

Edward R. Weston  
2278 Haverford Drive  
Belleville, Il 62221  
618-236-0414

**RECEIVED**

SEP 29 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

**Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator**  
**Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board**  
**525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor**  
**Springfield, Illinois 62761**  
**RE: Project Application #14-043**

**September 24, 2014**

Dear Ms. Avery and the Review Board:

I wish to express my opposition to the closing of St Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville and their move to the more affluent area of O'Fallon. I am speaking individually as a clergy and community leader.

The church I have the privilege of serving is approximately ten blocks from St Elizabeth's. We have been in downtown Belleville since 1818 – and in our second location for the past 62 years. In 1998, our congregation made the decision to stay downtown to serve the people in need, instead of moving to the outskirts where growth would have been so much easier. While the mission of St E's indicates a concern for the poor, the move to O'Fallon will separate them by at least 20 minutes driving time from their current location (*I know, because it takes me 15 minutes to arrive home in Shiloh on a good day!*), and 40 minutes from the poor in E. St. Louis. As you are well aware, E St Louis residents have not had a hospital for years.

I am concerned that the poor and elderly will have to travel even farther to receive hospital care. And more than likely, the doctors downtown will soon follow the hospital re-location, meaning even a doctor's visit will be more difficult to make. I am concerned that the move to O'fallon will put an undue pressure on a very crowded Memorial Hospital ER—again, delaying care in a crisis situation. Even though Memorial Hospital has expanded their ER facility in years past, those from E. St Louis and surrounding areas will flood that ER, making the wait longer.

Memorial Hospital is set to open in 2016-2017 a new full service Hospital in Shiloh, just a few miles from the proposed St E location. Memorial's board is committed to staying put in Belleville as well – having committed millions in renovation to different departments and the new Orthopedic Center. You granted their application a few years ago based on the fact that they would not abandon Belleville. *I was present at that hearing, listened to the discussion, and spoke just a few moments in support of the additional site in Shiloh for Memorial Hospital. It was late in the day and most of us did not have time to share our support verbally.*

I would strongly urge you to deny the CON permit. The City Administration of Belleville has repeatedly sought to assist the hospital in renovation; space; parking, but to no avail. It appears their direction is set to **abandon** the area and the poorer folks around it. Please do not let this happen.

In His Service,



Edward R. Weston,  
Senior Pastor  
Union United Methodist Church  
721 E. Main  
Belleville, Il 62220

Mike Constantine  
Supervisor  
Project Review Section  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson Street  
Second Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Project Application #14-043

I wish to state my opposition to the above application, St. Elizabeth's proposed exit from the Belleville community.

My serious concern is that this proposed move will seriously strain the capacity of Memorial Hospital, not only with their departure from our community (which has supported them for almost 100 years) but they are cutting back on services to area patients.

I have been a resident of Belleville for over 80 years, using the facilities of St. Elizabeth's Hospital during that time for the birth of my grandchildren (my children were born at Military Hospital's during the Korean War). To have a hospital, whose mission is to serve the community they have been a part of for so many years, and just decide they no longer care to carry out that mission, is unconscionable.

What is the motive? More lucrative area? Better reimbursement client population? What has happened to their mission? A religious segment of our community, who we have relied on, decides to abandon the community.

As for Memorial Hospital, it will have a serious impact on their resources, to provide the care of those patients abandoned by St. Elizabeth's.

Another fact, they are building in the vicinity of Memorial East which is scheduled to accept its' first patient in 2016. In view of the escalating cost of health care, duplication of services which would occur with two new hospitals within 2 miles of each other is not a prudent decision.

I hope the facilities board will evaluate the consequences this decision will have on our community.

Sincerely,

*Peg Badgley*

September 26, 2014

Mari Fritz

740 Admiral Wendt Parkway

Millstadt, IL 62260

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing this letter to object to Project #14-043. As a concerned citizen of Millstadt, IL, the current location of St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville, IL is our closest medical facility. This past May, 2014, my husband had heart ablation surgery due to Atrial Fibrillation. For 18 months prior to that time he suffered numerous ambulance rides to the hospital due to AFib. Thankfully the hospital was close enough to treat his needs.

If St. Elizabeth's were to close its facility in downtown Belleville our closet health care facility will be gone. My understanding that they intend to re-locate only 2 miles from the now under-construction Memorial Hospital East in Shiloh, IL makes no sense to me. It will be much further away from our community and a duplication of services of Memorial East.

I ask that you refuse the Certificate of Need for St. Elizabeth's Hospital to rebuild and re-locate. Downtown Belleville NEEDS St. Elizabeth's to stay in its present location and continue serving the health care needs of the surrounding communities!

Thank You for your consideration.



Mari Fritz

Cc: Mr. Mike Constantino, Supervisor, Project Review Section