

SUPERINTENDENT
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*Belleville
Public
Schools*
*Where Quality Education
is a Tradition*
District 118



October 1, 2014

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator, Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Project Application #14-043

Dear Courtney Avery:

On behalf of the Board of Education for Belleville Public Schools District #118, we are writing to you to state our opposition to the Certificate of Need filed by St. Elizabeth's Hospital to move from Belleville to O'Fallon, Illinois. We are referring to project application #14-043.

Please see the attached Resolution adopted by the Board of Education on September 16, 2014 at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. The Resolution specifies the reasons why the Board of Education opposes this project.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit this letter for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mr. Joe Robertson
President, Board of Education
Belleville Public Schools District #118

Mr. Matt Klosterman
Superintendent
Belleville Public Schools District #118

MK/th

RECEIVED

OCT 06 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Resolution Opposing the Relocation of St. Elizabeth's Hospital Outside of Belleville

WHEREAS, the Board of Education ("Board") of Belleville Public School District No. 118 ("School District") considers it to be vital that quality medical care be available in Belleville for its students, employees, and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges that St. Elizabeth's Hospital has been a long-standing anchor to the downtown Belleville business community and long provided quality healthcare and services to the students, employees and families of the School District; and

WHEREAS, the Board has seen media reports that the Hospital Sisters Health System has submitted a Certificate of Need to the state to relocate St. Elizabeth's Hospital from its downtown Belleville location to another location which is outside Belleville and the boundaries of the School District.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved by the Board of Education of Belleville Public School District No. 118, County of St. Clair, State of Illinois, as follows:

Section 1. Incorporation of Preambles. The Board hereby finds that all of the recitals contained in the preambles to this Resolution are full, true and correct and does incorporate them into this Resolution by this reference.

Section 2. The Board of Education of Belleville Public School District 118 hereby declares its opposition to the proposed relocation of St. Elizabeth's Hospital outside of Belleville, further finding that such relocation would be detrimental to the best interests of the School District, its students, employees and their families, as well as to Belleville and the surrounding region.

Section 3. The Superintendent of the School District is hereby directed to disseminate this Resolution as appropriate.

Section 4: This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage.

ADOPTED this 16 th day of September, 2014, by the following vote:

AYES: 6

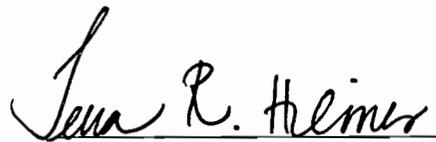
NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1



President, Board of Education

ATTEST:



Secretary, Board of Education

September 29, 2014

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

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing in opposition to St. Elizabeth's Hospital's planned move from Belleville to the O'Fallon area. The residents of Belleville depend on St. Elizabeth's convenient downtown Belleville location. I have worked for a large surgical group in downtown Belleville for 19 years and I observed this first hand. This downtown Belleville Surgical Group comprised of 9 surgeons, are on staff at both Belleville hospitals. Several patients, on a daily basis, requested their surgeries, testing, and admissions be scheduled at St. Elizabeth's Hospital solely due to location and transportation. Many patients insisted on scheduling procedures and admissions at St. Elizabeth's convenient location even if it meant waiting an extra few days due to openings in the schedule.

The physicians of Belleville, the citizens of Belleville, and the city of Belleville have been very supportive of St. Elizabeth's Hospital. There are numerous medical office facilities, filled with physicians, located on all corners surrounding St. Elizabeth's Hospitals current location. 311 West Lincoln Street, 340 West Lincoln Street, 301 West Lincoln Street, and 180 South 3rd Street in Belleville are all office complex buildings filled with physicians serving the downtown Belleville residents and St. Elizabeth's current location. What will happen to these thriving facilities if St. Elizabeth's Hospital abandoned the area? Belleville is very dependent on St. Elizabeth's Hospital centralized location. A move from this area would be deserting the population that has supported them for decades.

I hope you will consider the Belleville resident's access to care. The current location of St. Elizabeth's Hospital is necessary for the Belleville residents. Leaving this location will leave a community without healthcare and will be duplicating service in the new planned location. We don't need our Hospital and Physicians departing the downtown Belleville area leaving vacant building.

Also, St. Elizabeth's Hospital's current location serves many small communities that sit to the south of Belleville. Freeburg, Smithton, New Athens, St. Libory, Fayetteville etc.... These communities rely on St. Elizabeth's for their hospital and Emergency care. By closing St. Elizabeth's current location, you are adding an additional 20 minute commute to their trip which is already in the neighborhood of 30 minutes or more. When seconds count asking an Emergency patient to travel close to an hour is outrageous. Lives will be lost if you allow St. Elizabeth's to relocate to O'Fallon, IL.

Please let the Certificate of Need serve the purpose of preventing St. Elizabeth's Hospital from deserting their patient's needs to move to an area where the needs are already covered. Let's not duplicate services in one area and leave another area without healthcare. Let's encourage St. Elizabeth's to stay in downtown Belleville and serve the community that has supported them for more than a century. These residents have grown to depend on St. Elizabeth's Hospital current location and will be without healthcare if St. Elizabeth's abandoned the downtown Belleville area.

Thank you for your consideration,



Lisa McDonald
Freeburg, IL

Mr. Mike Constantino
Supervisor; Project Review Section
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Board
525 W. Jefferson St. 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

In regard to project # 14-043

October 2, 2014

Dear Mr. Constantino,

I would like to ask to the Illinois Health Facilities & Services Board to deny St. Elizabeth's Hospital's application to move to O'Fallon, IL. Belleville would be devastated by this move, and it's clearly for no other reason but money. They haven't invested in their hospital for years, and then use that as an excuse to say they need a hospital outside our city, further from thousands who are poor and don't have transportation. They tell the public they want to be a "regional" hospital...but they already are one. Of course, their new "region" would exclude E. St. Louis, and other poorer communities west of Belleville. Those people already have little access to health care. Now they want to make it harder?

Memorial Hospital is expanding into O'Fallon too, so it's not like O'Fallon will be without facilities. But then Memorial isn't closing up shop and abandoning Belleville either. In fact they've grown and expanded their medical campus in Belleville and have a vibrant and viable facility. Another excuse St. Elizabeth's puts out is that the size of their campus is so "limited". That's nonsense! The City would gladly work with them to acquire as much surrounding property as they could possibly need.

Belleville is an older city, and many folks count on having health care close-by. Many can't drive and rely on either public transportation or relatives and friends. The move from Belleville would surely drag with it dozens of physician practices that rely on adjacent access to the hospital they attend. So it wouldn't just be one less hospital, it would mean dozens of medical practices and their doctors leaving Belleville too.

And all this is for what...To not have to care for indigent and Medicaid eligible patients? To remove themselves from a community that's transitioning from practically all-white to racially integrated? Their rationale and rhetoric is no less transparent than any participant in white-flight. Or is it simply the pursuit of money? If this is supposedly a religiously-affiliated charitable institution, then this move is wrong.

Instead of abandoning Belleville and leaving a huge hole in the heart of the city, St. Elizabeth needs to invest in the community that has supported them for nearly 140 years. Let them build the new St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville, not O'Fallon, or Shiloh.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mary F. Gagen
124 Lucinda Ave.
Belleville, IL 62221

October 1, 2014

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761
Re: Project Application #14-043

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing this letter in opposition of Project #14-043, St. Elizabeth's proposal to build a replacement hospital in O'Fallon, Illinois.

Through filing of the Certificate of Need, St. Elizabeth's has inadvertently displayed their lack of concern for the residents of Belleville. Building a replacement hospital in O'Fallon will make the closing of St. Elizabeth's hospital in Belleville inevitable, a facility that Maryann Reese, president and CEO at St. Elizabeth's, has referred to as "deteriorating." What does this say about the quality of care that is currently available to patients who choose St. Elizabeth's? What are their plans for the years leading up to the opening of the O'Fallon location, if the current state of the facility is less than adequate? Do St. Elizabeth's and the Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) have an explanation for the existing condition of the Belleville facility? And what are they telling their employees? Be hopeful for approval? If they do not gain approval, what are their plans?

St. Elizabeth's announcement to build in O'Fallon seems to have been made prematurely, much like their decision to defame their facility in Belleville. Residents in the Metro East can no longer trust that St. Elizabeth's and HSHS will stay to serve communities where a need has been established. St. Elizabeth's lack of commitment in maintaining the Belleville facility is disappointing and gives reason to question whether their intentions for relocating are truly based on what is best for area patients.

Additional opposition for this proposed project has come from the Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce, the Belleville City Council, Belleville District 118 and Belleville District 201. These agencies have a genuine interest in doing what is right for Belleville. Their resistance to this proposal illustrates what many Belleville residents think a replacement hospital in O'Fallon will mean for their community: loss of jobs, a negative impact on commerce in the downtown area, and, most importantly, decreased access for the ill and underserved.

St. Elizabeth's should not be given approval to build a new hospital while allowing their facility in Belleville to be in a state of disrepair. They should be held responsible for the current condition of their hospital and renew their commitment to Belleville by renovating and expanding the facility that already exists.

Sincerely,



B. Glauber
Belleville Resident

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: PROJECT #14-043

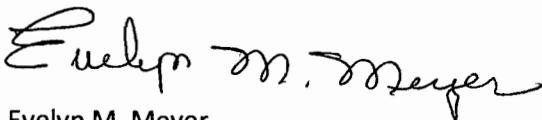
Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing this letter in opposition to Project #14-043. I have several concerns regarding this project and am stating them below:

1. The people living in close proximity to the current St. Elizabeth's Hospital have used this facility for many years and many are not able to travel the distance they would have to travel in order to utilize a building at the site proposed by St. Elizabeth's. Many do not have cars and there is not an ideal metro system to take them to and from the current vicinity to the new one.
2. I have a friend who has a parent in a Geriatric facility five minutes away from St. Elizabeth's and feels comfortable when a crisis arises that she can count on help a mere five minutes away. If St. Elizabeth's close their downtown Belleville facility they would have to transport this patient to Memorial West or East which would involve 20 or more minutes. As you know, that is not a good thing for anyone in a critical care mode.
3. If this project was approved and the two new hospitals would be operating in the close proximity I have great concerns about certified professional employees being available to staff all centers adequately. I know there are reasons why the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board has set up guidelines and cannot see how the approval of the second hospital could be approved in such close proximity.
4. Lastly I feel St. Elizabeth's is exhibiting a 'kind of blackmail' tactic when they say if the new project is not approved they will close the present facility and also that they will reapply until they are approved. This does not set well with me as I do not, in any way, condone this type of business.

Thank you for considering my thoughts and concerns.

Sincerely,



Evelyn M. Meyer
1416 Olroyd Drive
Swansea, IL 62226

618-355-7611

October 1, 2014

CC: Mr. Mike Constantio, Supervisor,
Project Review Section

September 24, 2014

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson St. 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Project Application #14-043

Dear Ms. Avery,

I would like to voice my concerns about St. Elizabeth Hospital in Belleville, Illinois closing their excellent facility and moving to O'Fallon, Illinois.

I would like to address a couple of points:

1. There a great number of people who depend on the current location of St. Elizabeth. People from southwestern parts of Illinois drive some distance to use the hospital services. Moving further away from the current location would present a burden on this part of the population.
2. A number of people depend on public transportation, i.e. buses, Senior Service transportation options or just relatives who are willing to drive them. This population segment would be greatly disadvantaged by a move of the hospital to a more distant location.
3. The financially disadvantaged populace would have no recourse. They do not have extra money for gasoline, may not have a car at all, and would be further disengaged with health care participation.
4. There would be a disproportionate duplication of services with the Memorial Hospital extension that is currently under construction. Memorial is not moving out of Belleville; they are expanding to the O'Fallon location. Memorial will continue to provide excellent service in their current Belleville location.

I hope you find my comments of value.

Sincerely,



Marlys C. Cima
15 Bel Dere Drive
Fairview Heights, IL 62208

October 2, 2014

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator, Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Project Application #14-043

Dear Courtney Avery:

I acknowledge that St. Elizabeth's Hospital has been a long-standing anchor to the downtown Belleville business community and long provided quality healthcare and services to the Belleville community and surrounding areas.

I oppose the proposed relocation of St. Elizabeth's Hospital outside of Belleville, further finding that such relocation would be detrimental to the entire Belleville community. I am referring to project application #14-043.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit this letter for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susie Patterson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susie Patterson

October 2, 2014

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator, Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Project Application #14-043

Dear Courtney Avery:

I acknowledge that St. Elizabeth's Hospital has been a long-standing anchor to the downtown Belleville business community and long provided quality healthcare and services to the Belleville community and surrounding areas.

I oppose the proposed relocation of St. Elizabeth's Hospital outside of Belleville, further finding that such relocation would be detrimental to the entire Belleville community. I am referring to project application #14-043.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit this letter for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sandy Reed

October 3, 2014

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson St, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761
Re: Project Application #14-043

Dear Review Board:

I am writing to express my reasons for opposing the issuance of a certificate of need to St Elizabeth's Hospital.

I have been a resident of Belleville for forty-one years, and over the years my family and I have utilized both St Elizabeth's Hospital and Memorial Hospital in Belleville.

I feel St Elizabeth's had already made their decision to leave Belleville years ago when they chose to purchase the property on Green Mount Road in O'Fallon, foregoing any monetary improvements to the hospital located on South 3rd St in Belleville.

They own several properties in close proximity of the current hospital, and their claim of being land locked is unfounded. Also in 2006 St Elizabeth's Hospital opened a state of the art medical facility in Waterloo Illinois, and closed its doors after just four years; and currently sits vacant.

St. Louis University Hospital which houses separate buildings for different specialties and Barnes Hospital which is "land locked" has made commitments to the city of St Louis, and are ranked two of America's top hospitals.

Of note the current site of Lindenwood University Belleville Campus which is thriving, was at one time the old Belleville West High School. The University continues to invest in the city of Belleville.

Memorial Hospital was granted a certificate of need and is currently building its Memorial East site which is slated to admit its first patient in early 2016, and is only two miles away from the property located on Green Mount Road in O'Fallon, this in my opinion would be a duplication of services. Given the climate of healthcare it would be more than optimistic to think two hospitals two miles apart could survive financially.

I strongly oppose the issuance of a certificate of need to St Elizabeth's Hospital.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helen Kay and Robert Juenger". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Helen K and Robert Juenger
639 S 29th St
Belleville, Illinois 62226

Mr. Mike Constantino
 Supervisor, Project Review Section
 Illinois Health Facilities & Services Board
 525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
 Springfield, IL 62761

CC: Courtney Avery

Put aside the 140 yrs. St. Elizabeths has been in the city of Belleville. Put aside the great partnership the city + hospital has maintained over the years. But, you cannot put aside the common sense factor that the area could possibly have two new hospitals 1 1/2 miles apart serving the same market. While, a huge void is left in Belleville and the many small communities that now have readily accessible health care, also, the hospitals in Breese + Highland ^{MARYVILLE} are not that far away from the proposed new location, a logical move would have been to RT. 15 which would be maybe 2 miles as opposed to 7 miles. Not only would the land have been less expensive to purchase, but St. E's would still be serving the same market. It would help jump start growth in that corridor, which would be a winning situation for all entities.

It's a common sense approach. Memorial Hospital is already under construction. St E's should not get their COV. Look south to RT. 15 not north to Interstate 44.

Roger Wiggins
 Belleville resident
 Belleville Business owner

October 3, 2014

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing to express my concerns about the plans for St. Elizabeth's Belleville hospital to relocate from the City of Belleville to the proposed O'Fallon location. I believe this move will adversely impact meeting the health care needs of residents of Belleville and surrounding communities.

I grew up in East St. Louis. Having attended Catholic grade school and high school, it was only natural to consider volunteering at St. Elizabeth's during my high school years. I traveled by public bus from my high school to St. Elizabeth's. At that time we were called Mary's Helpers. I made this weekly trip after school in order to be part of the caring Catholic community that was part of St. Elizabeth's. I enjoyed working with the sisters as a volunteer and found the caring environment. However, I also attended the hearing on Thursday, October 2 and was upset at how the HSHS staff and St. Elizabeth's employees discussed the poor and unsafe conditions of their facility. I find it very disturbing that they would allow the condition of the hospital to decline as they outlined.

St. Elizabeth's states on their website under the "Community Benefit": "St. Elizabeth's Hospital has served this community since its founding in 1875 by the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis. From the very early days to the present, the hospital has a well-established tradition caring for those in need of health care and of partnering with the community to improve the overall health of the community". How can St. Elizabeth's continue to feel that they have a tradition of caring for the community, if they close their current site in the Belleville community?

Currently there is public transportation available to the Belleville site. By moving to O'Fallon, this will not be the case. Those that use the public transportation will have to seek care elsewhere. How does this reflect their mission of "well-established tradition caring for those in need of health care and of partnering with the community to improve the overall health of the community"?

Also with this relocation what impact will this have on the remaining hospital in Belleville and surrounding area? This will definitely impact Memorial Hospital, which remains committed to the Belleville Community needs.

For these reasons I am opposed to St. Elizabeth's proposal to relocate all their services to the O'Fallon location. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Mary Lou Schmulbach
Millstadt, Illinois

cc: Mr. Mike Constantino

It is said in a medical emergency time is of the essence and it is often referred to as the Golden Hour. Green Mount Road, Frank Scott Parkway and Highway 159 are major connectors from

Ms. Courtney Avery ~ Administrator

I H F & S Review Board

525 W Jefferson St 2nd Floor

Springfield, Il 62761

RE: Project Application #14-04

We agree Belleville is no longer the epicenter it once was and this migration has traveled east to the O Fallon area. **Support letter #139** confirms this by stating, "I am a member of the St Clair County Board representing O Fallon". "O Fallon is the fastest growing city in the Metro East and this hospital will be needed due to the rapid growth of the city". One word that is frequently bantered about in conjunction with St Elizabeth's proposed move is "projection". With all of the rapid growth in this area we are concerned if this area is ready to safely assume another high priority institution, *at this time*.

"The O Fallon Fire and Rescue (O F F&R) provides protection to the citizens of O Fallon and the surrounding areas including the Village of Shiloh and the rural areas of the O Fallon, Shiloh Valley, Caseyville and St Clair Townships. This 44 square mile district is covered by 3 fire stations and is staffed with 45 dedicated and highly trained volunteers and 14 pieces of apparatus".

www.ofallonfire.com

O'Fallon population in 2012		29,193
Village of Shiloh population in 2012		13,107
O'Fallon Township population in 2012	Illinois Twsp 2	21,859
Shiloh Valley Township population in 2012	Illinois Twsp 2	10,108
Caseyville Township population in 2012	Illinois Twsp 0	25,987
St Clair Townships population in 2012	Illinois Twsp 2	31,798

www.city-data.com

In 2012, **132,052** residents were under O FF&R protection. This figure equates to 1 volunteer Fire & Rescue personal per 1 mile or 1 volunteer Fire & Rescue personal per 2,934 residents. It is now 2 years later in 2014 with unknown added growth. Currently In the city of O Fallon and the village of Shiloh, while not including the 4 townships, are subdivisions, 12 schools, another currently being built, multiple senior assisted and nursing facilities, mega apartment complexes, business districts and now the Memorial Hospital East Campus currently under construction. To us these figures are troubling. How is it determined who receives the priority answer when more than 1 call is made at the same time in this 44 mile radius? At what point have we spread our volunteer firefighters too thin and placed the people they protect at risk? In no way should this be considered dissatisfaction in the work these individuals so selflessly serve. Rather they should be recognized and applauded for all that they do without asking for anything in return.

It is said in a medical emergency time is of the essence and it is often referred to as the Golden Hour. Green Mount Road, Frank Scott Parkway and Highway 159 are major connectors from Belleville to O Fallon. **Support letter #137** states "It is too my understanding there are many infrastructure improvements to be done in the O'Fallon area. Specifically Improvements to Interstate 64, Frank Scott Parkway, Green Mount Road and other traffic improvements. It seems to me **if** the improvements do come into fruition, the proposed location would have excellent ingress and egress access for emergency purposes".

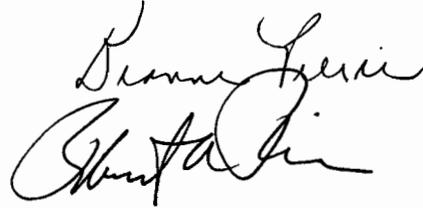
Much depends upon the word **if**" in regards to infrastructure improvements. "**IF**" work is in the immediate plans for execution this is good. "**IF**" work has never been addressed, this is bad. These predominately 2 lane roads have served their purpose well but we cannot think of any improvements that have been gradually made in conjunction with or to support the area as it's grown. We cannot recall any published documentation released to the public where HSHS has addressed what impact their additional volume of traffic will have on the current infrastructure or what are the improvements needed to better serve the public and their patients safely and efficiently. We have read that proponents for the new hospital have said the travel to the new location will cause a minimal of disruption. For drivers who already frequent these roads they are known headaches. Daily, both Green Mount Road and Frank Scott Parkway are high volume with frequent snail pace movement to complete stops and this is with help of stoplights. Both have mega churches that on Sunday require the local police to direct traffic during morning hours. 7 days a week 159 from Belleville takes you through the business districts of both Swansea and Fairview Heights before reaching O Fallon. Traffic at the end of the work day through these areas only compounds the situation. What grants from the State or Federal Government have been applied for to help defray in the cost of upgrading? Are both Illinois for I 64 and St Clair County for Green Mount Road, Frank Scott Parkway, 159 and any other area already onboard and ready to begin with the needed work? What are their projected timelines when these improvements will be implemented and the projected date/dates their work is to come to fruition? "**IF**" there are no answers to these questions, how can we possibly consider transporting patients in an emergency situation under these known existing conditions?

Support letter 10-1-2014 states "it is my understanding Metro Bus is planning to add the new hospital to its routes. This convenient location will also provide a direct line to its sister hospitals in Breese and Highland". Again, we are not aware of any published documentation released to the public where Metro Bus service has said they are onboard with and committed to HSHS's proposed hospital site or what are the locations of the new routes they will be providing.

At best when we speak of "it is my understanding there are many infrastructure improvements to be done in the O Fallon area" and "it is my understanding Metro Bus is planning to add the new hospital to its routes" this is all speculation at the present time.

Many proponents for the O Fallon relocation tell of how it will be more convenient for them to access a hospital at the proposed site due to the myriad of problems they experience when they travel to Belleville. For them it will be nice but for the majority of people now required to travel to this new location the problems will be amplified as they will have never been addressed and corrected.

Both St Elizabeth's and Memorial hospitals have well earned reputations and are held in the highest regard by those who support them. To us this has never been a personal issue of which institution, St Elizabeth's or Memorial hospital is better and more worthy than the other. But until it can be shown the Hospital Sisters Health Systems (HSHS) application for relocation will not further stretch or compromise our current O Fallon Volunteer Fire & Rescue (O F F&R) services, or the existing infrastructure, we object to and ask that you reject their request to build, *again at this time.*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Donna Lewis".

Cc Mr Mike Constantino ~ Supervisor

October 1, 2014

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

Dear Ms. Avery,

I would like to express my concerns for the project of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, project application #14-043, closing its doors in downtown Belleville, IL and building a new hospital in the O'Fallon/Shiloh, IL area. For me, it just doesn't make sense. If St. Elizabeth's has enough money to build something new, why not remodel the entire hospital with this money? Why would you leave the buildings vacant? (Although it is said they won't be vacant, it's only a matter of time and all will move to the new facility.) So much in Belleville will be affected. Many shops and restaurants downtown thrive from patients and visitors of the hospital. If they weren't coming to the hospital for their own reason, they probably wouldn't be there to shop and/or eat. It's a way to pass the time while a loved one is sick or getting tests run. Many business owners will take a hit from this loss.

Another reason that concerns me is once St. Elizabeth's moves and closes, Memorial Hospital will be bombarded by the ER visits that St. Elizabeth's normally received. Do you really think one hospital can handle the ER flow of two hospitals? And why is St. Elizabeth's downsizing? Building a new facility, but it will have less beds and offer less services? I feel that the Christian-Catholic way is not to close the doors on the public, but open more doors in other ways. Putting your patients' healthcare first is the caring, Christian way, not the almighty dollar. Patients will have to travel a longer distance and have to deal with more traffic at a possibly very crucial time for them. The elderly have a hard time getting around, much less if they are anxious and in a hurry. It just seems that Memorial Hospital has the correct way of caring. They are not closing their doors on Belleville, but opening more doors to O'Fallon/Shiloh.

I really feel in my heart that this project should be denied. There is no reason to have two hospitals opening at similar times, less than 2 miles apart from each other, duplicating the same services. Please open your hearts to the people in the Belleville area and vote to not approve Project Application #14-043. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rose Huelskamp

Mr. Mike Constantino
Supervisor, Project Review Section
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

CC: Courtney Avery

I am a lifelong resident of Belleville, and I think that St. Elizabeth's Hospital should stay in the Belleville Area.

Memorial Hospital does not have enough beds to handle the need in our community. We must also think of all the communities south and west of Belleville.

Amy Linn

Oct. 3, 2014

Mr. Mike Constantino
Supervisor, Project Review Section
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

CC: Courtney Avery

Dear Mr. Constantino,

I have been a president of
Bellville for 46 years. We
need to keep St. Elizabeth's
Hospital functioning in
Bellville.

The City of Bellville is a
viable entity and we are
located logistically to serve
outer communities for
numerous services, especially
Health.

Please keep this Hospital in
Bellville
cc: Courtney Avery

Sincerely,
Rae Gornie Blod
30 Signal Hill Blvd
Springfield, IL 62727

October 1, 2014

Mr. Mike Constantino
Supervisor, project Review Section
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Oppose St. Elizabeth Hospital's CON, Project #14-043

Dear Mr. Constantino,

I am a permanent deacon in the Catholic Church. As ordained members of the clergy, deacons participate in the three-fold office of word, sacrament, and charity. An essential element of diaconal ministry is the charity. This is particularly important in being an advocate for those on the margins of society.

The thing I love most about St. Elizabeth's is that it is an urban Catholic hospital providing healthcare to all because it is accessible to all. We are so blessed in Belleville to have a robust public transportation infrastructure. As a Downtown resident, I am amazed at how many people take the bus and metrolink to get to St. Elizabeth's. If you look at the Metro Transit – St. Louis map which I have attached, you can plainly see that Belleville is the public transportation hub in the metro-east. Public transportation makes healthcare truly accessible to all.

Like most Catholics I follow Pope Francis closely. The Holy Father wants the church to align more prominently with the world's poor and marginalized communities. In the first week of his papacy, he called for a church that is "poor, and for the poor." He has echoed this idea constantly since then.

Catholic health care facilities like St. Elizabeth are being called to help the pope lead the American church in this direction. After all, if measured in dollar terms, the American church's most substantial service to poor people already comes through its health care ministry, by far. I note this not as a point of pride, but simply to argue that Catholic health care is well positioned both to role model the pope's vision and to be a catalyst for the rest of the American church to explore how well (or not) we are serving poor, marginalized or disadvantaged communities.

It is not the time to be moving a Catholic hospital from a struggling community to an affluent community and to a location that has less access for the poor. This is an opportunity for St. Elizabeth's to assume a leadership role that is in alignment with its mission and the mission of the Church according to the Holy Father.

Sincerely,



Deacon Douglas L. Boyer
208 East Main Street, Suite 230
Belleville, IL

Attachment

Cc: Courtney Avery

MR. & MRS. AL MEIJEN, SR.
116 NORTH CHURCH STREET
BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS 62220
OCTOBER 2, 2014

RE: TONITES METTING AT
LINDERWOOD COLLEGE BELLEVILLE
ILLINOIS

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

WHAT A WASTE OF MY TIME TONIGHT ONLY A VERY FEW OF PEOPLE WHOM THE MOVE AND CLOSING OF ST. EDIZABETH'S HOSPITAL IN BELLEVILLE WHERE HEARD AS WE ONLY GOT 1-½ HOUR OF YOUR TIME WHICH WAS VERY MUCH UNFAIR. MANNY OF US HAD PLENTY TO SAY BUT THE BOTTOM LINE IS MONEY AS HOMES IN O'FALLON ARE ALL IN THE \$400,000 THOUSAND DALLORS . WE LIVE DOWNTOWN BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS WITHIN FOUR BLOCKS OF ST. ELIZABETH AND IN 2009 MY HUSBAND HAD A HNEART ATTACT AND THEY TOOK ME AND CHILDREN IN ROOM TO WAIT WHERE THEY TELL YOU THEY DON"T MAKE IT BUT HE DID DUE TO GETTING THERE IN TIME HAD WE HAD TO GO 7 MORE MILES MY HUSBAND WOULD NOT BE HERE TO CELEBRATE OUR 62 YEARS OF MARRIAGE. THE HEART CENTER IS NEW AND IS A NEW BUILDING BEHIND MAIN HOSPITAL, IWAS IN THERE 2 YEARS AGO FOR HIP REPLACEMENT AND FELT WAS VERY NICE PRIVATE ROOM REMODLED, IF THEY PLANNED A NEW HOSPITAL WHY DLD THEY REMODEL ALL ROOMS, REDO THE ER. AND ADD A HEART INSTITUTE????????

SPEAKING OF OLD BUILDINGS WE LIVE IN A 165 YEAR OLD HOME THAT EVERYONE LOVES IT IS IN GREAT SHAPE AS WHEN NEEDS REPAIR WE DO AND WE FELT THAT IN OUR LAST YEARS WE COULD LIVE COMFORTABLE KNOWING A HOSPITAL IS NEAR IN CASE HUSBAND DEFIRTATOR GOES OFF WE CAN GET HELP NOW HOW IN THE WORLD BEING 82 YEARS OLD CAN I GET HIM DOWN BUSY TRAVELED ROADS FROM BELLEVILLE, WE DON"T HAVE EASY ACCESS TO 64 OR O'FALLON, NOR WELL I BE DRIVING MUCH LONGER SO NOW WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST WE SELL OUR HOME AT 82 YEARS OLD AND BUY A EXBENSIVE ONE IN O'FALLON AND LEAVE A WAR DEBT FOR OER CHILDREN????? MOST OF DOWNDOWN RESIDENCE ARE OLD WHO HAVE SUPPORTED ST. ELIZABETH AND IT IS NOT 144 YEARS OLD WHERE PATIENTS ARE NOW AS OUR DAUGHTER WAS BORN WHILE THE NEW PART WAS BEING BUILT THAT HOUSES THE PATIENT AREA NOW AND SHE WELL BE 59 YEARS OLD IN DEC. 10. SO NEW PART IS ONLY 59

AT THE MEETING IF YOU CALL IT THAT WQAS ALL THESE REBESENTIVES FROM ST. ELIZABETH HOSPITAL AND I WAS TOLD THAT EMPLOYEE"S AND THOSE SPEAKING FOR THE NEW HOSPITAL WHERE PAID TO BE THERE.

I FEEL IT WOULD BE VERY UNFAIR TO PLACE A HOSPITAL NEXT TO ANOTHER WHERE YOU COULD WALK FROM ONE TO THE OTHER.

THIS MEETING WAS CERTAINLY A WASTE OF OUR TIME AS YOU"S HAVE ALREADY MADE UP YOUR MIND AND WOULD NOT LET EVERYONE CONCERNED SPEAK IF YOU DIDN"T HAVE ENOUGH TIME YOU SHOULD HAVE BETTER ORGANIZED OF WHICH IT WAS NOT ALL HOSPITAL PERSONAL GOT TO SPEAK FIRST NOT A FAIR MEETING FOR THE PEOPLE OF BELLEVILLE, AND SEROUNDING AREA. VERY DISAPPOINTING. I WORKED FOR MARCH OF DINES AND HAD BETTER MEETINGS THAN THIS ONE.

THIS IS NOT ONE OF THOSE THINGS "YOU BUILD IT AND THEY WELL COME" NO ONE SHOULD GO TO ST. ELIZABETH"S WHEREEVER THEY DECIDE TO STAY. BREAK THEM OF THEIR WANTING TO GOT WHERE THE RICH LIVE.

THEY WHERE OFERRED PROPERTY IN BELLEVILLE, AND REFUSED IT AFTER THAN AGREED ALONG TIME AGO.

PLEASE FOR THE SAKE OF REAL PEROPLE WHO NEED CARE DON"T GIVE THAM AN OKAY DO

T HE RIGHT THING. REFUSE

Al Meijen
Sharon Sammiel Meijen

Dan & Laura Nollman

1010 Forest Hill Dr.

Belleville, IL 62221

618-235-6873

Dear Mike Constantino,

We are writing you today in reference to **Project # 14-043**. We have lived in Belleville since 1963 and are opposed to the moving of St. Elizabeth's Hospital to O'Fallon, IL. This move is totally opposite of the lessons that Jesus taught, to take care of ALL neighbors, including the poor & sick, not move away from them. The Catholic nuns that started the hospital long ago would be ashamed of how the hospital is turning their backs on the community, as well as the hospital's founding mission statement. It is quite obvious that the hospital is only concerned about making money.

The hospital building in Belleville is outdated today because updates to the building were not chosen in previous years as important enough. And if St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville is losing money, we are not aware. The hospital has always been very profitable. The hospital is clearly being selfish and only looking at this situation from a financial standpoint by moving to where supposedly wealthier populations live.

One given reason to justify moving is that O'Fallon is on an interstate. However we can name several hospitals in our surrounding counties, that are not anywhere ON an interstate. In addition, the assumption that everyone has a car is incorrect. More and more families rely on public transportation, and Belleville has an extensive public transportation system already in place, including the Metro Link Rail System.

We are opposed to granting a certificate of need to St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dan & Laura Nollman". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and connected.

Dan & Laura Nollman

Carlos & Amy Perez

119 Wyndrose Estates Dr.

Belleville, IL 62226

618-401-8287

Dear Mike Constantino,

We are writing you today in reference to **Project # 14-043**. We have lived in Belleville since 1963 and are opposed to the moving of St. Elizabeth's Hospital to O'Fallon, IL. This move is totally opposite of the lessons that Jesus taught, to take care of ALL neighbors, including the poor & sick, not move away from them. The Catholic nuns that started the hospital long ago would be ashamed of how the hospital is turning their backs on the community, as well as the hospital's founding mission statement. It is quite obvious that the hospital is only concerned about making money.

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We are opposed to granting a certificate of need to St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carlos & Amy Perez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carlos & Amy Perez

PROJECT #14-043

Please do not allow St Elizabeth Hospital to close it's doors in Belleville. The city of Belleville needs more than an emergency room to service the needs of the area. The wait in the ER is extremely long now and if there is only Memorial to service the needs of the people in this community it will have a devastating effect on the patients's.

Ofallon will have the hospital being built by Memorial to help service the needs faster for that area so by not allowing St Elizabeth to move everything there will not harm that community.

Why has St Elizabeth allowed the facility they have in downtown Belleville to deteriorate? Granted they get a share of the poor non insured medicaid patients that live in the Belleville area, but so does Memorial. With Kenneth Hall closed it has sent the residents from East St Louis to Belleville for medical needs. Closing doors in Belleville and relocating to Ofallon will certainly spare St Elizabeth from providing services to the needs of these people. St. Elizabeth is a for profit facility with deep pockets. It seems they could replace the building on the current location or repair and still provide the services needed for this area of the community.

Allowing St Elizabeth to close would mean the loss of many jobs for the people employed there and would leave a void for the businesses in Belleville that depend on these employees to frequent them and this would surely impact home values as well.

It is sad that money has become more important than care for people. Please keep St Elizabeth in Belleville for the sake of all who depend on it.

Thank you,



7730 BAXTER DR
Belleville IL 62223

Project # 14-043.

Please do not allow St Elizabeth Hospital to remove itself from Belkville.

This hospital is needed in our town. Where will all of the people who depend on this hospital go? Memorial is not large enough to handle the extra flow of people that would go there if St Elizabeth is closed. The rooms are needed. Memorial doesn't have enough beds to handle the number of sick people from Belkville and the nearby towns that depend on St. Elizabeth's to service the needs of these cities. Belkville will suffer from this if you allow them to relocate.

Why has St Elizabeth allowed the facility to fall behind and not update it's building like Memorial has done over the years? They have room to build a new facility where they are now. They could even go out near SWIC campus that would keep it closer for the residents of Freiburg, Smithton etc. Why don't they do a smaller facility in Gallon and keep beds in Belkville like Memorial is doing?

I don't think it is justified to let St Elizabeth pull out of Belkville leaving the poor uninsured people so they can service the insured military and weather people in Gallon.

Thank you for listening to my opinion.
Please think about our city and our needs,
over the desire St Elizabeth has to increase
the income they will get by closing the
door on Belleville.

Thank you,
Janet Tauber
7730 Baxter Dr
Belleville, IL 62223



(618) 233-8140
Chrysler • Dodge • Jeep
3795 West State Rte 15
Belleville, IL 62226



September 29, 2014

Mr. Mike Constantino

Supervisor Project Review Section

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Board

525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor

Springfield, IL 62761

(618) 233-0303
Buick • GMC
3800 West State Rte 15
Belleville, IL 62226



Mr. Constantino,

As a business owner who has invested \$15,000,000 in Belleville I am deeply concerned about the potential departure from it's downtown campus of St. Elizabeth's Hospital. My grandfather Oliver C. Joseph was chairman of the drive in the 30's and 40's to fund the new wing and as the former president of Belleville Main Street I have intimate knowledge of the financial impact of their departure.



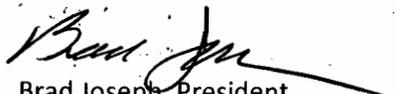
They have not come close to convincing me of the alleged "inconvenience" of their current location to their customers, especially those to the south and east of Belleville. There is no possible way the new location could be a comparable travel time.



I am personally concerned about the lack of a 2nd emergency room facility in Belleville. Unlike Ofallon there are multiple manufacturing facilities in our city where immediate access to emergency facilities are very important.



The City of Belleville would certainly be a good partner for the improvement, repair or even relocation of St. Elizabeth's campus here as opposed to a move to a new location. My business, many of my employees and my family urge you to deny their request to relocate.


Brad Joseph, President



"America's Original Since 1914"



BETTY SOMMER

771 Cemetery Road
Freeburg, Illinois
62243

September 2, 2014

RE: St. Elizabeth's Hospital

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

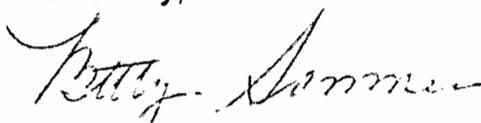
This letter is to share some thoughts regarding the possibility of losing the Belleville location of St. Elizabeth's hospital.

Being a resident of Freeburg, St. Elizabeth's was ALWAYS the hospital of choice due to the convenient location. It's sad to think that may not always be the case.

My husband and I were both born at St Elizabeth's hospital. Our three children were born at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, and we are now expecting grandchildren number 3 and 4, who will be born very soon at St. Elizabeth's hospital. So many good memories when we walk through those doors.....

Please carefully consider the future of this facility to allow more years of providing close to home health care for our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betty Sommer".

Betty Sommer

My trip down the memory lane of St. Elizabeth's Hospital in downtown Belleville, Illinois

- My husband of 37 years was born at St. Elizabeth's 59 years ago.
- My knee was sewn up in the emergency room 54 years ago.
- My younger brother was born there 52 years ago.
- My soon-to-be-husband was treated there after being hit in the head by a baseball at nearby Southside Park
- My first-born son was delivered by C-section at St. E's nearly 32 years ago.
- My younger brother who was born there 52 years ago was "patched up" 25 years ago after being hit by a hit & run driver.
- My 72-year old mother died at St. Elizabeth's following complications with A-fib.
- My 14-year old son was treated for a concussion there after passing out during a dissection class at Freeburg High School.
- My pneumonia at 38 years old was treated in the emergency room and then a stay in the CCU at St. E's.
- My thyroid testings and my mammograms *are* always done at St. E's.
- My heart attack at 54-years of age was confirmed in the emergency room, and tended to with great compassion in the CCU at St. E's.

Lots of "my" memories because St. Elizabeth's in **downtown** Belleville has always been *MY* hospital!

- Karen Neff,
58-year old lifelong resident of Belleville, Illinois

Fred J. and Barbara M. Kern

123 S. High St.

Belleville, IL 62220

To: Support for Saving St. E's in Belleville

We are in complete agreement with Mrs. Gregory's statements. Our family has supported St. Elizabeth's in Belleville for over 115 years.

We consider St. Elizabeth to belong to Belleville. Please don't take her away from Belleville.

Barbara M. Kern *Fred J. Kern*
Barbara M. and Fred J. Kern

St. E's abandons its mission

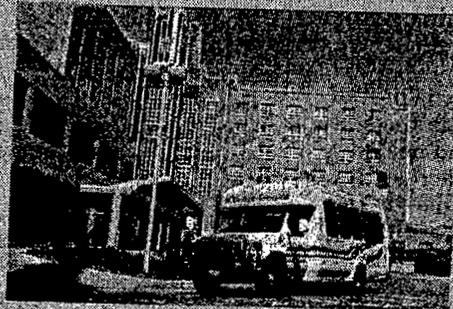
IT IS WITH great sadness that after 140 years in our community, we may be losing our hospital, St. Elizabeth's.

More disheartening is the way this situation has come to pass. As a former Friend of St. Elizabeth's and a Catholic, it appears there is more than just regionalism in this anticipated move.

St. Elizabeth's is promoting this as a move toward a "regional" hospital, but yet it has served Belleville, East St. Louis, Freeburg, Smithton, Millstadt, etc., for 140 years. It already is a regional hospital.

The location south of Interstate 64 that the hospital has served for 140 years will become the "underserved population" as a part of this move. Also a segment of population will be left behind as hospital leaders move on for what seems to be greener pastures.

St. Elizabeth's will be leaving behind an underserved population. They will say that the seven miles to the new hospital does not mean much. But it does mean much to



the people left behind. Left behind is another interesting term. Are the Sisters of Saint Francis leaving behind their mission as they move away from an area of greater community need? You decide for yourself.

I will tell you this. They will be leaving behind a wonderful community that is loving and caring with a great sense of support and volunteerism — a community that has used these values to support St. Elizabeth's because they have believed in this hospital for 140 years.

Whatever that means, you decide.

Patty Gregory
Belleville