From: Brennen Abraham
To: Council Clerk; City Council Email; Linsey Griffith
Subject: Council meeting June 22nd (revised)
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I will not be able to attend the meeting tomorrow but would like my statement to be read aloud and into the record. I had to resend this because I forgot to include my address.

I'm here today as a husband, father, and concerned member of this community to speak against the closure of Grady's maternity ward.

When discussions about healthcare services happen, it's easy to focus on budgets, statistics, and birth numbers. But behind every number is a family. Behind every delivery is a mother, a baby, and a father hoping that both will come home safely.

My family experienced firsthand the value of having local access to high-quality maternity care. When my wife delivered our 2nd born at Grady, I saw the level of compassion, professionalism, and individualized attention provided by the nurses and staff. We never felt like we were being rushed through a system. We felt cared for, supported, and safe.

As a father, there is nothing more important than knowing your wife and child have access to care when they need it most. Labor and delivery are unpredictable. Babies don't arrive according to a schedule, and emergencies don't wait for convenient travel times. The thought of families being forced to drive farther, potentially through heavy traffic or dangerous weather, during one of the most critical moments of their lives is deeply concerning.

I also witnessed the care my wife received when she experienced postpartum complications. Having access to skilled healthcare professionals close to home made an enormous difference for our family during a frightening time. The closure of this unit means future families may not have the same access to timely care.

This decision is especially difficult to understand given that Delaware County is one of the fastest-growing counties in Ohio. As our community continues to grow, the need for local maternity services will only increase. Closing the county's only labor and delivery unit sends the message that the needs of local families are secondary to financial considerations.

As a husband and father, I believe healthcare decisions should be guided by what is best for patients and communities, not simply what is most profitable. Families deserve access to safe, local maternity care. Mothers deserve to give birth close to home. Fathers deserve to know that help is nearby if something goes wrong.

I urge OhioHealth and community leaders to reconsider this decision and to protect a service that has supported countless families in this community. The loss of Grady's maternity ward will not just affect birth statistics—it will affect real people, real families, and future generations of this county.

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