Donna L. Cameli
10551 Pentagon Drive
Orland Park, IL 60467

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FEB 05 2016
HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

February 3, 2016

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Department of Public Health
525 West Jefferson 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Dear Ms. Avery,

This letter is being filed to protest the approval of Project #16-001 which was a request filed by The St. George Corporation and Palos Community Hospital seeking to modernize/expand an existing office building located at 15300 West Avenue in Orland Park.

What is **not** detailed in this plan is the parties' intent to close Palos Health & Fitness Center which is part of this land parcel. Enclosed is a copy of a letter detailing the closing of the Center that was sent to the membership.

As a current member of the Palos Health & Fitness Center, I joined the Center to specifically participate in the Multiple Sclerosis Fitness program. It is well known in the MS community and one of the largest fitness and support groups for MS in the Chicagoland area. There is not another facility in the Chicagoland area that can accommodate the special needs of our exercise group, so attending another Health Club in the area is not a viable option for many of us in this program. The oversized locker room space accommodates the needs of those of us who are using walkers, scooters and canes. The warm water pools enable us to perform the MS Aqua exercise program that we could not do in other pools. These exercise programs keep us active physically and socially and are a valuable way for us all to move forward.

I am not opposed to the St. George Corporation and Palos Community Hospital expanding and modernizing the medical offices in this area, but isn't there a way to do this without tearing down this valuable facility?

As part of the community that Palos Community Hospital serves, I am asking that the preservation of this Health Club be part of any modernization/expansion plans going forward.

Sincerely,

Donna L. Cameli

Palos Health & Fitness Center

January 15, 2016

Dear Member:

After more than 15 years of service, the Palos Health and Fitness Center has made the difficult decision to close effective May 1, 2016. The decision is part of Palos Community Hospital's recently announced plans for the redevelopment and expansion of its South Campus in Orland Park to include the construction of a new medical office building and enhanced diagnostic and treatment services to better serve the health care needs of the residents of the Southwest suburbs. So while the fitness center is closing, we remain committed to the care you and your family need today, and far into the future.

We know that your health is important to you, and we have arranged special offers for our members to transfer to one of the following fitness centers:

- **Moraine Valley Community College Health, Fitness and Recreation Center**
  9000 South College Parkway, Building H, Palos Hills, IL
  www.morainevalley.edu/fitrec

- **Orland Park Sportsplex**
  11351 W. 159th Street, Orland Park, IL
  www.orland-park.il.us

All you need to do is bring your current membership card to the facility. Should you choose to become a member, each center will have a special offer available to you. More information will be provided over the next two weeks.

Your last membership billing with Palos Health and Fitness Center will occur on April 5, 2016 as is typical, for your use of the Center through April 30, 2016. Also know that if you have any remaining prepaid funds or gift cards on your membership, we will mail a refund check of the remaining balance no later than June 31, 2016. Please note that prior to issuing a refund for gift cards, the cards must be brought to the member service desk at the center to confirm the remaining balance.

We thank you for your patronage. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with representatives who will be on hand at the fitness center.

Sincerely,

Erik Carpenter
Center Director
Palos Health & Fitness Center

Tim Brosnan
Vice President, Planning and Community Relations
Palos Community Hospital

February 2, 2016

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Department of Public Health
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

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Re: Opposition to the Proposed Palos Hospital
South Campus Expansion

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am finding it very difficult to figure out why Palos Community Hospital would want to get rid of a vibrant health club such as Palos Health & Fitness Center. Nowhere, in documents that I've seen, is there any mention of this facility. Yet, it's standing right there in the path of their so called progress. They are willing to tear down a perfectly good building that has 4000 members just so they can make more money.

I have been a member of the MS Aquatics Program at Palos Health & Fitness Center (PHFC) since the program began in October of 2002. I have seen this program grow from the original five members to 38 paid members as of this date. That doesn't include all the people who have come and gone over the years but continue to stay in touch with us.

The members of our class range in age from late 30's to early 70's with various degrees of disability. Our main goal in coming to this facility is to maintain as much independence as possible and to be with others who know exactly what we are up against on a daily basis. That is why the announcement of the closing has hit us so very hard.

Palos Hospital has said that they have arranged to have other health clubs in the area absorb their members. While that's fine for "normal" members, that is not the case for the MS class or those who depend on the warm therapy pool. For those with Arthritis or joint replacements, the closest warm therapy pools are located in Bourbonnais, Chicago Heights and Downers Grove. The seniors aren't going to travel that far, and they shouldn't, when they have a beautiful facility right in their back yard.

I have been trying to find a new facility for the MS class. I am not having much luck. The problem with these other facilities is they aren't PHFC. This facility was made **specifically** to integrate medical conditions with wellness. That's why the locker rooms are big enough for people with walkers, wheelchairs and scooters to move around. Showers that have benches and hand rails for those who can't stand for any length of time. Classes geared for those with MS, Parkinson's, and Arthritis. All of these are offered at no additional cost. The places they are suggesting either don't have a pool (Orland Park's Sportsplex) or would consider offering an aqua program for MS at an additional fee (Moraine Valley Community College).

Another problem that the MS class has to deal with is heat. We are all very heat sensitive. If the water is too warm (over 83 degrees) or the air temperature in the pool area is too warm, we have a very

difficult time functioning. We might be able to get into the pool, it's another thing getting out of the pool.

What is also a valuable asset at PHFC are the exercise machines. If, for some reason we're unable to be in the water, usually an open sore on lower extremities, we can work out on the machines. This is all included in our membership fee.

Over the years we were able to expand the Handicap Parking because of the amount of need at PHFC. This was all done with the help of Palos Hospital. That is why I don't understand why it has to be this facility. I'm sure they have other sites in which to build their new offices. They really have no idea what they're doing to the people who depend on PHFC for their wellness.

I hope and pray that this is not a done deal.

Sincerely,

Anne M. Matty

Anne M. Matty
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