

Houston, Texas
June 23rd, 1933.

Honorable Oscar Holcombe,
Mayor of Houston,
City Hall,
Houston, Texas.

Dear sir:

The Houston Negro Hospital, which was founded and built during your previous administrations and with which you are familiar, finds itself facing a situation, due apparently to the present general depression, which will result in its being compelled to suspend operations at the end of this month unless immediate means be found to relieve the present emergency. It is believed that means of affording relief are within the power of the City of Houston without disturbing other interests. Therefore, upon the advice and authority of the Advisory Committee of the Houston Negro Hospital, I am addressing this communication to you for such action which you as Mayor, or the Council, as you may determine, may see fit to take hereon.

The operating expenses of this hospital have been cut to the lowest possible terms, after which it requires an average minimum of ten patients per day to make ends meet. For some weeks past the actual average minimum has been one-half of that number. Because the small number of patients does not provide for what are regarded as indispensable factors in the training of students, the State Committee on Nursing has decided that it will not be longer possible to accredit the school of nursing of the Houston Negro Hospital. If, however, means of continuing the operation of the hospital and increasing the number of patients can be found within a few weeks time, the school will be re-established and credit for previous work will be allowed.

If the hospital be allowed to close, with loss of its present efficient administrative personnel, you will readily understand the difficulties that will be encountered in subsequent attempts to re-open and operate it.

#2 Hon. Oscar Holcombe, Mayor

June 23, 1933.

It is the understanding of the Advisory Committee that the Jefferson Davis Hospital, to which charity patients of the City are committed for medical attention and care, is now badly overcrowded; so much so, in fact, that this condition is contributing in part at least to the inclusion of the new county-city hospital building in the proposed program of the City for new construction work for which Federal funds are to be sought. In the meantime, this condition can be relieved in part, and the continued operation of the Houston Negro Hospital insured, by transferring a part of the colored patients from Jefferson Davis Hospital to the Houston Negro Hospital.

It is the proposal of the Advisory Committee to the City of Houston, that the City transfer ten colored patients to the Houston Negro Hospital, for which hospital service the City will pay to the Houston Negro Hospital at the rate of \$2.50 per patient per day. This should serve to relieve congestion, and will at the same time enable the Houston Negro Hospital to operate through this emergency period. This rate is suggestive, and any reasonable rate under the circumstances will be acceptable. We believe that after fall months arrive, our normal operating conditions will be restored.

Dr. J. W. Slaughter is thoroughly familiar with the details of this problem, and I am sure that he will be glad to give you any further information that you may desire. I am sending him a copy of this communication in order that he may be advised thereof.

The City of Houston has an interest in this hospital, since, as you will recall, it is built on land set aside and assigned in perpetuity by the City for the purpose, as provided by the resolution adopted by the City Council on January 25th, 1926; and we feel sure that the sympathetic assistance of yourself, and the Council if necessary, in aiding the solution of this problem will follow promptly upon its being brought to your attention.

The Advisory Committee will be glad to render any further aid in the matter, and we shall appreciate advice of your action as promptly as possible, since the situation must be dealt with before the close of this month.

Very truly yours,

JYP foj
cc-DR.J.W.S.

Chairman, Advisory Committee,
1906 Petroleum Bldg-Pres.2181