

# McDermott Will & Emery

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November 25, 2014

VIA ELECTRONIC AND OVERNIGHT MAIL

Courtney Avery  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62761

**RECEIVED**

NOV 26 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Re: Project 14-043

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing to confirm that the delay in the second public hearing will not result in a deferral of the above referenced project from the December 16, 2014 agenda. The applicants did not think a second hearing was warranted in the first place, as the Health Facilities & Review Board's ("HFSRB") public participation process provides ample opportunity for people to be heard in support or opposition of any project. In addition, those present at the first hearing who could not speak (both pro and con) were all able to submit written comment into the public hearing transcript. However, we understand some vocal individuals demanded a second hearing, and while feeling it unnecessary the Hospital certainly has no objection to it.

The second public hearing was scheduled by HFSRB in East St. Louis. The Hospital believes that East St. Louis is a good venue for the second public hearing, since it is an area currently served by St. Elizabeth's Hospital, and one the Hospital will be closer to if the replacement hospital is approved. In fact, the St. Clair County Health Department noted it as a community of concern with respect to any impact the move might have. (The Hospital addressed those concerns in a written response and a subsequent meeting with Mr. Hutchinson of the Health Department.) You advised the Hospital that some people objected to the public hearing taking place in East St. Louis due to safety concerns. As you know, I have attended a number of HFSRB sponsored public hearings in East St. Louis, some of which you were hearing officer at, and never found safety to be an issue or concern. However, the Hospital certainly respects HFSRB's position in light of the objections expressed and the situation impacting the area as a result of the Ferguson, Missouri controversy.

With this said, we are pleased that the cancellation and resulting delay in the second public hearing will not result in a deferral from the Board's December agenda.

U.S. practice conducted through McDermott Will & Emery LLP.

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As always, thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
Clare Connor Ranalli

cc: Susan Beeler