

Rockford Park District

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OCT 05 2015

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

October 1, 2015

Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: 15-039 Rockford Memorial Hospital-Riverside Boulevard Campus, Rockford
(MercyRockford Health Systems)

Greetings,

As a public entity, the Rockford Park District relies on partnerships to leverage available resources to maximize benefits to citizens. Rockford Memorial Hospital/MercyRockford (formerly Rockford Health Systems) has been a long-standing partner helping the Rockford Park District provide recreational opportunities essential to healthy, balanced lifestyles including fitness, nutrition, social experiences, positive use of leisure time, and the reduction and prevention of health risks.

MercyRockford is a generous corporate citizen of the Rockford region providing philanthropic and educational support to a variety of not-for-profit and public service organizations. For instance, Rockford Park District has been the recipient of several automatic defibrillator (AED) grants that have contributed to improving public safety and emergency response capabilities throughout the community. They participate in outreach events offering complimentary health and safety information to citizens. MercyRockford has also shared their expertise in Lean methodologies enabling the District to implement a legacy system of continuous improvement and elimination of wastes to maximum the application of resources to citizen services.

As the owner-operator of the 179-acre Sportscore Two sports complex across from the proposed campus site, the Rockford Park District has been involved with the development of the Interstate-90/Riverside corridor for many years. A statute-instituted board of 10 regional government entities known as Winnebago County Tourism Facility Board has invested in improvements to the neighboring Sportscore facility as a part of a dual-site \$50 million-plus capital development. This project would not have been possible without the prior public/private collaboration and collective investment of over \$30 million by the State of Illinois Tollway Commission, City of Loves Park, Rockford Park District, and MercyRockford, has contributed to the current roadway infrastructure

that has been strategically designed to prepare for and attract development such as the proposed facility.

Not only is the site central to areas of increasing population density, but it is also located at a major highway making it easily accessible to neighboring communities and the entire Stateline area. The Riverside Boulevard campus will multiply the much-needed positive impact MercyRockford has on the health and economy of the community.

MercyRockford has demonstrated its value to the Rockford region not only as a private healthcare provider, but also as a dynamic community asset, and I am pleased to provide this letter of support.

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ian Linnabary', written over a horizontal line.

Ian Linnabary, Board President

(815) 987-4050

ikl@renozahm.com