From: John Van Gundy
To: Council Clerk
Subject: Support for Grady Family Birthplace
Date: Saturday, June 20, 2026 5:22:16 PM

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Dear City Council Members,
As a member of this community, and a former patient of Grady Family Birthplace. I would like to share with you my desire for the unit to stay open, and my concern for the absence, this is creating, as was given the opportunity.
I recognize that eras change, trends motivate, and things are aloud to evolve. That being said, closing GFBP should not be it. I would like to share that GFBP associates prepared to give their patients their best. Always prioritizing mother, baby, and family firsts. The narrative given revolves around quality of care and patient preference. It was stated quality, and declining trends were the reason for the closure. I know the associates at GFBP met their patients where they were at, asking nothing more from them in their most precious of moments. Every time the physicians requested a service the other hospitals were able to give, GFBP accepted the request, met the challenges, and implemented what resulted in the best care practices with the resources they had. GFBP associates were 110 percent on board, and requested a NICU or special care nursery for many years, they knew it was needed, were told it was coming and prepared for the transition. Patients that were not directed elsewhere and did deliver at Grady felt safe, satisfied, and cared for. In the absence of a NICU GFBP made other accommodation through tele-health, a pediatrician to manage babies in an OB emergency, and nurses that are NRP certified. Even larger hospitals are met with challenges where babies are in NICU separated from their moms or transferred out. GFBP tries their best to reunite mom and baby as soon as it is safe the same as other facilities. Many times if babies at Grady are in need of a few extra days of care were able to allow mom to board to be close to their baby after they are discharged.
Being from the community I recognize the need for this care in Delaware, for safety, proximity to homes where families need to care for other small children, and some patients prefer a smaller setting. Most patients at GFBP see the same nurses in triage, L and D and Postpartum. This is important for many moms.
I appreciate you listening to my concerns. As a mother, and a community member, I know this is a service that should not leave the area.
Thank you for your time.