



For Immediate Release

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Cooper Green Mercy Transition Update

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Rules in Favor of Jefferson County in Hospital Transformation

Birmingham, AL (December 19, 2012) – A U.S. bankruptcy judge today upheld Jefferson County’s authority to make strategic decisions with regard to Cooper Green Mercy Hospital. The City of Birmingham and Mayor had asked Judge Thomas Bennett for permission to file a lawsuit to block the County’s decision to discontinue inpatient and emergency services at the hospital.

In his ruling, Judge Bennett found that the County had the power to decide how to operate Cooper Green Mercy Hospital, and denied the request of the City and Mayor to lift the automatic stay to litigate these issues. Among the issues, Judge Bennett held that the City and the Mayor do not have the power under state law to interfere with the County’s operation of the hospital.

Jefferson County is currently transitioning Cooper Green Mercy Hospital into a sustainable, 21st century healthcare model. Cooper Green Mercy will discontinue inpatient and emergency room services at the end of business December 31, 2012. Cooper Green Mercy will open an urgent care center on Tuesday, January 1, 2013.

The urgent care center will be open seven days a week from 8am-midnight. Primary and subspecialty care clinics will continue to operate as they do now.

Additional Information: Judge Bennett’s Memorandum Opinion is attached to this release.

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