

May 15, 2022

Dear Mr. Constantino and Members of the Review Board,

We are writing this letter to share with you our concerns about the sale of Weiss Hospital. We are grateful to you and the Board for raising the questions that you have and are writing this letter to merely echo and amplify some concerns. As academic scholars and co-founders of a public history project focused on the histories of displacement in the Uptown neighborhood (<https://dis-placements.com>) , we have been tracking the sale of Weiss (and other, related, community hospitals like West Suburban) to Pipeline, and then by Pipeline to Resilience and have more questions than answers about these various transactions. We are concerned about the lack of transparency in these proceedings and applaud the Board for raising some of these questions and holding these for-profit companies accountable.

Specifically, we have questions about the new ownership of the hospital. We are concerned about the sale of a hospital to private investors who have little experience with managing hospitals. We know very little about Resilience and about the two key figures in this organization – Mr. Manoj Prasad and Mr. Rathnaker Reddy Patlola. We would be grateful if the Board could continue to solicit information about their training, experience, and expertise in running a hospital such as Weiss, and share that with the wider community of Uptown residents.

In addition to concerns about the new ownership and the management of the hospital, like many others in the Uptown neighborhood, we have also been opposed (and remain opposed) to the sale of the hospital parking lot to Lincoln Properties for building a luxury apartment complex. Not only are luxury apartments NOT what the community needs, as Alderman Cappleman's own 46th ward report indicated, but the parking lot has been effectively used for medical purposes in the recent past and is especially needed for such purposes during these covid times. We strongly urge the Board to continue asking questions about the sale of this property, the investment of the proceeds of this sale in making improvements to the hospital, and strongly advocate for more efficacious and equitable uses of this property. It is not lost on us that there is an encampment for the growing houseless population less than 100 meters from this property. Surely, we could find better uses for this property than luxury apartments!

We are grateful for the questions the Board has been asking of the new owners calling for more transparency. We would like to echo and amplify these questions, adding equity and justice as additional guiding sentiments in our collective quest for greater accountability to the residents of Uptown and to the public, more generally. This is, after all, a community hospital that has served multiple generations of Uptown residents. We hope it will remain so, and that it's parking lot could also be used for a more just, equitable purpose than luxury housing. We urge you to continue to be the advocates that working-class and communities of color in Uptown sorely need right now.

Thank you for your attention to this letter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gayatri Reddy and Dr. Anna Guevarra
Professors at the University of Illinois Chicago