



City Council President Andrea Jenkins – 8th Ward

350 S. Fifth St. - Room 307

Minneapolis, MN 55415

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Ann Cazaban
Southside Community Health Services
4243 4th Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55409

Dear Ann:

I write to support the development and consolidation of services of the Southside Community Health Services clinic, at 1010 East Lake Street in south Minneapolis, as it will reduce health disparities in this medically underserved area. Southside is a 50-year-old Federally Qualified Health Center, authorized by federal law and funding to deliver health care to underserved communities; no individual or family is turned away. Southside provides affordable access to primary medical, dental, vision, and behavioral health care services to approximately 10,000 patients (100% LIPs) per year throughout the Twin Cities.

Southside currently provides services in two separate facilities located one mile apart, impeding fully integrated care for patients, and space limitations at both locations mean no expansion is possible. The medical clinic is co-located in the Richard R. Green Central Park Elementary School. Southside has not only outgrown the space, but more importantly the facility is not conducive for the delivery of the high-quality healthcare Southside's patients deserve.

As the City Council Member representing the area where many residents are served by SSCHS, I strongly support Southside's expansion and consolidation of services under one roof. A new and improved clinic will focus on reducing health disparities among low income and uninsured area residents by increasing delivery of primary medical, dental, vision, and integrated behavioral health services. Many residents of south Minneapolis, and more broadly the Twin Cities area, exist at the intersection of low income households and disparate health outcomes. We know that, statistically, Black mothers have higher mortality rates during childbirth and that diabetes disproportionately impacts Black and Latinx communities, as does hypertension among people of color. Consistent access to medical services provided by SSCHS will help reduce healthcare disparities. Southside serves all, regardless of ability to pay, and accepts all forms of insurance and other patient assistance programs.

As SSCHS provides critical health services, I continue to advocate for expansion into places with strong community presence. As an organization which has continued to innovate and mobilize to meet the need in community, I look forward to working with you in eliminating health disparities in our community and achieving health equity.

Sincerely,

Andrea Jenkins