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18-Feb.-2016

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FEB 24 2016
HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St. (2nd Floor)
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Case# 16-001 Palos Community Hospital, Orland Park

We attended the Public hearing today, and much was said by Palos Health Center (PHC) members regarding member opposition to demolition of our Palos Health Center.

Illinois Senator Bill Cunningham also shared his dismay by the health center closure and demolition to make way for office buildings, parking, and some additional services already offered by other Hospitals in the area. The Senator urges Vice President Planning and Community Relations Timothy J. Brosnan, the Palos Community Hospital (also the St. George Corporation), to reconsider it plans, and to not close the health center or to include a similar fitness center in the new facility plans.

Chris (my wife) and I echo those same feelings as the Senator as do many members as witnessed at the Illinois (HFaS) Review Board meeting today. We are strongly opposed to tearing down this excellent 15 year old Palos Health Center (PHC) facility without regard for its replacement.

PHC provides a medically trained staff, that supports unique special needs of physically medically challenged members, special classes, programs, and instruction. There is a unique therapy pool with lift assistance, spa, steam room, sauna, lockers, exercise, weights and aerobic equipment. The is no other facility in the area that offers such special needs and services. Also, none of the other facilities compare with their pricing structure, especially the ability to pay month to month versus yearly. This is very important for people with fixed incomes who travel out of state for extended periods.

I personally am victim to big business promises. After 39 years my company was acquired by a large corporation. They immediately eliminated group rate retirement medical benefits. Next the pension was minimally cashed out and eliminated. Lastly, many facilities were closed, jobs off-shored to India and my job eliminated. Forced to retire early and take a discounted Social Security, we are now faced with a special needs Health Center facility scheduled to be demolished by Palos Community Hospital and the St. George Corporation. We count on the Palos Health Center, I have metabolic syndrome and my wife had knee surgery. I'm exercising to save my heart, feet and legs, and my wife benefits by utilizing the therapy pool.

Please, we urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to not grant 16-001, to not allow them to discriminate against us seniors, and to destroy and eliminate a perfectly fine Health facility without including plans for a new replacement, or to include the existing structure and Health Center (and special needs/services in whole), in their plans. We seniors need this Palos Health Center.

Regards,

Paul Mosteika
Christine Mosteika

Eileen Dabrowski

14414 Irving Ave

Orland Park, Il 60462

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

2-14-2016

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

RE 16-001

Opposition to the Palos South Expansion

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing to protest the demolition of Palos Health and Fitness Center in Orland Park in order to expand the medical facility. The fitness center was built and is promoted as the only medically connected health center. It has become quite irreplaceable.

It has both a cold pool and a warm therapy pool. It has specialty services and classes for neuromuscular disorders, orthopedic services for arthritis and joint replacements. It has classes for COPD, and diabetes. It is not something that can be taken away without a significant loss to the community, which has become so dependent on it. I am so upset that any work that will be done should require the destruction of this useful and much needed center. If the building of a garage and an update to the medical center is necessary, it should be done AROUND the Paols Health and Fitness Center, and not OVER it.

The letter the hospital published explaining why this construction needs to be done says they want to better serve the HEALTH of the southwest suburbs. If they are truly trying to better the community, a way must be found to do it without eliminating this much needed facility.

Concerned,

Eileen Dabrowski