**COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND FORMER MEDICAL STAFF TO PROTEST MEDSTAR FRANKLIN SQUARE MEDICAL CENTER ADMINISTRATION’S DECISION TO SUDDENLY CLOSE ALL PEDIATRIC SERVICES**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 8, 2018

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Background:  On April 6, 2018 the administration of MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center (MFSMC) abruptly and unexpectedly eliminated pediatric care in the hospital with no warning to the community that has supported and grown Franklin Square Medical Center over the past several decades.

The consequences will be potentially life-threatening, with critically ill infants and young children now having to travel significant distances to obtain care at the next nearest hospital that has the level of services that MFSMC just cut. Half of the pediatric population cared for by MFSMC are on Medicaid and many rely on public transportation, which makes it difficult to travel to Bayview Hospital, ten miles away, for care.  The care of non-critical pediatric patients will also be negatively affected by decreased quality and access to care.

The precipitous elimination of these critical medical services is a recurrent pattern of the administration of MSFSMC. Within a three year period and without warning each time, MSFSMC closed the obstetrics residency program, which provided high quality care to pregnant women in the area; cut thirty five internists, who cared for hospitalized patients, and eliminated podiatry, which provided necessary care to patients with diabetes.

This pattern of behavior by MFSMC demonstrates a lack of respect for the medical staff and a failure to meet the health care needs of the local community. With the construction of a new multi-million dollar surgical center, it appears that MedStar is prioritizing services that create profit rather than providing the full range of medical services to everyone in the community.

Today’s Press Conference:

Who: Baltimore County State’s Attorney Scott Schellenberger

Baltimore County Executive Candidate Johnny Olszewski

Former Pediatricians and pediatric Staff from MFSMC

Residents of Communities surrounding MFSMC

What: Protest by community members and former pediatric staff during which they will demand:

That the MFSMC administration RESTORE safe, high quality pediatric emergency services and hospital care for all children in the communities served by MFSMC

Replacement of key administrators involved in this decision, in particular the hospital president Sam Moskowitz and MedStar Chief Operating Office Dr. Joy Drass.

That administration of MFSMC and its parent company MedStar adopt new policies that will ensure the input of community and medical staff before closing any medical service at the hospital

That the General Assembly passes legislation requiring that any hospital in the state that receives state funding adopt policies as described above.

When: Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at 1:30pm

Where: Southeast corner of Franklin Square and Rossville Blvd., Rosedale