

Department of Public Health

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August 10, 2016

Racine Waste Water Commission
C/O Keith Haas, General Manager
City Hall Annex / Rm. 227
800 Center Street
Racine, WI 53403

Good Day Mr. Haas:

On behalf of the City of Racine Health Department, I am requesting the utilization of garage space at the Utility's facility at 2310 Center Street for the storage of the Kenosha / Racine Mobile Medical Unit. The city has looked high and low to find a suitable site to store the vehicle with no good results. We are requesting a one year lease with the Utility to allow us more time to find a suitable permanent location.

Bringing this vehicle to Racine is a response to the closing of the Racine Community Health Center in 2014 which left approximately 10,000 area residents without medical, dental, and mental health support and services. The majority of the Community Health Center clients were absorbed into other health care systems resulting in increased tax-payer supported, costly, visits to local emergency rooms. To further complicate this issue, the State of Wisconsin has failed to expand its Medicaid options resulting in a significant increase of health and financial burdens on local communities.

Through collaborative efforts with Kenosha Community Health Center, Aurora, Wheaton / Ascension, Health Care Network, Racine County, and City of Racine funds were appropriated to purchase / modify a Mobile Medical Unit to reduce the void created by the loss of the Community Health Center (see attached photographs). Activation of the Unit is scheduled for November 1, 2016 at three different locations within the City over the first twelve months. During this time, services, location, marketing, availability, and personnel will be evaluated to determine whether the Unit is meeting the needs of the City. Availability and locations will then be reassessed to determine expansion options within and outside of the City. The Unit will be providing services to area residents of all age groups through a primary care physician and medical support personnel.

A storage location for the Unit is of utmost concern. Due to the extensive plumbing infrastructure, internal cleaning must be provided by a private vendor requiring hot water and electricity in a heated building. The City of Racine's Vehicle Maintenance Division will be servicing the Unit's mechanical needs, but lacks the space to store it. The Unit will be driven by assigned Kenosha personnel who will need availability to the Unit daily, Monday through Friday.

I would be delighted to meet with you, your staff, or the Commission about the importance of providing medical services to the most vulnerable of our citizens whose lives were significantly disrupted and to answer your questions. Much appreciated.

Dottie-Kay Bowersox, MSA
City of Racine Public Health Administrator