



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
SUITE 102
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

ZACHARY PARKER
COUNCILMEMBER, WARD 5

COMMITTEE MEMBER
Facilities and Family Services
Health
Hospital and Health Equity
Housing
Transportation and the Environment

June 29, 2023

Terri A. Thompson
Director, State Health Planning & Development Agency
Center for Policy, Planning, and Evaluation Administration, DC Health
899 North Capitol St NE, 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20002
202-442-5865

Cc: Fern Johnson-Clarke, Ph.D., Senior Deputy Director
Center for Policy, Planning and Evaluation Administration, DC Health

Keith Fletcher, Interim Director
DC Health

Dear Director Thompson, Senior Deputy Director Johnson-Clarke, and Interim Director Fletcher,

Thank you for your work conducting Information Gathering Meetings on June 8 and today, June 29 regarding the notification from Providence Health System, Inc. on the proposed closure of the Urgent Care Center (Certificate of Need Registration No. 19-5-2) and the Diagnostic Imaging Center (Certificate of Need Registration No. 19-5-15). I know you have endeavored to hear and weigh testimony from residents, medical providers, and Providence Health System, Inc. in making your decision.

I write to you now to help elevate the priorities I have heard from my constituents regarding these closures. As a Ward 5 health care provider, Providence Health System, Inc.'s facilities impact many of the neighbors I serve in my capacity as Councilmember. On Tuesday, June 27, I held a Virtual Town Hall to hear directly from residents on these issues. Neighbors have also called and emailed my office to share their priorities. I request that you take these concerns into consideration.

Closure of the Urgent Care Center

The issue raised most frequently by Ward 5 neighbors is the closing of Providence Urgent Care Center. Residents affirmed the importance of having an urgent care center available in their community, and some expressed concern that there will be a gap in service between the closure

of this urgent care and the opening of a new one. Some of their questions included how long they will have to wait for it to be built, if the new center would be publicly owned (as the current one is), and whether the process for a new center would require additional zoning approval (thus delaying the project).

Closure of Diagnostic Imaging Center

Another area of concern expressed is the potential closure of the Diagnostic Imaging Center, which is the only imaging center in D.C. that offers open (bore-less) MRI scans for patients who are claustrophobic or prefer a more comfortable scan experience. The closure of this Diagnostic Imaging Center would require D.C. residents to leave the District for open MRI scans which presents accessibility and equity issues for our city's most vulnerable residents.

Remaining Health Care Facilities and Medical Providers

Lastly, while many are excited about the added and improved community infrastructure this redevelopment is set to provide, some residents who participated in the Town Hall questioned of the impact these medical facilities closing might have. One participant reflected that the medical facilities set to remain are already in fair to poor condition. Ward 5 neighbors want the quality of their health care infrastructure to match the quality of the new units and residential facilities being constructed within this redevelopment.

Support for Redevelopment

As you can imagine, our neighbors are highly interested in the Providence redevelopment. Many of them are enthusiastic and supportive of the broader development plans, while others have highlighted the aforementioned concerns for what limited healthcare access will mean for District residents. It is worth noting that the development team reassured neighbors during the Town Hall, and in other community meetings, that 1) there will be an urgent care as part of the redevelopment site, 2) there will be other medical services provided on the site, and 3) that the developer is working closely to address community concerns.

I hope by passing along these questions and thoughts raised by Ward 5 neighbors, your office will be more empowered to address the concerns of our community and ensure their needs are met as this redevelopment moves forward. Thank you.

In partnership,



Zachary Parker
Councilmember, Ward 5
Council of the District of Columbia