MetroSouth
MEDICAL CENTER

8/30/19

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities & Review Board
525 W Jefferson Street 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RECEIVED
SEP 3 2019
HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Dear, Ms. Avery.

As Director of Obstetrics and Gynecology at MSMC, I am responsible for working with all physicians and the hospital administrators to create an environment in the hospital to provide life-saving medical care to pregnant patients and their unborn babies. MSMC is a safety-net hospital for the most vulnerable people in Blue Island and surrounding communities. The MSMC Emergency Department provides medical care to over 45,000 patients each year, our Obstetrical Unit delivers over 1,400 babies each year, and our ICU/Hospital/Surgical Units take care an average of 75 per day of the sickest and most vulnerable patients in our community. If MSMC closes, it will create a medical desert in our community which means people will have to travel greater distances and lose valuable time to receive life-saving medical care.

MSMC Obstetrical Department is very different from other community hospitals (most do not even delivery babies) on the Southside of Chicago. The MSMC hospital obstetrical physicians and staff also provide advance medical care to pregnant women and their unborn child who could be harmed or die due to a complicated medical problem during the pregnancy. These pregnant women, mostly poor and indigent, will have to travel (and lose valuable life saving time) an additional 30 minutes to get this same advance maternal fetal medical care at University of Chicago or Christ Hospitals since no other community hospital provides this medical care on the southeast side of Chicago.

In closing, I am aware of multiple statements made by Quorum and/or Mr. Walsh to the City of Blue Island and the State of Illinois that Quorum would sell MSMC if there was a credible buyer. We now know that a credible buyer exists and was in negotiations to purchase the hospital. On behalf of our patients, our staff, and the community at large, we ask for the Illinois Health Facilities & Review Board to assist in mediating Quorum into honoring its word to sell MSMC to a credible buyer and keep the hospital open so we can continue to provide vital medical care to the working class and indigent people in our surrounding communities for another 100 years.

Sincerely,

Dr. Guiermo Font MD
Director
MSMC Obstetrics and Gynecology
12935 S. Gregory Street
Blue Island, IL 60406