

“Last Thursday, Ballad Health asked that I step down as the CEO of Bristol Regional Medical Center and as President of the Northeast Market. I agreed with their request and believe it was the right thing to do. After having served for nearly 30 years, I believe I owe the team at Ballad Health, Bristol Regional Medical Center and our community an explanation.

For the last 30 years I’ve strived to display great integrity and have proudly served with the great team at Ballad Health to deliver the best possible care, a hallmark of Ballad Health’s mission. Recently, at the invitation of a surgeon, I entered an Operating Room to observe a surgical case and to support our surgical team, as many health system and hospital CEO’s do throughout the nation. As the case began, the surgeon asked if I would like to make the initial incision for this surgical procedure. I regret I did so.

Most importantly, I apologize to the patient and their family. I apologize to the team members of Ballad Health, and to the leadership of Ballad Health.

While there was no harm to the patient, my involvement was a clear violation of Ballad Health policy. Ballad Health’s mission statement is clear when it says our team will deliver the best possible care. I have always strived to be passionate with my voice and my actions to support that mission. However, in this case I fell short of meeting the expectations reasonably expected of me.

I am certainly disappointed. But, I accept accountability and believe this is the right thing for Ballad Health’s patients, its team members and for the community. If the community is to have confidence in their health system, it means everyone – including senior leaders - must be accountable for fulfilling the mission of Ballad Health, and for adhering to the policies intended to protect patients.

I love this community. Each of the years of service I’ve given to Bristol and our entire region have been out of genuine affection for our community and our home, and my intentions have always been and will all the more now be to contribute to improving the human condition here and wherever I serve.

I am deeply grateful for the tremendous blessing it has been to have served our community in this role, and I will always remain committed to the success of Ballad Health, our hospital, and our community.”