

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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**APR 27 2015**

**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

*Robert Eastern III*  
President Pro-Tem

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*Emeka Jackson-Hicks*

*LaToya Greenwood*

April 20, 2015

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

RE: St. Elizabeth Hospital Project Number 14-043

Dear Ms. Avery:

As Mayor-Elect of the City of East St. Louis, the proposed relocation of St. Elizabeth Hospital from downtown Belleville to O'Fallon is very concerning. Access to healthcare for residents of East St. Louis is already challenging. This move would make an even greater challenge for our citizens. As you are aware, public transportation from East St. Louis to O'Fallon is a much longer commute than it is to Belleville. It requires our citizens to make transfers, which will discourage travel to O'Fallon via bus routes. Our residents deserve a much greater access to healthcare, as well as access to employment opportunities, and exposure to health careers. The proposed project does not appear to further any of these goals.

The City of East St. Louis has registered its opposition to this project. As Mayor-Elect, I am in full support of the agreement.

Sincerely,

*Emeka Jackson-Hicks*

Emeka Jackson-Hicks  
Councilwoman  
City of East St. Louis