From: Scott Wheeler
To: Council Clerk; City Council Email
Subject: Grady Hospital
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I'm here today as a father, grandfather, and concerned community member.
Over the course of my life, I have watched communities grow and change. One thing I have learned is that strong communities are built by investing in families. Good schools, safe neighborhoods, and access to quality healthcare are the foundations that attract people to an area and encourage them to stay.
That is why I am deeply concerned about the decision to close Grady's maternity ward. As a father, I remember wanting nothing more than to know my wife and children were safe. As a grandfather, I now feel that same concern for my daughter and grandchildren. When my daughter was preparing to welcome her children into the world, knowing that quality maternity care was available close to home provided reassurance for our entire family.
Childbirth is one of the most important moments in a family's life, but it is also one of the most unpredictable. Labor does not always go according to plan. Complications can happen. Emergencies can arise without warning. In those moments, distance matters. Removing the county's only labor and delivery unit means families will be forced to travel farther for care at a time when every minute can count. That should concern all of us, whether we currently have young children or not.
What makes this decision even harder to understand is that Delaware County continues to grow at a remarkable pace. More families are moving here every year. New neighborhoods are being built. Schools are expanding. Yet instead of increasing services to meet that growth, we are losing one of the most essential healthcare resources a community can provide.
As a grandfather, I think about the future. I think about the young couples choosing to raise families here. I think about future grandchildren and great-grandchildren who deserve access to safe, local healthcare. And I think about what kind of message we send when we remove services that families depend on.
Healthcare should not be viewed solely through the lens of profitability. Some services are essential because of the role they play in protecting the health and well-being of a community. Labor and delivery care is one of those services.
This issue is bigger than one hospital unit. It is about the kind of community we want Delaware County to be. Do we want to support families and prepare for growth, or do we want to accept fewer resources and longer distances for critical care?
I urge OhioHealth and our community leaders to reconsider this decision. The families of today and the families of tomorrow deserve access to maternity care close to home. As a father and grandfather, I believe that is something worth fighting for.

Sincerely
Scott Wheeler

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