



Mt. Vernon Convention & Visitors Bureau

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October 30, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Mark:

Re: New Facility for Good Samaritan Regional Health Center

As a resident of Mt. Vernon and Director of the Mt. Vernon Convention and Visitors Bureau, I believe it is important that our citizens have high-quality up-to-date medical care available close to home. For over 60 years, Good Samaritan Regional Health Center has been providing quality care to our community. The Good Samaritan building is growing older, and its services have outgrown its capacity.

We believe 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 out of state for their healthcare needs. Important healthcare dollars would stay here in our own communities.

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

Sincerely,

Bonnie Jerdon
Director