



May 21, 2020

Christine Lally, Interim Executive Director
Denise Pines, President
The Medical Board of California
2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1200
Sacramento, CA. 95815

Re: Proposed Stipulation Agreement in the Matter of the Accusation Against Arthur M. Park M.D.
Case No. 800-2016-026837 License No. A 44597

Dear Ms. Lally and Ms. Pines,

At least eight families in Bakersfield have had their lives destroyed by the gross medical negligence of Dr. Arthur Park, going back over two decades. The Medical Board of California is aware of at least five of these cases, in which Dr. Park's negligence caused the deaths of two 23-year-old mothers and three babies. We have learned of at least two other cases of young women harmed as newborns during deliveries by Dr. Park who now live with lifelong disabilities, and one case of a woman harmed as an adult who suffers permanent disabilities. All eight were women or children of color.

Despite this atrocious record, the Medical Board has allowed Dr. Park to continue practicing, putting the women and babies of the Bakersfield community at risk. Now, the Medical Board is considering a disciplinary settlement in one of the latest cases of a mother's death that would allow Dr. Park to continue practicing. This recommendation ignores the enormity of the harm caused by Dr. Park.

The Medical Board must prevent Dr. Park from harming another patient by revoking his license.

The immediate case before the Board involves the death of 23-year-old Celeste Ortiz who died after Dr. Park forcibly removed her placenta after a successful birth while she screamed in agonizing pain. He needlessly used forceps, and then his hands, and then forceps again to tear the placenta from her womb. According to the Coroner's report, in doing so he traumatically perforated her uterus and cervix, causing her to hemorrhage. Dr. Park ignored continuous prompting from nurses to help his patient, and did not offer her medical care as her vitals plummeted and she bled to death. The death of this one young woman would argue strongly for revocation of Dr. Park's license. Taken with the totality of prior injuries and deaths at his hands, revocation of his license is the only reasonable response by the Board.

Instead, the Medical Board has received a stipulated settlement from the Attorney General's office that recommends probation, during which Dr. Park will not be allowed to deliver babies or to change his medical specialty. This proposed settlement is an affront to every mother and child harmed by Dr. Park. It reflects a disturbing pattern by the Board of prioritizing a doctor's ability to continue practicing, even when he is a repeat offender, over the safety of his patients. The Latino and African American

Bakersfield families who Dr. Park has indescribably harmed would be outraged if the Medical Board set him loose on their community again.

The failure to recommend revocation of Dr. Park's license is made worse by the fact that the Board has *another* ongoing investigation of the deaths of 23-year-old Demi Dominguez and her baby in Dr. Park's care. Ms. Dominguez exhibited clear signs of preeclampsia which were ignored. She was released from the hospital and died at home following a seizure. Her baby Malakhi died 18 hours later. No 23-year-old woman should die of treatable preeclampsia today.

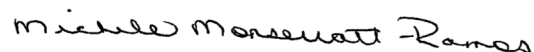
Ms. Dominguez's family has already been interviewed by the Medical Board and an investigation is in progress. The Board often combines cases involving the same doctor that take place within three years of each other in order to make accusations stronger, and there would be little time lost because the investigation is happening now. The prosecutors have acknowledged to Ms. Dominguez's family that her case is likely to warrant stronger discipline for Dr. Park than is currently being recommended. Yet the Board has refused to combine the cases.

After the tragic deaths of Ms. Dominguez and Ms. Ortiz, we learned that Bakersfield Memorial Hospital, Mercy Southwest Hospital, and San Joaquin Hospital have all revoked Dr. Park's privileges to deliver babies at their hospitals. These actions alone should have prompted the Board to expedite an investigation into why no hospital in Bakersfield trusts Dr. Park to treat the mothers under their care.

The victims' families and the Bakersfield community are waiting for action. Another slap on the wrist will not hold Dr. Park accountable for causing three more tragic deaths. To protect the women and children of Bakersfield the Board must reject the inadequate proposed settlement for Ms. Ortiz's death, combine Ms. Ortiz and Ms. Dominguez's cases, and use this overwhelming evidence that Dr. Park poses a continuing threat to his patients to revoke his license.

It is time to put the lives of Bakersfield women and babies first and revoke Dr. Park's license permanently.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michele Monserratt-Ramos".

Michele Monserratt-Ramos