

12-036

September 3, 2012
The Healthcare Center at Monarch Landing,
Project Number 12-036

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Chairman Dale Galassie
Illinois Health Facilities and Service Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Dear Chairman Dale Galassie,

My husband and I moved to the Monarch Landing Retirement Community almost 6 years ago with the expectation that it would soon be expanded to the CCRC we were promised. A lot has happened in the meantime with the downturn in the economy and the community undergoing bankruptcy. Now with new ownership, we look forward to the day when the promised Healthcare Center will become reality. It has been a frustrating period of waiting and delayed construction start dates.

We love our life here, the many friendships we have made, and our excellent leadership and staff. Because of the closeness and community which has developed it has been very distressing to see the difficulties encountered by some of our residents as they encounter the natural adverse effects of aging. Having made the decision to give up our homes we were assured of lifetime care for ourselves and our spouses within the Monarch Landing facilities. Many residents gave up their cars or moved to an entirely unfamiliar community resulting in their support system now being composed of other ML residents. How sad it is that when additional help/nursing care is needed, they must leave for another facility where they are isolated from the friends and "family" they have come to know here. No matter how close it may seem to younger, more mobile people, it can never be the same as being able to walk to visit a loved one in a secure, climate controlled environment whenever and for how long one wishes. This is the main reason we all moved here.

I submit also that many now living at Monarch Landing are ready to make a transition to the health facility at the present time. In the time it will take to build I hate to think of how many more will be in need of skilled nursing assistance. Our halls are filled with walkers and scooters as residents bravely negotiate the sometimes formidable distance from apartments to dining or other venues. Sadly, there are some who elect to eliminate this trip by having their meals delivered. Not only is this an additional cost but it is very isolating when they most need socialization.

I do hope you will look with favor on Monarch Landing's Health Facility Request.

Sincerely,

Doris Nicodemus *Keith Nicodemus*

Keith and Doris Nicodemus