

Reference number #14-043  
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DEC 1 1 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

December 2104

14-043

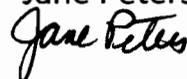
Dear Mr. Constantino,

I am opposed to the move of St. Elizabeth's from downtown Belleville. This past summer a Christian organization that I am involved with, set up a feeding schedule with local churches to feed 220 children every day of this summer from June 2<sup>nd</sup> to August 13<sup>th</sup>. We went to the Belleville School District 118 and 119 principals and asked them to give us twenty of their neediest children. I guarantee you that the list could have been longer but the churches could only do so much. If you look at the map of these schools, St. Elizabeth's is pretty much in the center of these schools. The poverty level for these schools combined is 68% for 2014. So if you move to O' Fallon, **how do families who cannot even afford to feed their children lunch, pay the extra money to drive to O'Fallon.**

The second reason I am opposed to the move is the church I attend Union United Methodist church at 721 East Main St., about 13 blocks from St. Elizabeth's, voted 15 years ago to **remain** a downtown church to help out the needy people of Belleville. We give out 108 free lunches per week to needy people, host Beacon meetings which include a meal twice a month to help with daily issues. We have G.A and A.A meetings, among other programs , to help support the community. Our church has undergone a renovation that cost us a lot more money than building a new church would have cost, but we know **what** God has called us to do as a church. **We are to be His hands and feet** . We thought you had the same calling. **Your own mission statement from the The sisters of St. Francis says that they "are particularly committed to serving the sick, the aged , the poor and the terminally ill.** Why are you not honoring your very own mission statement? The word Saint means "one officially recognized as preeminent for holiness"- Holiness means- "**commanding absolute devotion**". Your action of walking away from the needy is not commanding absolute devotion. **Saint** is a word you are using very loosely.

Sincerely,

Jane Peters



I was going to present this letter at the public hearing but it changed dates too many times and I couldn't make the last time. I did attend the first one but was not allowed to speak.

*Attached : map of Belleville schools poverty level.*

