

Axel & Associates, Inc.

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

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SEP 08 2015

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

September 4, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, Illinois 62761

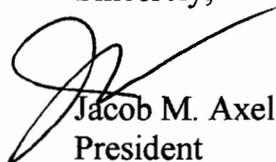
RE: MercyRockford Health System
Projects 15-038, 15-039, and 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

Please post the enclosed editorial from the August 13, 2015 edition of the Rockford Register Star as an indication of the paper's support for the above-referenced projects.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jacob M. Axel
President

enclosure

By The Editorial Board
Rockford Register Star
August 13, 2015 12:57PM

Our View: MercyRockford Health System expansion makes us a regional health destination

For years we've talked about Rockford becoming a regional destination for top-level specialty medical care. Now, the Forest City is about to become one.

The announcement by MercyRockford Health System that the \$2 billion nonprofit corporation will put both its corporate headquarters and a new, state-of-the-art hospital campus southeast of the junction of Riverside Boulevard and Interstate 90 will make us a regional health care destination. MercyRockford is the result of the combination of Janesville, Wisconsin-based Mercy Health System and Rockford Health System. The 263-acre Riverside property, bought by the old Rockford Health System about 20 years ago, has a preannexation agreement with Rockford.

MercyRockford is seeking no tax rebates from the city, nor are any cash incentives from local or state governments involved. The land is not in a tax increment financing district.

The \$400 million building project doesn't mean the health care system is forsaking its 60-year-old campus on North Rockton Avenue. Far from it. MercyRockford has just installed a \$7 million linear accelerator in its cancer center. MercyRockford President and CEO Javon Bea, who grew up on the city's west side, said the health care system will continue to invest no less than \$8 million a year at the Rockton Avenue campus, ensuring its long-term future.

Bea said it is not possible to build the new, large hospital buildings on the North Rockton Avenue campus because "we're landlocked there."

Without the addition of the new campus, however, it's likely that the Rockton Avenue location would have slowly faded away. Not now. High-quality health care will continue to be delivered on the city's west side.

The new Riverside campus will centralize intensive care services and become a regional health care destination for patients from a 15-county area of northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. With its convenient location next to I-90, the new facility will contain a women's and children's hospital, a neonatal intensive care unit, pediatric intensive care unit, high-risk maternity care services, a Level One trauma center and more.

Just think of it. Instead of patients from around the region being referred to Madison, Wisconsin, many will be referred here instead.

We are really excited, too, by the community-wide advantages this medical supercenter will give the Rockford region. The project will provide hundreds of construction jobs. Its presence here will greatly boost economic development efforts in the area. It will help companies in our growing aerospace sector attract engineers and other professionals to move here. It will be a great sales tool for the real estate business.

The Riverside campus will encourage retail growth nearby as well as on the huge site. A new hotel will be needed to handle the health care system's needs and the crowds coming to the Rockford Park District's expanding Sports Core 2 across Riverside Boulevard. MercyRockford pledges to make a "substantial contribution" to the Sports Core 2 expansion, said Dave Syverson, a Mercy Rockford board member. He's also a Republican state senator from Rockford.

The health sector here already was humming, and we think the MercyRockford development will be a boon to the other health care systems in the city, UW Swedish American and OSF St. Anthony, which is also building a new hospital on its sprawling East State Street campus. As we develop higher levels of excellent health care here, all systems will get stronger.

And adding to the momentum is the University of Illinois College of Medicine, which is developing plans for five new residency programs that will help keep a supply of young physicians in the pipeline. As we develop higher levels of excellent health care here, all systems will get stronger.

We're sure that everybody will be totally pumped about this confidence boost to the northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin region.

It's a great day for the Forest City.

<http://www.rrstar.com/article/20150813/OPINION/150819744>

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
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September 3, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, Illinois 62761

RE: MercyRockford Health System
Projects 15-038, 15-039, and 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

Please post the enclosed letter as a letter of support for the three above-referenced projects.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Jacob M. Axel
President

enclosure

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761



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Rockford, IL 61103

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www.lavozlatina-rkfd.org

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

This letter is submitted in support of MercyRockford Health System's three applications.

La Voz Latina has been serving the needs of Latinos in the Rock River Region for 44 years. Our mission is *Promoting the Progress and Serving the Needs of Latinos in Our Region*. We meet our mission by providing parental education, prenatal education, health and family education, English as a second language, financial literacy, problem-solving, programming for our youth, interpreting, and community awareness and referrals. This has been a winning formula in our effort to make our Hispanic population assimilate and has helped thousands of local Latinos increase their skills, prepare for a better job, and lead healthier lives in Illinois.

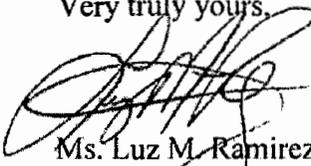
We are at our best when we are engaging community partners with the Latino community, and providing educational, social services and healthcare to our clients. MercyRockford Health System provides critical services to our participants and employees, including well-being screenings, flu shots, blood profiles and Healthcare advice. Members of the MercyRockford Health System have been and continue to be very supportive of our efforts in the community and maintain constant communication with us to ensure that we are aware of new information and services available to the community we serve.

La Voz Latina is pleased that MercyRockford is keeping its Rockton campus open for clinical and hospital services. We are also excited to know that the Riverside campus will provide a state-of-the-art Women's and Children's Hospital. Both campuses will work well to serve our clients and the entire community.

La Voz Latina is strongly supportive of initiatives, like the MercyRockford projects, that will help insure access to care for the residents of our community. In particular, those residents who rely on the care provided on Rockford Memorial Hospital's existing campus.

Thank you for your consideration of our support.

Very truly yours,



Ms. Luz M. Ramirez
Executive Director
La Voz Latina