

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RMC Rejects Settlement Agreement

For more than four decades, the City of Anniston has enjoyed a longstanding and positive relationship with Regional Medical Center (RMC), the community's public hospital. Over the last several months, the City has worked diligently and in good faith to reach a settlement to a lawsuit recently filed by the RMC Board against the City. On no less than two previous occasions, City representatives have agreed to terms with RMC Board representatives only to see the RMC Board reject these agreements. It would seem that some at RMC would prefer protracted and expensive litigation rather than resolving differences for the good of the community.

Beginning last week and continuing through the Thanksgiving holiday, representatives from the City and the RMC Board participated in yet another effort to negotiate a resolution to RMC's lawsuit. Thanks to the leadership of Sen. Del Marsh who helped facilitate this discussion, the parties negotiated a preliminary agreement subject to formal approval by the respective governing bodies. According to RMC, both the Board Chairman and Vice-Chairman were in agreement at the time with the terms. Based on this representation and in a good faith effort to finally resolve this dispute, the Mayor and City Council approved the terms during a special called meeting on Monday, only to have the RMC Board reject the agreement. The City of Anniston is disappointed that this dispute remains unresolved, but it is steadfast and determined to defend the community and the community's rights in its hospital and largest employer.

As stated, the City of Anniston established RMC by ordinance over 40 years ago and it values the hospital, the care it provides to the community and the more than 1500 people that RMC employs. The City simply seeks recognition of and adherence to the community's rights as set forth in the RMC Charter and to reestablish transparency and reopen lines of communication with the RMC Board. Although the settlement agreement approved by the Mayor and City Council was a compromise, it addressed the core issues and provided a framework for the City and RMC to rebuild their longstanding relationship.

The City hopes that RMC will reconsider its decision and act in the best interest of the community it is pledged to serve rather than requiring both the City and RMC to expend public resources litigating rights and duties that should not be in question.

The City of Anniston

Located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in northeast Alabama, Anniston sits as the county seat for Calhoun County and a regional hub for legal, medical, and banking services. Home to the bronze-level mountain bike ride center of Coldwater Mountain, Anniston offers a wide range of recreational options such as biking the Chief Ladiga Trail or visiting the Anniston Museum of Natural History. For more information about the City of Anniston, visit anniston.al.gov