From: Meghan Kollas
To: Council Clerk; City Council Email
Subject: Grady
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To whom it may concern,
Delaware not only needs a Labor & Delivery Unit, but considerations should be made to add a NICU. You encouraged the growth of our area, now we need full support.
First and most importantly, I personally know a mother in another county who also was given options for birthing her child “about 30 minutes away”. Then there were complications at 8 months, in fact we’d just had their baby shower. They rushed to the emergency department closest to them. That staff could not handle the situation. The baby died and the mother almost did also because they couldn’t safely take care of them. A lifeflight won’t happen if you can’t get the situation stable enough to fly. Fortunately the mother pulled through and is still with us today, but we would have also had that baby boy growing with us today if they’d had proper L&D care at the hospital in their county.
“Within 30 miles/minutes” is not close enough, and as someone who moved here as part of the exponential growth 25-some years ago, Grady L&D serves not only a rapidly growing population but also is the hospital of choice for many living in Marion and Union counties as well who have Grady as their “close/safe” choice (which should also not be the case for those counties). I am now one of those people who choose to keep my healthcare in Delaware while living in Marion County (and that is because of the housing prices which is another discussion, but if when I moved here most of the teachers could afford to live & work in Delaware and now we can’t, this is a concern you should also be addressing). Also personally, when I could live in Delaware and I tried many of those doctors who were supposed to be excellent which would mean giving birth at those other hospitals, I knew I did not want to have to travel that far even if everything went well. Having gone through many issues just to be able to give birth, I CHOSE the Delaware OBGYN office and to eventually/finally give birth in a very supportive environment at Grady. My husband was there the whole time and they were equally supportive of him and his role supporting me as well. I did not want the impersonal & frankly rude doctors that were wanting to force me to make decisions I did not like /want/feel comfortable with just for them to go through the motions of their job and I understand from others that the service & support I had at Grady would not have been there if I had caved to “this is the only way and at these places.” So now those people who wouldn’t give a choice have taken away the options.
Finally, you are endangering us in other ways not just the personal scenario above. The population growth means traffic issues too and I’m sure you all know that 30 minutes to get from Delaware to one of these other “close” hospitals will not happen at most times of the day. And if you’ve never been in a vehicle with someone in labor, you are also not as focused on the road then either, I was very thankful that we had less than 10 minutes for a trip to Grady and that was just crossing Delaware, which now with more growth would be a record and only occur at the minimal low traffic hours. We don’t want or need accidents, deliveries in vehicles, or any other negative outcomes. We want, need, and deserve excellent medical care for us and our babies. Thank you for reconsidering,
Meghan Kollas