

May 18, 2022

Sent Via E-Mail

Mike Constantino
Senior Project Manager
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Mr. Constantino:

Our community and tenant controlled housing organization, Voice of the People in Uptown, has opposed the Weiss Hospital Sale to Pipeline, and opposed the proposed land sale to Lincoln Properties for luxury housing -- for reasons related to its impact on affordable housing, health care services and the environment. You have the power to undo the folly of this real estate transaction and can play a vital role in assuring that good health care is provided to the diversity of people in Uptown and our northside communities, but especially to the lowest income and people most vulnerable to changes at our vital health care institution, Weiss Hospital.

Chicago has the singularly unique and corrupting influence in City Council politics with this notion of giving power, informal or not, to approve/disapprove proposed real estate developments, like this one here. The sum total of related hospital and real estate transactions should never have happened:

- Where long term ownership and investments in the hospital, its services and land/facilities potential was uncertain;
- Where placing more density of people and traffic on our treasured lakefront was unnecessary from a real estate market perspective, and damaging environmentally, without justifiable offsets of increased hospital and health care jobs, facilities improvements, health education and community services;
- Where low income housing on site of land sale will not really be low income, but be skewed to those who can exercise choices in the marketplace, and
- Where contributions to an affordable housing project, that didn't need the funding help, was used as a bait-and-switch tactic while investors did cosmetic improvements and flipped the hospital property -- saddling new owners with millions in new debt, and incentivizing future reductions in health services to low and moderate income residents.

Your decisions are critical to the future of our community – its health care, housing and environment. We're asking you to reverse this land sale and be the community's partner in negotiating the best and most equitable health services going forward.

Sincerely,



Michael C. Rohrbeck
Executive Director
Voice of the People in Uptown, Inc.