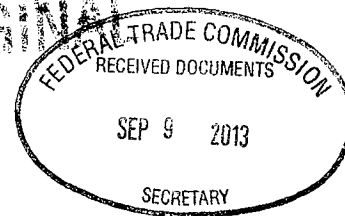


ORIGINAL



September 3, 2013

To Whom It May Concern at the FTC:

This letter is in response to the FTC, and Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital agreement to settle. The community of Albany, Georgia has been given 30 days to respond to the FTC with their concerns about the agreement. I cannot imagine that you will receive a lot of these letters because the information provided to the community notifying them of the option to respond was not nearly as publicized as Phoebe Putney's messages of propaganda and celebration for their own victory. Also, PPMH has a major amount of control on this community, and in general, people are terrified to speak out against them.

When the purchase of Palmyra Hospital was first announced, much of the community was (and still is) devastated by the news. However, every opportunity for growth and development by Palmyra was limited because of the Hospital Authority turning them down, and voting against them. As you know, much of the board of the Hospital Authority is governed by those associated with or working for PPMH. Although the news of the purchase was devastating to the community, no one could really blame Palmyra for selling because they were stifled in their ability to grow their business in Albany, Georgia due to the interference by the Hospital Authority and PPMH.

The FTC stepped in, and this community had hope that things would turn around. PPMH has so much control and influence on this community, and not always in a positive fashion. This community felt like for once someone was going to step in and limit PPMH in their ability to manipulate, buy off, or simply threaten others to get what they want.

Days before the official report was given informing the community that there was a restraining order limiting PPMH from removing equipment from Phoebe North (Palmyra), PPMH released to the local news that they just moved all the Neurology equipment from Phoebe North to PPMH. Ironic? No. I am sure they were aware that the restraining order was days from being finalized so they were taking everything they could to strip Phoebe North to bare bones so that no other company would be interested in purchasing, and to blur the lines of the transaction. These types of transactions occurred during the entire proceeding with the FTC. One could almost determine what the next step of the FTC was going to be by the actions taken by PPMH. Although PPMH tries to portray themselves as being interested in serving the community, and needing more space to meet the needs of the community, this community knows that the only reason PPMH purchased Palmyra was to completely wipe out their competition. Unfortunate for this community that is exactly what they did.

This purchase is NOT meeting the needs of the people in this town. I have been told numerous first hand stories from people in this community who have chosen to travel to Atlanta for surgery or procedures. This is simply because it is less expensive for them to travel to Atlanta, put their family in a hotel for a week, and pay for all expenses related to being out of town, than it is to pay for the exact same procedure in their hometown of Albany, Georgia. That is ridiculous!! Phoebe continually puts out numbers exhibiting that they are comparable in price to other hospitals, but if that were the truth then

why would there be so very many people willing to drive 4 hours away, and inconvenience themselves, and their family to have access to less expensive medical services?

Like others in this community, I have great fear in sending this letter because of the control that PPMH has in Albany, Georgia. However I feel it is very important to express these concerns, despite that possibility that I am shunned, taunted, and forced to move from Albany (which has been the case with others who have spoken out against PPMH). I work in this community. I play in this community. I live here. I listen to the concerns of the members within this community, and I can say without a shadow of a doubt that a majority of people do NOT want this transaction to take place. I have lived in 8 different states throughout my lifetime, and multiple different towns/cities within Georgia, and PPMH is by far the most difficult to do business with, and the most expensive in medical treatment that I have seen in my lifetime. Although PPMH would like to convince people otherwise, this is not due to the healthcare crisis occurring in the United States. This is due to the healthcare crisis in Albany, Georgia.

For the sake of this community, I beg you to reconsider your agreement with PPMH. The FTC is our only hope.

Sincerely,

A concerned citizen