL MITCHELL, IDPH Staff 8 APRIL SIMMONS, General Counsel 9 525 West Jefferson Street 10 Second Floor 11 Springfield, Illinois 62761 12 (217) 782-3516 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p>
<p>2 1 PUBLIC HEARING held virtually: 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Before Paula Quetsch, a Certified Shorthand 10 Reporter, Registered Professional Reporter, and a 11 Notary Public in and for the State of Illinois. 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p>	<p>4 1 P R O C E E D I N G S 2 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Good afternoon. 3 My name is Ann Guild. I am with the Illinois 4 Health Facilities and Services Review Board, and 5 this afternoon I will also be acting as the 6 hearing officer for today's proceedings. Present 7 with me today also representing the Board are Mike 8 Constantino, George Roate, April Simmons, and 9 April Simmons [sic]. 10 On behalf of the State Board, thank you 11 for attending this public hearing for the change 12 of ownership of Weiss Memorial Hospital. As per 13 the rules of the Illinois Health Facilities and 14 Services Review Board, I'd like to read the 15 previously published legal notice into the record. 16 In accordance with the requirements of the 17 Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act and 18 77 Illinois Administrative Code Part 1130 notice 19 is given of the receipt of an application for 20 exemption for a change of ownership of Weiss 21 Memorial Hospital, 4646 North Marine Drive in 22 Chicago. That's Exemption Nos. 27-22 and 28-22. 23 This change of ownership is considered a purchase 24 resulting in no change in the current licensee.</p>

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<p>5</p> <p>1 A public hearing is to be held by the 2 Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review 3 Board pursuant to Illinois Health Facilities 4 Planning Act. The hearing is open to the public 5 and will afford an opportunity for interested 6 parties to present written and/or verbal comment 7 relevant to the project. All allegations or 8 assertions should be relevant to the need for the 9 proposed project. Written comments, submitted to 10 dph.hfsrb.publichearings@Illinois.gov. 11 Please note that in order to ensure that 12 the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review 13 Board public hearings protect the privacy and 14 maintain the confidentiality of an individual's 15 health information, covered entities as defined by 16 the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability 17 Act of 1996 such as hospital providers, health 18 plans, and healthcare clearinghouses submitting 19 oral or written testimony that disclose protected 20 health information of individuals shall have a 21 valid written authorization from that individual. 22 The authorization shall allow the covered entity 23 to share the individual's protected health 24 information at this hearing.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>1 helping hospitals and large group practices that 2 are facing any kind of challenges, whether it is 3 financial in nature or if they have regulatory 4 challenges or if they're trying to grow. 5 I became very interested in the acquisition 6 of Weiss Memorial in a rather roundabout manner. 7 A couple of years ago when Westlake Hospital was 8 going through a bankruptcy process, I had expressed 9 an interest in acquiring and restarting that 10 hospital, had prepared a bid for the Bankruptcy 11 Court's consideration but got significantly outbid 12 in that process, so I sort of backed away from 13 being part of the Westlake, you know, rescue. 14 In the meantime I did stay in touch with 15 what was happening in this market, and I read in 16 the newspapers and the media, as well as I heard 17 about the challenges that Pipeline Health was 18 facing with respect to the other two facilities 19 and the relationships locally, the communication 20 gaps in there. So I approached Pipeline Health with 21 a proposal to acquire either of the two hospitals 22 but specifically Weiss Memorial. 23 Conversations took some time. I made a 24 visit to the facility more than once, and</p>
<p>6</p> <p>1 Prior to beginning your remarks, please 2 clearly state and spell your first and last name. 3 Today's proceedings will begin with 4 Dr. Prasad. I'm looking for you. 5 MS. SIMMONS: I believe he's in Resilience 6 Health. 7 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Okay. Thank you. 8 So I'm going to unmute Resilience Health. 9 Dr. Prasad, are you available? 10 MR. MORADO: We are. We're just letting 11 Mike wrap up. 12 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Okay. Dr. Prasad, 13 you can begin anytime you're ready. 14 DR. PRASAD: Good afternoon, ladies and 15 gentleman. My name is Manoj Prasad. That's 16 spelled M-a-n-o-j and the last name P-r-a-s-a-d. 17 I'm honored to be part of this hearing. I 18 represent Resilience Health, the buyer in this 19 proposed transaction. 20 For me, I'm essentially a family physician 21 by training a long time ago, and I'm more of a 22 healthcare business executive and a healthcare 23 technology architect by passion, and I really have 24 focused a lot of my attention in the past in</p>	<p>8</p> <p>1 actually, I do remember the first time I have 2 visited Weiss Memorial it was last year in 3 January, it was snowing outside, but I was so 4 impressed by looking at the pristine, the clean 5 floors and I mean generally the warmth of the 6 facility and the people out there. And that was 7 when my love affair with the facility started, and 8 since then I have actually had the pleasure of 9 visiting the facility more than once, meeting with 10 a lot of the dedicated folks who work there right 11 from the medical staff, the frontline workers, the 12 nursing staff, and I've really been impressed 13 beyond words at the dedication and -- the 14 dedication that is being displayed and the high 15 quality of care being delivered to the community 16 by the staff members there. In fact, I am so 17 overwhelmed that a large number of both the 18 medical staff and the support staff have been 19 there in excess of 20-plus years. You don't get 20 to see a lot of that in a lot of urban and 21 suburban hospitals. 22 So that's when I decided that this is a 23 hospital that I would love to become part of, and 24 the other part of it was that I became aware of</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p>1 the financial challenges being faced and how  2 Pipeline Health was putting in money and making  3 investments to keep the hospital operating to  4 provide the care needed for the community.  5 So I reached out to several potential  6 partners and finally was able to identify  7 Mr. Reddy Rathnakar Patlola to become our  8 financial partner in this endeavor mostly because  9 of the fact that he actually is dedicated and he  10 is very clearly committed to the success of this  11 organization. He's not in here to make, you know,  12 a big profit or things like that; he's truly driven  13 to be partners in the mission of the facilities.  14 At that point of time, some other  15 conversations happened with Pipeline Health, and  16 we have now come to a stage where we have  17 submitted an application to be considered by the  18 Board.  19 Now, the question that I am often  20 confronted by, you know, in most turnarounds and  21 especially I've been hearing that in these  22 two facilities also is, okay, what are you going  23 to do that will make things different, and what  24 are you going to do to make this a viable</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>1 I've seen in the Uptown area. I have confessed in  2 the past to a lot of people, anybody who would  3 hear, my favorite place in Chicago all these years  4 has been Devon Street where you can get a flavor  5 of all the different international communities all  6 in one place.  7 But again, I mean, I know that along with  8 that comes diverse needs of the people and the  9 community, and a true community hospital really  10 partners with the community to provide the care  11 and services that they need.  12 One of the things that the folks who are  13 actually let's say the heroes of Weiss Memorial  14 are struggling with is their revenue cycle system.  15 What had happened a couple of years ago or a  16 little less than that is there was a perfect storm  17 created when the facility went from a billing  18 system to their present billing system and tried  19 to migrate data, which in itself is a very major  20 project and has the potential of a lot of things  21 that can go wrong and create a disaster. That was  22 coupled with the fact that they also at the same  23 time chose to in-source their revenue cycle  24 process. So that has been a disaster that the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>1 facility, financially viable.  2 From what I have gleaned from meeting and  3 looking at a lot of details is that this hospital  4 has tremendous potential. It is underutilized and  5 has a lot of additional capacity to provide  6 services that the community would need.  7 My first order of business would be to work  8 with members of the community who can actually  9 articulate the needs of the community, work with  10 the 800-plus colleagues or future colleagues who  11 can actually -- who live in the community who can  12 tell us what exactly is needed, as well as our  13 work with the governing board who selflessly give  14 up their time to guide the facility and articulate  15 a strategic plan.  16 Now, one of the things that -- you know, I  17 have been a Midwesterner for 32 years having lived  18 across the pond in Michigan -- is that in order to  19 truly understand the needs of the community, you  20 have to become part of it. So I'm proud to say  21 that in a couple of short weeks I'm going to become  22 a permanent Chicagoan, as well, and I look forward  23 to doing that so I can truly be local and be part  24 of this community, especially the diverse community</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>1 team is constantly working to overcome.  2 I've had the benefit of actually having  3 designed several revenue cycle systems, so I know  4 a little bit about it, and I have a very good team  5 that is happy to partner with us who specialize in  6 revenue cycle management who have come and evaluated  7 the facilities, and our combined opinion -- of  8 course, we are outsiders looking in -- our combined  9 opinion is that the revenues are there; it's just  10 a matter of getting the processes streamlined so  11 we can actually collect on the revenues, and that  12 in itself is going to make a significant  13 difference in how the hospital does financially.  14 In addition to that, I have always  15 propounded and my practice has been to constantly  16 maintain communication. I'm going to be very,  17 very local. I'm going to be actually roaming the  18 halls, walking around, meeting with everyone. And  19 the thing with us is that there isn't a large  20 group of people who have to make decisions; we can  21 actually -- our agility will be something  22 significant where we can quickly, you know, assess  23 situations because we'll all be local and arrive  24 at decisions very promptly. So that in itself is</p>

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<p>13</p> <p>1 going to make a difference.</p> <p>2 In addition to that, like I confessed, I</p> <p>3 have a technology frame of mind, and being a</p> <p>4 technology solution architect we should be able to</p> <p>5 leverage that to make lives a lot simpler, and we</p> <p>6 could actually benefit by becoming a little more</p> <p>7 efficient so that our caregivers can really focus</p> <p>8 on providing care instead of struggling with the</p> <p>9 different systems that we have in place.</p> <p>10 In addition to that, there are some other</p> <p>11 cost savings opportunities that we have already</p> <p>12 identified. I'll just give you one simple example,</p> <p>13 things like employee benefits. It is very</p> <p>14 important to everyone who benefits from that, but</p> <p>15 more importantly that can take a nice chunk of</p> <p>16 your revenues out to pay for it. In my past</p> <p>17 experience and even here my proposal is to work</p> <p>18 with the professional employee organization which</p> <p>19 already has almost 20,000 lives, if not more, and</p> <p>20 join combined buying power of those lives with our</p> <p>21 800 or 1,000 lives should be able to save us some</p> <p>22 significant revenue dollars when we negotiate</p> <p>23 benefits and actually benefits for our staff.</p> <p>24 In addition to that there are several other</p>	<p>15</p> <p>1 expand our service lines and use the facility to</p> <p>2 its maximum potential so that this hospital can be</p> <p>3 a self-sufficient sustainable organization for a</p> <p>4 long time to come.</p> <p>5 So I look forward to an opportunity to</p> <p>6 meet and present to the Board at the opportune</p> <p>7 time, but thank you so much for your attention and</p> <p>8 the time afforded to me today.</p> <p>9 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Thank you for your</p> <p>10 opening statement.</p> <p>11 The next person on my list is Reddy</p> <p>12 Rathnakar Patlola. Sorry if I butchered your</p> <p>13 name. Are you at the Resilient site, or are you a</p> <p>14 call-in user?</p> <p>15 MR. MORADO: He's right here, Ann.</p> <p>16 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: You may proceed.</p> <p>17 MR. PATLOLA: Thank you. Actually, you</p> <p>18 pronounced it very well.</p> <p>19 Good afternoon, ladies and gentleman. My</p> <p>20 name is Reddy Rathnakar Patlola, R-e-d-d-y</p> <p>21 R-a-t-h-n-a-k-a-r; Patlola, P-a-t-l-o-l-a, and I'm</p> <p>22 the president and CEO of Ramco Healthcare Holdings</p> <p>23 and applicant for this COE application. I'm happy</p> <p>24 to be here with you all today to tell you a little</p>
<p>14</p> <p>1 avenues for optimizing the operating costs, but</p> <p>2 more importantly, I like to focus on expanding</p> <p>3 services. We have -- you know, several of you</p> <p>4 might have actually participated in the recent</p> <p>5 open house that they had where they launched the</p> <p>6 new orthopedics floor which is absolutely state of</p> <p>7 the art. We have such world class talent there.</p> <p>8 But what they really need is a large base</p> <p>9 of primary care physicians who could bring their</p> <p>10 patients to take advantage of the services we</p> <p>11 offer. And that is somewhere -- I like to</p> <p>12 network. I'm pretty heavily networked into the</p> <p>13 physician community already and we've just</p> <p>14 started. So once I move here, I will be</p> <p>15 endeavoring to grow that primary care base so that</p> <p>16 we can all benefit, and the hospital can actually</p> <p>17 reach its potential.</p> <p>18 And without trying to be very long-winded</p> <p>19 about what else our plans are, let me just say</p> <p>20 that with the expansion of the primary care base</p> <p>21 and in addition to that the possible expansion of</p> <p>22 service offerings on which we will come to a</p> <p>23 consensus with the community and the other</p> <p>24 stakeholders, we should be able to substantially</p>	<p>16</p> <p>1 bit more about myself and our plans to maintain</p> <p>2 services in the community.</p> <p>3 I came to this country on January 4th,</p> <p>4 1990, with \$13 in my pocket and dreams of</p> <p>5 continuing my education and living the American</p> <p>6 dream. My flight to this country brought me to</p> <p>7 O'Hare Airport and this beautiful city of Chicago.</p> <p>8 Coming from a small town in India, I was in awe</p> <p>9 when I saw the tall buildings and city's beautiful</p> <p>10 skyline. I instantly fell in love with the city.</p> <p>11 My journey took me to Michigan where I</p> <p>12 obtained my master's degree in computer science</p> <p>13 and then went to work in New York City. I've</p> <p>14 always been someone who wants to build things, and</p> <p>15 so I embraced my entrepreneurial spirit and</p> <p>16 started Ramco Fuels. I started with a single</p> <p>17 lease, a single location which was a gas station,</p> <p>18 and as a result of my commitment I grew the</p> <p>19 business to include multiple locations and</p> <p>20 eventually became a large energy distributor on</p> <p>21 the East Coast.</p> <p>22 I've been blessed and have had great</p> <p>23 success in business, and I began to look at</p> <p>24 opportunities to be of service to my fellow human</p>

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<p>17</p> <p>1 beings, fellow man. I am bringing that same 2 commitment to healthcare and to this undertaking. 3 I have known Dr. Prasad for years and have 4 admired his work from afar. As I evaluated 5 opportunities to contribute and become involved in 6 healthcare, I knew he would be the perfect partner. 7 With his experience in hospital turnarounds, I'm 8 confident that together we can improve operations 9 and continue to serve the community. 10 We understand that there are people who 11 are upset and angry with the sale of the parking 12 lot attached to Weiss Memorial Hospital. Just to 13 be clear, this transaction happened and was done 14 long before our involvement. We had no control 15 over this deal, and it was explicitly not part of 16 this transaction. So while we can't speak to this 17 transaction, we do want you to know of our 18 commitment to maintaining open lines of 19 communication with the community and avoiding 20 circumstances like this in the future. 21 I firmly believe healthcare is a human 22 right. I've had great success in business, and 23 I'm blessed to have the ability to contribute to 24 providing, increasing, and improving access to</p>	<p>19</p> <p>1 Cappleman. 2 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: You may proceed -- 3 we can hear you. You can proceed whenever you're 4 ready. 5 MR. CAPPLEMAN: Great. Thank you so much. 6 Good afternoon, I'm James Cappleman, 7 J-a-m-e-s; Cappleman, C-a-p-p-l-e-m-a-n, and I'm 8 the alderman for the 46th Ward where Weiss 9 Memorial Hospital is located. 10 Since taking ownership of Weiss Memorial 11 Hospital and West Suburban Medical Center, Pipeline 12 Health made about \$60 million in investments in 13 both of those hospitals. Due to COVID hospitals 14 all over the country have taken a financial hit, 15 including these two hospitals. The buyer is 16 Resilience Health led by Dr. Prasad who just spoke 17 and who has had over two decades of experience in 18 healthcare turnarounds. Pipeline plans to refund 19 the \$12 million dollars on the \$92 million 20 purchase price investment into both hospitals to 21 ensure that the proceeds from the pending Weiss 22 parking lot sale benefits Weiss along with 23 ensuring that additional investment is available 24 for Weiss and West Suburban.</p>
<p>18</p> <p>1 healthcare. This brings me full circle and allows 2 me to contribute back to the city that began my 3 American dream. 4 I've been evaluating opportunities for the 5 last year, and as you've just heard, Chicago has a 6 special place in my heart. I'm excited at the 7 opportunity to work with Dr. Prasad in ensuring 8 continued access to healthcare for this community 9 and maintaining a commitment charity -- commitment 10 to charity care for those communities who need it 11 most. That's why this opportunity makes the most 12 sense to me. 13 Dr. Prasad will be leading operations, as 14 he's the expert in that area, but I'm confident 15 that together we can provide the quality and 16 stability to these communities that they deserve. 17 Thank you very much for your time. 18 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Thank you for your 19 remarks. 20 The next person on my list is Alderman 21 James Cappleman. I am going to unmute you -- I'm 22 going to try to unmute you. Why is that not 23 working? There we go. 24 MR. CAPPLEMAN: This is Alderman James</p>	<p>20</p> <p>1 The hospitals have aggressive employee 2 recruitment plans underway to recruit more 3 full-time employees to reduce their dependence on 4 contract labor due to the pandemic, and agreements 5 are also in place to ensure seamless operations 6 with patient care and continuity of hospital 7 leadership, including Weiss CEO Irene Dumanis. 8 Importantly, I am assured that all 9 hospital operations and excellent care will 10 continue as usual for Weiss patients. Weiss 11 Memorial Hospital's presence is critical to our 12 community. This ownership transition serves as 13 further proof that Weiss Hospital is here to stay, 14 and this additional investment ensures that the 15 hospital will have the needed resources to 16 continue expanding its services to our community. 17 So I look forward to working with both 18 Pipeline and the new potential owners to guarantee 19 Weiss Hospital's future success. Thank you. 20 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Thank you for your 21 comments. 22 The next person on my list is Irene 23 Dumanis. I am unmuting you now. 24 MS. DUMANIS: Yes, I'm here.</p>

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<p>21</p> <p>1 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Thank you.</p> <p>2 Continue.</p> <p>3 Ms. DUMANIS: Thank you.</p> <p>4 Good afternoon, my name is Irene Dumanis,</p> <p>5 I-r-e-n-e D-u-m-a-n-i-s, and I am the chief</p> <p>6 executive officer of Weiss Memorial Hospital.</p> <p>7 I've been in this role since December of 2020.</p> <p>8 With a financial background, I've served in</p> <p>9 various finance leadership roles in healthcare</p> <p>10 organizations, and many of them have been in a</p> <p>11 turnaround environment. This opportunity puts me</p> <p>12 in a different mindset. I quickly learned the</p> <p>13 importance of the community engagement. We can't</p> <p>14 exist without those community relationships, and</p> <p>15 our community cannot exist without us here to</p> <p>16 deliver the care they need.</p> <p>17 Over the past several years under Pipeline</p> <p>18 ownership we made significant investments into the</p> <p>19 hospital to allow us to grow, expand our services,</p> <p>20 and continue to care for the members of our</p> <p>21 community. I have always loved the multicultural</p> <p>22 environment at Weiss. The Uptown community is</p> <p>23 especially diverse with many different cultures</p> <p>24 and languages.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>1 you for giving me the opportunity to speak today.</p> <p>2 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Thank you. Before</p> <p>3 I continue with my list of proponents, I'd like to</p> <p>4 remind everybody that if they are on the phone,</p> <p>5 they should -- and they wish to testify, they</p> <p>6 should raise their hand by hitting star 3 on the</p> <p>7 phone and otherwise raise your electronic hand so</p> <p>8 I know to call on you.</p> <p>9 The next person on my list is Sarah Wilson,</p> <p>10 and I'm unmuting you now.</p> <p>11 MS. WILSON: Good afternoon everyone. My</p> <p>12 name is Sarah Wilson, S-a-r-a-h W-i-l-s-o-n. I am</p> <p>13 pleased to serve as the executive director of</p> <p>14 Uptown United since last October. Uptown United</p> <p>15 and the Uptown Chamber of Commerce have a joint</p> <p>16 mission to lead efforts to build a strong unified</p> <p>17 business environment, facilitate economic</p> <p>18 development, and strengthen communities all to</p> <p>19 nurture a diverse, vibrant, thriving, and strong</p> <p>20 Uptown. That diverse, vibrant, thriving, and</p> <p>21 strong Uptown is served by Weiss Memorial Hospital.</p> <p>22 We need a strong accessible hospital to support</p> <p>23 our thriving community.</p> <p>24 My career path has taken me into private,</p>
<p>22</p> <p>1 I came to the United States from the</p> <p>2 former Soviet Union 32 years ago. With a large</p> <p>3 population of Russian speaking community members,</p> <p>4 I can greet patients in their language, and I can</p> <p>5 give back on a very personal life. Countless</p> <p>6 others at Weiss feel the same way. They give to</p> <p>7 our patients in their own personal ways. Our</p> <p>8 physicians and our staff truly care.</p> <p>9 We are excited at the prospect of having a</p> <p>10 buyer who is local. He will be ingrained in the</p> <p>11 community, and he will understand our day-to-day</p> <p>12 needs. For those reasons today I'm speaking in</p> <p>13 support of the change in ownership for Weiss</p> <p>14 Memorial Hospital to Resilience Health.</p> <p>15 In my own conversation with Dr. Prasad I've</p> <p>16 shared what I consider to be our top three needs</p> <p>17 moving forward. I've asked him to take care of</p> <p>18 our staff -- they are our biggest asset -- to help</p> <p>19 us build our primary care base and continue to</p> <p>20 expand our services, and to make sure we continue</p> <p>21 to be present in the community.</p> <p>22 With the planned change of ownership I</p> <p>23 know we will continue to support the community</p> <p>24 that supports our hospital in so many ways. Thank</p>	<p>24</p> <p>1 public, and nonprofit sectors providing me with</p> <p>2 invaluable experience that enables me to be more</p> <p>3 empathetic with clients and constituents. I</p> <p>4 believe that my empathy has led to my special</p> <p>5 appreciation for Weiss Memorial Hospital. I</p> <p>6 admire the hospital's commitment to providing</p> <p>7 quality care to every patient who comes through</p> <p>8 its doors.</p> <p>9 Weiss Memorial Hospital is a pillar in</p> <p>10 Uptown. Our Uptown Chamber has a valued</p> <p>11 partnership with Weiss, and our partnership with</p> <p>12 the hospital reflects their commitment to our</p> <p>13 community. Weiss provides critical services to</p> <p>14 our neighbors. In fact, the hospital is not only</p> <p>15 there when someone needs medical care; the</p> <p>16 hospital is there to help the community stay</p> <p>17 healthy, providing education through lectures and</p> <p>18 participation in community health fairs each year.</p> <p>19 Weiss Memorial Hospital's long-standing commitment</p> <p>20 is engage with the community is evidenced through</p> <p>21 their support of Uptown United and Uptown Chamber</p> <p>22 of Commerce.</p> <p>23 As a change of ownership is considered for</p> <p>24 Weiss Memorial Hospital, I look forward to</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>1 supporting this neighborhood anchor into the  2 future, building upon the partnership we already  3 have in place. Thank you very much.  4 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Thank you.  5 As a reminder, if you would like to speak,  6 please raise your hand electronically or punch  7 star 3 on your phone.  8 The next speaker on my list is Judi Jordan.  9 okay. Judi, I am unmuting you.  10 MS. JORDAN: Thank you.  11 Hello, I'm Judi Jordan, J-u-d-i J-o-r-d-a-n,  12 and I serve as manager of the program known as  13 Weiss Initiative supporting Elder Center at Weiss  14 Memorial Hospital. Our senior program or center  15 offers a variety of wellness and educational  16 programming to members of our community and those  17 beyond. This is truly a job that I enjoy and  18 uphold.  19 My life at Weiss began 11 years ago as a  20 volunteer. In 2013 I became a full-time employee.  21 I recall a coworker saying to me, "Judi, you're  22 going to have a different take on the medical  23 field before you leave." I'm not yet ready to  24 leave, but I've learned a lot, and as manager of</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>1 look forward to building on the accomplishments of  2 our past so that we may recommitment to the  3 community we serve.  4 Thank you.  5 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Thank you.  6 I'm going to move to Angela Clay.  7 MS. CLAY: Hi, everyone, my name is Angela  8 Clay, A-n-g-e-l-a, last name is C-l-a-y, and I am  9 here on behalf of the Campaign to Stop Luxury  10 Development at Weiss Memorial Hospital, SEIU HCII,  11 Northside Action for Justice, Lakeside Area  12 Neighborhood Association, LANA, which is the block  13 club that represents the area that Weiss is  14 located in, the Asian Americans Advancing Justice  15 in Chicago, the Chicago Union of the Homeless, and  16 Axis Lab truly here to bring a voice from the  17 community in a letter that we wrote.  18 "Dear Mr. Constantino, writing you to talk  19 about our concerns regarding the sale of Weiss and  20 West Suburban Hospitals. Over the past several  21 months members our community have tracked the  22 unfolding of the proceedings through these sales.  23 We've been pleased with the work that the Board  24 has performed to date in their effort to assess</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>1 the Senior Center program I have had some of the  2 most appreciable opportunities to interface and  3 encounter one-and-one with members of our diverse  4 surrounding community. I have established  5 relationships with our community's senior  6 residential buildings and our postacute network  7 partners, offering monthly visits to provide and  8 promote complimentary health screening for their  9 residents along with other activities.  10 Throughout my years at Weiss I have worked  11 under three different owners. Each owner has  12 delivered a different sense of what the hospital  13 and the senior center should embody, and each one  14 has demonstrated consistent dedication to our  15 community.  16 I choose to work at Weiss because of my  17 own dedication to our community. While I have  18 questions about what the new owner will want to  19 focus on, I am confident that the change of  20 ownership will continue that same sense of  21 dedication in putting the community first.  22 Pipeline purchased this hospital in  23 2019 and made some wise decisions and investments.  24 Now the time has come for another new owner. I</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p>1 the exact nature of this transaction. We've also  2 reviewed all of the documents that are publicly  3 available on the IHFSRB website about this sale  4 and realized that a number of critical questions  5 have yet to be answered about the sale of these  6 two hospitals.  7 "We believe that you're in your right to  8 demand full and relevant responses to the  9 questions that you already posed to both the buyer  10 and the seller. In particular, we would expect  11 that the concerns outlined below be addressed prior  12 to any decision on this exemption application.  13 "The professional and financial background  14 of the buyers is still not clear. We still would  15 like to know the following which we believe is  16 necessary to assess in accordance with the  17 Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act the  18 applicant is fit, willing, and able to provide a  19 proper standard of healthcare service for the  20 community.  21 "First, the educational background of  22 Manoj Prasad. We would like the educational  23 institutions from which he received his degrees  24 and certification and the years that they were</p>



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<p style="text-align: right;">29</p> <p>1 received, the subject and title of Dr. Prasad's Ph.D.  2 dissertation and date of completion, the facility  3 where and the date that Dr. Prasad completed his  4 medical residency, and the organizations where  5 Dr. Prasad volunteered to fulfill the requirements  6 of his FACHE certification.  7 "We'd also like more information into the  8 professional background of Dr. Prasad, which  9 includes a list of hospitals, FQHC's, long-term  10 care facilities, and long-term care acute  11 healthcare facilities, physicians, practices, and  12 other healthcare facilities which Dr. Prasad has  13 worked in the last 20 years both in the United  14 States and abroad, and also include the years that  15 he worked at each and also his title on each of  16 these projects.  17 "Also, a list of experts he's consulted,  18 healthcare clients, and an explanation of the  19 Patient Delight training model that Dr. Prasad  20 supposedly pioneered while in India. Also, a  21 complete list of Dr. Prasad's assets, and also a  22 complete list of his liabilities.  23 "We also would like the professional and  24 financial background of Reddy Rathnakar Patlola.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">31</p> <p>1 Patlola's personal finances including estates,  2 liabilities, and net worth to verify that he has  3 the 32 million necessary to finance the  4 transaction, a copy of Patlola's loan agreement  5 with Provizia Capital, LTC, a list of the boards  6 on which Patlola has served in the last 15 years,  7 a list of all work that he has conducted in the  8 field of healthcare either as a professional or  9 volunteer during the past 15 years.  10 "We'd also like information into the  11 methodology used to determine the purchase price  12 because it's not clear. We would like that  13 information to include the outstanding debts for  14 each of the hospitals, the total amount of  15 infrastructure assets of each facility, the  16 revenue and expenditures for the past two years  17 for each of the facilities, a list of all State  18 and Federal funds received by the seller during  19 the past three years, as well.  20 "Although the buyer and seller referred a  21 revenue enhancement strategy, they didn't provide  22 information about what that would entail and how  23 it would impact existing and future hospital  24 operations or access to or the quality of care.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>1 It's still not clear to us. It's not possible to  2 determine economic feasibility, specifically  3 whether he has the resources necessary to  4 purchase, and operate, and also sustain the  5 operations of these facilities.  6 "Therefore, we still would like to have  7 information on the following: Copies of the most  8 recent annual and quarterly consolidated financial  9 statements for Patlola's energy industry business  10 and any and all other businesses he currently  11 operates, and accounting of Patlola's --  12 (Audio interference.)  13 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Whoever is talking  14 in the background -- there's somebody here who --  15 there you go.  16 MS. CLAY: All good?  17 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Thank you,  18 Ms. Clay, you can continue.  19 MS. CLAY: Thank you so much. So I'll  20 start from the top.  21 "Copies of the most recent annual and  22 quarterly consolidated financial statements for  23 Patlola's energy industry business and any and all  24 other businesses he operates, an accounting of</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">32</p> <p>1 "The seller has yet to the submit a quality  2 improvement plan for Weiss Memorial Hospital for  3 2022, and some questions still remain about the  4 \$12 million that the seller originally stated  5 would be invested in Weiss Memorial Hospital  6 improvements. In the exemption application the  7 seller states that the amount would appear as a  8 credit on the total purchase price."  9 (Audio interference.)  10 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: I apologize,  11 Ms. Clay. You can continue.  12 MS. CLAY: "In the exemption application  13 the seller states that the amount would appear as  14 a credit on the total purchase price of the two  15 hospitals. Consequently it is not clear where the  16 money will come from for the hospital improvements  17 although during their community outreach meetings  18 they specifically stated that the entire amount  19 would be invested in Weiss Memorial Hospital," and  20 then we have attached a link to the July 15, 2021,  21 public statement that was made by their chief  22 executive officer Irene Dumanis. "In the  23 exemption application the seller states that only  24 8 million would be invested back into Weiss and</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">33</p> <p>1 not the 12 million as recorded in July.  2 "We greatly appreciate all of yours and  3 the Board's work on this application. Our hope is  4 that we will be able to continue those efforts to  5 ensure that any sale of the Weiss Memorial and  6 West Suburban Hospitals be a complete and  7 transparent process."  8 And I truly appreciate your attention to  9 this matter.  10 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Thank you,  11 Ms. Clay. Appreciate your patience here.  12 MS. SIMMONS: I'm sorry, Ann; can you make  13 sure that the other individuals are muted.  14 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: I'm trying.  15 THE COURT REPORTER: It's Sarah Wilson, if  16 you could just mute her.  17 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: The next person  18 that I have is Ms. Terry Tuohy. I will unmute you.  19 MS. TUOHY: Thank you. Can you all hear me?  20 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Yes, we can hear  21 you. You can proceed at any point.  22 MS. TUOHY: Thank you. Hello -- or good  23 afternoon. My name is Terry Tuohy, T-e-r-r-y  24 T-u-o-h-y, and I'm here today to speak in support</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">35</p> <p>1 As an employee, I have been so fortunate to  2 work with the Uptown Edgewater communities. These  3 communities need Weiss Memorial Hospital, and  4 Weiss Memorial Hospital needs these communities.  5 Through our efforts in teaching and promoting  6 health for life, an outreach to educate the  7 community that started 14 years ago, through the  8 opening of the senior center and the senior  9 initiative, the Weiss rooftop community farm, and  10 countless health fairs and community lectures that  11 we have supported over the years, Weiss Memorial  12 Hospital has a strong relationship with the people  13 around us. These people truly care about the  14 future of this hospital, and they are counting on  15 that future being bright.  16 What excites me about the planned sale is  17 that a new owner brings new ideas and resources,  18 and it also gives our employees, our physicians,  19 and our volunteers a chance to reaffirm what makes  20 Weiss so special to the Uptown Edgewater  21 community. We pride ourselves on our diversity  22 and acceptance of all patients, and it has been  23 our honor to care for all of them. Now we are  24 ready for a new chapter of service in our community.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">34</p> <p>1 of the sale of Weiss Memorial Hospital to  2 Resilience Health. I'm approaching the support  3 from three different perspectives.  4 First, I'm an employee of Weiss for over  5 22 years. I wear many hats, serving as the  6 director of volunteer services, director of the  7 chaplaincy services, director of graduate medical  8 attention, and director of medical staff. I think  9 you can say I have a finger on the pulse of the  10 numerous constituencies that surround us.  11 Second, I'm a community member who has  12 lived in the area for 25 years, and I am truly in  13 love with my community, my fellow neighbors, and  14 the area.  15 And finally, I'm a patient of Weiss  16 Memorial Hospital. I've had multiple surgeries  17 and physical therapy over the last 15 years. I'm  18 living proof that good outcomes come from loyal  19 and dedicated staff and active community members.  20 I received unbelievable care when I was a patient  21 at Weiss. Having two very intricate and difficult  22 knee surgeries, I'm literally a walking billboard  23 of the successful surgeries and months of physical  24 therapy.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">36</p> <p>1 Thank you very much.  2 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Thank you for your  3 comments.  4 Next, I have Dr. Yolanda Coleman, and you  5 are unmuted.  6 DR. COLEMAN: Good afternoon, I am  7 Dr. Yolanda, Y-o-l-a-n-d-a; Coleman, C-o-l-e-m-a-n,  8 the chief nursing officer at Weiss Memorial  9 Hospital.  10 I have had the pleasure of having my  11 nursing and leadership career start here in the  12 Chicago area. I also serve in my community on  13 numerous boards and healthcare activities,  14 including founding a scholarship program that  15 supports those who are affected by gun violence in  16 the Cook County area.  17 Throughout my leadership career I have had  18 the opportunity to work for academic and community  19 hospitals, for-profit and nonfor-profits. I  20 recently joined Weiss Hospital with an expectation  21 of a change in partnership and with a vision of  22 building a sustainable future. Discussing the  23 sale provides an open line of communication to our  24 patients and community audience.</p>

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<p>37</p> <p>1 I have been a part of Weiss Memorial 2 Hospital for approximately six months. We are 3 building trust with our patients, community, and 4 other stakeholders. I appreciate the fact that 5 this decision can have a profound and positive 6 effect on the healthcare needs of our community. 7 Patients in the community are the beneficiaries of 8 the services of our hospital, and we want to ensure 9 a continued valued relationship that represents 10 service excellence and high quality outcomes. 11 The sale of the hospital in general may 12 bring about concerns and uncertainty, which is 13 understandable. However, this sale positions 14 Weiss Memorial Hospital for the future to develop 15 objective growth strategies, stability, and 16 profitability with the support of a medical 17 inpatient community. 18 I hope to see Weiss Memorial Hospital and 19 the community serve work collaboratively in support 20 of our new owners to concentrate on developing 21 Weiss as a premier healthcare organization on the 22 north side of Chicago. I look forward to our 23 continued success. 24 Thank you for allowing me the opportunity</p>	<p>39</p> <p>1 both out west and in Uptown and surrounding 2 communities here, and our members are clear that 3 our mission should be about health for all people 4 rather than being about jobs, wages, benefits. 5 We believe healthcare is a basic right. 6 That right can be hard to secure in a market-based 7 healthcare system such as we have in the United 8 States, especially hard for lower income workers, 9 communities of color, immigrant communities, and 10 others that are similarly vulnerable. 11 At the broadest level this process under 12 the Planning Act is a key site for balancing the 13 needs and we would say rights of communities 14 against market-based decision making. We have 15 advocated for reforms to the Planning Act to 16 emphasize health equity and community voice. 17 In this instance with the change of 18 ownership, that would point to how the certificate 19 of exemption works. In some ways the lower-level 20 scrutiny excludes community voice in a really key 21 moment for health services in the community and 22 effectively leaves vetting of the potential owner 23 up to the seller. As the certificate of exemption 24 asks for some disclosures and paperwork rather</p>
<p>38</p> <p>1 to speak today. 2 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Thank you for your 3 comments. 4 I'm going to move next to Greg Will, and I 5 am unmuting you. You can proceed, Greg. 6 MR. WILL: Hi. Just confirming, can 7 everyone hear me? 8 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Yes, we can. 9 Thank you. 10 MR. WILL: Hi there, Greg Will, G-r-e-g 11 W-i-l-l. I have the honor of being the research 12 director for SEIU Healthcare Illinois Indiana, the 13 largest union of healthcare workers in the 14 Midwest. We unite over 9,000 workers across 15 healthcare, home care services in our union. 16 The general nature of my comments today is 17 going to be to encourage thorough due diligence on 18 the sale by Board and Board staff and to encourage 19 potential buyers to participate in that, as well 20 as to address community needs and concerns. 21 To be clear, we don't represent workers 22 here at Weiss or at West Suburban. We however 23 have thousands of members and their families who 24 live in the service areas of the two hospitals</p>	<p>40</p> <p>1 than setting an up or down Board vote based on 2 healthcare access in the community and community 3 impact, it is especially important that Board 4 staff ask questions about those disclosures and 5 paperwork. 6 We're encouraged by seeing a number of 7 Q and A from Board staff, you know, back and forth 8 with the potential owner posted. We know the 9 community here has a range of questions for the 10 new owner, so we'd encourage Board staff to 11 formally ask all of those that are possibly within 12 their purview and encourage the applicants to 13 answer in as forthcoming a way as possible the 14 questions coming from the community they are 15 seeking to serve. 16 The certificate of exemption lower-level 17 scrutiny gives us some pause based on the sad 18 events recently at Galesburg Cottage Hospital and 19 before it at Westlake Hospital. We feel -- you 20 know, it's clear to us that the change of 21 ownership was a pivotal moment in those sad days 22 at each hospital. 23 Lastly, to the extent to which the 24 certificate of exemption effectively leaves the</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">41</p> <p>1 vetting of the buyer up to the seller, that gives  2 us pause in this particular case because of who  3 the seller is. Pipeline's record interacting with  4 this Board around Westlake Hospital gives rise to  5 these concerns for us.  6 I don't want to rehash all of that here  7 but feel obligated to at least give one example to  8 put this on a factual basis. Affirming charity  9 care would be in place for years there and filing  10 to close right after the sale went through was  11 highly, highly troubling to us.  12 So in closing, we're here to encourage  13 thorough due diligence on this transaction by  14 Board and staff, to encourage the potential buyers  15 to really participate in that and address  16 community needs and concerns. We're not  17 testifying for the sale or against the sale but  18 for a good process that is responsive to the  19 community.  20 Thanks so much for your time.  21 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Thank you.  22 Next, I have Dr. Boatwright.  23 DR. BOATWRIGHT: Hello. Am I on now?  24 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: You are on now.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">43</p> <p>1 us. We at the Women's Center, my staff and  2 Dr. Butler, we continue to render, I think very  3 good gynecological care to the patient population  4 even though COVID was very restrictive. It was  5 important because the tertiary care centers were  6 being more overwhelmed than sometimes even the  7 smaller community hospitals. So I was very  8 aggressive in continuing to service as far as  9 gynecological care.  10 I was only able to do this because of the  11 medical staff and others at Weiss. Weiss, now  12 that I've been here a couple of years, is a very,  13 very family-oriented community hospital. We all  14 work together. We all pick up when there is a  15 need to pick up even when it's not in our normal  16 duties. I was extremely impressed that I was not  17 handicapped as far as continuing to expand the  18 Women's Center and to render great gynecological  19 care during the COVID season.  20 Before COVID hit, of course, I was doing  21 community outreach and the like, and that, of  22 course, is going to be starting back up since  23 COVID is a little bit better around the city. But  24 most importantly, I am here to denote that I was</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">42</p> <p>1 You can proceed.  2 DR. BOATWRIGHT: All right. Thank you  3 very much. My name is Patricia Boatwright,  4 P-a-t-r-i-c-i-a; Boatwright, B, as in "boy,"  5 -o-a-t-w-r-i-g-h-t. I am a gynecologist. I  6 stopped obstetrics in 2019. I am a new person,  7 fairly new person to Weiss and the community.  8 I've been a senior gynecologist in the Chicago  9 area since 1985, moving my practice from a  10 tertiary care center over to Weiss at the end of  11 2018/2019.  12 The reason for the move was, of course, to  13 continue to render medical care, gynecological  14 care in particular, stopping the obstetrical part  15 for me, but most importantly to go to a community  16 hospital with the hopes of also continuing to be  17 an educator, not only an educator to the patient  18 population but to the staff, nursing staff,  19 resident staff, and other services and to the  20 community in general, preventive medicine care and  21 the like.  22 With that I became director of the Women's  23 Center that was in the process of some great  24 things, expanding, and then, of course, COVID hit</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">44</p> <p>1 not only able to continue the gynecological part  2 of it but also the educational part of it and  3 bring a large group of patients from my private  4 sector over to the hospital and never miss the  5 tertiary care atmosphere that I had at my previous  6 institution.  7 I am very impressed that this hospital  8 works as a team to service the doctors here, to  9 service the community and go beyond the call of  10 duty as far as I'm concerned. This is the first  11 smaller community hospital that I've ever been on  12 staff, and I am very pleased with my move, looking  13 forward to the continuation of all the projects  14 that we had planned prior to COVID. It will  15 continue because I know that the community will be  16 serviced because the family at Weiss, the people  17 that you've heard from that's worked there for  18 decades, they are beyond the word committed to  19 continuing to service this community.  20 So whatever it takes, regardless of the  21 ownership, the community will be serviced. The  22 hospital has the building blocks built in to  23 continue to do what we need to do to continue to  24 expand and to service. Thank you very much.</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">45</p> <p>1 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Thank you.  2 Next, I have Ruth Castillo, and you are  3 unmuted.  4 MS. CASTILLO: Hi. Can you hear me?  5 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: I can hear you.  6 You can proceed at any time.  7 MS. CASTILLO: Okay. Thank you. Good  8 afternoon, my name is Ruth Castillo, R-u-t-h C, as  9 in "cat -a, s, as in "Sam," -t-i-l-l-o.  10 Dear members of the Illinois Health  11 Facilities and Services Review Board, thank you  12 for allowing this opportunity for the community to  13 share at this the public hearing. My name is Ruth  14 Castillo, and I'm a resident of Uptown for almost  15 15 years. 11 of those years have been down the  16 block from Weiss Memorial Hospital. I'm a  17 registered nurse and the interim president of the  18 local block club, Lakeside Area Neighbors  19 Association, known as LANA, which includes the  20 area of Weiss Memorial Hospital. I have been on  21 the board of LANA for over four years.  22 Three weeks ago I was contacted by a  23 representative of Weiss to inform me of the  24 potential change of ownership and if I had any</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">47</p> <p>1 Last night at the community meeting the  2 lawyer for Dr. Prasad and Mr. Patlola stated that  3 the lot sold for \$8 million, not 12 million. The  4 community and IHFSRB needs to know the accurate  5 amount of the sale, and Pipeline/Weiss needs to be  6 held accountable for the promise of the 100 percent  7 being put back into Weiss.  8 When Weiss and Pipeline made the decision  9 to renovate the parking garage structure, they  10 eliminated the rooftop community garden. As a  11 good faith gesture by the buyer, can we get this  12 back? The garden was used by local families to  13 gain access to fresh foods and to learn about  14 gardening and conservation. The community gardens  15 nearby at Clarendon Park have a waiting list of  16 over 100 people.  17 The lack of communication with the community  18 about the garden removal and no intention to bring  19 the garden back was unacceptable. We were told  20 that the gardens were damaging the structure, but  21 there are many organizations that Pipeline and  22 Weiss could have partnered with to get funding to  23 help keep this a viable option for the community.  24 After meeting with Dr. Prasad and</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">46</p> <p>1 questions. I stated many questions on that call.  2 A week later I received another call asking if I  3 would write a letter on behalf of LANA in support  4 of the change of ownership.  5 As I not received answers to the many  6 questions from the prior week, I could not provide  7 those to the LANA members to review to be able to  8 have a feedback process and thus get a community  9 consensus.  10 Many of the concerns I have about this  11 transaction are spelled out in a letter to members  12 of the Board that you received from several  13 community organizations and which Angela Clay read  14 today. I do want to mention a few items verbally  15 today that are very meaningful to the community  16 that surrounds Weiss.  17 On July 15th, 2021, Irene Dumanis mentioned  18 that 100 percent of the sale of the lot would go  19 back into Weiss. The press release about the  20 change of ownership stated \$12 million would be  21 refunded by Pipeline back into Weiss from the sale  22 of the last remaining expansion land, the surface  23 parking lot at Weiss but that \$4 million would go  24 to West Suburban.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">48</p> <p>1 Mr. Patlola last night at Weiss, I liked what they  2 had to say and their vision for helping keep Weiss  3 in our community. I really want to take them at  4 their word. However, I and the community would  5 like some concrete examples, facility names and  6 dates of what they have done in the past that  7 would help me and community members to feel more  8 at ease with this change of ownership. When you  9 go into an interview for a job you have to provide  10 strong references and a strong résumé. I believe  11 this process should be no different.  12 If this change of ownership occurs, Weiss  13 will have had four owners in seven years. We need  14 strong leadership for Weiss so that the staff and  15 the patients are well taken care of for many years  16 to come. We also need accountability for those in  17 charge of it that it will stay this for the  18 long-term.  19 I urge you to review this change of  20 ownership very closely and be the gatekeepers of  21 helping Weiss Memorial Hospital be the community  22 hospital that it needs to be. Thank you for your  23 time today.  24 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Thank you.</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">49</p> <p>1 Next, I have Amjad Sheikh and I'm 2 unmuting you. 3 DR. SHEIKH: Am I on? 4 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: You are on. You 5 can proceed whenever you're ready. 6 DR. SHEIKH: Good afternoon. I am Amjad 7 Sheikh, A-m-j-a-d; last name S, like in "Sam," 8 -h-e-i-k-h. I'm an interventional cardiologist 9 and chief of cardiology and past president of 10 medical staff here at Weiss, and I've been 11 associated with Weiss since the early '80s. In 12 the decade of '90s and part of 2000 I worked for 13 University of Chicago. 14 When I was growing up as a little boy in 15 my hometown in Pakistan, I was exposed to a family 16 physician that my family visited and watched the 17 way he conducted himself with his patients, and he 18 was always very caring and confident, and that 19 impressed me so much that I wanted to be like him. 20 I chose the field of cardiology because I 21 liked the matters of the heart. It's been 22 wonderful to practice at Weiss for all these 23 years. In my opinion, Weiss is a solid community 24 hospital that is also an excellent teaching</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">51</p> <p>1 internist who trained at Weiss Memorial Hospital, 2 and I have practiced this since 1993. I also 3 serve as president of medical staff, which is an 4 honor for me. 5 I've enjoyed my work at Weiss because of 6 the way we serve our patients. There is no 7 discrimination, only the best possible care. 8 Among our patients we see homeless individuals who 9 come in from the street with frozen fingers and 10 toes. We give them medical attention and we show 11 them respect, care and respect they may not 12 receive anywhere else. We see more affluent 13 patients who live nearby. We see a diverse area 14 of nationalities, individuals of Russian decent, 15 Vietnamese, Chinese, Indian, and Pakistani like 16 myself. 17 I came to the country in 1986, and the 18 diversity of people in Chicago is something I 19 truly enjoy. All of those people need our 20 expertise and compassion, and we deliver that at 21 Weiss. In fact, we deliver the best possible care 22 that can be provided. 23 In the training I received in my residency 24 at Weiss long ago I learned to treat each patient</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">50</p> <p>1 hospital, providing excellent care from excellent 2 physicians. 3 As a relatively small hospital, Weiss 4 still delivers care that is more personal. 5 Patients don't get lost in the hallways or the 6 system, and they know their doctors very well. We 7 have a great reason to be proud of Weiss and the 8 role it plays in our community. 9 I think the future of Weiss will be 10 determined by its past. We have longevity. Weiss 11 is here to stay because of the strong community 12 support. In the end, I support the change of 13 ownership because the lead physician in this new 14 ownership is an excellent hands-on person in 15 healthcare delivery and seems to understand the 16 physicians' needs and concerns. I am indeed looking 17 forward to a successful transition and strong 18 development in the clinical programs and 19 infrastructure of the hospital. 20 Thank you for your attention. 21 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Thank you. 22 Next, I have Sabah Khan. I am unmuting you. 23 DR. KHAN: Good afternoon. I'm Dr. Sabah 24 Khan, S-a-b-a-h, last name is K-h-a-n. I'm an</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">52</p> <p>1 as if he or she was my family. I have taught 2 younger doctors the same philosophy. 3 In my tenure we have had four different 4 owners of this hospital. No matter who the owner 5 is, no matter if COVID tests our strength for 6 two years, no matter what we keep our focus on 7 patient care. That is why we are here. 8 With a new owner based in our local area, 9 we may say even greater agility as we respond to 10 challenges and opportunities. I welcome the 11 change of ownership and look forward to many more 12 opportunities to serve the community around us. 13 Thank you. 14 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Thank you. I am 15 currently not seeing any more hands up. So if you 16 would like to speak, you can raise your hand, your 17 virtual hand, or on your phone you can hit star 3 to 18 raise your hand. 19 This public hearing will -- is scheduled 20 until 3:00 p.m., and there are a few requesters to 21 make closing comments, but I will take a step back 22 for a few minutes, and I will check in periodically. 23 (Recess taken, 2:11 p.m. to 2:20 p.m.) 24 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: This is the public</p>

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<p>53</p> <p>1 hearing for the change of ownership of Weiss 2 Memorial Hospital, Project Nos. 027-22 and 028-22. 3 A reminder, if you would like to speak, please 4 raise your hand electronically for your virtual 5 hand or press star 3 on your phone. 6 I'm going to move now to Marc Kaplan, and 7 I will unmute you now. You can proceed whenever 8 you're ready. 9 (No response.) 10 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Marc, are you on? 11 (No response.) 12 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: I'm going to 13 remute you, Marc, and I'm going to move to Kim 14 Jeffries, and I'm going to unmute you. So, Kim, 15 if you ready, please proceed. 16 MS. JEFFRIES: Okay. My name is Kim 17 Jeffries, and I am a community -- Uptown community 18 member. I live a couple of blocks from Weiss. 19 I have health issues that keep me back and 20 forth to the emergency room, and if they somehow 21 destroyed this hospital, I just don't know where 22 I'd end up. 23 So I'm sure I'm not the only person in 24 this neighborhood who has issues, but on behalf of</p>	<p>55</p> <p>1 Baumgartner, D-a-v-i-d B-a-u-m-g-a-r-t-n-e-r. I 2 have lived and worked in the immediate neighborhood 3 of Weiss Memorial for about 26 years. The 4 community treasures this hospital. Working with 5 low-income senior citizens and homeless folks I've 6 always counted on the great care of Weiss Hospital, 7 especially their geriatric psych unit. They're 8 amazing. 9 In 2020 I started getting very worried 10 about the future of the hospital when Pipeline, 11 the investors who currently own the hospital, 12 started selling off part of the property. At that 13 point I realized that the properties of the 14 hospital and the operation of it are actually 15 separate legal entities. Usually, nobody seems to 16 know who actually the owner of the properties are. 17 It's usually some LLC, that's owned by another 18 LLC, that's owned by some international investment 19 firms. We all know that the immediate success of 20 the hospital has to do with the operator, but 21 decisions made about the property affect the 22 viability of the hospital in the long-term. 23 So my question or concern to the Board is 24 this. How can we make sure that the property</p>
<p>54</p> <p>1 all of the others who are not here, I'm going to 2 speak and say we have to protect our Weiss Hospital, 3 our community hospital. 4 I thank you for your time. 5 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Thank you for your 6 comments. 7 I'm going to go back to Marc Kaplan. 8 Marc, you are unmuted. Marc, are you available to 9 testify? 10 (No response.) 11 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Okay. I am not 12 seeing any other hands up, and as I said previously, 13 this hearing is scheduled until 3:00 p.m., so I 14 will leave you for a few minutes and I will be 15 back. Thank you. 16 (Recess taken, 2:23 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.) 17 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: This is the public 18 hearing for the change of ownership of Weiss 19 Memorial Hospital. I'm going to go back to those 20 who have hands raised. 21 The next person on my list is David 22 Baumgartner. I will unmute you. You can proceed 23 anytime you're ready. 24 MR. BAUMGARTNER: My name is David</p>	<p>56</p> <p>1 owners aren't just opportunity investors who try 2 to maximize their benefits without caring for the 3 long-term success of our community's hospital? 4 Thank you. 5 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Thank you for your 6 comments. 7 I'm moving on to Marc Kaplan. You are 8 unmuted. You can proceed whenever you're ready. 9 MR. KAPLAN: Okay. I think I finally made 10 it. Can you hear me now? 11 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Whenever you're 12 ready. 13 MR. KAPLAN: Okay. Can you hear me now? 14 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: We can hear you. 15 Thank you. 16 MR. KAPLAN: Okay. Finally. 17 Thank you so much for this opportunity to 18 speak in front of the Board. My name is Marc, 19 M-a-r-c; Kaplan, K-a-p-l-a-n. I'm a member of the 20 Campaign to Stop Luxury Development at Weiss 21 Hospital and also Northside Action for Justice. I 22 have lived and worked in the Uptown community 23 since the early 1970s. 24 I don't have to repeat what everyone here</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">57</p> <p>1 is saying about the importance of Weiss Hospital  2 to the community, about the importance of having a  3 hospital that truly serves the needs of low- and  4 moderate-income people in the community and really  5 reaches out and takes people that are income  6 challenged with Medicaid, Medicare, and low or no  7 incomes.  8 We think that it's absolutely important for  9 the hospital not just to continue but to continue  10 to grow and expand the services that can be  11 delivered. You have to pardon our skepticism at  12 this hearing in terms of what the real long-term  13 plans and prospects are for this hospital.  14 A couple years ago Pipeline came, they  15 testified in front of this body, they testified  16 that they would not sell any of the hospitals.  17 Immediately upon approval the seller closed down  18 many of the hospitals. Immediately upon approval  19 they closed down Westlake. I'm sure that that  20 hospital and the all the physicians there were  21 extremely dedicated to the community of Melrose  22 Park, I'm sure it was vital for Melrose Park.  23 They shut it down and, in fact, they were sued and  24 had to pay Melrose Park \$1.5 million, but that</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">59</p> <p>1 Dr. Prasad and the new owners are projecting about  2 the growth of the hospital, et cetera, there's  3 going to be a need for expansion, and there's  4 nowhere to expand except in that presently vacant  5 or presently used parking lot.  6 We also think that, you know, Dr. Prasad  7 comes with a really great -- you know, we're  8 really happy about how excited he is about our  9 community. What the sale of the hospital  10 represents is and will become is another luxury  11 development in our community.  12 In the last 10 years we have lost over  13 1,000 units of housing that was affordable for low  14 and moderate income, and what we've gotten it  15 replaced with is 2,000 units of high-income housing  16 that is moving people out of the neighborhood,  17 that is making it hard for even moderate income  18 people to afford to live here. And, in fact, the  19 projected -- the building that Lincoln Property if  20 they complete the sale of the land will build, in  21 order to live in a two-bedroom apartment and be  22 affordable, you would have to make over \$100,000 a  23 year, which means that many of the staff now  24 working at Weiss Hospital would not be able to</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">58</p> <p>1 does not replace having health services that meet  2 the needs of the people in the community.  3 Right now we're hearing that Pipeline, you  4 know, which came in in 2019, so three years -- I'm  5 not a mathematician, but my quick math says  6 they're selling it for \$92 million. If you take  7 the refund of \$12 million, supposed refund of  8 \$12 million, that leaves \$80 million. If they  9 invested \$60 million in the hospital, it means  10 that they're walking away in three years with a  11 \$20 million profit, which I'm sure all of us would  12 be very happy to walk away with, but that is not  13 what a hospital or hospital services, health  14 services are supposed to do.  15 I think that we really -- that the Board  16 really needs to look at exactly all the questions  17 that have been raised by the community residents  18 and the community organizations. I also think  19 that we know that the final sale of the parking  20 lot has not happened yet. We know that there's a  21 large amount of money that is, quote, being  22 refunded from the sale of the hospital.  23 We feel that it is very short-sighted to  24 allow that property to go because if what</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">60</p> <p>1 afford it.  2 So we are one, asking the Board to look  3 very closely into what is going on here. When I  4 hear turnaround, I get very nervous because I know  5 what turnaround has meant to public and community  6 hospitals around the country starting in the  7 1970s. Turnaround has meant in many of these  8 instances the decimation and the closure of public  9 and community hospitals.  10 So I think that we're urging the Board to  11 look very closely at the entity that is coming in.  12 We're also urging Resilience, Dr. Prasad, and the  13 chief investor in this project to strongly -- not  14 just consider, to actually take the money and buy  15 the parking lot back.  16 Because if you love what you see in this  17 community, Dr. Prasad and the chief investor, you  18 are not going to have that as more and more luxury  19 housing is built in our neighborhood and more and  20 more of the diversity is gone.  21 In 2000 our community was majority minority,  22 like 60 percent of African-American, Asian, and  23 Latino and was -- the median income was moderate.  24 Now, in the 2020 census, our community, the</p>



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<p>61</p> <p>1 community that you love the diversity of is 2 57 percent white and upper income. 3 We need to stop this trend. You can be a 4 good partner, community partner and help us with 5 that, and you can also help the hospital by having 6 land for expansion. As our community ages, there's 7 going to be more need for a local hospital that 8 will meet the needs of seniors, and the emergency 9 room facilities, and ambulatory care, and a whole 10 host of other things. 11 So we respectfully request that the Board 12 look very closely and the new entity that's coming 13 in would really be partners with this community, 14 and you can best show it by getting back that 15 property that has not been finalized for sale. 16 Thank you all so much. Have a great day. 17 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Thank you, 18 Mr. Kaplan. 19 I am now moving to Kathy Powers. You are 20 unmuted. 21 MS. POWERS: Okay. I couldn't raise my 22 hand. I didn't know what was going on because I 23 can't hear very well. 24 I have a particular question for Ms. --</p>	<p>63</p> <p>1 I appreciate your comments. 2 I don't see any more hands raised at this 3 point, so if you did want to speak, please raise 4 your virtual hand or press star 3 on your phone, 5 and I will get back to all of you in a few minutes. 6 (Recess taken, 2:43 p.m. to 2:49 p.m.) 7 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: This is the public 8 hearing for the change of ownership of Weiss 9 Memorial Hospital. I can -- I do not see any more 10 hands raised from people who have not testified, 11 so I think we can move on to those who have 12 requested to close. 13 Anne Murphy, are you ready to? 14 MS. MURPHY: Hi, this is Anne Murphy. Can 15 you hear me? 16 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Yes, we can, Anne. 17 Thank you. 18 MS. MURPHY: Sure. It's -- Murphy is a 19 pretty common spelling. The Anne is A-n-n-e. 20 Thank you for the opportunity to speak 21 briefly today. I do want to thank everyone who 22 participated today, whether it was those in 23 support of this project or those who are expressing 24 questions and concerns on behalf of the community.</p>
<p>62</p> <p>1 for Resilience. Kathy Powers, K-a-t-h-y 2 P-o-w-e-r-s from The People's Tribune. And we 3 want to know how much money Resilience is 4 expecting to profit when they put the hospital 5 into bankruptcy and close it and sell this prime 6 location. How much? How much? 7 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Is that the end of 8 your testimony? We can't -- the applicant cannot 9 answer questions at this public hearing. 10 Questions can be answered not directly, but you 11 may find some of your answers when this is 12 considered by the full Board. 13 So if that is the end of your testimony, 14 could you confirm that? I don't want to cut 15 you off. 16 MS. POWERS: Well, I can't -- I can't hear. 17 There's no captioning. I asked for captioning. I 18 didn't get captioning, and so I really kind of 19 don't know what's going on. 20 I hope that the Board listened to what I 21 said because that's what The People's Tribune is 22 expecting. Thank you. 23 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: The Board will 24 have a full transcript of this public hearing, so</p>	<p>64</p> <p>1 I think as a representative of Pipeline I can say 2 that we appreciate the community's very active 3 involvement in particular with respect to Weiss 4 Memorial Hospital. 5 I do want to acknowledge a few things very 6 briefly related to some of those questions and 7 comments. We did -- and I will also say that I am 8 being careful not to imply or say anything on 9 behalf of buyer. Buyer's counsel will make their 10 own closing statement. So the remarks that I am 11 making are on behalf of Pipeline. 12 We did collectively submit a very detailed 13 set of certificate of exemption applications, and 14 we have received two rounds of questions from 15 Board staff. We very much appreciate those 16 questions and, as always, appreciate the diligence 17 of staff in evaluating any application. 18 We have responded, we believe thoroughly 19 and completely to both sets of questions. We also 20 acknowledge that there have been particular 21 questions and concerns related to the surface lot. 22 Some of those concerns are very broad pertaining 23 to gentrification and the impact of gentrification 24 in a community, but as it relates in particular to</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">65</p> <p>1 the sale of that surface lot, I want to note a few 2 things.</p> <p>3 First, that surface lot is not part of the 4 certificate of exemption applications that are 5 under consideration by the Board.</p> <p>6 Second, I will refer everyone to the content 7 in the application itself and to the questions 8 that have been posed to the applicants by staff, 9 but as a general proposition as reflected in the 10 applications themselves, the proceeds from the 11 sale of that surface lot have been committed by 12 the seller Pipeline to be credited to buyer for 13 use for the benefit of Weiss Memorial Hospital.</p> <p>14 My understanding -- and I believe this is 15 what is reflected in the certificate of exemption 16 applications, is that the sale price for the 17 surface lot is approximately 8 million. The 18 credit that is being provided by Pipeline to 19 Resilience as buyer includes both that 8 million 20 and an additional 4 million. But the \$8 million 21 figure it is my understanding is the value of the 22 sale of the surface lot and will by agreement be 23 used for the benefit of Weiss Memorial Hospital.</p> <p>24 However, having said all of that, I would</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">67</p> <p>1 and ongoing commitment to maintaining open lines 2 of communication with the community.</p> <p>3 We understand that there's a degree of 4 stress when hospitals change ownership, and it's 5 important to Resilience Healthcare that the public 6 knows of its commitment to maintaining and 7 enhancing operations at the hospital.</p> <p>8 We also understand that there are people 9 who are upset with the sale of the parking lot 10 adjacent to Weiss Memorial Hospital. That sale is 11 not a part of this transaction, and Resilience 12 Healthcare has no ability to control or affect the 13 sale of the parking lot. This transaction is 14 about providing stability to the healthcare 15 facilities that serve these communities.</p> <p>16 We heard you today. We understand there 17 are additional questions the public has raised, 18 and most, if not all of those questions have 19 actually already been answered, and every question 20 that the Board staff has provided to us has also 21 been properly answered.</p> <p>22 We're committed to providing healthcare 23 and being a responsible and committed community 24 partner. More than that, we are committed to</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">66</p> <p>1 refer everyone, including staff and the Board, to 2 the official application itself for the 3 description that is in that application.</p> <p>4 And with that I will close out and once 5 again say thank you to everyone who participated 6 and give special thanks to Board staff both for 7 their diligence in reviewing these applications 8 and also the thankless job at times of hosting a 9 public hearing particularly on a Friday.</p> <p>10 So with that I will close my remarks.</p> <p>11 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Thank you, 12 Ms. Murphy.</p> <p>13 I'm going to proceed to Juan Morado and 14 you are unmuted.</p> <p>15 MR. MORADO: Thanks so much, Ann.</p> <p>16 Good afternoon. Thank you to the Board 17 staff for their time and efforts today in organizing 18 the public hearing. I'd like to also thank the 19 community members for attending this hearing and 20 sharing their thoughts today.</p> <p>21 We think today's public hearing and the 22 community meetings have been incredibly helpful to 23 the long-term success of this project. We hope 24 this reflects Resilience Healthcare's continued</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">68</p> <p>1 improving healthcare, both access and quality. 2 Part of that will be accomplished by providing 3 stability to the hospital, something this 4 community truly needs and desires. This project 5 is rooted in life experiences that see access to 6 healthcare as a fundamental right, and we are 7 committed to facilitating that.</p> <p>8 As my colleague mentioned earlier, we 9 cannot promise there will not be bumps in the 10 road, but we can assure you of the commitment and 11 capability to see this succeed and in doing so 12 provide improved access to care in the community 13 that not only needs it but deserves it.</p> <p>14 I thank you all very much again and 15 appreciate your time.</p> <p>16 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Thank you, 17 Mr. Morado.</p> <p>18 Please note that this project is scheduled 19 for consideration by the Board at its June 7, 2022, 20 meeting. The State Board meeting will be held 21 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Please refer to the State 22 Board's website for the link to the meeting.</p> <p>23 The public has until Wednesday, May 18, 2022, 24 to submit signed written comments pertaining to</p>

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18 (69 to 72)

<p>69</p> <p>1 this project. Comments should be sent to the 2 attention of the Illinois Health Facilities and 3 Services Review Board, 525 West Jefferson Street, 4 second floor, Springfield, Illinois 62761-0001. 5 The State Board will post its findings in 6 a State Board staff report. This report will be 7 made available on May 24, 2022. The public may 8 submit written responses to errors in the findings 9 of the Board staff to the Illinois Health 10 Facilities and Services Review Board. The public 11 will have until 9:00 a.m. on Monday, May 30th, to 12 submit written responses to the content of the 13 report findings. The aforementioned report and 14 additional information can be accessed at 15 <a href="http://www.hfsrb.Illinois.gov/sars.htm">www.hfsrb.Illinois.gov/sars.htm</a>. 16 Are there any questions? 17 (No response.) 18 HEARING OFFICER GUILD: Hearing that there 19 are no additional questions or comments, I deem 20 this public hearing adjourned, and thank you for 21 your participation in today's proceedings. 22 Thank you. 23 (Off the record at 2:59 p.m. CST) 24</p>	
<p>70</p> <p>1 CERTIFICATE OF SHORTHAND REPORTER 2 3 I, Paula M. Quetsch, Certified Shorthand 4 Reporter No. 084-003733, CSR, RPR, and a Notary 5 Public in and for the County of Kane, State of 6 Illinois, the officer before whom the foregoing 7 proceedings were taken, do certify that the foregoing 8 transcript is a true and correct record of the 9 proceedings, that said proceedings were taken by 10 me stenographically and thereafter reduced to 11 typewriting under my supervision, and that I am 12 neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by 13 any of the parties to this case and have no 14 interest, financial or otherwise, in its outcome. 15 16 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my 17 hand and affixed my notarial seal this 14th day of 18 April, 2022. 19 20 My commission expires: October 16, 2025 21 22  23 _____ 24 Notary Public in and for the State of Illinois</p>	