

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Marikay Martin: 847.732.6996

**Death of Sixty-three-year-old man attributed to pressure sores developed while in care of Bronzeville Park Living and Nursing Center**

March 10, 2008, CHICAGO – Steven M. Levin of the Chicago law firm Levin & Perconti filed a wrongful death lawsuit in the Circuit Court of Cook County on behalf of Irene Clayton Hill (Chicago) against Bronzeville Park Living and Nursing Center (Chicago) for the death of her husband, Fred Hill, who developed pressure sores while under their care. Cook County Hospital and Michael Reese Hospital have been named as Respondents in Discovery because they may have valuable information about this case.

Sixty-three-year-old Fred Hill was admitted to Bronzeville Park Living and Nursing Center (“Bronzeville”) on March 29, 2007 for rehabilitation, physical therapy and to regain his strength following hip surgery.

Irene Hill explained why her family chose Bronzeville for Fred’s rehabilitation, “After Fred’s hip surgery, he needed to build up his strength so that he could come home. The Bronzeville staff promised that they would provide the best possible care for Fred after his hip surgery. I was relieved to find a facility close to my home so that I could visit Fred frequently.”

Attorney Steve Levin explained, “At the time Fred was admitted to Bronzeville he had just undergone extensive hip surgery and was showing signs of confusion. Fred’s condition required the nursing staff at Bronzeville to help him with dressing, bathing, transitioning from bed to chair and all the tasks of daily living. Fred’s limited mobility after hip surgery placed him at risk for the development of pressure sores. Fred’s recovery depended on the Bronzeville staff turning and repositioning him often and making sure that he had adequate nutrition and hydration. All of these factors were crucial for Fred to regain his strength and to avoid the development of dangerous pressure

sores.”

Levin went on to say, “Although Irene visited Fred almost every day, she became concerned about his treatment when she wasn’t there to oversee his care. Irene would arrive to find Fred in soiled clothing and bedding. Fred was constantly thirsty and complained that his requests for water were ignored. Irene was concerned that Fred wasn’t eating enough. When she voiced these concerns, she was told that the facility was understaffed. The staff also failed to honor Irene’s request to be notified when Fred had an appointment for a hip re-check at Cook County Hospital. On more than one occasion, Irene arrived at the clinic to find that Fred wasn’t wearing his own clothing and that he had been left unattended.”

Irene Hill said, “It seemed like Fred’s physical and mental condition deteriorated daily. Fred was constantly uncomfortable and in pain and yet nothing was being done to manage this pain. He was constantly fidgeting in his bed or chair. The first time I saw the pressure sores was only two weeks into Fred’s stay at Bronzeville. I was helping the nurse’s aide get Fred ready for bed when I noticed a deep and horrible sore. I immediately demanded to speak to the charge nurse who assured me that Fred’s wounds would be treated. She also assured me that Fred would be turned frequently and that he would get a special mattress to keep the pressure off the wound. These promises were never fulfilled.”

Steven Levin said, “On April 29, 2007, just four weeks into his residency at Bronzeville, Irene received a call from the nursing home notifying her that Fred was running a high temperature and was being taken to Michael Reese Hospital. After doctors examined Fred, they diagnosed him as having a large, deep and severely infected Stage IV pressure sore on his sacrum and Stage II pressure sores on his left hip and both heels. The pressures sores were so deep and infected they required surgical debridement and long-term intravenous antibiotics. Fred was also suffering from an infection

of the blood (sepsis) caused by the pressure sores, dehydration, a urinary tract infection and malnutrition. Fred was never able to recover from these injuries and died on June 14, 2007.”

Steve Levin concluded, “From their failure to provide for basic needs such as food and water to their failure to provide him with care necessary to prevent pressure sores, Bronzeville’s staff tragically ended Fred’s life. Sadly, Fred will never have the chance to see his seventeen-year-old son, Frederick, grow up. ”