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**Charlie Winburn**  
Cincinnati City Councilman

## ***MEDIA ADVISORY***

For Immediate Release: July 11, 2011

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### **Winburn alerts city hospitals to get ready to receive 68,000 new patients if council closes all five city health clinics** *Councilman proposes “Adopt a Health Clinic Initiative” with hospitals as an alternative to leaving residents without health care*

Cincinnati, Ohio — One Cincinnati council member is continuing to work while the mayor and the rest of city council are on summer vacation. Cincinnati City Councilman Charlie Winburn is looking at the city budget items, crime initiatives and a jobs plan for ways to stabilize the budget and revitalize the local economy.

Winburn is calling upon the city’s five major hospitals to start planning on receiving 68,000 city health care patients if five members of council defund the five city health clinics.

“With the city facing a \$35 million budget deficit in 2012, there very well could be pressure to close the city health clinics in order to save the city approximately \$8 million a year,” Winburn said. “I am proposing that we create a WIN-WIN for the city and the hospitals before we ever reach that point.”

The five city hospitals receive approximately \$2.6 billion in combined annual net revenue. These hospitals are being asked to work with the City of Cincinnati on an initiative to *Adopt a Health Clinic* in order to continue to provide the needed care for many in the city who have little or no other alternative. The five hospitals include:

1. Children’s Hospital
2. University Hospital
3. The Christ Hospital
4. Good Samaritan Hospital
5. Mercy Hospital Western Hills

The Cincinnati Business Courier 2011 Book of Lists provides the following data regarding the five major city hospitals used to create the statistical charts as it relates to the five city health clinics’ impact on city hospitals:

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#### **COMMITTEES**

**Statistical Impact of Closing Five City Health Clinics  
 and the Effect on the City's Major Hospitals**  
 (for illustration purposes only)

<sup>1,2</sup> Estimates for 47,751 NEW Patients/ 143,161 NEW Visits Annually	<sup>5</sup> Annual Net Patient Revenue	<sup>5</sup> ER Visits per year	New ER Visits from City Health Clinics (69% adult/ 31% children)	Increase in ER Visits from City Health Clinics	<sup>3</sup> Estimated Increase in Hospital Costs @ \$750/visit & 60% uninsured	Hospital Cost with Contract to Operate Clinics for Health Dept.
Children's Hospital	\$1.04 billion	114,985	44,380	39%	\$19,971,000	---
University Hospital	\$584 million	84,025	36,334	43%	\$16,350,300	---
The Christ Hospital	\$483 million	46,548	20,124	43%	\$ 9,055,800	---
Good Samaritan Hospital	\$463 million	52,910	22,880	43%	\$10,296,000	---
Mercy Hospital Western Hills	\$93 million	44,965	19,443	43%	\$ 8,749,350	---
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$2.627 billion</b>	<b>343,433</b>	<b>143,161</b>	<b>42.2%</b>	<b>\$64,422,450</b>	<b>\$ 8,000,000</b>

Cincinnati Health Department Endnotes:

- 35,000 people served each year equals 137,411 visits each year in the five primary health clinics for primary health care services and emergency dental care.
- 12,751 citizens are served each year with 23,000 visits through the city dental program. 25% of dental visits are considered emergency related.
- If patients are diverted from a city health clinic to an emergency room, the cost per visit increases from an average of \$120 per visit at a clinic to \$750 per visit at the ER.
- 21,000 citizens are served each year with 263,000 visits through the city pharmacy program (data not included in chart).
- Source: Business Courier 2011 Book of Lists, Largest Tri-State Hospitals, page 86.
- Approximate operating revenue sources for health clinics: \$8 million in General Fund Revenues, \$9-10 million in combined cash payments from patients, private insurance payments, and public insurance payments.

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Winburn believes that it appears that council is one vote away from defunding the city health clinics, and after the November 2011 elections there may be a fifth vote to do so. "If this happens, 68,000 citizens will not have any place to receive health services on a long term basis and I predict that they will end up at the five largest city hospital emergency rooms," Winburn said. "These hospitals should get ready to be used as a city health clinic service on a long term basis."

Winburn will be introducing a motion in August when the Mayor and City Council to direct the City Manager to develop an *Adopt a Health Clinic Initiative* as an alternative to defunding the five city health clinics and leaving 68,000 citizens without health services.

The proposal to the hospitals includes one or more of the following adoptive services:

- a. An adoptive hospital should provide efficient and effective management and operation of their local health clinic in a designated city neighborhood.
- b. An adoptive hospital should provide funding of their local health clinic at approximately \$1.6 million each year.
- c. The City of Cincinnati should provide resources and assistance for a possible merger or acquisition by the hospitals relative to the possible management and operation of each of the five city health clinics.
- d. The City of Cincinnati should consider offering the hospitals the option for the Cincinnati Health Department to continue operating the five city health clinics through contracted services.
- e. The City of Cincinnati should consider establishing health clinic standards and performance measures for its five health clinics under a new system of management and operations provided the adoptive hospitals.

Winburn concluded by stating that this is an opportunity for the Mayor, City Council and the City Manager to develop a well thought out plan for the five major city hospitals, the County Health Department, and other appropriate groups and organizations to develop a leadership health service agenda on addressing the inevitable closing of the city's health clinics.

"Although I will not serve as a fifth vote to close the five city health clinics, I see the handwriting on the wall and that's why I want to get ahead of this challenge by encouraging these five city hospitals to adopt my *Adopt a Health Clinic Initiative*."