

Courtney Avery, Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Renew Board

525 W Jefferson 2nd Floor

Springfield, IL 62761

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Dear Ms. Avery

I am an employee OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center, and I wanted to tell you my side of the argument about Rockford Memorial Hospital plan to leave the west side of Rockford and build in the same neighborhood as St Anthony Medical Center.

My Job at St. Anthony is that of a Chaplain. I am a Catholic Deacon in St Bernadette's parish. By the way we are located right across the street from Rockford Memorial. I and my family have use this hospital for 40 years. These last nine years have been at OSF being as I have been employed there for that long.

My concern is not only for my family but all of the citizens of the West side of Rockford and the communities around the west side of Rockford. I make the trip across town each day to work. It takes 25 minutes. If I went on to the location that Rockford has selected to build a new Hospital on you can add another 10 to 15 minutes to this trip. It's a long way to go with a critical patient on board.

There a lot of Westside's who count on that hospital right now on the west side of town and in the country around Rockford. If Rockford moves where can we find Emergency Medical help in a timely way?

You see, I do not believe that Rockford Memorial will have an Emergency Department in its present location in the west side of Rockford. Who would have duplicate equipment in two locations?

The only reason for Rockford Memorial building a new 400 Million Dollar facility next to I-90 is to be in position to receive a large share of the business from traffic accidents. It hardly seems like any other reason would make sense. You might say they are closer to the road that leads to their owners in Janesville, but 400 million dollars is a lot of money for that purpose.

This letter is in protest of all West siders of Rockford, all my neighbors around Rockford Memorial including my fellow worshippers at St. Bernadette's Church. For fifty years we have counted on that hospital being there. Now we are being asked to drive 40 minutes across town for treatment. This should not be allowed to happen.

Thank You for your attention to my letter.

Deacon Richard Gerdeman

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