## For Immediate Release

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Contact:

Rebecca Reynolds Williams

(224) 623-1491 rebeccareynoldswilliams@gmail.com

## Elected Officials Condemn Trinity Health for Decimating Mercy - a Vital Safety Net Hospital.

Trinity Health under the leadership of CEO, Michael Slubowski, has thumbed his nose at Us, the Governor, Mayor, and the Health Facilities & Service Review Board that recently voted unanimously to deny Trinity's intent to close Mercy Hospital. Instead, Trinity chose to ensure Mercy's demise by announcing its closure, in the middle of a pandemic, no less. This action created a domino effect forcing departures of staff and key personnel effectively bringing the hospital to its knees.

As elected officials and advocates for our communities, we begged Trinity to work with us and our community partners to save Mercy Hospital and to continue to provide much needed healthcare to underserved Black, Brown, Asian and White communities on the south side. We asked them to "work with us" on a smooth transition, to allow another entity to take over. They refused to talk to us and chose instead to operate in secrecy, strategically dismantling a once vibrant hospital and creating their own financial dilemma.

Now, with no warning, they have filed for bankruptcy, even though they disclosed to the Review Board that they operated Mercy at a financial gain in 2020. Trinity Health is a billion dollar company that has seen its net income jump by over 600 million in Q1, 2021. To add insuft to injury, Trinity Heath was given Mercy Hospital in great financial condition with over 140 Million in assets. Trinity said it was a "bargain" at the time. In our view, they have mismanaged that bargain and squandered an opportunity to provide healthcare to our communities. They have taken millions in tax payers' dollars and a once profitable hospital and effectively run it into the ground.

This is truly inhumane and unconscionable, especially during a pandemic. We are resolved to use the authority of the Governor, Attorney General and Mayor of the City of Chicago to help protect the community. Trinity Health must be held accountable for their behavior.

Governor Pritzker

Alderman King Representative Robinson Senator Hunter

Alderman Dowell
Alderman Hairston
Alderwoman Taylor
Representative Buckner
Representative Harper
Representative Mah
Commissioner Daley
Commissioner Deer
Senator Peters