From: Khiara Tracy
To: Council Clerk
Subject: Closing of Grady Family Birthplace
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To whom it may concern,

As a Marion County resident, I have delivered two premie babies at Grady Family Birth Place. My first baby was born at 35 weeks and 1 day and my second baby was born at 36 weeks and 2 days. Thankfully my second baby had zero premie complications, but my first did have developmental issues that we needed to address.

As stated before, my first baby was born at 35 weeks and 1 day. My water broke spontaneously and we went to Grady to deliver. We had to enter through the ER as it was after hours (around 10-11pm) and the labor and delivery nurses were immediately called. My baby was born at 3:43am. She needed assistance with breathing when she was first born and chest radiographs were preformed to ensure she was okay. She also developed jaundice a few days after delivery. However, her biggest hurdle she had to overcome was the coordination of eating and breathing at the same time. She was unable to eat on her own, so a NG tube was placed. The nurses would have to replace the NG tube several times as my baby would keep pulling it out of her nose. We stayed at Grady for 3.5 weeks until she was able to have enough coordination to breathe and eat at the same time. COVID precautions were still in place when she was born, so we relied heavily on encouragement from our nurses as we were only allowed 1 family member to visit us during the whole hospital stay. I am so incredibly thankful that Grady was there to support us as first time parents to a preterm baby that required additional care. We were able to stay in the hospital with her the whole hospital stay and avoided sending her to a NICU where we would have to leave her. We were able to start bonding right away with her. Since Grady is close to our home as well, my husband was able to check in on the house during our stay. Grady is less than 20 minutes from where we live (around 18 minutes) whereas Dublin Methodist Hospital is around 40 minutes with no traffic and St Ann's Hospital is around 50 minutes with no traffic. As a mother whose labor progresses quickly, I was happy to have Grady so close to assist with labor and delivery. Also, even healthy pregnancies can have complications during labor and delivery so the ease of mind of having a labor and delivery close to home cannot be beat.

I am sadden to hear about the closing of Grady Family Birth Place and I encourage everyone to please reconsider. As someone who had exceptional care at Grady with a premie baby, I can only imagine what they can accomplish with the support and funding to start a NICU right at Grady. As previously mentioned, the hospitals that I would have had to travel to is over twice the amount of time from my home than Grady. Emergencies happen, and I don't feel comfortable having to wait twice as long to get to a hospital with a labor and delivery department. Again, I ask to please reconsider closing Grady for the safety of the mothers and babies of not just Delaware County, but the surrounding areas as well. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Khiara Forry