So jobs is the biggest issue I think anywhere and, as long as we do business as usual, I am going to mind my business.

Business as usual…

The closing of Huron Hospital is the end of a 137 year history of serving the people. We have been through this before when, in February 2000, Mt. Sinai Medical Center shut its doors for good, displacing more than 1,000 employees and a dozen medical practices.

Or can we remember, in 1994, St. Luke's Medical Center suffered a major setback when it lost its contract to treat Kaiser Permanente patients, who represented 30 percent of their patient population, and, as a result, lay off 213 workers in January.

In July of that year, it entered into an agreement with Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Ohio that would give the insurance company a controlling interest in the hospital while allowing the hospital to accept patients from Blue Cross & Blue Shield's "Super Blue" health management plan and take advantage of the insurance company's management and information systems.

In 1995, St. Luke's Medical Center had 474 beds and remained a major teaching and research

hospital.

In May of 1999, the hospital closed its level two trauma center and announced that it would close its medical and surgical operations by the end of June. Initially, there were plans to transfer St. Luke's 120-bed mental health facility with a stand-alone emergency room. This plan was scrapped and the hospital closed completely in the summer of 1999.

St. Luke's employed over 800 people at the time of the closure.

Due to St. Luke's closing its trauma center, Huron became a trauma Mecca.

Huron Hospital employees are not facing the same fate as not having a job. They have the option of working at any of the 4 campus Cleveland Clinic owns. As of this week, I have found out that 75 percent of the workers have been placed.

Huron Hospital and its board of directors, who sanction the closing, is nothing new to the Clevel and
area. Just like Huron took the helm from St. Lukes,
Metro Hospital
will take the helm from Huron.

Huron had developed a reputation on being one of the great help center for Diabetes patients. They will continue to provide this great service to its patients in the new health center.

The Cleveland Clinic is currently regarded as one of the top 4 hospitals in the United States as rated by U.S. News & World Report. The Cleveland Clinic was established in 1921 by four physicians for the purpose of providing patient care, research, and medical education in an ideal medical setting.

One of the largest private medical centers in the world, the Cleveland Clinic saw more than

3,200,000 patient visits in 2009, with almost 80,000 hospital admissions. Patients arrive at the Cleveland Clinic from all 50 states and more than 100 nations.

The Cleveland Clinic's approximately 2,500 staff physicians and residents represent 120 medical specialties and subspecialties. The Cleveland Clinic was ranked number one in America for cardiac care from 1994 to 2009.

It is no doubt the city's largest employers with numbers close to 30,000 and helping in the Black community could be a little more visible. They are in partnership with John Hay, who would know it? The school sign has it on their but its so small, maybe they didn't want to over shadow the school.

The Black Community is a concept that goes far beyond the color of one's skin. It is the experience of being Black in the United States.

The Black Community is a society whose culture is waiting to be re-defined.

This definition or concept is not designed to ignore other Blacks in the Americas but to evolve the strength and power of Blacks as citizens of the United States of America.

Why can't we get the political and Black community leaders sitting at the table to help open the African American Museum or to do more for the African American Garden? Why when it comes to us, its business as usual?

I am just as sad to see Huron close its doors and I am sure adding 11 minutes to the travel time to get someone to Metro can mean the difference between life or death someone's life. But, I guess I am also just as concerned about the growth of my community.

School is starting and we are faced with a new CEO of the system and fewer teachers to help improve our report card that just put us in “academic watch.” We have to support the school system and not blame every teacher of not doing their job. Education is a tool that Black America must use for social change, to educate its youths, and to correct the mis-education of and about the Black Community.

Black leadership that is accountable, responsive and productive to the Black Community is essential to the development and enhancement of the Black America. The Black Community must be committed to the development and recognition of this type of leadership throughout Black America. This indigenous Black leadership must be willing to communicate, coordinate, and cooperate with others in defining and presenting the needs and aspirations of the Black America.

The Congressional Black Caucus organized a town hall gathering a couple of weeks ago to address Black unemployment rates in Cleveland, one of five taking place in August in distressed communities across the country.

At issue is the stubbornly high unemployment rate in the Black community, now at 16.8 percent nationwide – more than double that for whites and a figure that doesn’t even include those who’ve stopped looking for work.

Caucus members have introduced more than 40 such bills since January and none of them have passed. Republicans took control of the House nearly nine months ago.

Now, the lawmakers are taking to the road to ensure angry constituents that they are doing all in their power to help, while offering a job fair in each city as assistance. In Atlanta, Cleveland, and
Detroit
, and
Miami
the events have drawn thousands. Another will be held in
Los Angeles
at the end of the month.

So jobs is the biggest issue I think anywhere and, as long as we do business as usual, I am going to mind my business.