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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Garry F. McCarthy

Superintendent of Police

Rahm Emanuel
Mayor

Department of Police • City of Chicago
3510 South Michigan Avenue • Chicago, Illinois 60653

February 3, 2014

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

RE: Letter of Support
Holy Cross Hospital Proposed Psychiatry Unit
Project 13-076

Dear Ms. Avery,

Due to a shortage of Acute Mental Illness hospital beds in the Holy Cross Hospital community, Sinai Health System has asked for the authority to open a fifty bed inpatient Psychiatric Unit at Holy Cross.

Holy Cross Hospital is the only hospital in a very large and densely populated service area. It has one of the busiest emergency departments in the state and serves a very large Medicaid and uninsured population. It is often difficult to place emergency patients requiring inpatient behavioral health treatment. Many of these patients have excessive waits while the emergency department physicians and staff try to arrange inpatient treatment at any of numerous distant hospitals.

Sinai Health System has demonstrated a strong commitment to address the mental health needs of the communities it serves and has provided high quality inpatient care and outpatient services for many years.

Chicago Police officers assigned to the Chicago Lawn District daily investigate and assist citizens that are suffering from mental illness and need immediate care. Currently, officers have to transport patients to Mt. Sinai Hospital. This hospital is several miles away and not familiar to the patient or their families. If Holy Cross Hospital could provide the same level of care in the patient's neighborhood the benefits would be multi-fold. First, the patient will be receiving service from a provider in the neighborhood that is familiar and trusted, and their follow up care would be in their own neighborhood. One of the issues that police officers encounter daily are patients that have lapsed in following up with their provider and not taking their medication. With the mental care provider being conveniently located, patients will be more likely to follow up with their provider. Also, with the addition of Holy Cross into approved sites for treatment, the officers assigned to the district will not be traveling great distances to transport patients which decreases down time and frees up officers for patrol.

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RE: Letter of Support

As the District Commander of the 8th District I strongly urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Planning Board to approve this needed Acute Mental Illness unit at Holy Cross Hospital.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David R. McNaughton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David R. McNaughton
District Commander
8th District
3420 W. 63rd Street
Chicago, IL 60629