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Statement on the Selection of McCaffery Interests as Developer of the Children's Memorial Hospital Site

Dear Neighbor:

Today, Children's Memorial Hospital announced that [McCaffery Interests, Inc.](#) has been selected as the master developer of the Children's Memorial site. Not too many details have been released, but McCaffery has stated that it is proposing a mixed-use development that includes residential and retail space, open space, preservation of many existing buildings, housing for varying income levels, and parking for the project and the community.

Since becoming alderman, I have been committed to a zoning review process that is open, transparent and data-driven. We have already established new procedures - including requiring standard information from all applicants, and regularly referring matters to our local community groups for comment in a timely manner.

The development at the Children's site will be the most significant opportunity we will have in a generation to shape our community, and will provide us the chance to create a new neighborhood crossroads. As I have said many times, I have one vision for the development: that it be excellent, worthy of winning a national urban planning award.

Towards that end, you can be assured that I will be working to provide you with the information that you need to make informed decisions about the development proposal as it is shaped. I have already told Children's that I expect it to provide objective, verifiable data about the impact that the hospital's departure will have on our community so that we can measure the difference between the impact of the hospital's activities and the proposed new activities on the site, whatever they may be.

While our entire process is not yet set, I did want to share the general timeline. Children's Memorial Hospital will vacate the premises on June 9, 2012, when they move the last of their patients from the old hospital to the new (which will require a caravan of ambulances and intricate planning all by itself). Then the hospital must be decommissioned - a process that will take several months, probably into the late fall. Therefore, the earliest that construction could start on a new development is late October or November of 2012. Over the next few weeks, I will be sitting down with Children's, the developer and the city to flesh out a timeline to guide our process. I fully expect that the schedule will allow the citizens of this ward ample time to make the decisions that will so impact our lives.

While this is a complicated project, I am excited to have the opportunity to help lead our ward at

this time. I look forward to working with you all in the months ahead. Congratulations to Children's on reaching this milestone, and hurrah for our community for hosting one of the nation's most exciting urban planning projects.

As always, I'll keep you posted.

Sincerely,



43rd Ward Alderman Michele Smith

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