16-001

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

RECEIVED
FEB 22 2016
HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Title: Opposed to Palos Hospital South Campus Expansion

Dear Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator,

I am a member of the Palos Health and Fitness Center and like most of the members are extremely disappointed in the announced closing of this facility May 1, 2016.

I have been doing cardiac rehab and getting assessed on my progress with certified fitness experts.

I feel the administration does not realize how many people utilize this unique to the southland community, cardiac care and other areas of need for example, MS treatment and care.

Although, a cancer center that could brings jobs to the area and be a benefit to those in need, shouldn't be an either or proposition. There is plenty of land to develop a worthwhile endeavor in the Orland Park area....just west of the facility and across the road....former land vacated by Andrew Corp....land developed and all building and tear down long completed. The new facility on the Health Center site would require expensive demolition and time to build.

In addition, most members feel the Village and balance of community do not realize the full extent of care this health facility provides on a daily basis.

There are a number of Workout facilities in the area, but none that offer the treatment, care and service that Palos Health and Fitness Provides. I cannot find anything comparable.

Please consider this note as a urgent request to delay the closing while further investigation as to the services provided, the displaced members concern for their well being, and the total cost before destroying this facility.

Thank you for your consideration in health,

Michael G Manning
mikegmanning@aol.com
708-349-9161

RECEIVED 2/18/16

FEB 22 2016

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Ms. Courtnet Avery, Administrator

Illinois Dept. of Public Health

525 W. Jefferson 2nd Floor

Springfield, Il. 62761

OPPOSED TO PALOS HOSPITAL SOUTH CAMPUS EXPANSION

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am opposed to Palos Hospital South Campus Expansion. In fact, I am quite upset that they are going to tear down a facility that is bustling daily, assisting thousands of people that are trying to overcome an illness or condition so that the hospital can change their direction and open a new facility that treats cancer cases.

In February of 2015 I suffered a stroke. After surgery and a 30 day hospital stay, I was sent home. I then entered the rehab program at Palos hospital. My membership to Palos Health & Fitness Has been a Godsent. I am working out 4 times a week. I attend physical therapy that has me walking with a cane and occupational therapy that 2 weeks ago measured me for a Dyno Splint for my right arm and elbow. The prognosis of my therapists' are that in 6 months I will have my right side movement back in my arm and be able to walk without the cane. Or, is it just a mirage, that come May 1st I'll be kicked to the curb so the hospital can treat other patients.

Palos Health & Fitness is not like other Gyms or workout facilities. Well over half the attendees are Seniors working on their own personal health problems. Thousands of people in a year's time depend on this facility because there is no other facility like it.

I find it hard to believe that no other land adjacent to this property is available. I find it hard to believe that buildings are not available in the area.

Please consider the members. Do the correct thing. Find another location for the cancer project.

Sincerely,

Tom Moran

Tom Moran

February 17, 2016

RECEIVED

FEB 22 2016

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Robert Cosme
14900 Park Lane
Orland Park, IL 60462

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

RE: Opposed to Palos Hospital South Campus Expansion 16-001

Dear Mrs. Avery,

I am a stroke survivor that joined Palos Health and Fitness Center after my neighbor who was going to the fitness center for cardiac rehab recommended that I join. I have been a member for six years. Since joining the fitness center I have become more independent and my overall outlook on life has become more positive.

Palos Health and Fitness Center is the only fitness center in our community that is certified by the Medical Fitness Association a leading organization dedicated solely to medically integrated wellness and fitness facilities. I feel very comfortable going to Palos Health and Fitness Center because no one looks down on me because of my disabilities; I am not humiliated by my appearance as others are in the same boat as I am, another words I fit in.

Palos Health and Fitness Center is a completely handicap accessible facility, with chair lifts for the pools, family changing rooms that makes it possible for caregivers/spouses to aid members with showers/dressing. All washrooms, locker rooms, showers, and other areas have accessible accommodations like grab bars, and large turning areas. Others fitness centers that the hospital has recommended the members can transfer their memberships to can't accommodate our disabilities in this way.

The fitness center serves a wide range of disabled people both young and old. Autistic children train in the lap pool for Special Olympics; they offer classes for people with MS in the pool and on land, they offer classes for people with Parkinson, and modified classes for people that are disabled with illnesses such as COPD, cancer, heart disease, stroke survivors, dsytonia, osteoarthritis, and many others. No other fitness center in the area can accommodate the disabled as this fitness center has, nor are they willing to as many fitness centers in the area have been called to see if they would and they all said we are welcome to join the regular classes, but they did not offer modified classes for the disabled or the elderly.

Many members have the option of using their Silver Sneakers benefit at LA Fitness and Tinley Park Rec Center which would allow them to use their facilities at no cost, but they prefer to pay for membership at Palos Health and Fitness Center because of the quality of services, knowledge of staff, and because

the members are of the same breed. The facility have filled a niche for disabled people in the community, who need to exercise in order to be healthy and need the support of each other in order to overcome the challenges in life that others do not face. There is a real sense of community among the members at this center.

Closing Palos Health and Fitness center would be devastating to my physical and emotional health and well being. Please don't treat us like road kill, and recognize that you need to take care of your disabled people and senior citizens. I ask that you deny the Certificate of Need that Palos Hospital has requested.

Sincerely,

Robert Cosme (KE)

Robert Cosme

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

OPPOSED TO THE CLOSING OF PALOS HEALTH AND FITNESS CENTER

Dear Ms. Avery,

I was greatly disappointed to hear of the closing of Palos Health and Fitness Center. My husband and I have been members of the center for 12 years. My husband has kept his diabetes under control by exercising daily at the center. My speedy recovery from breast cancer was due in part to the classes I attended at PHFC.

PHFC has classes that benefit many special needs groups, such as MS, Parkinson and people suffering from arthritis and joint and muscle pain. The Special Olympics swim team also practices at the center. There is no other facility in this area that meets all our special needs.

It is disheartening to realize that the people who made this decision did not even come and ask our opinion of how this closing would affect our lives or how they might help in this transition.

It is truly a disservice to our community that they are closing this center. I guess they don't believe in the banners that they display at the center that say "Fitness is the best medicine" and "Our Passion Is Your Health".

Sincerely,

Margaret McGuire

Margaret McGuire
11671 Mark Lane
Orland Park, IL 60467

2/17/16

Opposed to Palos Hospital South Campus Expansion!

One year & a half ago I had an accident that required surgery & then therapy. Once therapy ended they recommended finding a health club with a therapy pool. Palos Health Club fit like a glove and it wasn't just the therapy pool.

In the last thirty years or so I've been to & watched at least 5 health clubs that I belonged to close. But I would just find another.

I've never felt this way about a health club like I do this one. It's like that song "you don't know what you have till it's gone, put up a parking lot."

I hope all entities involved with this tragic proposal would stop think and reconsider. It's not too late. I'm sure they could find another place in the area.

Don Brown

February 16, 2016

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

Ref: Opposed to Palos Hospital South Campus Expansion

Dear Ms. Avery,

I have been a member of PHFC for the past ten (10) years. I joined PHFC because I had severe back pain and many medications were administered to me and nothing helped. After attending weeks of therapy pool classes my back has improved and I was back to my daily functions.

Over the years, I have observed how PHFC helped many people with severe muscle diseases. The instructors for water therapy were patient and compassionate. It was nice to see people reaching out to each other and realizing that they are not alone. A lot of friendships have been developed and for some members this was their life.

Any consideration on keeping PHFC opened would be greatly appreciated. This would make a difference in many people's lives.

Respectfully,

Maureen A. Walsh

Maureen A. Walsh

February 17, 2016

Opposed to Palos Hospital South Campus Expansion

Dear Ms. Courtney Avery,

I am saddened and very upset by the impending closing of Palos Health + Fitness. I have been a member of this club for at least 10 years.

Yes, there are many other health clubs in the area but Palos Health + Fitness sets itself apart from the rest. It is a diamond in the rough! Palos Health Club is a beautiful very clean facility.

In addition, it offers a variety of exercise classes for all fitness levels. The work out rooms feature numerous advanced weight training machines. Expertly trained staff are always friendly and available for help and instruction.

For years the medical community has been telling us prevention is key. Exercise is supposedly a key component of health. Health costs are soaring, yet Palos Hospital wants to close its' neighboring health club.

Perhaps if Palos Health and Fitness were allowed to continue operation so many medical facilities would not be needed.

I feel it is truly a sin to bulldoze and knock down such a beautiful facility.

Is there no other open land in Orland Park? I'm sure there is!! - I am begging Palos Hospital to rethink their decision.

Sincerely,
Carol Hardiman

February 16, 2016

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator

Illinois Department of Public Health

525 W. Jefferson 2nd Fl.

Springfield, Il. 62761

Re: Opposed to Palos Hospital South Campus Expansion

Please be advised that I am opposed to the Palos Hospital South Expansion. I have been a member of The Palos Health and Fitness Center since December 2011. I have rheumatoid arthritis. The Palos Health and Fitness Club is the only Fitness Club in the South/ Southwest Suburban area that offers classes in a warm water therapy pool that benefits my condition. If they do as planned which is to demolish this facility, I have no other facility in this area with a warm water pool along with certified instructors who know what aerobic water exercises benefit arthritis patients. Rheumatoid arthritis patients such as myself benefit only in the warm water pools excluding lap pools. I previously attended classes at a local park district pool which was not a warm water pool. I can truly say that I have benefited much more using the warm water therapy pool with the specialized instructors at Palos Health Club.

Palos Health and Fitness Center is not a typical gym as so many in the area. It is a medically integrated facility with degreed health professionals which benefits members such as myself with health problems.

I hope that this facility is not demolished as it is a much needed facility in this area.

Sincerely,

Gloria Crockett