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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

**CHICAGO FIRE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF THE FIRE COMMISSIONER**

13-025

May 10, 2013

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator
ILLINOIS HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

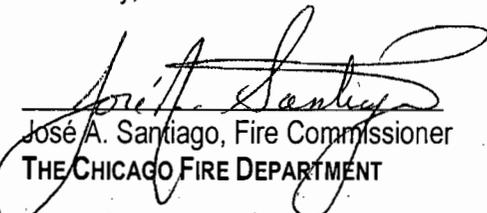
Dear Ms. Avery:

As Fire Commissioner for the Chicago Fire Department for the city of Chicago, I am writing to express my support of the University of Chicago Medical Center's Certificate of Need application to add 38 inpatient medical/surgical beds. Chicago's Emergency Medical Services Division is part of the Chicago Fire Department and our goal is to be able to provide the best pre-hospital care to residents throughout the city.

The University of Chicago Medical Center's proposal would allow the Emergency Department to see more patients and avoid the kind of crowding that leads to diverting ambulances to other hospitals. Access to care is important throughout the City of Chicago and especially on the south side of the city. I support this plan in order to assist more people getting emergency care in their own neighborhood.

If additional information is required, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 312/745-4200. Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,


José A. Santiago, Fire Commissioner
THE CHICAGO FIRE DEPARTMENT