



CITY OF ATLANTA

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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-0300

TEL (404) 330-6100

ANDRE DICKENS
MAYOR

August 31, 2022

Candice L. Saunders
President & CEO
Wellstar Health System

Dear President Saunders:

I am writing with extreme concerns about the announcement Wellstar Health System made today regarding your intention to close the Atlanta Medical Center.

This decision will have deep and reverberating consequences for the half a million residents of Atlanta and the hundreds of thousands of visitors and commuters to our city each day.

The City of Atlanta received no advance notice of this decision and had no opportunity to engage with you to understand or help mitigate the factors leading to this closure. I require immediate information about your company's plans, what you are doing to mitigate the enormous health and economic impacts the closure will have on our community, plans for the multi-building campus once operations cease, and how you will be supporting the impacted personnel.

Atlanta Medical Center is a critical element of Atlanta's healthcare ecosystem. It serves some of Atlanta's most vulnerable people and it is an essential back-up and overflow for Grady Hospital as the only other Level I trauma center in the metro area. With this decision, and the recent closure of Wellstar Atlanta Medical Center South, your company has now closed two hospitals that primarily serve low-income populations in the metro Atlanta community.

Beyond the deep and immediate impacts on the health of our communities, I have serious concerns about the economic impact of this decision. Atlanta Medical Center is an economic engine of the community and this closure will immediately impact the livelihoods of thousands of our residents. Further, the Atlanta Medical Center occupies significant real estate in the heart of Atlanta's historic Old Fourth Ward neighborhood. The closure will leave an open wound in the heart of this community with no articulated plans for its conversion or transition once the hospital ceases operations.

As a partner in ensuring the health and economic vitality of our community, the City of Atlanta must be engaged in this matter immediately. I am requesting a meeting with your key leaders no later than September 16 to address these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andre Dickens", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mayor Andre Dickens

CC: Atlanta City Council President Doug Shipman
Members of the Atlanta City Council
City of Atlanta Chief Operating Officer Lisa Gordon
City of Atlanta Chief of Staff Odie Donald II
Atlanta Fire Rescue Department Chief Rod Smith
Atlanta Police Department Interim Chief Darin Schierbaum