



CITY OF MT. VERNON
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MT. VERNON, ILLINOIS 62864

October 7, 2008

618-242-5000

Jeffrey S. Mark
Executive Secretary
Illinois Department of Public Health
Health Facilities Planning Board
525 West Jefferson Street, Second Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

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HEALTH FACILITIES
PLANNING BOARD

08-070

Dear Mr. Mark,

As a community leader in Mt. Vernon, I believe it is important that our citizens have high-quality, cutting edge medical care, available close to home. For over 60 years, Good Samaritan Regional Health Center has been providing quality, compassionate care to our community. The Good Samaritan facility is a symbol of the long history of mission-driven care provided within its walls, but the building is growing older, and its services have outgrown its capacity.

It is time to replace Good Samaritan Regional Health Center with a new facility.

Leaders in our region are working hard to ensure that Mt. Vernon and our surrounding communities continue to grow. Meanwhile, the senior population is growing at a great rate – nearly 30% of the people in our communities will be 55 or older in 2011. A new facility is essential to the future health and safety of our citizens.

This new facility will positively impact our community and our entire region. The increased availability of services would reduce our community's need to travel to out of state metropolitan for their healthcare needs. Our patients could enjoy being closer to home, and healthcare dollars would stay here in our own communities. The hospital would attract even more world class physicians to our area, practitioners who would complement the existing staff of impressive providers to give the care our communities deserve.

The current facility limits the ability of the hospital to implement new programs and services, and, most importantly, the present design hinders privacy and convenience for patients and their families. The residents of our region need and deserve more access to healthcare services, and Good Samaritan Regional Health Center has my full support as they strive to make this happen.

Sincerely,


George H. Bryant, CPRP
Parks and Public Facilities Director
Parks and Recreation Department