



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Melvin Carter, Mayor

367 Grove Street

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

Telephone: 651-266-5588

Facsimile: 651-266-5542

April 12, 2018

Alisha Simon
Health Economics Program
Minnesota Department of Health
P.O. Box 64882
Saint Paul, MN 55164-0882

Dear Ms. Simon,

I am writing in support of Regions Hospital's proposal for 100 additional inpatient bed licenses. Regions serves a unique role in the east metro as safety-net, level 1 adult and pediatric trauma center and burn center treating patients of all kinds – including those involved in criminal activity.

The Saint Paul Police Department – along with law enforcement in general – has seen an increase in the number of mental health based calls for service. Police officers often encounter people experiencing an acute crisis who are in need of a mental health evaluation. Regions Hospital has been a partner to law enforcement in conducting mental health evaluations.

A number of these evaluations result in the need of hospitalization and stabilization within a mental health unit. We have recognized a shortage of mental health beds within the metropolitan area. Approving this proposed increase of inpatient beds will ensure the needs of people experiencing acute serious and persistent mental illness are met in a timely, effective and respectful manner.

For these reasons, I urge you to find Regions' proposal for 100 additional inpatient beds in the public interest.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Todd Axtell
CHIEF OF POLICE