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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

September 13, 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 letters as a letter of support for the three above-referenced projects.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jacob M. Axel
President

enclosures

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Palatine, Illinois 60067

Phone (847) 776-7101
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County of Winnebago

County Administration Building
404 Elm Street, Room 533
Rockford, Illinois 61101

TED BIONDO
COUNTY BOARD MEMBER
DISTRICT 20

Phone: (815) 319-4225
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August 31, 2015

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

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.

I am a member of the Winnebago County Board and I have served for two terms as a Board member of Rock Valley College, including as the Board chair for two years.

I am strongly supportive of MercyRockford's applications that have been filed with your agency. The necessary development of the Rockton Avenue campus and the Riverside campus will strengthen access to care for many constituents. In a time of significant changes in the provision of health care services as a result of the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, I am concerned about insuring that prospective health care facility planning will prevent voids in services.

I am delighted that this plan proposes the introduction of modern facilities designed to accommodate state of the art technologies. I know that keeping pace with medical technological advances is essential to stop out migration for healthcare services. Rockford Memorial's neonatal and pediatric intensive care units are essential – not only to Rockford – but to all of northwestern Illinois.

I have studied the facility plan for MercyRockford's intention to provide two campuses and one hospital. The development of the Rockford Memorial's property on I-90 and Riverside Boulevard will have a significant impact on the economy of the Rock River Region. It will be the largest capital project in Winnebago County's history.

The facility will promote regionalism for job growth and creation in a manner that no other location can in and around the area.

The growing health care industry will help diversify the job base in the community to mesh with the expansion of the aerospace and manufacturing industries promoting efficiency, specialization, and education through research and development and lead to other industries that seek to complement or join such networks.

The creation of a Women's and Children Hospital at I-90 will make Rockford a medical destination. The new services that will be provided there will insure access to care for those who have often migrated outside the community for care.

Also, the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Rockford will supplement the state of the art medical technologies by developing pertinent residency programs that will supply additional physicians who could focus on medical specialties that aren't currently offered in the area.

At a time in which many organizations and businesses are choosing to exit Illinois or postpone investments in our State, I am heartened that MercyRockford has chosen to "put their money where their mouth is" and invest in Rockford and Illinois.

Very Truly Yours,

Ted Biondo
Winnebago County Board
District 20

Victory Bell Business Consultant

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

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

I have been active in improving the quality of life in Rockford for most of my life…as a long-time Rockford Alderman, as a successful businessman and as a life-long resident of the Westside of Rockford. I attended the announcement of the MercyRockford plan to develop two campuses and one hospital. I fully endorse this bold plan and believe it will lead to a higher quality of life in the Rockford community while preserving essential healthcare services on the west side of Rockford.

It is imperative that our community maintains a viable hospital on the Westside. I am pleased that the leadership of MercyRockford acknowledges the importance of Rockford Memorial Hospital for the quality of life for those who live on the western side of the Rock River. Thus I am pleased that MercyRockford did not abandon its Rockton Avenue facility.

In addition, MercyRockford is continuing to provide 24 hour emergency care along with routine care from doctors that most of us have been treating us for years. Thus continuity of healthcare will not suffer by the building of the second campus on Riverside.

I am also excited to see that MercyRockford will provide significant space for community needs and development. I look forward to playing a role in defining this role for this building. I, along with many other African American leaders understand the importance of this space to train and educate our youth and serve our constituents.

I urge you to approve this project…the sooner the better.

Very truly yours

Victory Bell

Victory Bell
VB1516@aol.com