From: Staci Bensley
To: Council Clerk
Cc: City Council Email
Subject: Save Grady L&D
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I am an OhioHealth employee. Specifically at Grady. I am born and raised in Delaware and have loved and been very proud of being a part of the community of Delaware county my entire life. I have had multiple niece and nephews born at Grady family birthplaces as well as other family members and friends. It's a place that so many of my memories with those babies began. It's the place I met my first born child. A place where the staff did a phenomenal job and made me feel safe and right home. Even during COVID!

As an employee at Grady it makes me feel overwhelmed for the community as well as our staff. Delaware is well known to be the fastest growing county in the state and has one of the smallest emergency rooms. The ER operates on one physician and a midlevel provider for "busy" hours of the day. I feel it is doing the community a disservice if someone's loved one is suffering from a heart attack and the physician is covering that and then we get an obstetrics emergency. The ER is only prepared for obstetrics emergencies because of the labor and delivery staff upstairs. They are the first person we call and are always there to answer for all questions we may have. Without them I do not believe the emergency room staff, doctors, or even paramedics throughout the county feel they can provide the best care for this community and within the community it serves.

OhioHealth pushing more people to the larger hospitals where the average wait in the lobby is 6 hours is helping no one in the system. Grady memorial hospital is the only hospital in the entire county and it is continuously stripped of resources that people in the community need. Instead they have to drive 30+ minutes to receive care that should be provided at a hospital. It puts more emotional stress as well as financial stress on patients in the community knowing they will need to be transferred to other facilities. Delaware county's average household income is not a good reflection of the lower income population that we still very much have. These families often share one vehicle or do not have a vehicle at all. Needing to be transferred to another facility that adds onto their bill and then trying to figure out how they get home when they live less than a mile away from Grady is not helpful when you have just delivered a baby.

The county is growing rapidly and we need to pour into it with as much resources as we can instead of stripping all the good things that the amazing community of Delaware needs.

Staci