Mitchell T. Rabkin, M.D.

23 February 2016

Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Determination of Need Program
99 Chauncy Street
Boston, MA 02111

Re: Boston Children’s Hospital Proposed New Building

Ladies and Gentlemen:

During my 30 years as President of Boston’s Beth Israel Hospital, I encountered many hospital building projects, at BIH and elsewhere. Rarely, if ever, did the consequences voiced by those objecting approach the dire outlook they projected. In large part this was because hospital management, board and architects took account of possible contentious issues, pro and con, before other voices of objection were raised.

This is so with Children’s Hospital and its proposed inpatient building. No one can deny the benefit of the Prouty Garden – which will not be destroyed in its entirety. To compensate and more, the hospital plans green areas in and around the new building to offer relaxation, comfort and serenity to its patients and their families.

I understand that Children’s Hospital has consulted with Prouty family members who, convinced of the necessity of the new construction and its importance in the interests of best patient care, have concurred with the hospital to move forward as planned.

Children’s Hospital is the best in Boston and one of the few very best pediatric hospitals in this country and across the globe. Present day advances in hospital diagnosis and treatment and contemporary standards of care for the individual patient and family are compelling reasons to carry out this construction. There is no alternative location at which this building and its advances in care properly can be sited.

I, too, have enjoyed the pleasure of the Prouty Garden. Children’s Hospital is planning reasonable alternatives to restore the virtues offered by the Prouty Garden. Children’s Hospital should be encouraged to move forward with its plans.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Mitchell T. Rabkin, M.D.
CEO Emeritus, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

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