



Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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ROCKFORD COUNCIL APPROVES MERCYROCKFORD ZONING MAP CHANGE & ANNEXATION PETITION

*COMMITTEE REPORT SIGNALING STRONG SUPPORT FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF ANNEXATION
AGREEMENT*

Rockford, IL - With an overwhelming Council majority, the Rockford City Council approved the Zoning Map Amendment for the MercyRockford hospital project signaling strong support and ultimate approval of the Annexation Agreement that was laid over pursuant to State law this evening.

"I was delighted to see the Council's strong support for the Zoning Map Change, which is a necessary part of the overall approval process," stated Rockford Mayor Larry Morrissey. "The eleven votes in favor of the project gave a certain signal to the final approval of the Annexation Agreement which will happen at the Council's March 21st meeting."

The final vote on the Annexation Agreement between MercyRockford and the City of Rockford was delayed this evening because under Illinois law any two aldermen can automatically delay a vote on any Committee Report the first time it is up for passage before the full City Council.

The Mayor's comments underscore that the delay that occurred in the final vote on the Annexation Agreement this evening is temporary and that final approval is a certainty. The agreement reached late last week on the terms of the Annexation Agreement between MercyRockford and the City Administration enjoys strong support from the vast majority of City Council members.

"We reached a great agreement with MercyRockford that supports prosperity and health across our community," added Mayor Morrissey. "Our City staff will continue to work with MercyRockford on the necessary permits to be ready for a groundbreaking and site

development work immediately following approval at the next City Council meeting on March 21."

Javon Bea, President and CEO of Mercy Rockford Health System stated, "I am very excited to move forward on our East Riverside hospital and medical center project as we raise the level of healthcare quality, and bring job development and economic growth to the Rockford region. Since Rockford is my hometown, this is personally a dream come true to bring our medical campus development to Rockford."

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