

October 19, 2014
605 Forest Ave
Belleville, IL 62220

14-043

RECEIVED

OCT 22 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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

Dear Mr. Constantino,

This letter is addressed to you in opposition to the projected move of St. Elizabeth's Hospital of Belleville Illinois to Shiloh-O'Fallon.

My husband and I are both lifelong residents of Belleville Illinois. My husband was born at St. Elizabeth's, both of our children were born there, my father died there, and the rest of our aged relatives spent large amount of time at the hospital as they faced the end of their lives. Our family's lives are intimately tied to this community hospital.

The planned move is going to make a hospital highly inaccessible to many of the residents of Belleville. People in Smithton and Millstadt will have it even worse. The projected travel time may sound feasible but the travel on the routes required to reach the new hospital site (Greenmount Lane and Frank Scott Parkway) are both jammed with traffic and become more and more crowded every day. If they widen either one or both, the construction will cause even more congestion.

The administration of St. Elizabeth's puts forth the public relations balderdash alleging that the hospital will maintain "a presence" in Belleville. I think most people know that is a convenient lie to cover their desire to leave. They assert that the facility is too old to fix. Barnes Jewish, and St. Louis University hospitals in St. Louis both have much older facilities but have the dedication to their community to serve those trusted to their care.

The wealthier communities of O'Fallon, Shiloh, and Troy are the true reason for the move. The real need for a hospital is with the older populations of Belleville.

One has to wonder how the devout Sisters who founded St. Elizabeth's hospital would view this abandonment.

As do many other Belleville residents, we view this suggested move as a betrayal of a relationship of trust.

Sincerely,



Linda S. DeBoer – a concerned resident

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VILLAGE OF SWANSEA, ILLINOIS

RESOLUTION NO. 1-1951

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO CERTIFICATE OF NEED
APPLICATION SUBMITTED TO THE ILLINOIS HEALTH FACILITIES
AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD BY HOSPITAL SISTERS SERVICES, INC.,
HOSPITAL SISTERS HEALTH SYSTEM AND ST. ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL OF
THE HOSPITAL SISTERS OF THE THIRD ORDER OF ST. FRANCIS
FOR PROPOSED HOSPITAL REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

WHEREAS, it is the obligation of the Village of Swansea Board of Trustees to act in the best interests of its citizens;

WHEREAS, access to care is a fundamentally important issue for the citizens of Swansea, especially so for the economically challenged communities surrounding Swansea;

WHEREAS, St. Elizabeth's Hospital has been a fixture of our community for the last 140 years, with both the citizens of Swansea benefitting from this relationship, but also St. Elizabeth's Hospital benefitting from the committed dedication of Swansea and surrounding communities;

WHEREAS, the Village of Swansea Board of Trustees believes that St. Elizabeth's Hospital and HSHS have set out to advance the interests of their business and entirely disregarded the destructive impact it will have on the City of Belleville, the Village of Swansea, and surrounding communities;

WHEREAS, the Village of Swansea Board of Trustees considers it disingenuous for a not-for-profit charitable organization to benefit from 140 years of tax exemptions and then complain that recommitting to that same community that has housed it would be "too costly" to pursue;

WHEREAS, all of the benefits that will be bestowed upon O'Fallon/Shiloh will befall Belleville, Swansea, and surrounding communities;

WHEREAS, all of the benefits that St. Elizabeth's Hospital is seeking could be achieved within Belleville, perhaps only with the exception of a more affluent community and better payor mix;

WHEREAS, St. Elizabeth's Hospital leaving Belleville would undermine the economic viability of the community;

WHEREAS, the City of Belleville and Swansea can ill afford to lose the hundreds of jobs and the millions of dollars in economic benefit that would result from the abandonment of the downtown area by relocating St. Elizabeth's Hospital;

WHEREAS, indigent communities would have a notably harder time accessing healthcare in O'Fallon, far more so than they have for over 140 years in Belleville;

WHEREAS, the Village of Swansea Board of Trustees believes that two new hospitals within a mile of Exit 16 in O'Fallon/Shiloh would be an unnecessary duplication of services and adversely impact access to healthcare;

WHEREAS, the Village of Swansea Board of Trustees wants its citizens to know this is not a done deal and that it is important to let their voices be heard;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Swansea, Illinois, as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Village of Swansea does not oppose progress, so long as progress does not come at the expense of Swansea, and the Village of Swansea would invite a modern St. Elizabeth's Hospital pursued in the Community that has supported it for the last 140 years and grown to depend on St. Elizabeth's Hospital for its healthcare and for the economic viability of the community; and

RESOLVED, that if HSHS and St. Elizabeth's claim that the only options are O'Fallon/Shiloh or closing, that reflects an ultimatum of their own creation, because Belleville, Swansea, and surrounding communities remain committed to a brand new or modernized St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville.

RESOLVED, that the Village of Swansea Board of Trustees opposes Projects 14-043 and 14-044 to establish a new St. Elizabeth's Hospital in O'Fallon;

RESOLVED, that the Village of Swansea Board of Trustees calls upon its citizens and the citizens of the surrounding communities to let their voices be heard – and either attend the public hearing or submit comments to the Health Facilities and Services Review Board; and

RESOLVED, that Swansea does not oppose progress, but it does oppose abandonment.

Passed by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Swansea, Illinois on this 6th day of October, 2014 by the following roll call vote:

Lauren O'Neill
LAUREN O'NEILL, VILLAGE CLERK *by: Barbara C. Kimurtso*
Deputy Village Clerk

	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
Susan Schultz	✓	—
Ron Sutterfield	✓	—
Susan O'Malley	Absent	—
Brian Wells	✓	—
Katherine Ruocco	✓	—
Matthew Lanter	✓	—
Ken Mueller	—	—

Approved by the President of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Swansea, St. Clair County, Illinois this 6th day of October, 2014.


KENNETH S. MUELLER, PRESIDENT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ATTEST:


LAUREN O'NEILL, VILLAGE CLERK

