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[PremierHealth.com](http://PremierHealth.com)

February 19, 2018

Derrick Foward, M.C.E.  
President  
Dayton Unit NAACP  
1528 W. Third Street  
Dayton, Ohio 45402

Dear Mr. Foward,

On behalf of all of us at Premier Health, we want to thank you and the NAACP for hosting the community forum on February 10, addressing our announcement to close the Good Samaritan Hospital campus on Philadelphia Drive towards the end of this year. As you mentioned in your letter, it was important to have an opportunity to listen to community members and then to convey the reasons we found it necessary to make this difficult decision.

First, I want you to know that we took the comments made and questions asked to heart. The emotion of this decision is not lost on any of us and we share in it. Hearing about the value of Good Sam from community members was reflective of our own internal discussions and considerations by both our locally based board of trustees and administrators of the health system.

As we were able to share, Premier has a long and deep relationship with the West Dayton community, through a significant investment of time and resources to support initiatives such as the Phoenix Project over more than fifteen years. This collaboration with community members, the City of Dayton, and City Wide Development Corporation is a model of positive actions that impact individuals and the community at large and has led to projects such as improved and expanded housing options, the building of a new school and library, and much more. That work continues today and is expected to do so in coming years.

In addition, by building the site for Five Rivers Health Centers across the street from Good Sam, and investing funds to help finance operations, Premier Health has provided a modern and convenient access point of healthcare for primary care, and many specialty services such as obstetrics, orthopedics, and management of chronic disease. Five Rivers serves thousands of patients each year.

More recently, we made an investment in the Gem City Market, recognizing the health benefits of offering easy access to fresh groceries in an area that has been identified as a food desert.

We also want to address the reference made in your letter to the loss of jobs to the City of Dayton. As we have stated, our goal remains to offer every employee currently working at the Good Samaritan Hospital Philadelphia Drive campus a position within Premier and that is already well underway. We expect most of those positions to transfer to Miami Valley Hospital, keeping jobs and healthcare services in Dayton's central core and keeping significant employment tax dollars in the city.

We can also appreciate the issues that West Dayton has faced with the loss of various organizations over the years. Unlike those who have left in the past, we are not abandoning the West Dayton community. By working with community members and other partners, and by engaging the services of *planning* NEXT, a nationally recognized company for site redevelopment, we have made a serious commitment to be part of the redevelopment of the site. As you know, our board of trustees has committed \$10 million in seed money to help finance these efforts.

We fully recognize your request to keep Good Samaritan Hospital's Philadelphia Drive campus open. As we assessed the healthcare environment that includes a major shift from inpatient to outpatient services, the reduction of length of stay, and the low occupancy rates for hospitals serving adults in the City of Dayton, we knew the status-quo was unsustainable. We wish it could be different, but it is not and will the issues will only grow over time. With no substantial increase in population in the city, with the duplication of services within a close proximity, and the higher than standard cost of healthcare in the Dayton region, we had to make a decision based on future viability to deliver on our mission to build healthier communities for many years to come.

We genuinely look forward to working with you, the NAACP, and other community members as we plan for the future.

Sincerely,



Mary Boosalis  
President & CEO