



February 26, 2024

Michael Johnston
President
Mercy Hospital
4050 Coon Rapids Blvd.
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

I am writing on behalf of the City of Spring Lake Park to express our deep concern regarding the announced closure of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Mercy Hospital - Unity Campus in Fridley, alongside the troubling news of the moving of surgical services from Mercy Hospital - Unity Campus to Mercy Hospital in Coon Rapids. This decision, we believe, will significantly impact our community's access to critical healthcare services and is contrary to the commitments made by Allina Health when acquiring the former Unity Hospital.

We understand the complexities and challenges involved in healthcare management, especially given today's economic and medical environment. However, we must emphasize the adverse effects these changes will have on our residents' ability to access immediate and vital healthcare services. The relocation of surgical services, combined with the closure of the ICU, compromises the spirit of the commitment made by Allina Health to maintain a community hospital that serves the healthcare needs of our local population.

The decision to close the ICU at Mercy Hospital - Unity Campus and move surgical services to Coon Rapids stands in stark contrast to the anticipated needs of our expanding community. As the population in and around Spring Lake Park grows, the requirement for a comprehensive healthcare infrastructure, capable of offering critical and surgical care, becomes increasingly critical. The absence of such facilities nearby could lead to delays in receiving necessary care, negatively impacting patient outcomes during emergencies.

Population of the cities of Fridley, Blaine and Spring Lake Park is forecast to grow by nearly 20% over the next 15 years. The City of Blaine has developed a Northtown Mall redevelopment vision which could see the addition of up to 4,000 housing units. Fridley and Spring Lake Park are also seeing redevelopment interest.

Given the projected growth of Spring Lake Park and the surrounding communities, we respectfully urge Allina Health to reconsider these decisions. Maintaining the ICU and surgical services at Mercy Hospital - Unity Campus is essential not only for meeting the current healthcare needs of our residents but also for supporting the future growth and wellbeing of our broader community.

The health and safety of our community members remain our highest priority. We are optimistic that through collaborative efforts, we can ensure the continued availability of essential healthcare services for our residents now and into the future. Please feel free to contact me at 763-784-6491 or nelson@slpmn.org to discuss how we can address this issue together.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We look forward to the opportunity to work with Allina Health to uphold the health and prosperity of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert Nelson".

Robert Nelson
Mayor

cc: Spring Lake Park City Council