DISTRICT OFFICE
5144 W. 95TH STREET
OAK LAWN, IL 60453
708.425.0571
708.425.0642 FAX

KELLY BURKE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
36TH DISTRICT

CAPITOL OFFICE
246-W STRATTON OFFICE BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62706
217.782.0515
217.558.4553 FAX

16-001

RECEIVED
FEB 10 2016
HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

February 8, 2016

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing regarding Palos Community Hospital's proposed "expansion/construction" of a new ambulatory office building in Orland Park.

It has come to my attention that the existing health and wellness center operation by Palos at the site will be demolished to make room for the newly proposed office building. Many local residents utilize this unique facility and are very upset that the fitness center is going to be closed. As such, I urge Palos Community Hospital to reconsider its decision to close the fitness center. If the existing fitness center cannot be preserved as part of the expansion plan, I urge the Board to recommend that Palos include a similar fitness center in the new facility.

Sincerely,

Kelly Burke

Kelly Burke
State Representative – 36th District

cc: Timothy Brosnan
Palos Community Hospital

RECYCLED PAPER • SOYBEAN INKS

Phyllis L. Howicz, RN
Joseph P. Howicz, MPH
15005 Avenida del Este
Orland Park, Illinois 60462

February 7, 2016

RECEIVED
FEB 10 2016
HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Board

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

Regarding:

Project 16-001, the Palos Community Hospital proposal to modernize and expand existing medical office buildings in Orland Park, called the South Campus Outpatient Complex (hereinafter called the SCMOB Project).

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We wish thank this honorable board for promoting cost containment, preventing unnecessary construction or modification of health care facilities and assuring the availability of quality health facilities, services, and equipment in Illinois.

As health professionals and citizens of Orland Park, Illinois who are attempting to recover from a variety of chronic illnesses, **we oppose the SCMOB Project**.

The closing and demolition of the Palos Health and Fitness Center, an integral part of the SCMOB Project, **without provision to continue the Center's several programs relating to Multiple Sclerosis, is inimical to the Board's objectives**. The Fitness Center provides specialized MS aquatic exercise therapies while promoting socialization and motivation skills. **There are no similar or comparable programs in the south Chicago metropolitan area.**

In addition, patients suffering from arthritis and related mobility problems are able to benefit from the Center's targeted aquatic exercise **therapies in a suitable warm pool**. Such pools must be maintained within certain temperature limits, **different from lap, whirlpool, or hot tub pools. There are no other suitable warm pools located in the south Chicago metropolitan area.**

The **Palos Health and Fitness Center is the only Certified Medical Fitness Facility in the south Chicago metropolitan area** according to the Medical Fitness Association. The facility provides numerous certified fitness maintenance and medical recovery programs. The Center and its employees and associates have even been cited by the Orland Park Fire Department for rescuing patients in cardiac arrest. The **Center's programs and services are a necessary part of comprehensive health care for many patients.**

We use the Center's exercise equipment and track as a part of our attempt to recover from several chronic conditions. These include knee replacements, left ventricular failure and related cardiac conditions, osteopenia and arthritis. It will be difficult for us to replace the facilities and services currently provided by the Palos Health and Fitness Center.

The proposed SCMOB is unlikely to address an unmet medical need of the community. Additional cancer and outpatient treatment facilities would be redundant because there will be a large new University of Chicago outpatient facility within 1.5 miles, and Advocate Christ hospital is located within approximately 10 miles (with numerous nearby ancillary outpatient treatment and surgery facilities). In addition the Pronger-Smith outpatient and surgery center and the Alpha-med treatment center are within three miles. Silver Cross Hospital of New Lennox Illinois is within 8 miles.

For the above reasons, we request that the Board deny Palos Hospital's application to construct the proposed SCMOB.

Sincerely,

Phyllis L. Howicz

Phyllis L. Howicz

Joseph P. Howicz

Joseph P. Howicz

February 7, 2016

RECEIVED

FEB 10 2016

HEALTH FACILITIES & SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Ms. Kathryn J. Olson, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson St – 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Ms. Olson, I am writing you regarding the South Campus expansion of Palos Hospital in Orland Park, Illinois. Project # 16-001. I strongly oppose this plan. I have no objection with the North Campus plan but the South Campus plan calls for the demolition of the current Palos Health and Fitness Center. The purpose for the demolition is to build a parking lot. This is totally unacceptable. Shame on Palos Hospital for not even mentioning this in their proposal. They intentionally left this out in hopes nobody would find out prior to the hearings. How deceitful.

My wife, Mary Ellen, and I joined the club three years ago because two key factors: (1) it is the only pool in the south suburbs that offer a variety of classes for those with special needs. Examples of this include the following:

- Multiple Sclerosis
- Heart condition
- Arthritis
- Special Olympics Swim Team

My wife has a condition much like MS. It is impossible for her to do land exercises because she uses a walker to walk as she cannot maintain her balance. Without her walker she would fall. Being in water provides her the support she needs to maintain her balance and can perform most of the water exercises. She needs a pool that is at 80 to 84 degrees. This is a necessity for MS patients because their symptoms are exaggerated if the temperature falls below or above this range.

The MS group meets three times a week. On Mondays they do MS yoga for an hour and on Wednesdays and Fridays they do their MS water aerobics for 45 minutes. These classes are a Godsend for my wife as they stretch her muscles. One of the other effects of MS is muscle cramping.

There are 25 people in this group. The Palos Health and Fitness Center is a matter of life and death for the MS group and others. Where are they to go if the center is torn down? Palos Hospital suggested they go to Sportsplex in Orland Park. The Sportsplex doesn't even have a pool. How nutty is that?

On the business side of this why does Palos Hospital need to build another cancer treatment facility when there is one right across the street from the hospital? They also just opened a center in the current South Campus building. See the page.

I hope you do the right thing and reject this proposal. Please don't let the words to Joni Mitchell's song, "Big Yellow Taxi" become a reality.

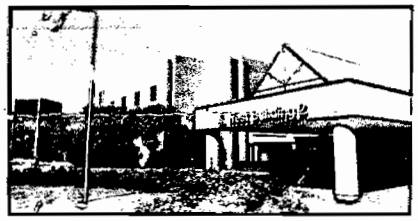
"Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you've got
'Til it's gone
They paved paradise
And put up a parking lot".

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Smolinski Jr.

Joseph J. Smolinski Jr.

RENOWNED CANCER CARE CLOSE TO HOME



Loyola Center for Cancer Care & Research opens at Palos Community Hospital's South Campus in Orland Park

Being diagnosed with cancer is a frightening ordeal that can significantly impact every aspect of someone's life. With the recent opening of the new Loyola Center for Cancer Care & Research at Palos Community Hospital, cancer patients receive academic level care close to home in the southwest suburbs.

At the new infusion center, located on Palos' south campus at the Palos Primary Care Center, 15300 West Ave. in Orland Park, Loyola medical oncologists and specially trained oncology infusion nurses administer chemotherapy. Depending on the patient, chemotherapy is used to control the spread of cancer; cure cancer; destroy cancer cells that remain after surgery; reduce cancer symptoms or shrink a tumor before surgery.

" These new treatments potentially can reduce side effects, prolong remissions, and in some cases cure cancers."

As an academic medical center, Loyola can offer patients the opportunity to enroll in clinical trials of experimental new drugs not available at most hospitals. "These new treatments potentially can reduce side effects, prolong remissions, and in some cases cure cancers," says Patrick Stiff, M.D., director of Loyola's Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Center.

The 10,000-square-foot cancer center is part of an innovative affiliation between Loyola and Palos that provides patients with a team approach to their care. They receive greater access to Loyola's renowned specialty care services, such as oncology and neurosciences, while ensuring continued access to Palos' primary care network.

Palos and Loyola were recently recognized with an Outstanding Achievement Award from the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons. The hospitals are two of only five health care facilities in Illinois and 75 in the U.S. with accredited cancer programs to receive the national honor for 2014. The purpose of the award is to raise the bar on quality cancer care, with the ultimate goal of increasing awareness about quality care choices among cancer patients and their loved ones.

February 6, 2016

12400 Countryview Lane

Homer Glen, IL. 60491

Ms.Courtney Avery, Administrator

Illinois Dept. of Public Health

525 W. Jefferson 2nd Floor

Springfield, IL. 62761

Re: Opposed to Palos Hospital South Expansion

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am a Registered Nurse who has recently completed her Doctoral Studies. I am opposed to the Palos Hospital South Expansion which will close Palos Health and Fitness. Being a registered nurse I see that Palos Health and Fitness has helped thousands of members who have ailments cope with their disabilities and restore active life styles. I will give you some examples. A colleague of ours has had numerous surgeries to correct neurological deficits. He is having prescribed exercises in the therapy pool and at the club under the supervision of licensed therapists who oversee his recovery.

The other patients who come, have completed their cardiac or pulmonary rehab programs and continue their exercises under the guidance and direction of trained exercise therapists who ensure that the weights and exercises are appropriate for their conditions.

Another friend is a Gulf War Vet. He has made much recovery after the war, and he finally has found peace through the Tai Chi classes offered at the club. This is an activity in which we both participate and have found a connection that has helped our relationship.

We cannot overlook the many psychological connections that have been made. There are widows, widowers, retirees, policeman, firefighters, many women and men with arthritis, Parkinson's, and

multiple sclerosis who cannot find the therapy received at Palos Health and Fitness. It would be a real disservice to the community if this wonderful facility would close.

I would be more than happy to speak to the issue, but do work full time as an advance practice nurse. Palos certainly would continue to benefit by the referrals from tertiary care facilities.

Sincerely,

Shirley Ambutas, DNP, APN, RN

708-446-8806

Wanda M. Hynes
15820 Centennial Dr
Orland Park, IL 60462

Ms. Cuery,

I strongly oppose the Palos Hospital North Campus expansion.

I've belonged to the Health Club for 10 years and over that time my health has improved so much from the Classes I'm taking. Balance, movement and my last Dex test shows a great deal of improvement in my bones.

What they suggest we join are gyms offering basketball, rock climbing and etc. No Health Classes.

Thank you for any support you can give us.

Wanda Hynes

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FEB 10 2016

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

JMJ

2-7-16

Dear Ms Courtney Avery, administrator.
Will you please help us. We are
opposed to Palos Hospital South Campus
Expansion. I am 90 yrs old & have
been in the Pulmonary Rehab at
Palos Health + Fitness Center for years.
The therapists have done wonders
for my lungs. My MD is pleased with
the help I am getting there, there isn't
another place like it, please use
your influence to let have this
facility open. It helps my attitude
back too.

Sincerely,
Carol Krueger
8864 Hillside Dr
Hickory Hills, IL.
60457
1 708 598 6884

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
IL. DEPT. OF PUBLIC HEALTH
525 W. Jefferson (2nd Floor)
Springfield, IL 62761

OPPOSED TO PALOS HOSPITAL SOUTH CAMPUS EXPANSION.

Thirteen years ago my husband and I were introduced to PALOS HEALTH AND FITNESS CENTER in Orland Park, IL. Although we've belonged to other health clubs, this club had everything two retired teachers needed. The facilities were beyond anything we had experienced before.

Since retiring from teaching, both of us made it our goal to attain better health. Because of the facilities at Palos and a sensible eating program, I was able to lose fifty pounds. Both my husband and I use all of the facilities at Palos, but we especially like the availability of a therapy pool. Within this year, I was diagnosed by an orthopedic doctor with sciatic issues. I was able to get competent and thorough therapy at Palos using both of their land equipment and the therapy pool. The therapists who worked with me were extremely helpful and being able to get this help at the club we belong to was so convenient for a senior citizen.

We sincerely feel that Palos Health and Fitness Center has been an incredible help to people in our age category. We have personally met so many seniors who have benefitted substantially from the services at this club. We are hoping that this facility will be kept open for people such as ourselves.

Thanking you for your consideration in this matter,

Linda and David Wood
P.O. Box 566
Midlothian, IL 60445

Feb 8
2016

Courtney Avery, Administrator

I greatly oppose the Closing of the Chicago Heights St. James Hosp.

There publications originally said they ~~wont~~ would keep out patient service, now they have taken even that out of their prochures.

We feel that we are being railroaded by the greed of a handfull.

One of the sad senior citizens. Edna M. Mullen
3517 Carpenter
Steger, Il. 60475

4 Cobblestone Ct Apt 4C
Palos Hills, IL 60465-2492
February 7, 2016

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

Re: Opposed to Palos Community Hospital South Campus Expansion

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing to express my extreme opposition to the proposed expansion of the Palos Community Hospital south campus in Orland Park, Illinois. I do not have an issue with the Hospital wanting to build a new cancer treatment center. However, I am greatly opposed to the fact that Palos Community Hospital wants to demolish the existing Palos Health and Fitness Center located on their Orland Park campus to build a new cancer treatment center in its place.

I am 56 years of age and a current member at the Palos Health and Fitness Center (PHFC). After researching many fitness facilities located in the southwest suburbs of Chicago, I chose to join PHFC specifically because of its affiliation with Palos Community Hospital. PHFC is unique in the therapeutic options available to an older clientele. But, even more importantly is the knowledgeable staff at PHFC that is fully prepared to work with the special health and fitness needs of an older generation.

I can't help but feel that with a decision to close and destroy the Palos Health and Fitness Center, Palos Community Hospital is choosing to abandon their current clients who are trying to preserve their good health, in favor of pursuing greater profits from treating people who are already sick. This is totally counterproductive to the long term health and wellbeing of senior citizens in the southwest suburban area.

The South Chicago area already has other choices of cancer treatment centers (none of which actually cure cancer, but that's another story). There is only one Palos Health and Fitness Center and it would be a great tragedy for my generation to lose it.

Sincerely,

Mary Anne Dyrda

Mary Anne Dyrda

Elizabeth Buckley
13716 Mary Drive
Orland Park, IL 60462

February 6, 2015

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

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing regarding the decision to close Palos Health and Fitness in Orland Park. I have been a member for almost six years. I am so disappointed that the club will be torn down to build parking and a cancer center. The location of this health club is not the only space in Orland Park that can accommodate the needs of Palos Hospital. This health club is the home of so many people, some in good health, and many who deal with chronic illness that rely on this center. It saddens me to think that the decision was made to tear down a place that promotes wellness to build yet another facility to treat cancer.

I exercise at this club six or seven days a week. I have osteoporosis and exercise is so important so this disease doesn't progress. I look forward to my exercise because Palos offers many classes with great instructors at times that fit into my schedule. The club is clean and the staff all friendly. It is everything about Palos that contributes to my health and what I do to maintain it. I don't think I would find this anywhere else.

Additionally, I work for an outpatient diagnostic center in the area. Because of all of the hospitals and outpatient centers within 15 miles of Orland Park, our business has suffered. There are so many choices when a doctor orders a diagnostic procedure. Choices are good to have, but to simply flood this area with yet two more is concerning. Isn't unemployment high enough? My hours are cut already, and with University of Chicago and now Loyola/Palos building, I truly fear for what is coming.

Vice President Biden was recently tasked with heading the battle to fight cancer. Instead of just treating cancer, perhaps there should be more focus on preventing. Tearing down Palos Health and Fitness doesn't seem like a good place to start. Come on out to the club, I'll get you a guest pass and you can see what will be lost. This is a special place with good, special people. A lot of them. Please don't let this happen.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Buckley

February 6, 2016

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

RE: Opposed to Palos Hospital South Campus Expansion

Dear Ms. Avery:

I write this letter in reference to the unfortunate circumstances surrounding the pending closure of the Palos Heights Fitness Center.

We want to expand the awareness of what this facility provides in unique services for the community and beyond.

My contribution to this is to tell you that I have been a member for many years. The facility is convenient, clean, has a staff beyond compare, not to mention all the equipment, pool, steam room, and classes specific to senior needs. The on site cafeteria serves the nutritional needs of the young and old, while providing a space to have extended visits with our friends.

I am one of many who suffers with Parkinson's Disease. This facility and the class that is specifically for PD individuals has given me hope, maintains my flexibility, balance and gait. The participants in this class, learn together, lean on each other for support, share ideas and have become fast friends.

The Friday instructor really gives a full work out, and pays specific attention to each class member. He provides humor, in site, updates on PD, tips and instructional Cd's.

There are no other facilities in this region that takes seriously our needs, young or old. I am ninety years young and truthfully say what I have gained through this facility has made my golden years much more productive and safe.

Please take our concerns very seriously. We need this facility.

Best Regards,
Ara K. Pridjian
Ara K. Pridjian

4 Cobblestone Ct Apt 4C
Palos Hills, IL 60465-2492
February 7, 2016

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

Re: Opposed to Palos Community Hospital South Campus Expansion

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing to express my extreme opposition to the proposed expansion of the Palos Community Hospital south campus in Orland Park, Illinois. I do not have an issue with the Hospital wanting to build a new cancer treatment center. However, I am greatly opposed to the fact that Palos Community Hospital wants to demolish the existing Palos Health and Fitness Center located on their Orland Park campus to build a new cancer treatment center in its place.

I am 61 years of age and a current member at the Palos Health and Fitness Center (PHFC). After researching many fitness facilities located in the southwest suburbs of Chicago, I chose to join PHFC specifically because of its affiliation with Palos Community Hospital. PHFC is unique in the therapeutic options available to an older clientele. But, even more importantly is the knowledgeable staff at PHFC that is fully prepared to work with the special health and fitness needs of an older generation.

I can't help but feel that with a decision to close and destroy the Palos Health and Fitness Center, Palos Community Hospital is choosing to abandon their current clients who are trying to preserve their good health, in favor of pursuing greater profits from treating people who are already sick. This is totally counterproductive to the long term health and wellbeing of senior citizens in the southwest suburban area.

The South Chicago area already has other choices of cancer treatment centers (none of which actually cure cancer, but that's another story). There is only one Palos Health and Fitness Center and it would be a great tragedy for my generation to lose it.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Dyrda

Feb 6 - 2016

Opposed to Palos Hospital
South Campus Expansion

Palos Health Facilities has been a special part of my life. I have been a member for 7 yrs & feel my general health has been maintained with my emotional state has been less anxiety & able to do my job with less stress. I have seen many members with physical disabilities who will not feel another facility for their needs. There is surrounding land to use - for Expansion - another Plan should be considered.

Diane Bonchak

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

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing to you to EMPHATICALLY oppose the demolition of the Palos Health and Fitness Center in Orland Park, IL for the proposed expansion of the Palos Hospital cancer center PARKING building! Countless people, including retirees and many people with health concerns, rely on the Palos Health and Fitness Center to aid in therapy and wellness for existing conditions or the prevention of any serious concerns. Taking this excellent facility away from these people will definitely NOT aid in their wellness regimen.

As a retired teacher on medication for hypertension and cholesterol, I have found the Palos Health and Wellness Center to be optimal in achieving my better health. Since joining I have lost weight, lowered my blood pressure and cholesterol levels to those of a healthy athlete, and find that the regimen that I have is totally to my benefit. I have arthritis as well and use the weight machines and walking track regularly to maintain a healthy lifestyle. I also find that the various pool facilities are beneficial for arthritic therapy. Demolishing all that is useful for my health and wellness, as well as the health and wellness of others who have more major health concerns, seems totally counteractive to the whole idea of keeping health costs down in our state and nation.

I rely on the Palos Health and Fitness Center to maintain my current and future wellness. I am single with no immediate family and find that the health routine that I have there keeps me from such other health issues as Type 2 Diabetes. Removing this facility from our community is a major step backwards, and I say "shame on those responsible" for considering this. There is plenty of land available in the immediate area if a parking building is indeed needed for the cancer victims.

Keeping the members of the Palos Health and Fitness Center active and healthy should be the priority here, not the parking of cars.

Sincerely,
Nellie Hastings, member PHFC since 2008
7851 Teton Road
Orland Park, IL 60462

Nellie Hastings
2/8/16

Loretta Kunovic
14661 Laporte Avenue
Midlothian, IL. 60445

February 4, 2016

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson St. - 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

I have been emotionally upset since hearing of the closing of Palos Health and Fitness center. My husband was referred by Cardiology 7 years ago following his bypass operation. He was able to complete his rehabilitation there until he further needed the facility with his degenerative disorder. I also find relief from the therapy pool for fibromyalgia, arthritis, torn meniscus, scoliosis and degenerative joint disease.

Please appeal to keep the center open as there is nothing comparable to the therapy pool up to 6 feet to allow spinal stretches and 88- 90 degree water temperature. The drain vents have been brought up to code along with the air vents allowing a warmer air temperature also around the pool. If anything, they should be building more therapy pools not tearing the only one like it down. The steam and saunas also help me with my condition in addition to the newly acquired equipment.

I would think with some redesigning that all could be satisfied. A beneficial operation should not be shut down but rather complemented and further patronized with the integration of facilities. For many, we have become a family assisting others with their special needs. This is also what other facilities don't do.

Sincerely,

Loretta Kunovic, member

Palos Health and Fitness Center

Cc: Senator Bill Cunningham, Mayor McLaughlin, Lisa Madigan

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator February 5, 2016

Illinois Department of Public Health

525 West Jefferson- 2nd Floor

Springfield, IL 62761

Re: "Opposed to Palos Hospital South Campus Expansion".

Dear Ms. Avery,

I have been a member of the Palos Health Center for over 10 years. Previously I belonged to two other clubs but I never felt comfortable with them. One club was more for people to work out and to be seen and the other took your money but had no interest in your well being. When I joined the Palos Club I saw that it was clean and offered a variety of activities for a woman of my age. Inscribed over the entrance to the exercise floor are the words, "exercise is the best medicine". These words have inspired me to continue working out at this facility. When my doctor told me I would need a knee replacement I refused and with his approval I decided to do water exercises to strengthen my legs. I have also utilized the center's rehab department to show me "out of the water" ways to take care of my knee.

As a "baby boomer" I am there at the center with others of my age group, all of us trying to stay healthy and active as not to become a medical burden. I have arthritic friends who come every day so that they can get through their day with minimal pain. I am also so impressed with the center's program for MS patients. The facility is equipped with the necessary chairs to get them in and out of the water. What will these people do if the center closes?

I also feel that this facility has provided a certain amount of mental health. People have developed many friendships here; friendships that may have not developed had it not been for the comfortable and safe atmosphere that is found here.

Why does this center have to be closed and torn down? Why can't the hospital find a way to incorporate the center with their new plans? If this could be done then it certainly would be a wonderful asset to our community and to the surrounding area.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Kate Scarpelli

Orland Park, Illinois

Amy Andereck Goebel

12408 S Hobart

Palos Park, IL 60464

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator

Illinois Department of Public Health

525 West Jefferson, 2nd floor

Springfield, Il 62761

February 7, 2016

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing to express my displeasure with the proposed Palos Hospital South Campus Expansion planned for Orland Park. This plan involves demolition of the current Palos Health and Fitness Center where I my husband and I have been members for over ten years.

We regularly use the Health and Fitness Center for both cardio and strengthening exercises. Over the past ten years we have participated in many of the programs and classes at the Health and Fitness Center because of specific recommendations made by our physicians.

We chose Palos Health and Fitness because it is a medically affiliated facility where the emphasis is on achieving and maintaining good health, and its convenient location makes it easy to have exercise as part of our lives. The pools, both exercise/lap and warm water therapy, walking track, equipment, classes, and spa are all vital to our good health. There are no other conveniently located fitness facilities in our area where there is a medical affiliation.

Please consider the negative impact demolition of the Palos Health and Fitness Center would have on people in the Palos/Orland area.

Thank you,

Amy Andereck Goebel

February 8. 2016

Ms. Courtney Avery Administrator

Illinois Department of Public Health

525 West Jefferson-2nds floor

Springfield Il 62761

Re: Palos Hospital South Campus Expansion

Dear Ms. Avery:

I have been a member of the Palos Health and Fitness Center for eight years since I moved to Orland Park. The facility is approximately two miles from where I live and accommodates residents in the area and surrounding areas. The closeness of this facility encourages me to exercise frequently. The facility provides excellent health benefits for the residents especially those with disabilities.

With the closing of the facility, members are left with finding facilities that offer the same classes as that of Palos Health and Fitness Center. Unfortunately there are no other facilities that accommodate the type of classes that Palos offers, including both the lap and therapy pools.

Other facilities are very crowded with their own members and now need to take the influx of people from Palos. Putting on extra classes or hiring more fitness instructors may not be a viable option.

I am not entirely opposed to the expansion of Palos Hospital south Campus. There is plenty of land for building sites, for example the Andrew's Corporation on 153rd street ,without tearing down the Fitness Center, The proposed expanded building will be located in a residential area, the traffic flow will have an impact on the already crowded streets. LaGrange Road traffic is now coming into the area avoiding construction areas.

Please consider what the expansion will do to the residential area and the members of the facility that need the special services that Palos currently offers.

Sincerely,

Lynn Canterbury

15719 Ravinia Ave 1E

Orland Park Il 60462

Ms. Courtney Avery

Administer Illinois Public Health

525 W Jefferson 2nd Floor

Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Courtney,

My name is Mary Beth Stoffregen and I am writing to you about the closing of Palos Health and Fitness Center in Orland Park, IL. Palos Hospital wants to demolish the center to build an underground parking lot and office buildings.

I have been living with Multiple Sclerosis for 15 years. Multiple Sclerosis is a progressive disease that affects people in different ways. Mine has affected my ability to walk. I have gone from an active adult, to walking with a cane and AFO, to a walker to having to use a motorized scooter.

Although I have always had love and support from my family and friends there have been times when I felt very isolated in my disease.

That was until I started attending the Multiple Sclerosis fitness program at Palos Health and Fitness. Using chair yoga and pool exercises the center's instructors work on our core muscles and balance. I am able to do exercises in the water that I would never attempt to do on land because there is no fear of falling. I have gained strengths and balance in the water that carries through on land. More important the group has given me the emotional support I need.

The center has approximately 4000 members. Many who have been sent there by their physicians seeking a medically-integrated health and wellness facility. It is the only one in the area that is sufficient to the needs of the population it serves.

Palos health and Fitness has members fighting life altering diseases such as Parkinson's disease, COPD, arthritis and cancer. We are all doing the best we can to be as healthy as we can. The facility and staff make us feel welcome and safe and part of a community.

Health is about mind, body and spirit. Please don't let Palos Hospital pull the rug out from under us by destroying this beautiful lifeline to our health and well-being!

Sincerely yours,

Mary Beth Stoffregen

13753 Lincolnshire Drive

Orland Park, IL 60462 708 873-1190

February 5, 2016

Courtney Avery, Administrator

State of Illinois, Health Facilities

And Services Board

525 W. Jefferson St.

Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Courtney Avery:

This is to strongly urge you to keep the Palos Health and Fitness Center, in Orland Park, open and operational. Palos Hospital has plans to close and demolish the Center to develop more medical facilities at the same location.

I would not normally be concerned, as I live in the north suburbs, but it has come to my attention because my mother is a PHFC member. She is single, widowed, and lives independently. She manages, for now, mowing the lawn, and shoveling the drive. She has tried to maintain a healthy fitness routine to aid her independence. As an occupational therapist at a major hospital, I know the consequences of limited mobility and aging. My mother suffers with hip bursitis, and other joint pain. The pools, equipment, trained staff, instructors, and classes greatly help her. She is devastated to possibly lose this great facility.

Working in the health care field, I am well aware of the economic changes taking place. Yet, overwhelming evidence points to preventative activity, and maintaining fitness, as ways to enhance the quality of life in aging. And, as we are again reminded during February, Heart Health Awareness month, cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in the US. It only makes sense for one to stay healthy to enjoy life longer.

If the Palos Hospital actually needs to expand, choose another location. Do not let it cause the PHFC to close. The Center is greatly needed by this growing segment of the population!

Sincerely,

Maria Key

Maria Key

384 Sumac Rd.

Highland park, IL 60035

February 5, 2016

Courtney Avery, Administrator

State of Illinois, Health Facilities

And Services Review Board

525 W. Jefferson St.

Springfield, Il. 62761

Dear Courtney Avery:

This is to express my very strong opposition to the closing and demolition of the Palos Health and Fitness Center in Orland Park. Palos Hospital plans to redevelop the land for their South Campus expansion.

The Health and Fitness Center greatly enhances the quality of life for community members. It promotes overall wellness and a preventative, healthy lifestyle. It is completely counter-intuitive for a hospital/medical facility to reduce wellness opportunities. All data driven research points to fitness for healthy longevity, as well as economic stability in healthcare.

As a widow, nearing retirement, I need to maintain my independent living. Staying fit is the best chance I have of not becoming a burden to my children, or using scarce resources for future nursing care. Other fitness facilities in the area do not offer the therapeutic aquatic pool, highly trained staff, or the variety of classes and equipment for an aging population. The PHFC is needed more than ever for this growing segment of society.

Another group adversely affected by the closure would be special needs and Special Olympic athletes. These individuals benefit greatly from the use of the pool, as well as working with individual trainers. In fact, a local athlete who trained at PHFC, competed successfully in powerlifting at the S.O. USA Games, in Princeton, NJ in 2014.

Again, closing the Palos Health and Fitness Center for the Palos Hospital South Campus expansion is the wrong decision when considering the long term benefits to the quality of life for the community in this area. I urge you to select an alternate site for the Palos Hospital expansion (if truly needed), and keep PHFC open and fully operational.

Sincerely,

Claudia Petnuch

Claudia Petnuch

13240 Meadowlark Dr.

Orland Park, Il 60462

Feb 5, 2016

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

Opposed to Palos Hospital South Campus Expansion

Dear Ms Avery

I joined PHFC in April 2014. In Nov. 2014 I was told that I needed open heart surgery. I had the surgery in March 2015 and the doctors all agreed that by my going to PHFC every day prior to the surgery was why I recovered so quickly. As soon as I was cleared to go back, that is where I have been every day since.

When I heard about the closing, I started checking around. There is NO place that comes close to PHFC.

Their sign outside of the facility reads

FITNESS IS THE BEST MEDICINE

That should be what the hospital wants

Thank you for listening and I hope you can help us.

Nancy Janachowski
7121 So Oketo Ave
Bridgeview IL 60455

phone - (708) 250-1020

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

Opposed to Palos Hospital South Campus Expansion

I oppose the expansion because it will result in the demolition of the Palos Health & Fitness Center.

This center is unique to our area because the facility was designed specifically for people with disabilities. In our case, my wife has Multiple Sclerosis and participates in the MS aqua exercise program. The class members have mobility problems forcing them to use everything from canes to walkers to wheelchairs to power chairs and, in a couple of instances, an ambulance gurney. However, once they are in the pool they are able to move and exercise like they did before they had MS. My wife was able to move from her power chair to a walker thanks to the exercises she was able to do while in the aqua classes. It has helped her with muscle tone and balance by doing exercises she could not possibly do out of the water.

It's common knowledge that the Palos Health Club does not generate much profit for their parent company. Apparently, there isn't much money in preventing illnesses compared to the amount of money they could make by billing Medicare and private insurance companies for cancer treatment.

There must be a compromise somewhere. How difficult could it be to design their new cancer center around the existing health club facility? It all goes back to money…there's a lot to be made treating cancer patients but not so much helping the handicapped folks that use the Palos Health Fitness Center.

Terrence J Stoeff

Terrence J Stoeff
11601 N Brightway Dr
Mokena, IL 60448

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

Opposed to Palos Hospital South Campus Expansion

I oppose this because it will cause the demolition of the Palos Health & Fitness Center.

This center is unique because the facility is arranged for people with disabilities. There are many classes with teachers to help us at a level we can conform with.

The biggest thing is the two pools, One pool heats the water 80 degrees gets deeper from side to side (as opposed to end to end). Thus people like me with MS can walk & do exercises the length of the pool in shallower water. We get out of our wheelchairs & scooters & leave our walkers & canes behind. For awhile we can move freely.

The other pool is heated to 90 degrees & is used by people with arthritis. There are so many other people with
severe health problems. Also the locker rooms are handicapped assessable

We have investigated the other clubs & they just don't meet a handicapped persons' needs

Coleen Stoeff

Coleen Stoeff
11601 N Brightway Dr
Mokena, IL 60448

Dr. Thomas F. Stazak
Beverly A. Stazak
47 Silo Ridge Road
Orland Park, IL 60467

February 7, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery
Illinois Health Facilities and Service Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Opposition Project # 16-001

Dear Ms.Avery,

The purpose of this letter is to express my opposition to the demolishing of Palos Health and Fitness Center.
If Palos Hospital wants to build a cancer center, I am not opposed to the building of that facility.

There is however, sufficient cancer services available both at the Palos Hospital in Palos Heights and the newly built University of Chicago Center in Orland Park. In December, Palos and Loyola opened up a 10,000.00 square ft . on the campus facility. Do they REALLY need more space or more MONEY.

To demolish a building that is not by any means run down and services many of the needs of the patients and doctors of Palos Hospital is not right.

By many of the letters that you have received, you understand that this is a unique WELLNESS Center. The members of this facility would not use a typical health club. They would not have access to the services that it provides.

I am saying SHAME on Palos Hospital's CEO Dr. Terrence Moisan. They have submitted a plan which shows NO demolition of the present health care facility. Shame on filing this project so that this opposition letter many NEVER have been able to be filed.

Respectfully,

Beverly Stazak

CRAIN'S CHICAGO BUSINESS.

Print Story

Printed from ChicagoBusiness.com

Hospital proposes major overhaul of Orland Park campus

By Katherine Davis January 08, 2016

A south suburban hospital wants to overhaul its Orland Park campus, a project that would include a new medical office building and heat up competition for patients in the area.

Palos Community Hospital has asked state regulators to approve a $133 million project that would include a four-story, 107,760-square-foot building for doctors' offices and diagnostic and treatment space.

The Palos Heights-based hospital also wants to build a three-story, 16,000 square foot building to connect two existing office buildings with the new Orland Park center and a 125,000-square-foot parking garage.

Last year the University of Chicago Medicine started construction on **an outpatient facility** less than three miles away, slated to be completed by early 2017. The U of C system is much bigger, with $1.4 billion in 2014 operating revenue, compared with $340 million for Palos.

U of C Medicine also aims to lure more inpatients in the area. In November, **the system announced** that Ingalls Health System, a hospital in south suburban Harvey, would become part of Hyde Park-based U of C Medicine.

One consultant isn't sure there's enough demand in the area for so much new supply.

"This area of Illinois has received a tremendous amount of competitive attention from hospitals in the last 10 or 15 years," said James Unland, president of Chicago-based consulting firm Health Capital Group. "Are there legitimate unmet medical needs, or is this another Walmart going up three blocks from the Walmart that's already there?"

Advocate Health Care, the area's largest system, also has facilities in the area, such as Advocate Children's Hospital and Advocate South Suburban Hospital in Oak Lawn and Hazel Crest.

Palos' CEO, Dr. Terrence Moisan, said in a statement that the expansion would help improve care in areas such as cancer and neurology, specialties it gained through the **partnership it started in April with Loyola University Medical Center.**

According to Palos' application to Illinois regulators, the expansion would allow the hospital to fully develop its relationship with Loyola, which plans to put 25 doctors in Orland Park.

CANCER TREATMENT

The board, which decides the fate of health care projects in the state to prevent duplication of services, hasn't yet slated a date to vote on Palos' request. The new construction would take place on vacant land, with the hospital estimating the project would be completed in June 2019.

"A redeveloped South Campus is critical to our mission of delivering quality care where and when our patients need it," Moisan said in the statement. "The modernization project allows us to plan for the future, in terms of partnerships and health care delivery, and remain a strong part of the community."

In December, Palos and Loyola opened a 10,000-square-foot cancer center on the Orland Park campus, and they plan to continue expanding cancer treatment at the proposed facility, said Daniel Post, executive vice president of network development and system integration at Loyola.

Post said the expansion plan is not a response to U of C's outpatient center, saying Loyola has served patients in the area for decades with its Orland Park, Homer Glen and Hickory Hills locations.

U of C Medicine declined to comment.

2/7/16

To Whom It May Concern;

My name is Michael Lewis and I am a resident of the Village of Olympia Fields and also serve on the Economic Development Committee. I've lived in the Southland for over 35 years. I know well the importance that health care services means to the entire region.

We need to acknowledge that in 2016 health care is not delivered the same way it was in 1960. We need to acknowledge that the issues being raised today are universal Southland issues. Chicago Heights and Olympia Fields are and will continue to be the hubs of healthcare for the region. That's not going to change.

I support the plans being proposed by St. James. We, including the business community and our elected officials, should be committing ourselves to working with St. James on the re-development of their Chicago Heights campus, on the recruitment of more physicians to our community, and on the development of alternatives to an emergency room. St James has already started that process according to the plans that they have laid out, we should be working with them to improve access for the entire region.

Unlike many businesses in our community St. James is investing and expanding instead of leaving and withdrawing. I applaud their commitment and look forward to their future plans for our community.

Respectfully,

Michael Lewis
2551 Glen Eagles Dr.
Olympia Fields, IL. 60461

February 6, 2016

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

Subject: Opposition to Palos Hospital South Campus Expansion

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am a senior citizen with **Parkinson Disease** who belongs to the Palos Health and Fitness Center for the past 10 years. It is non-negotiable, an individual with this disease needs to exercise regularly, otherwise muscles stiffen and pain deepens.

I am **extremely disappointed** Palos Community Hospital decided to close the Health Center; I know many other seniors share my feelings. I **urge** Palos Community Hospital to reconsider the plan to close and demolish the Palos Health and Fitness Center. The facility is a **critical** resource for people with special needs, such as myself and others in my shoes.

You may say, other fitness centers or gyms exist in the Orland Park area, and that is true. The **FACT** is other facilities do NOT offer specific classes and a therapeutic pool designed for Parkinson and MS patients. This design has created an empathetic bond among members to support and connect with one another.

I feel we have been deceived by buying into Palos Hospital message about wellness and exercise for seniors. We seniors feel betrayed and cheated! Other diseases generate more money, such as cancer, than a fitness center. I have compassion for cancer patients, yet it sounds to me it's all about the **MONEY!** How about a plan to include both? ...one day you or a loved one may have special needs too!!!

I appreciate you taking corrective action today!

In Sincere Concern,

Carol West-Saele
14421 Blue Spruce Ct.
Orland Park, IL 60462
708-873-4722

February 7, 2016

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

Ms. Avery:

I am writing to oppose the closing of the #PHFC facility. I have been a member for over over 12 years. I am a senior (82 years old) with a few medical problems. My doctor recommended that I exercise, which I have been doing regularly with a variety of classes. I believe that they have been very beneficial to my health and well being. There is no other place like this facility. It provides much more than what is offered at a sports facility. The special classes are great and it would be a shame to lose them with the closing of the facilty. Ms. Avery, if it is you power, please help us to maintain the Palos Health Facility.

Sincerely,

Antonia M Fedor

Mrs. Antonia M. Fedor
14469 Creek Crossing Drive
Orland Park, IL 60467

To: Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator

Illinois Department of Public Health

From: Susan Mirabella SM

Member Palos Hospital Health and Fitness

Date: February 5, 2016

Re: Opposed to Palos Hospital South Campus Expansion

Within the last year, I was diagnosed with Stage 4 arthritis in both knees, along with torn meniscus. Surgery helped the first knee but arthritis remained an issue. After deciding to postpone surgery in the second knee and a discussion with my orthopedic doctor, I began looking for a facility that offered something to help reduce the pain I was feeling.

I joined Palos Health and Fitness because of their therapy pool. No other fitness facility had such a pool or classes that addressed the physical limitations people with arthritis have. I had belonged to a fitness center for five years before my knees deteriorated and I knew that a fitness center did not offer what I needed. Therapy pools do not exist in fitness centers and classes do not accommodate for limitations.

Since joining Palos Health and Fitness last fall, I have faithfully attended aqua classes in the therapy pool 2-3 times a week. After two months, I could feel the difference in my increased comfort during my daily activities. It has been a blessing to be able to use the pool during classes and also when I feel the need to add more time.

After April 30, I don't know what I can do to maintain my current level of comfort. I hope something can be done to keep Palos Health and Fitness from being demolished.

Susan Mirabella

Susan Mirabella

15435 Sunset Ridge Drive

Orland Park, IL 60462

(708) 349-4509