

My name is Arnie Kimmel, and I am the CEO of Franciscan St. James Health.

At the outset, I would like to thank Mr. Sewell for joining us today, and Mr Murado for conducting this Public Hearing.

Franciscan St. James Health has a primary service area of over 200,000 people, extending beyond Chicago Heights and Olympia Fields, throughout the Southland region.

As you may, or may not be aware, Franciscan St. James requested that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board conduct this Public Hearing, and this represents the third hearing held on this project. The first was conducted by a coalition of interested Southland individuals, and the second was conducted by Franciscan St. James. Each of the prior hearings was attended by approximately two hundred Southland residents.

The Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration have been privileged to serve the residents of the Southland region through their health care ministry for 104 years, and after considerable prayer and reflection renewed its commitment to the region two years ago. With that re-commitment came the absolute need to seek technical expertise on how to ensure that their commitment could be realized, given the realities of health care delivery in the 21st century. Those realities include:

- the Affordable Care Act and the demands of third party insurance providers to provide outpatient alternatives to traditional inpatient care
- Franciscan St. James' unwavering commitment to the provision of charity care services and the treatment of Medicaid recipients
- Franciscan St. James operating two hospitals located 10 minutes apart, providing redundant services, and operating at a combined occupancy rate of about 40%
- a hospital that is 104 years old, located on a land-locked campus, and that requires \$50-\$70M just to correct the code deficiencies that would need to be corrected
- the need to address the \$66.5M operating loss experienced between 2011 and 2014 so that we can continue our mission
- how best to use our most contemporary facility, that being our 35-year old hospital in Olympia Fields.

The plan that we have developed and proposed in the applications that we have filed with the Health Facilities and Services Review Board is one that we believe best addresses those realities. The three components of our plan are:

First, we are proposing that inpatient services be consolidated in the newer hospital, which I would suggest rivals any community hospital in the metropolitan Chicago area in terms of its physical capabilities and amenities. Our obstetrics program and our inpatient rehabilitation programs will move into a new pavilion on the Olympia Fields site, existing support space will be reconfigured to expand the medical/surgical capacity, and the Emergency Room will be expanded. Every patient will have a private room.

Second, the Chicago Heights hospital will become a center for the provision of many of the outpatient services that were identified in our most recent community needs survey, including the addition of primary care physicians, a new diabetes center, new bariatric weight loss program, a new outpatient behavioral medicine practice, an enhanced primary care/teaching clinic serving the un- and under-insured, an outpatient pharmacy, and most importantly, expanded and renovated office space tied to our physician recruitment program. Portions of the existing building will either be re-purposed or demolished to make way for re-development, and we are committed to working with the City of Chicago Heights to make that happen.

And third, we are greatly expanding our urgent care center located a mile to the north of the Chicago Heights hospital and also in Chicago Heights. After recent conversations with the Mayor of Chicago Heights and other community leaders, we have agreed that this facility must be expanded and enhanced. The focus of that facility will be its 24/7 physician-staffed urgent care center, its outpatient rehabilitation program, and its behavioral health physician practice. We are committed to working with our local legislators as well as EMS leaders and others regarding the transport of BLS patients. We have heard their concerns and will work diligently to address them.

We recognize that with the closing of facilities comes the anticipation of decreased access. With the additional services, facility expansions and enhancements already mentioned, there will be far more of the health care services people need on a regular basis than there ever have been in Chicago Heights. For practical purposes, the only reason a person living in or around Chicago Heights would need to get to the Olympia Fields campus would be to be hospitalized. In addition, we are in

Hello ^{spirit} - Good Afternoon

My name is Pamela Hausser and I am a resident of Dyer, formally of Park Forest. I have proudly been an employee at St. James for 25 years. I've seen a lot of transition.

I would like to start by saying my first experience at St. James was as a patient. I can happily say that one of the best days of my life was spent at St. James giving birth to one of my beautiful daughters.

I can also say that St. James took care of and saved my mother's life more than once. My mom was a fighter who triumphed over Cancer and beat that that horrible disease. She also had triple bypass, knee and hip replacement surgeries over the years. Unfortunately Cancer knows no mercy and it came back ten years later in another form and sadly took my mom in October of last year.

My family and I entrusted the care of my mother and many other family members to St. James because we Believe in St. James and We Believe in the Sisters' Mission and have witnessed their Franciscan Tradition in action. I am Thankful and Proud to be a part of the Franciscan Alliance Family and will be forever grateful for the compassionate care, respect for life and joyful service that was afforded to me and my family.

The changes that have to be made to survive for our future are hard ones, but necessary in order to maintain a presence in the Southland and to continue the Sisters mission that has never been forgotten.

If St. Francis was here today, he would say Well done, my good and faithful servants.....Well Done!

Pamela Hausser
Information Services, IS Director for SSCR

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Inspiring health
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VILLAGE OF OLYMPIA FIELDS

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Phone (708) 503-8000 • Fax (708) 503-8002

February 9, 2016

VILLAGE PRESIDENT
Debbie Meyers-Martin

On behalf of the Olympia Fields, Village President Debbie Meyers-Martin and our Board of Trustees, I would like to offer our whole-hearted support for the Franciscan St. James Strategic Restructuring Plan. The plan has been well thought out and is in the best interest of upgrading health care delivery services, not only to Olympia Fields, but our entire Southland region. Due to the generosity of the Franciscan Sisters and their confidence in the Chicago Southland, we have the opportunity to take two quality hospitals and transform them into an exceptional level of healthcare that this region has not seen before.

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We should not look at this opportunity as what should be in the best interest of Olympia Fields or Chicago Heights; rather what is in the best interest of both our communities and our region at large as a whole. The one-hundred thirty-seven million dollar investment represents one of largest economic investments to the Chicago Southland in decades. The plan will feature expanded emergency room capacity, new in-patient rehabilitation and obstetrics, introduce new hospice care; and will provide modern, all private patient rooms for upgraded hospital stay. And let me point out that in Chicago Heights, Franciscan St. James is improving their access to out-patient services and primary care; and doubling the size of their Urgent Care Facility, staffed by physicians 24/7.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR
David A. MekarSKI, AICP

For the last eighteen (18) months, Mr. Kimmel, CEO of Franciscan St. James has been working with our elected officials, my office as Administrator and our Economic Development Committee in educating our team on the proposed consolidation and restructuring, as well as, soliciting feedback and suggestions to improve and enhance the overall plan. At a recent regional meeting of our Public Safety Officials, Mr. Kimmel has pledged to meet with every Fire/EMS and Police Departments throughout our region to refine and improve this plan through the critique and recommendations of our communities' public safety professionals.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
AND ADMINISTRATION
Cynthia Saenz

CHIEF OF POLICE
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Our Village President and her Administrative Team are confident that the issues raised by the critics of this plan can be both mitigated and resolved collectively through the determination and creativity which is fostered when we work together as partners for the good of our region. In Olympia Fields, we like to say that "*we are not an island unto ourselves, but we are only as strong as the strength of neighbors and our community at large*".

BUILDING COMMISSIONER
John M. McDonnell

OFFICE HOURS:

8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Mon.-Tues.-Wed.-Fri.

8 a.m. – 6 p.m. Thursday

Sincerely,



David A. MekarSKI, AICP
Village Administrator

Hello.

My name is Mike Bruni and I currently live in Olympia Fields. Like so many here, I was born at St. James. Like you, I have experienced the immeasurable joy associated with welcoming a new life into our family and the sadness of saying our last goodbye's to immediate family members. All at St. James.

We all were able to experience these life moments because of the commitment of the Sisters, both from a mission perspective and from a financial position. The Sisters commitment to mission has recently been challenged through Social Media, however, it is important to focus on the facts.

An earlier speaker said that St. Francis was a man of wealth and he gave his money away, to help.

That's exactly what the Sisters of St. Francis have done.

Over the last 15 years, the Sisters of St. Francis have invested approximately \$500M to this community.

For you. For all of us.

The majority of those dollars were allocated to cover the operational losses experienced at St. James. That money was made available from other hospitals, owned by the Sisters in Indiana. Let's be clear, the success of the hospitals in Indiana have subsidized healthcare in Illinois. For us.

Just as an earlier speaker said, St. Francis gave to others. That's exactly what other hospitals in the system have done.

That's a commitment to mission.

Finally, let's be clear about the plan for the Emergency Room. Currently, there are 22 observation bays in Olympia Fields. The proposed plan will create a total of 47 observation bays.

Currently there are 4 ambulance parking bays.....the new plan calls for 8.

The observations bays and the ambulance bays will be doubled.

Finally, it is clear the loss of the Chicago Heights Emergency Room AND the assurance patients can be transported to an ER is at the heart of the matter. We can talk about civil law suits but clearly that is not going to get us anywhere.

We have talked. We will continue to talk. We will work this one issue out, because we all agree that is what is at the heart of the matter.

Many have asked what St. Francis would do, that's what he would do.

We've all been cared about under his charism, let's now practice what he would do.

For everyone.

Hello, my name is Jeff So and I'm the Vice President for Strategy and Business Development at Franciscan St. James Health. Thank you for letting me speak in support of the Franciscan St. James Campus Consolidation project and to support the Franciscan Alliance. Today you have heard many testimonies in both support and opposition of this project. As points of clarification,

- Today, Franciscan St. James on average receives 49 emergency medical transports a day. That is 2 per hour. It has been said that EMT calls are increasing. Our data shows that ours are declining.
- Virtually every emergent patient we see in the ER is brought to us by ambulance, by another form of medical transport, or by car. The truth is, if you need an Emergency Department, you're not walking to the hospital and you're not driving yourself. Granted, we are going to need to educate our patients, so that they know when they need to come to the Emergency Department, and when they can be best treated at an urgent care center or in a primary care clinic. Patients having a heart attack, stroke, or another major neurological incident are already being taken directly to Olympia Fields by the EMS crews.

The Olympia Fields ER, which is being expanded, is less than ten minutes away by ambulance. St. James' Chicago Height Urgent Care Center is moving to a 24/7 schedule and expanding in size. Additional physicians are and will be opening offices in Chicago Heights, and St. James operates a primary care clinic in Chicago Heights. With all of these alternatives, we are confident that the patients that we care for on a daily basis will be able to access the care

I'm Dr. Lance Wallace, an Internal Medicine physician. I have been in practice for 21 years and in this community for 20 years. I live in the south suburbs of Chicago and grew up on the south side of Chicago. I am a trustee with the Chicago Medical Society and I am active with multiple community organizations including Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and the Lincolnway Foundation. I am on staff at Ingalls Memorial hospital, South Suburban Hospital, and Franciscan St. James.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak here before you today.

Medicare is placing it's priorities on outpatient management of disease.

Hospitals face significant financial challenges, including:

Technology

Skilled staffing

Taking on all patients regardless of their ability to pay

Insurance audits

Medicare audits

Increased need for documentation

Financial penalties for 30-day readmissions

Franciscan St. James is a mission-driven organization. They take care of everyone regardless of their ability to pay. As a physician working with them, they have empowered me to provide the best care possible to patients in this community. I am supportive of their plan to keep a significant primary care provider presence in this community and their commitment to expand access and services within Chicago Heights.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lance Wallace". The signature is written in a cursive style and is located in the bottom right corner of the page.

My name is Michael Ross and I am a resident and have deep roots in the Southland. I've been paying attention to the news and media campaign surrounding St. James – from both sides of the issue. It seems to me that, for the best of Chicago Heights and the Southland, we should be supporting what St. James is planning to do. They are talking about making a \$137 million investment to keep and improve health care for all of us in this area. I don't know about you, but I can't recall the last time that I heard about such a solid investment being committed to making something better for everyone who lives here.

I understand that we are losing a full-service hospital in Chicago Heights. I feel that loss, too, but doesn't it make sense to combine the hospitals into a newer, better one? In the process, St. James can recover from running two hospitals so closely together and focus on making one facility in Olympia Fields the best it can be. It could not have been easy for St. James to make the decisions they had to make but, from my experience with them, I know they did it for the best interests of this area. We should be supporting St. James.

My name is Charles Stevenson, and I am Director of Facility Management and Planning at Franciscan St. James Health. I am a licensed architect with over 28 years of facility management, healthcare design and master planning. I have been responsible for maintaining hospital facilities for over 20 years. I am the person with the front line responsibility of making sure that the electrical systems, the plumbing systems, the heating systems, the cooling systems, the medical gas systems, the lighting, and the IT infrastructure needed to provide care at our hospitals are in working order and available 24 hours a day 365 days a year.

The fact of the matter is that St. James-Chicago Heights is 104 years old. As you are aware, it is difficult to bring old healthcare buildings up to today's technologies and healthcare design standards.

When, the hospital was built, the electrical requirements of a hospital were a fraction of what they are now. The same can be said for the heating/ plumbing requirements, information technologies and many of the other mechanical systems and the physical design of the clinical floors

As you can imagine, the infrastructure of the building is old and is in need of massive upgrades. Every system in the hospital needs to be upgraded. Many of you have seen the scaffolding outside the building. We're spending \$1.4M in masonry renovation to prevent further deterioration of the exterior façade and the possibility of masonry failures and injury. We certainly do not want bricks falling off and causing injury or harm to our patients, visitors, staff or the residences of Chicago Heights.

Last year we spent over \$4M on repairs tied to the age of the building. The year before that we spent over \$4M, this year we've budgeted another \$4M. This is above and beyond our normal operating budget. The operating budget of this aged facility runs us approximately \$1.50 per square foot more than our other campus. That is \$850M per year more to operate this aged facility than our facility in Olympia Fields. We continue to invest dollars into our Chicago Heights Campus, but the reality is St. James-Chicago Heights is not up to contemporary standards, it is expensive to operate and will require substantial capital investments to bring the hospital up to contemporary healthcare design standards and to meet current code requirements. This capital investment and the yearly operational costs of this aged facility, is not sustainable in today's healthcare environment.

Speaker: Pamela A. Meyer

Support Termination of Inpatient Services

February 9, 2016

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board Hearing

Certificate of Need-Proposed Closing of Inpatient Facility at Franciscan St. James, Chicago Heights, Illinois

My name is Pamela Meyer, born and raised in Chicago Heights. I have forty (40) years health care experience as a Medical Technologist, Nurse, Educator, and healthcare consultant with one of the Big 4 International Consulting Firms and an international law firm. The following statements are based on MY research, knowledge and experience within the United States Health Care System.

I am very upset with the impending termination of the Chicago Heights Inpatient Hospital services. However **due to healthcare reimbursement systems, increasing regulatory & compliance demands in an already highly regulated industry, prescription drug costs which rose 12.2% last year-the highest rate in 10 years [Beckers Hospital Review-CFO] SADLY to ensure the continued existence of an INPATIENT hospital in the Far South Suburbs for years to come', Inpatient operations in Chicago Heights must be terminated and transferred to Olympia Fields.**

1. Payor Mix and Healthcare Reimbursement: 65% of the 'Inpatient Population' at both the Chicago Heights & Olympia Fields hospitals is comprised of Medicare/Medicaid/ Charity Care [Per 2014 Illinois Hospital Report Card]. Nationwide, hospitals are consistently losing money with this payor mix. [Example: For one Medicare patient hospitalized for Congestive Heart Failure, the hospital took at loss of \$24,046.00 [Hospital billed \$39,703.00 for 3 day length of stay (LOS) but Medicare may only pay \$15,657. *Brookings Institute*]

Despite the Affordable Care Act/Obamacare, 30 million people are still Un-insured which drains the hospital finances. [Per 2.7.2016 publication 'The Hill' (by Capitol Hill Publishing, Washington DC)]. Franciscan St. James has continued to provide charity care which further depletes the finances. [in 2014: 11.38% in Olympia Fields; 10.74% Chicago Heights] Hospitals cannot continue to operate in this financial environment without making drastic changes.

Many of the top hospitals in the country who have had solid financial standing for years are now reporting deficits for the first time (*Brigham & Women's Hospital, Boston, MA-\$53. million*) due to many of the same issues St. James and others are experiencing: **compliance mandates, decreasing reimbursement, & reduced patient volumes.** Patients now shop for hospitals, thus why the modernization of the St. James facilities is so critical.

St. James is not alone: **67 hospitals have closed since January 2010; and another 283 rural hospitals in 39 states are presently at risk for closing! (North Carolina Rural Health Report & iVantage Health)** Many of these patients now have to travel 90 minutes or more for medical care. They don't have the benefit of a High Level Urgent Care center which St. James is committed to provide in Chicago Heights.

In closing, I implore St. James leadership to model the Urgent Care after other state of the art facilities' with CT, MRI, Stat lab services, and satellite pharmacy. Forcing the elderly, disabled or individuals dependent on others for transportation to make additional stops for care/services is more of a burden than you may realize.

Hello. My name is Cindy Brassea and I am currently the COO at Franciscan St. James Health. I started as a nurse in 1982 and have worked here my entire career. I was born in Chicago Heights and have lived in this community all but 10 years of my life. This is my community.

I have been to all the hearings. I have personally visited with 10 Fire Chiefs and have recently been involved with the conversations with Mayor Gonzalez and other political and EMS leaders.

While we all understand the high emotions associated with the proposed plan, we are grateful to the Mayor and other select political and EMS leaders for the recent conversations that have taken place. It was reassuring to hear Mayor Gonzalez personally say they understand the need for the CON application and the need to move inpatient beds to Olympia Fields. The recent conversations have allowed us to respond with the following strategies to address their concerns:

- We will commit to moving the Franciscan Primary Care clinic to the Professional Office Building in Chicago Heights. This will enhance and improve access for ALL.
- We will commit to setting up LiveHealth stations at points of public access within most disadvantaged areas, again, to enhance and improve access.
- We will commit to building a state of the art comprehensive Urgent Care facility to address 85% of the patients' needs now coming to the ER.
- Work with legislators to improve EMS routs and possibly allow for low-level emergency EMS drop off at the comprehensive Urgent Care Center.

All of these responses are not a part of the current CON application, however, are a direct result of the many conversations and discussions we have had. This is our community and I am convinced we can and will address the Health Care needs of the Southland residents together. Hopefully, this will help those opposed to seeing the benefits of the current CON application.

My name is Srinivas Reddy. I am a Board Certified cardiologist, and the Medical Director of the cardiology service line provided by Franciscan St. James. The purpose of my testimony is to give my clinical perspective on the proposed closing of the Emergency Department in Chicago Heights.

In 2008 Franciscan St. James consolidated its cardiac cath lab services to only St. James-Olympia Fields. I have to be honest, many cardiologists including myself were ~~completely~~ ^{very nervous about this.} ~~against this.~~ However, economic survival demanded this. Prior to doing this, we worked with the EMS network to ensure that patients who were having a heart attack are transported directly to Olympia Fields, rather than Chicago Heights. What we found surprised us. Please remember that the mandated goal was a door to balloon time was 90 minutes. We found that consolidation of services led to FASTER door to balloon times than the previous system.

This direct transport program has served our patients well, and ensures that our patients receive the care that they need--whether it be medical intervention, catheterization, or surgical intervention—in the shortest amount of time possible. Our goal in this process is to have a door to balloon time of 90 minutes and we have achieved a process that averages a door to balloon of 68 minutes in 2015.

Patients truly needing the services of an Emergency Department need immediate access to a variety of services, including surgery, an ICU, and sophisticated imaging capabilities, none of which will be provided on the Chicago Heights campus. The direct transport program that we have

successfully developed and implemented for cardiology patients can and should be expanded to address the needs of all area patients in need of Emergency Department services.

My name is Charles Geringer and I am a board certified physician specializing in the care of patients with arthritis with Specialty Physicians of Illinois.

Physicians are, understandably, concerned about what St. James is proposing will mean for our patients. The logistics of how two emergency departments and inpatient facilities will be blended into one can be daunting. However, in the post-Affordable Care Act or healthcare reform world, the reality is that the proposed change is necessary. Once the noted challenges are overcome – and there are many – St. James will still be able to offer a large community of patients across the south suburbs with comprehensive care that is better coordinated and higher quality, which is mandated by the ACA.

I believe St. James' consolidation plan is designed to provide the most effective care and best experience for the patient and is the only option to for the hospital to continue the commitment to serving this community. I urge the Health Facilities Board to approve this plan.

7/26/16

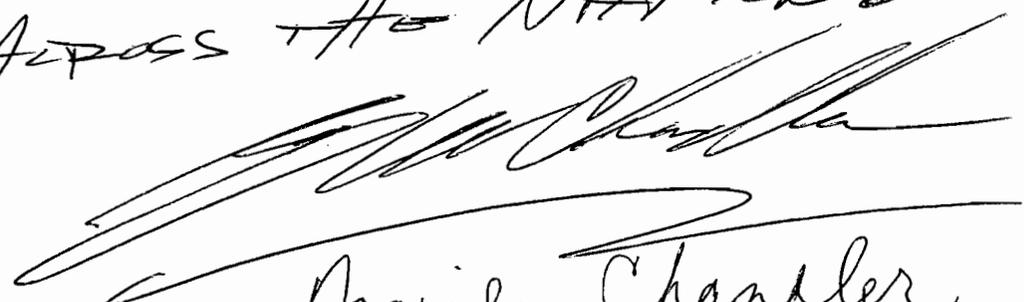
George & Marilyn Chandler
1717 DANUBE WAY OLYMPIA FIELDS

My name is _____ and I am (insert title, etc.). I've lived in the Southland for 60 years. We need to recognize the role that the Sisters have played for over a century in terms of providing health care services 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 tonight are not Chicago Heights issues, they are 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.

Instead of fighting 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, and rather than fighting them, we should be working with them to improve access for the entire region.

We support the Expansion Plans
for the Olympia Fields & CHH HTS.
Medical Campus Development.
It will be great for the
future of the Region & will
be a model for other Medical
Projects across the Nation.


Marilyn Chandler

My name is James Taylor. I have been observed how this issue has been covered in the media and at the public hearings. I have found Mayor Gonzalez and his task force's tactics very detrimental to the image and reputation of the Sisters and the lay leadership at Franciscan St. James Health.

As a concerned citizen who is involved in area politics, I find trying to negotiating through the media with negative comments and slanderous statements about the sisters does not make for good relations. Especially when I consider what the Lead strategist from Sg2, a healthcare strategic consultant firm utilized by St. James in the development of their restructuring plan, ~~he~~ commented that in his 20 plus years in this industry no health system has done as much as St. James to involve the community in its planning process.

I know that the mayor and city manager from Olympia Fields attended many of the planning sessions held by St. James. Unfortunately, Mayor Gonzalez did not attend any and only set his staff to one meeting and yet he has the audacity to claim he wasn't consulted. Additionally, I know that St. James sent invitations to participate to many of the area municipal leaders who also chose not to attend.

Furthermore, I find it interesting that Mayor Gonzalez had no relationship to speak of with St. James prior to its restructuring initiative. How could a mayor not have a close, open relationship with its city's largest employer? I find it ironic that he then turns around and criticizes St. James for not communicating with him after he chose not to attend any of their public planning sessions where he would have had ample opportunity to productively voice his concerns.

This hearing is yet another example of his manipulative tactics by telling his supporters to not show up to this hearing until 6 pm. I am not sure what he intends to gain by doing so but I now it is not in the best interest of this hearing or this issue being discussed.

I support St James! How can anyone refuse to support a company willing to invest \$137 million dollars in our community. Thank you St. James for being open and collaborative in developing your strategic plan.

PRESIDENTS ASSOCIATION OF OLYMPIA FIELDS

Good evening panel and thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Lee Langon and I'm the Chairman of the Presidents Association in Olympia Fields, IL. We represent 15 Homeowner Associations in the Village of Olympia Fields.

Healthcare has changed dramatically in the last 100 years, just as our world has changed. It's not hard to understand why Franciscan St. James- Hospital needs to change with the times. The Chicago Heights facility is 100 years old and it is a functional obsolescent building. We understand the proposed business plan is to re-purpose this building and continue to serve the residents of Chicago Heights and the surrounding community. Franciscan's goal is to bring state of the art healthcare to the Southland which is sorely needed. The Olympia Fields facility will be easier to expand and consolidate services and is still 10 minutes by car from the old Chicago Heights facility. We applaud and support this bold initiative by the Franciscan organization to bring 21st century healthcare to the Southland and the new opportunities it will present for "all" of our communities.

Thank you.

Lee Langon
Chairman,
Presidents Association of Olympia Fields
P.O.Box 375
Olympia Fields, IL 60461

My name is Maureen Kelly. I'm a registered nurse, and I've been a nurse at St. James Chicago-Heights for 23 years. While part of me feels sad about the closing of the hospital, I'm looking forward to having our patients at the Olympia Fields hospital. The patients that I have been treating—some of which I have come to know on a first name basis—can anticipate seeing the same familiar faces when they're admitted to the Olympia Fields hospital that they're seeing now at St. James-Chicago Heights.

I've seen the patient units at Olympia Fields, and I believe that my patients will appreciate the modern feel of their rooms, and they will appreciate the all private room configuration, and they will appreciate the size of their rooms. From a staff perspective, I'm going to welcome the spaciousness, the enhanced privacy, and the modern amenities.

I realize that change is difficult, particularly when families have been going to the same hospital for generations. But the time has come, and we'll be there to treat the same patients we're treating now, and most of my coworkers have told me that they plan on moving to the Olympia Fields hospital, too.

I ask that the Health Facilities and Review Board approve St. James plans so that the needed transition can begin.

My name is Daniel Netluch. I am a physician and the Chief Medical Officer at Franciscan St. James Health.

I'd like to take just a moment to discuss an aspect of St. James' plans that is being overlooked. The consolidation of inpatient services into one hospital, designed for the way medicine is practiced today will be an invaluable asset to our physician recruitment effort and continued focus of providing quality care.

Like everyone else, physicians are being forced to become more efficient. St. James' two hospitals operate with a single medical staff. That concept has served the hospitals well, but having to travel back and forth between the two is terribly inefficient. Young physicians are looking for a single, modern hospital to practice in. Our recruitment efforts are being stymied by the responsibility of physicians to cover both campuses simultaneously.

Our plans include the remodeling of the Medical Office Building on the Chicago Heights campus. That will have two positive outcomes for the Chicago Heights community. First, access to the physicians practicing in Chicago Heights will not be reduced. Area residents will be able to continue to use their physicians. Second, the renovated MOB gives us the opportunity to office more physicians in the Chicago Heights community, particularly those coming out of our Family Medicine residency program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. I hope that you will convey to the other members of your Board how important this project is to our physician recruitment effort and to continue providing excellent care to our Community.

Michael Shepherd - Support

I support the restructuring plan put forth by Franciscan St. James Health. I believe the people of the southland deserve a have world-class hospital with the latest technology, all private patient rooms, the complete continuum of care under one roof delivering deliver an improved patient experience . What we all have to understand is that The funds used to sustain St. James Hospital have come from our Indiana hospitals. Franciscan Alliance has more than \$1 billion in debt and needs another \$1.5 billion over the next five years to replace hospitals and equipment for all 14 of its hospitals. Our other hospitals need to reinvest in their own facilities. This month, Franciscan Alliance borrowed an additional \$200 million to begin construction needed on our campuses. Despite the capital required in Indiana, and the heavy losses at St. James, Franciscan Alliance is willing to invest another \$137 million dollars in our Southland ministry. These funds must be spent wisely and we cannot afford to duplicate services within a small geographic area.

If the State does not approve our plan, Franciscan St. James Health will be forced to reevaluate the healthcare services we provide in the Southland. We cannot continue to operate two hospitals that are less than 50% occupied only 4.5 miles apart. So, if our plan is thwarted, our ability to serve, as we do today, may be threatened. I believe it would be a negative outcome not only for the residents of Chicago Heights but the entire southland.

We are determined to provide you and your family with the health care services you need and deserve. By consolidating our aging Chicago Heights inpatient facility with an expanded modern hospital in Olympia Fields, our doctors, nurses and staff will be better able to provide quality care far into the future.

We passionately care for this community. Always have and Always will. We do so now by committing our pledged investment. While some have misconstrued our plans, every decision we've made is rooted in the desire to serve.

We believe that this is what St. Francis would do.

My name is Eric Bihl. I have been a business owner in Chicago Heights since 1993. I am a lifelong resident of the south suburbs. Two of my sons were born at the Chicago Heights campus and my dad died there. I was working there when President Reagan spoke here and the hospital had an entire floor ready for him if needed. I was at the 100 year celebration of St. James. I 'get' the emotional connection.

But like in most things change is inevitable and it certainly is true for health care. Medical advances, economic upheavals, societal changes and federal health care policy changes have resulted in significant changes in health care systems. Hospitals all over are pressed to deliver better, more efficient and cost effective care. Over the past 15 or so years more than a third of the Chicagoland hospitals have closed their doors.

Franciscan St. James has demonstrated its compassionate care for this community for over 100 years and is committed to continuing doing so but it must move the acute care services at the Chicago Heights campus to remain viable into the future. They have budgeted to spend another \$137 million to upgrade and add services at the Olympia Fields campus, which is only a 10 minute drive away. The spending will be a boost to the local economy and it will keep Franciscan St James as one of the largest employers in the area.

I fully endorse St. James' restructuring plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric S Bihl". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E" and "S".

February 8, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

*CHAIRWOMAN
OF VILLAGE OF
OLYMPIA FIELDS
ECONOMIC
DEV. COMMITTEE*

My name is Trinette Britt - Johnson and I am a resident of Olympia Fields! I've lived in Southland for thirteen (13) years. I believe that we should recognize the role that Franciscan Alliance has played for over a century in terms of providing health care services to the entire southland region.

Health care is not delivered the same way it was 10, 20, 30 years ago. The issues being raised by Chicago Heights are not germane to Chicago Heights, they are Southland issues. *NOT WORKING WITH THEM COULD LEAD TO AN ALTERNATIVE OF NO FACILITIES F3J*

We should work with and support Francian St. James on their \$137 million dollar re-development of both their Chicago Heights and Olympia Fields campuses, on the recruitment of more physicians to our community, and on the development of additional health care alternatives to our region. I fully support the plans that they have laid out, and support working with them to improve access for the entire region.

Sincerely



Trinette Britt-Johnson
20830 Brookside Blvd
Olympia Fields, IL 60461

Town Hall Speech

Hello, My name is Richard Greep, born and raised right down the street on Franklin ave. I grew up working for my families NAPA Auto Parts Business, Soderberg Auto on Western ave, went to grade school at St Agnes and Graduated from this very High School. Although I have only worked for the Sisters for a few months, I feel privileged to be back here at St. James to be a part of the mission and help serve my family and friends here in Chicago Heights. When I was researching employment at the Franciscan Alliance, I was amazed at the support and dedication to the health care of the people in the surrounding communities and was excited to get the opportunity to be a part of that mission. I support the consolidation of services and the expansion of the express care and other services to better serve my Family and friends of the south suburban communities.

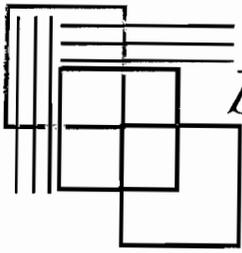
Thank you and God Bless

James Siegert, DO, Urology
Franciscan St. James Health
Tuesday, February 9, 2016

My name is Dr. James Siegert and I am urologist with Specialty Physicians of Illinois, LLC. I was born, raised and educated in Chicago Heights, IL, attended St. Agnes Catholic elementary school and Marian Catholic High School in Chicago Heights. During medical school, I rotated through many clinical rotations at Franciscan St. James and later graduated from a five year urological surgery residency program at Franciscan St. James and its affiliated outpatient clinics. My family, deep roots and commitment to the community and health of its residents has fostered a unique attachment to the Southland which is what brought me back here to begin my practice.

My preference will be to admit patients to Olympia Fields because the overall experience – both as a patient and as a clinician – is so much better than at Chicago Heights. And that’s taking nothing away from the nursing staff, the technicians and the other support staff at Chicago Heights. They’re great. But the fact remains that they are working in an outdated environment with resources limited by the physical and structural confines of a building constructed long before amenities such as “private rooms”, “minimally invasive surgery” and “quiet places for healing” became not just luxuries, but the standard of medicine provided in the 21st century.

Further, St. James’ need to improve accessibility by attracting specialists and providing services that otherwise would not be available to our community is an important consideration in the plan that is proposed. The ability to practice at a modern hospital that is already on the cutting edge of such specialties as cardiovascular care is a major selling point when deciding where to practice, and patients, families and clinicians are lucky to have access to the Olympia Fields hospital in the Southland.



Beverly K. Sokol

February 9, 2016

Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street (2nd floor)
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support of Expansion of St. James Hospital Olympia Fields

I am Beverly Sokol and have lived in Olympia Fields with my husband Edwin for 53 years. I have been a positive community activist for 31 of those years. We are here today to advocate for the proposed \$137 million in St. James Hospital Olympia Fields and the planned renovations at the Chicago Heights campus.

After being in the Northwestern Hospital health system for 30 years my husband and I have switched to St. James Hospital Olympia Fields. Between September and October my husband was taken twice to the Olympia Fields Emergency Room and he stayed in the hospital facility for a total of 7 days for treatment of his pneumonia. In August I had a Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement at Northwestern. In a post surgery visit the surgeon suggested that we should consider finding a local cardiologist in a hospital that used the Epic System My Chart Program so the local doctors and the Northwestern team could communicate. ST. James Hospital was the only south suburban hospital that uses My Chart. On line investigations revealed that St. James Heart and Vascular Institute was in the top 10% in the country and with the recommendations of friends and neighbors we have happily become patients of one of the cardiologists and two internists of the Specialty Physicians Network in St. James Olympia Fields plus a pulmonologist who is on the staff.

St. James Health Care prescribed incredible after care for Mr. Sokol at our home. My Northwestern surgeon prescribed cardiac rehabilitation which I did for 3 months at St. James Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation at the Heart and Vascular Institute in Olympia Fields. This program is the highest rated in the southland.

It is important that the Olympia Fields Campus be enhanced to service an aging population and younger families who desire to send their children to our Blue Ribbon Elementary School and our International Baccalaureate High School.

Mr. Sokol and I are living proof that excellent medical care can be local. Your investment in the southland will give us the successful economic sustainability needed for the next 50 years as it

10 Wysteria Drive
Olympia Fields IL, 60461

draws investors to come to our region for the quality of its medical institutions and other amenities that will follow.

We thank the Franciscan Alliance for providing the opportunity to present our thoughts and especially for believing that we are worthy of your support.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Beverly & Edwin Sokol".

Beverly and Edwin Sokol

Hello my name is Bishop Lance Davis. I thank you all for this opportunity to speak. When i think about the St. James restructuring plan. I am impressed with their plans to increase primary care services in our community. I am impressed by the expanding urgent care services that St. James will be providing. I am impressed with their plans to bring more physicians into our community. I am impressed with the programs developed by St. James to combat obesity, to combat heart disease, and to combat diabetes. These are services that we need on a continuing basis. The hospital services will be there on those rare occasions when we need them.

Health care is changing, and I believe that we need to get behind St. James' plans. We have placed our trust I the Sisters for generations, and there is no reason to believe that they don't have our best interests in mind now, as they face the difficult decisions that are confronting them.

Health care is changing, and I believe that we need to get behind St. James' plans. We have placed our trust I the Sisters for generations, and there is no reason to believe that they don't have our best interests in mind now, as they face the difficult decisions that are confronting them.

Good Afternoon

I am Ernest Gibson, a resident of the village of Olympia Fields for the last 20 years. I am the President of the Wysteria Homeowners Association consisting of 71 homes. We are very active in various Community activities basically for the enhancement of our Village and the entire Southland Communities.

Accordingly, on behalf of the residents of the Wysteria Homeowners Association, we are very grateful for the Franciscan St. James Health reorganization that will enable long-term health care for the entire Southland. We support your efforts in its entirety.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ernest Gibson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "G" at the end.

Good Afternoon

My name is Carolyn Gibson, and I am a Trustee for the Village of Olympia Fields.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak today.

I am very concerned about the confusion that is occurring relative to the decisions and plans presented by the Franciscan Sisters to enhance the health care delivery to residents of the Southland.

We all must realize that they are continuing to provide the funds in order to make all of our lives better.

I have lived in the Southland for 20 years and I do recognize and commend the mission of the Sisters of St Francis of Perpetual Adoration for their many years of investing in the health care for the Southland Communities. The expansion of their services by purchasing the old Osteopathic Hospital which is now St. James-Olympia Fields campus, is proof of their desire to enhance the health care for all.

The Sisters, the Board and the Executive St. James Staff members have been delivering compassionate health care to the Southland residents for over 100 years.

In my opinion, maintaining two hospitals which are so close in proximity is not economically feasible. Consolidating and expanding vital areas will improve Patients experiences, while not giving special priority to any one Village, City, Town or Municipality.

Instead of fighting the plan being proposed by St. James, we all should be

2/6/16

I approve of RCF#E-088-16 for
St. James Hospital. I believe
it will help the community.
C.H.

Sue
Sandra Moore
Timber Park II

I am Sister Petra Nielsen, Vice President for Mission Integration at Franciscan St. James Health and a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, the founding congregation of Franciscan Alliance. ~~Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today.~~

For more than 100 years, Franciscan St. James has stayed true to ^{the Sisters'} ~~our~~ founding mission to care for everyone who comes through our doors, regardless of ability to pay. We take our mission of Continuing Christ's Ministry in our Franciscan Tradition to heart every day. Where there is a need, our staff and physicians work to fill it – extending compassionate and loving care beyond the four walls of our hospitals.

It is our sincere belief that each person possesses an inherent dignity, and that ~~we are called to minister to the whole person.~~ We are called to not only treat the acute medical conditions that present themselves to us, but to also work towards ensuring the health and well-being of the communities in which we are blessed to serve. We do this through providing preventative and follow-up care, and working with organizations aligned with our mission to minister to other needs in the community.

Franciscan St. James' plan for change at our hospital campuses does not change our dedication to ^{Care for all regardless of ability to pay or to meet the} ~~caring for unmet health needs in our community as~~ ^{needs in our} ~~and to care for all,~~ ^{Community as} ~~regardless of ability to pay.~~ That will never change. That dedication is reflected in our commitment to increase the ^{number} ~~amount~~ of primary care ^{and ~~of our~~ increase} physicians, diabetes care, and other services in the community to improve

preventative and follow-up care; and to expand our Franciscan Primary Care Clinic for patients who are uninsured or underinsured.

Our proposed restructuring plan ~~that is currently before the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Board~~ will ensure that the Sisters' mission can continue in the South Suburbs of Chicago, and that we will be able to minister to those in need in this area for many years to come. I urge your support. Thank you.

[^]ask for your prayers
and
[^]as we work to continue
our mission.
Please know
that the Sisters
are praying for
you.
and God Bless
you.

My name is Dr. Michael Settecase. I am a board-certified family physician who has been practicing in the southern suburbs for 35 years. I have been practicing at St. James for all of that time.

I am here to strongly endorse and support the St. James plan to enhance and save medical care in the Southland.

As the board is well aware, there has been a sometimes slow and sometimes fast transition in how health care is delivered in the United States. Although hospitals are in the central part of that health care system, they are no longer the center of it.

Hospitals across America are being closed because of bankruptcy or redundancy and many of these closings are not making any plans for the continuing care of the people they're abandoning.

Health care is now being delivered in a very different way than 35 years ago when I began practice. Although we have talked about it for a long time, patient care is now being focused on preventative medicine, outpatient medicine, urgent care, and case management.

The focus of both the institution as well as the people (the ones were actually care for patients) is to prevent patient's from going to the hospital.

St. James Olympia Fields Hospital was opened in 1978 built by a medical school, which was opened in Chicago in 1900 who's mission statement was "to teach, to heal, to serve".

This hospital had changed ownership multiple times, and each time was almost lost to the community. When St. James acquired the Olympia Fields Hospital I was on the committee which helped coordinate, integrate and solidify the staff both medical and support.

Of all the times, and I was involved in all those times, this was our greatest hope for continuing to support the medical needs of our patients.

St. James Hospital in Chicago Heights has been providing care for over 100 years.

The building has not been providing care in either situation, it is the people.

We have added more outpatient care, urgent care, supportive care, and such things as case management in any institution in the south suburbs. We have started over the last few years and aggressive campaign to increase the availability of care by bringing in more primary care doctors. St. James also has one of the top residency programs in the Midwest for family physicians, which will allow us to further that goal.

Part of this plan is an extensive expansion of available care in Chicago Heights as well as throughout the southern suburbs.

As many people have stated, even those oppose this plan, our care of patients in the Southland has been exemplary.

St. James is in this for the long-term, this plan will allow us to follow through on this promise.

I strongly urged the board to approve the proposal and allow us to continue caring for the patient's that we have been for a combined 200 years.

Retired Vice Pres of Bk of New York

Support

My name is Willett Hudson and I am an Elder and the Mother of The Emmaus Community which is a *non denomination* Christian gathering in Chicago Heights. I am also a trustee for the Village of Olympia Fields. I have lived in the Southland for 31 years and during those years, I have recognized that the Sisters have played an important role in my personal life. *sp is done* They were my health provider for my Dad *of* and my husband *ways like* during very difficult times. In addition, they have been our source for care to all of our church members when we needed them. However, recently we had to take one of our members from the Chicago Heights location because of the lack of updated equipment needed for their care. *The most recent care was for my brother at the OF Campus. Excellent care & provision was provided.* It is time for us to start working together to help St James to continue to provide the best healthcare for the southland. At this point, the business community, our elected officials and our residents need to work with St James on the redevelopment of their Chicago Heights Campus by recruiting more physicians to our community and providing an alternative to an emergency room. After a very detail review, St. James has already started this process according to the plans *from the* ~~from the~~ results of their review.

We are at the point today that it is time for us to help instead of hinder the progress so we can have the best for our entire region. That is why they have gathered our input, which was very important to this process. *Our members will be taken care with the outreach we will have with other private companies for transportation*

I am sure St. James will continue to work with us to give us the best *sum* and try to provide answers to concerns we may have. However, it is sometimes difficult to accept change but it is usually beneficial for us to let the persons in the business decide when a change is needed. As we review any business, as well as healthcare, the delivery of that product and care, is much different than it was forty years ago.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak today.

Willett Hudson
Elder & Mother The Emmaus Community
Trustee Olympia Fields, Il. 60461
Resident Olympia Fields - 31 yrs

Brenda Bush-Moline, Principal with VOA Associates Incorporated, a healthcare planning and design firm.

Healthcare has evolved. With this new reality, there is need for recalibration of capital and resources to ensure that healthcare remains **viable and quality-based**.

The new paradigm supports care delivery within community settings, with less focus on **traditional hospital-based care**.

Restructuring of FSJH consolidates acute care services, reduces redundancy, improves operations and extends care **into the community for prevention and maintenance**.

After significant and in-depth review of existing facilities, it is clear that the Chicago Heights campus, built in early 1900's, **has been extended beyond its useful life**.

The healthcare delivery system has changed, volumes have declined, space available and square footage used **are out of sync**.

Occupancy costs, upkeep, heating, cooling, and maintenance exacerbate the issue. **Use patterns and physical plant are no longer aligned**.

Significant investments in retrofits to the Chicago Heights campus would produce substandard results that **do not represent industry best practices**.

A commitment to community-based immediate care and physician practices offers opportunities to interact with providers **outside the acute care setting**.

Community health issues will continue to be addressed with more robust services such as diabetes, obesity and life-style education. **Association with primary care providers and specialists will be strengthened**.

We are encouraged by the mission-based dedication of FSJH to achieve a restructuring plan allowing continued viability to **actively serve the community**.

My name is Christine Murphy. I am the Vice President of Nursing at St. James. I am fairly new to the Franciscan family joining the organization in July of 2015. What has impressed me most is the commitment of the Sisters and each employee to support the mission of Continuing Christ's Ministry in our Franciscan Tradition. I believe St. James' proposed consolidation plan is the key to carrying out that mission in the decades to come.

There are many advantages to consolidating Franciscan St. James' acute-care services at one campus:

- It enables St. James to offer enhanced ambulatory and primary care services, supporting patients and their families on their journey to wellness.
- Inpatients will have the comfort and infection-control safety of all private rooms in a more modern facility in Olympia Fields.
- Consolidating to a single facility will improve quality of care and advance nursing skills and efficiencies.
- It improves accessibility and availability by attracting specialists and providing services that otherwise would not be available to our community.
- It allows us to further develop our centers of excellence by implementing advancements in technology and practice at one location.

These reasons and more support the need for approval of St. James' proposed project. Thank you.

Plans for the Renovation of the St. James and Chicago Heights
Hospitals

To Whom it may Concern:

My name is Shirley Nale. I am a native Pennsylvanian and have resided in Olympia Fields for almost 50 years.

I am fortunate to have been a professional employee of both the Chicago Heights Campus as well as Olympia Fields. I know for a fact that Heath Care has changed dramatically .

In keeping with these changes, I strongly support St. James Hospital in their current proposal to construct and update the two campuses.

This will in fact bring the newest in professional care as well as a huge asset the South Suburbs which we will all be proud of.

Respectfully,


Shirley J. Nale

Human Resource Trustee

Village of Olympia Fields,60461

Phone: 708-503-8000

Tuesday, February 09, 2016

Back in December suburban mayors were told by St James Hospital CEO Arnie Kimmel that the facilities at St James Hospital non-profit in Chicago Heights (owned by Franciscan Alliance along with 14 other hospitals) would be shut down. The reason given was that it is no longer “a cost effective operation”.

I am wondering how “cost effectiveness” is calculated. To me the only legitimate calculation for a hospital to ever make is how many more lives can be saved per dollar spent. Period. Statistics show that the farther away a person lives from an emergency room, the lower the chances are for survival. A Cornell University studied showed that “for each five-minute increase in distance from a hospital, a person's probability of getting to the hospital in time falls by 1.25 percent”. So will more lives overall be saved by moving all services to Olympia Fields? That’s all that matters.

Many people in the direct vicinity of St James are in the lower income brackets. They are often forced to use emergency rooms for primary medical care because they cannot afford insurance. I’m sure this is a major factor for St James. But it would seem that a non-profit with a goal of maximizing care would use funds from high income hospitals to help subsidize hospitals with lower incomes, and that the hospitals would be placed in areas of greatest need, not just greatest revenues. According to the Application for Exception the hospital filed to make this move, the cost of charity care at St James CH went from \$7.6million in 2012 to \$19million in 2014, more than double. This was not due to growing numbers of patients (21000 in 2012, 15600 in 2014). This must be due to increased costs. Could that be the reason for the loss of “cost effectiveness”?

If subsidies from other facilities still cannot make up the shortfall, cuts in areas that do not detrimentally affect patient care should be looked at. But in the US over the last few decades, even while non-profit hospitals at times struggled to make ends meet, hospital CEO compensation kept going up. According to an article in Modern Healthcare, “Total cash compensation [for non-profit hospital CEOs] grew an average of 24.2% from 2011 to 2012 for the 147 chief executives included in the analysis ofnot-for-profit compensation. Of those 147 CEOs, 14.3% [21], saw their total cash compensation rise by more than 50%.” The average 2012 cash compensation for the non-profit hospital CEOs was \$2.2 million in 2012 . That’s over \$1000/hr.

Articles in Crains Chicago Business from a year ago (strange how a non-profit would be highlighted in a business magazine) said, “At peak usage, Olympia Fields filled 82 percent of its staffed beds in 2013, making it one of the top performers in the Chicago area, according to Crain's analysis. The Chicago Heights hospital filled a little more than two-thirds of its beds.” Or 66%. To a layperson that does not sound bad at all. One of the articles also said, “Occupancy rates varied widely in 2013, with tiny hospitals downstate and older hospitals in poor Chicago neighborhoods having the worst records. Many of the best performers are large, affluent hospitals in the suburbs.”

Why is that? Do affluent people really get sick more often than poor people? If healthcare were honestly the core mission of a non-profit hospital, wouldn’t hospitals be placed in areas of greatest need, not greatest affluence? Using occupation rates as an excuse to close certain hospitals wouldn’t be necessary if the US had, like EVERY OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRY ON THIS PLANET, a universal healthcare system. The Commonwealth Fund released a report in 2014 that reported that the United

States healthcare system is the most expensive in the world, but it performs worse than 11 other similar industrialized nations. Again, the Commonwealth Fund said, "Administrative costs account for 25 percent of total U.S. hospital spending... The United States had the highest administrative costs; Scotland and Canada had the lowest. Reducing U.S. per capita spending for hospital administration to Scottish or Canadian levels would have saved more than \$150 billion in 2011." That's administrative costs due to billing, insurance related (BIR), and executive compensation activities. For Franciscan Alliance, between 2012 and 2013 while income was down about 2% and charitable contributions went down by about 10%, Compensation of Officers went up by 11%.

As for St James, the move will save about \$20 million a year, according to Crains Business Report, after it had just spent about \$14 million a couple years ago to increase the number of private rooms.

A Fitch Ratings report in 2012 said that "Franciscan Alliance system has been a strong financial performer of late, garnering \$2.1 billion in net patient revenue for 2011, up from \$2.0 billion a year before, according to financial statements." The Alliance doesn't seem to be hurting too badly.

While St James and the entire Franciscan Alliance is a not-for-profit organization, it still apparently makes decisions like any for profit business. Dollars before people. So, basically, when a decision must be made that will either affect the bottom line or patients, guess who loses? This is a direct contradiction of the company's mission statement- "to care for everyone who comes through our doors".

For this reason, healthcare should not be a for profit enterprise. It goes against the very nature of healthcare, where the patient must always comes first. Granted you cannot spend unlimited resources on every patient. No one is asking for that. But likewise, you cannot put protection of CEO compensation and pharmaceutical profits and insurance company profits into the equation when making "cost effectiveness" determinations. I think it is clear that with a 66% occupancy rate and \$20million in charitable care, there is probably a real need for a hospital in the Chicago Heights area. I also find it interesting that the \$20million projected to be saved by the move exactly equals the amount of charity care the hospital provides.

So, my questions are:

1. How was this "cost effectiveness" calculated and where can we get the numbers used?
2. How can we get the balance sheets for the hospital, including the compensation costs for the top executives and the revenues passed on to the parent company Franciscan Alliance?
3. Will closing the Chicago Height facility reduce the charity costs and by how much?

William C Preston
477 North Street
Crete, IL 60417
708-288-6471
bill.preston@mxns.com

SUPPORT

The very fact that SJ is the last Catholic Hospital in the SoSubs defines the commitment the Franciscan Alliance has to this community. The burden of deficit spending is created by shrinking health care \$ at the Fed/State/Pvt Insurance level. Therefore if we are to succeed

it is incumbent upon the St Govt of IL to find a way to fulfill its ^{funding} obligations as related to the health of its citizens

Donna Work

My name is Richard Ceragioli. I am a pediatrician with the Franciscan physician Network. I have been in practice in our community for 23 years. I have also lived in our community at the same time. I have a wife and have raised 3 girls whom attended Marian catholic H.S..

I would first like to say that... I love Chicago Heights. More importantly I love the people in Chicago Heights and surrounding communities.

As a local primary care provider and as a member of the community, I know how important it is to have access to great local care.

I am confident that our Franciscan Sisters' mission to provide competent, compassionate and fiscally sustainable health care to our community aligns with their Franciscan values. This is a daunting responsibility and requires constant feedback and modifications. They have provided health care to our community for over 100 years. That level of commitment should be valued, respected and supported.

St. James' plan for Chicago Heights is not only to keep physicians in the community and to expand access to primary care and specialist physicians, but to provide an efficient, state of the art medical center. The expansion of the 24/7 urgent care coverage will accommodate the vast majority of our patients' needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my perspective. I urge you to support and approve what St. James has proposed.

Robert D. McCullough, Jr.
20541 Parthenon Way
Olympia Fields, IL. 60461
630-235-3954
rdmassociatesinc@yahoo.com

February 9, 2016

Re: Franciscan St. James Health
Call For Action Public Hearing
The Future of Healthcare In The Southland

My name is Robert D. McCullough, Jr. I am a resident in the Village of Olympia Fields, Illinois, and a volunteer who serves as one of several Commissioners on the Community Relations Commission in the community.

I am a beneficiary of the services provided by Franciscan St. James Healthcare. My testimony is based on a life threatening incident from almost 16 years ago that resulted in my managed care to date provided by the healthcare professionals at the Olympia Fields hospital facilities. I am alive today because of the services and care provided to me through this organization.

Over this time in my care I observed the forces of change that have impact on this organization in providing its services to the community. The improvements this healthcare organization has made to its facilities to address the issues relevant to improving healthcare services and implementing new innovation and technology is at a cost that cannot or will never exceed that of what it cost in saving lives. That's what this is about. Saving lives.

I support renovating facilities, I support implementing new innovation and technology, I support improving healthcare services that lead to improving our health and saving lives. I support change that helps an organization function in a realistic and efficient manner improving outdated process, and that incorporates management strategies that align with the organizations mission, objectives, and goals to provided healthcare in the Southland region.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert D. McCullough, Jr. 
Olympia Fields, Illinois
Community Relations Commissioner

My name is Father Ron Kondziolka, director of Spiritual Care, at Franciscan St. James Health. I want to express my unwavering support for Franciscan St. James and the plan to consolidate inpatient and emergency services at the Olympia Fields hospital. St. James and the Sisters' mission have been a beacon of hope for people in the Southland who come to us for care and we care for them mind, body and spirit. We have for more than 100 years and will in the future.

I'm encouraged that Archbishop Cupich of the Archdiocese of Chicago has already affirmed support of St. James' plan, stating that the Archdiocese understands the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration's unwavering commitment to the region, the fact that alternatives to the hospital's closing have been thoroughly evaluated, and the financial realities of operating two hospitals in such close proximity to one another in a rapidly changing health care environment.

I urge your consideration of this project proposal and your informed decision to approve it. Thank you for the opportunity to talk with you today.



Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

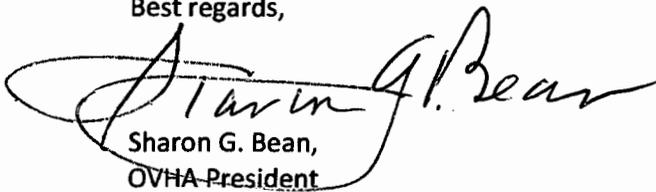
February 9, 2016

I am Sharon Bean, President of the Original Village Homeowner Association (OVHA) of Olympia Fields, Illinois. I represent one of the 15 Homeowner Associations in the Village of Olympia Fields. This letter is **presented in support of the application to expand the Franciscan St. James Hospital Restructuring Plan in Olympia Fields.** Our association encourages the proposed expansion to move forward for the following reasons:

- It would create more jobs AND opportunities for businesses to supply additional goods and services for the expanded entity.
- Increased employment also means additional dollars will be spent in the region i.e. purchase of gas, visits to restaurants, retail shopping etc.
- Increased employment creates demand for local housing
- Potential new residents will bolster the enrollment in the region's schools
- New residents are potential candidates for the region's not for profit boards

OVHA welcomes the expansion of Franciscan St. James Hospital in Olympia Fields.

Best regards,


Sharon G. Bean,
OVHA President

Kanayo K. Odeluga, MD, Internal Medicine, Occupational Medicine,
International Travel Medicine
Franciscan St. James Health – Chicago Heights
Tuesday, February 09, 2016

My name is Kanayo K. Odeluga. I am a Board certified Internist and occupational medicine Specialist. I have had the privilege of working at St. James Occupational Health Center in Chicago Heights since January 1998. For more than 25 years St James has made the necessary investments to develop a world class Occupational and environmental health program that has partnered with many businesses and workplaces of all sizes in the Southland to provide a safe workplace and ensure a healthy workforce in the community. This service started in our Chicago Heights campus and will continue to be based in our Chicago Heights campus after the restructuring. We also provide travel medicine services to many of southland locals traveling overseas for business, mission and pleasure or to visit family and friends overseas from our International Travel Medicine Center based at Chicago Heights. We established an Immigration Clinic a few years ago in response to the need of residents in our community applying for green cards (Immigrant Visa) so that they would no longer need to travel to downtown Chicago for these services. I have the privilege of serving them as a Civil Surgeon right here in our community.

As a physician serving together with the Sisters' of St. Francis, I have seen their commitment to serving our community and we will continue to serve our business community from our Occupational Health Center in Chicago Heights. Thanks for the opportunity to speak.

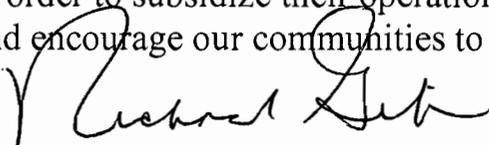
My name is Richard Gibb. I am a resident of Olympia Fields, and past president of Federal Signal in University Park with approximately 1000 employees. We had many opportunities to use the services of both Chicago Heights and the Olympia Fields Hospitals. It is vitally important that emergency services be available within a 10 to 15 minute driving radius. It is a contributor to quality of life when residents of our communities do not have to drive long distances for the services of world-class hospitals.

I would like to thank the management of Franciscan Alliance for suffering through significant financial losses in the last few years while maintaining health services in our area. I congratulate them on stemming large losses and for having the courage to address much needed restructuring.

Healthcare costs in America are out of control and do not compare well in the quality of health care available to other developed nations. A significant contributor to health care costs is redundant services and facilities. When two large hospitals with excess bed capacity and duplicative services operate within 5 miles of each other there is an opportunity to shut down one of those locations.

As an option management at Franciscan St. James has developed a plan to utilize both locations where large employee bases are maintained. They should be congratulated for this thoughtful approach and supported in their transition plan. The plan will entail large capital investments in Chicago Heights and Olympia Fields but should result in improved health care and the potential for long-range profitability.

We cannot and should not expect hospitals to provide world-class service while suffering annual losses. Nor do we want to pay more for services or raise our taxes in order to subsidize their operations. I encourage you to approve their plan quickly and encourage our communities to support their initiative.



Richard Gibb
20821 Oak Lane
Olympia Fields, IL 60461
ragibb@comcast.net
708-925-7277

Hello. My name is Tom Villanova and I am President of the Chicago & Cook County Building & Construction Trades Council. Our Council represents approximately 100,000 working men and women from 24 affiliated organizations in the union construction trades.

I am here today to support the proposed \$137 million dollar investment that Franciscan St. James plans to make in the Chicago Heights and Olympia Fields campuses. This expansion, redevelopment and improvement will continue to provide economic stimulus to a geographic area that has long felt the effects of a slowing economy and a government in gridlock.

Projects like this one provide good union jobs for our members who live and work in the Southland. It is important to keep our union trade professionals working and providing valuable skills to our communities.

We have worked with Tonn & Blank Construction, the firm retained by Franciscan St. James, and we are confident that this project will be a union job site. Our union affiliates will provide highly specialized, trained men and women who will bring their leadership and expertise to this project.

Thank you for your time.

RE: Franciscan St. James Health

February 9, 2016

Hello. My name is William Klein and I am a Vice President with Tonn and Blank Construction, a construction and construction management firm, with a large portfolio of hospital and health care projects.

Tonn and Blank was engaged early last year to evaluate the condition the Chicago Heights hospital's structural, mechanical, plumbing and electrical systems and provide our opinion as to the cost that might be required to keep the facility operational and safe for the public in coming years.

Among our findings were:

- At least 12 large air handling unit, the chiller unit serving surgery, the Center tower transformer, the entire surge protection system, the East building's generator, the waste water risers, the utility tunnels, and the parking deck are all in need of replacement
- Only 40% of the building is currently covered with sprinklers.
- The brick veneer on the facing of the North tower is breaking away
- The grounding system is in need of major upgrades.
- Many of the inpatient units are obsolete – they were built with double loaded corridors instead of a center core for nurses and support, as in a modern hospital.
- Elevators are very old with analog control systems that must soon be upgraded to digital systems.
- Light fixtures in many areas do not meet current energy codes and must be replaced.

In summary, the hospital would have to expend as much as \$70 million over the next 5-10 years to just to stay ahead of major mechanical breakdowns and stay current with codes and keep the doors open. At that point they would still have a facility that is over 100 years old in places with the newest areas being at least 40 years old.

My name is Mary Teykl and I am a lifelong South Suburban resident. I grew up in Chicago Heights and currently reside in Flossmoor. I wish to express my support for the plan to consolidate in-patient care at the Olympia Fields campus of St. James. I, too, am disappointed that the services provided at the Chicago Heights campus will be different than those currently in place. My children were all born there. We have emotional attachments to the hospital. The reality we now face is that if the proposed changes do not take place, we may not have any care at all in Chicago Heights or Olympia Fields. At the community meeting held in January in Matteson, it was stated that over 80% of the Emergency Room visits were for non-emergency care. The plan to provide more primary care doctors in Chicago Heights puts the services that are needed in the place they need to be. We want healthcare to be about taking care of people. It takes money to do that. You can't keep throwing dollars into a system that cannot support both facilities. The hospital says it would take eighty million dollars to upgrade the Chicago Heights building. Eighty million dollars can be better spent putting a system in place to get the people the level of care they actually need. We need to make sure that as a community we use the care we have appropriately. Use the Emergency Room for emergencies. Go to the doctor's office for preventive care and if we need the doctor's office after hours, we have Urgent Care to fill that need. We all want to make sure that our families and our neighbors have a place to go for healthcare but if we don't support this plan then St. James may not be here for us at all. Do we really want to be in that position? I don't. I support the hospital's plan to repurpose the Chicago Heights facility so that St. James can continue to provide healthcare for the next hundred years.



Kolosh

SOUTH SUBURBAN MAYORS & MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

- Beecher
- Blue Island
- Burnham
- Calumet City
- Calumet Park
- Chicago Heights
- Country Club Hills
- Crestwood
- Crete
- Dixmoor
- Dolton
- East Hazel Crest
- Flossmoor
- Ford Heights
- Glenwood
- Harvey
- Hazel Crest
- Homewood
- Lansing
- Lynwood
- Markham
- Matteson
- Midlothian
- Mokena
- Monee
- Oak Forest
- Olympia Fields
- Orland Hills
- Orland Park
- Park Forest
- Peotone
- Phoenix
- Posen
- Richton Park
- Riverdale
- Robbins
- Sauk Village
- South Chicago Heights
- South Holland
- Steger
- Summit
- Thornton
- Tinley Park
- University Park

PUBLIC HEARING STATEMENT

February 9, 2016

The South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association represents 44 communities and 650,000 people in southern Cook and Will counties. Approximately 2 weeks ago our Public Safety Committee chaired by Mayor Bob Kolosh of Thornton held an information meeting on the proposal by Franciscan St. James concerning the Chicago Heights and Olympia Fields campuses. Nearly one hundred Mayors, Village Managers, public safety personnel and others attended this meeting.

Subsequent to that meeting the Executive Committee of SSMMA met to discuss this issue and have authorized me to make the following public statement:

SSMMA very much appreciates the public health service provided by Franciscan St. James Olympia Fields and Chicago Heights and the proposed investments and upgrades to the facilities. We also understand that difficult decisions need to be made.

While SSMMA supports much of what is being proposed by Franciscan St. James, we cannot support the closing of the Emergency Room in Chicago Heights based upon our current information. A number of our Mayors, public and private ambulance operators and our residents have grave concerns that the plan can adequately provide timely access to residents south and east of St. James Olympia Fields and that the proposed ER facility in Olympia Fields will have adequate capacity to serve the doubling of visits to the Olympia Fields ER. Should the expanded Olympia Fields ER not have adequate capacity at times and go on bypass this would create additional time when the ambulances are out of our municipalities and not in service to community residents.

SSMMA would instead propose that the Hospital Facilities Board, all hospitals and health care facilities in the Southland and Cook County Hospitals join with our Mayors, State Legislators, Governor Rauner, President Toni Preckwinkle and County Commissioners to explore the establishment of a Level 1 Trauma Center for the Southland in Chicago Heights.

All reports confirm that the need for a Level 1 Trauma Center in the southern suburbs is great and by working together this can be the opportunity to achieve this critical need. We pledge our support to help make this happen.



Bimba Manufacturing Company
P.O. Box 68 • Monee, Illinois 60449-0068
708.534.8544 www.bimba.com

My name is Patrick Ormsby and I am the President of Bimba Manufacturing Company. I am also a member of the Board of Directors of the Franciscan St. James Foundation, which raises money to help the hospital. Bimba Manufacturing is an employee-owned company with 600 employees. Our corporate headquarters are in University Park, about 7 miles south of Franciscan St. James Olympia Fields campus, where we have 300 employees. Since many of our employees use Franciscan St. James, as well as any injured employees requiring emergency treatment, we are in favor of the re-structuring plan because it will make Franciscan St. James in Olympia Fields a better hospital. Also, because Franciscan St. James is one of the largest employers in the area, it is important to the entire area that they do whatever is necessary to have financial stability and remain viable.

As a longtime resident of the area (over 60 years), I have a keen appreciation for St James in Chicago Heights and a soft spot in my heart. You see, three of my children were born there. So, I understand the emotion surrounding the restructuring plan. But, I believe it is an excellent strategic plan, designed to enhance the capabilities of Franciscan St. James, which will benefit the Southland Community for many years to come.

Thank you.

Hello. My name is Julie Mulholland and I am currently the VP of Clinical Services at Franciscan St. James Health. I've worked at St. James for over 28 years.

While I have worked for the Sisters of St. Francis all this time, I also call the Southland my home. I understand the emotional nature of the proposed plan. I've heard many concerns from family and friends and am troubled by the misinformation that has been distributed. We are committed to providing access to those that need it most and while inpatient and ER services are being proposed to move to Olympia Fields, the expansion of Outpatient services on the Chicago Heights campus is a direct response to the community needs. We understand healthcare is moving in this direction and the proposed plan positions Franciscan St. James Health to be sustainable and present in our community well into the future.

Additionally, we now know that the number one issue right now for local political and EMS leaders is the transportation of many of their patients. I have been in these conversations and am confident we can address their concerns. Currently, we average 42 EMT runs, which is approximately 2 an hour. While I am sure you will hear from EMS leaders tonight about volume, our data clearly confirms that no community outside of Chicago Heights makes more than one run per day to the Chicago Heights campus. That volume is manageable and I'm confident we can ensure their patients are delivered to the ER in a timely manner and that we get their ambulances back in their communities as efficiently and quickly as possible.

I am grateful for the chance to publicly speak in support of the proposed project, not just because I work at Franciscan St. James but because its my community and my hospital, for me and my family.

Parker Rick

Subject: FW: This is what I plan to say at the meeting today. Any edits?

Importance: High

My name is Rick Parker and I have worked in the Information Services department at St James for almost 17 years. My daughter and her mother also work for Franciscan Alliance in the Northern Indiana region and we have over 50 years of service to the Sisters between us. My mother has been a patient at St James and received good care and she also spent her final days in the Hospice at St James where she received very compassionate care. I believe the changes St James is making will insure the sisters mission will continue for the next 100 years in the Chicago Southland. *and believe in the sister mission* *Jan* *RM*

Susan Linn

I am a long-time resident of the Chicago Southland, and I have been a patient at St. James Hospital more than one time. Twice, I was admitted to the hospital because of life-threatening situations. On both occasions, I had to travel from Richton Park to Chicago Heights, and in neither instance, did I or my family think the 20-minute travel time was a threat to the outcome of the emergency. We were just grateful to have a hospital there for us.

I tell you this because I am concerned that if this board does not approve the Certificate of Need permitting St. James to consolidate, the quality of health care I relied on will be greatly diminished. I don't think there is anyone in this room who believes that the hospital can thrive by being forced to duplicate very costly services like surgical units and emergency departments.

I implore you to approve the Certificate of Need so that St. James can redirect the resources currently being used for duplicative services toward primary care and community services designed to keep all of us healthy and out of the hospital.

Sheree Boyd, BSN, RN, MBA
Director of Clinical Operations
Specialty Physicians of Illinois, LLC

February 9, 2016

My name is Sheree Boyd; I am the Director of Clinical Operations for Specialty Physicians of Illinois. I have lived in this community for over 25 years and have sought out care at both St. James Hospital in Chicago Heights and Olympia Fields. I can't take away the angst that people are feeling but I can assure you, that providing quality care for families in this community is our number one priority. We are committed to the community and will increase our visibility at the Chicago Heights campus with expanded Primary Care services, Bariatrics, Diabetes services, and outpatient pharmacy. We will continue to service those patients utilizing the Franciscan Express Care location on Dixie Highway with an increase in hours of operation to 24hrs/7 days a week. We will provide a more robust level of service for those needing more acute care.

Thank you

I am Karen Yates, director of Mission Integration at Franciscan St. James Health. I have worked for St. James for 36 years and witness our mission in action every single day.

Franciscan St. James Health fulfills its mission in ways that may be unknown to our neighbors. Many people don't realize that when someone comes into the hospital for care, we become aware of things they need, like a warm coat or, when they're discharged, they're going to a home with no food in it. Or, there may be post-discharge needs such as necessities for a new baby, prescriptions or transportation. When we see a need, we try to meet it if we can. And we did to the amount of \$52 million in 2014, including over \$31 million in uncompensated care.

Additionally, we align with key community partners whose missions are compatible with ours. The organizations recognize the humanity in every person and share our respect for life. We are honored to work with them to serve our community.

St. James is aided in the fulfillment of its mission by the unwavering commitment of its doctors, nurses and staff. Oftentimes, in addition to personal donations of money, food and various items and gifts, many participate in countless events that bring healthcare, through free screenings and education, out to the community.

As you have heard or will hear from others, St. James' proposed restructuring plan and the hospital changes that will take place have no impact on our mission to serve the Southland. We are, and will remain, committed to carrying out our mission here, just as we have for more than a century.

My name is Craig Miller and I am the Executive Director of Specialty Physicians of Illinois, LLC.

The plan that St. James has put before this board reflects the changing health care delivery system that physicians are using in their practices. Except in grave situations, the best place to recover is in the home and physicians strive to keep their patients out of the hospital in their familiar environment.

Having a modern, updated facility like Olympia Fields, with all services under one roof, allows for better care.

Expanding the Primary Care facility at Chicago Heights will give our physicians additional tools with which to provide care and treat patients in the appropriate setting.

At the end of the day, the proposal before the Board will help us to attract well-qualified physicians who want to practice at the most modern facilities available. We work everyday to engage the best physicians so we can continue to provide the level of care everyone should expect. This community deserves nothing less.

I encourage the Board to approve this plan and help us continue to provide access to care for all citizens of the Southland.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I am Jan Coffey and I have lived in Chicago Heights since 1960. St. James is my hospital. I love this community and I love St. James. Clearly, there has been a lot of changes to the community over the years but everyone knew that the Sisters would be here as long as it was financially feasible. It seems that the proposed plan is the ONLY way the Sisters can remain in a community that we all know they love. So many business have just left, leaving us with nothing. I see the Sisters trying to do everything in their power to actually fulfill their original mission of delivering healthcare to our community; offering State of the Art healthcare as well as offering employment opportunities from within the community.

I was talking with my friends over the weekend and we all wondered how another business would be treated if they said they were willing to come to the area and invest \$137 million for us. I can't remember anyone wanting to do that in our community. I can't imagine they would be receiving the treatment the Sisters have gotten. I understand nobody likes change but I also know this plan gives us the best chance for Chicago Heights to remain OPEN. As a resident of the Southland, I am glad they are investing so much to expand Olympia Fields so that we will have private rooms, and a State of the Art hospital that we can be proud of. We deserve that. I'm also encouraged to hear I can still go to the Chicago Heights campus for my outpatient services. It may not be the campus we have all come to know, however, it's better than them completely leaving Chicago Heights and I'm grateful they are finding a way to stay here. We are better off to have something on the Chicago Heights campus than nothing. Because of that, I am obviously very much in support of the Sisters and their plan to stay in the Southland.

My name is Suj Sundararaj and I am a board-certified internal medicine physician and Hospitalist with Franciscan St. James Health.

The proposed consolidation of inpatient services ensures that Franciscan St. James has the appropriate number of beds to serve our Southland communities. Between both campuses, there are 470 beds but, on average, only 130 of them are occupied daily. What St. James proposes demonstrates the hospital's commitment and business need to be organized in ways that truly fosters service to our patients in the most effective way and that ensures that resources are properly and effectively deployed at one site. I believe these recommendations by St. James are justified and based on solid planning focused on the health needs of patients. They will result in improved access to care and enhance the hospital's ability to serve patients.

I ask that the Health Facilities board approve this plan. Thank you.

My name is Jairo Cruz and I am a board certified cardiologist with Specialty Physicians of Illinois and I have been practicing medicine for 35 years. I am also a member of the Franciscan St. James board of directors.

The plan that St. James is proposing is an appropriate response to the issues of a changing health care environment that we are all facing.

The Chicago Heights hospital is outdated. The staff does the best they can, but it's useful life has passed.

Neither one of the hospitals is operating at a high enough occupancy level to provide any efficiencies of scale. Rather, they have two surgical suites, two imaging departments, two ICUs, two ERs, two kitchens, lots of empty beds, and the list goes on.

The ERs, and particularly the Chicago Heights ER, are being used for non-emergency care, with patients going to the ER when they should be going to an urgent care center, a private physician's office, or a primary care clinic.

St. James' plans to consolidate inpatient and ER services, to expand the capacity of its Chicago Heights urgent care center right down the road from the hospital, to expand its primary care center, and to recruit additional primary care physicians is exactly what is needed in the Southland.

I would urge the Certificate of Need Board to approve the plans, and to do so without delay.

Hello. My name is JIM VALLEYFIELD and I am a member of Local 134
of the ELECTRICIANS Union.

It is so important to have projects like this in the area. My family, as well as many others in my union are struggling with the downturn in the economy and the uncertainty of building projects. Franciscan St. James is really helping the local economy and our local union by deciding to spend \$137 million dollars on the two hospitals.

This is much needed work here in the Southland. Our families also need health care systems that are financially strong enough to invest in modern services. There have been a lot of changes in health care, we see that with our union members. We would be proud to help Franciscan St. James expand and modernize in Olympia Fields to respond to all of the changes. The union men and women of our area would be proud to work on projects that will help St. James serve our families for many years into the future. Thank you.



Thank you for the opportunity to address the Health Facilities and Services Review Board. My name is Adam Nickerson. I am the Club Manager of Olympia Fields Country Club as well as a resident of the Graymoor subdivision in Olympia Fields.

It's not hard to understand why Franciscan St. James in Chicago Heights needs to close. It's 100 years old with bricks literally falling off the walls. No matter how much money you sink into the old building, it's still going to be an old building. The clubhouse at the country club is approaching the century mark, so I know from first-hand experience what it takes to maintain aging facilities.

The Olympia Fields hospital is just a ten-minute car ride away – probably only six or seven minutes by ambulance. I guarantee that there are thousands of people in the Chicagoland area that live more than ten minutes from their closest hospital.

St. James is making the right decision in re-focusing their efforts on improving access to the outpatient services in the Chicago Heights area, I commend them for their plans, and I encourage us all to support them.

The consolidation of all of the services at Olympia Fields makes a lot of sense to me. The continuous sinking of millions of dollars into an old facility does not. Perhaps my position would be different if the closest hospital was a half hour away, but that's simply not the case.

Thank you for your attention

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "AN", is located below the text "Thank you for your attention".

Olympia Fields Country Club

Joseph M. Martin

February 9, 2016

Chairman and Members

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street (2nd Floor)
Springfield IL 62761

Dear Chairman:

My name is Joe Martin I am a lifelong resident of the Chicago Southland. I have lived and worked in Chicago Heights and served the City in the Department of Planning and Development for over 5 years. I now live in Olympia Fields where I serve as Chair of the Village's Community Relations Commission and Chair of our Veteran's Commission, my wife, Debbie Meyers Martin serves our community as President of the Village.

Our need in this region for quality health care is great, now just as it was when the Sisters of St. Francis recognized the need over 100 years ago.

Chicago Heights has been home to St. James Hospital for generations, many of us have had grandparents, parents, children, and grandchildren born here, cared for here, and died here. It is a valued and loved member of our Southland family.

Therefor I express my support that the Franciscan Alliance continue to provide there ever improving healthcare services in the Southland at their newest facility, Olympia Fields, it makes good sense.

I further encourage the Franciscan Alliance to initiate a collaborative venture with all Southland Healthcare providers to secure a level one trauma center, at their Chicago Heights Campus; this is a much needed facility in the greater Southland Region.

We do not want to cause any added disinvestment in any part of our region and a facility like the St. James Hospital in Chicago Heights lends itself to creative repurposing such as a level one trauma Center.

I sincerely thank you for your time and implore your thoughtful consideration of this decision to the benefit of all of our residents and each of our communities served.

Respectfully,


Joseph Martin

My name is Ashley Tomei and I work in Human Resources at Franciscan St. James Health. I was born at St. James in Chicago Heights and have always loved St. James but I completely understand why these proposed plans are necessary. The same holds true for most of the people that I work with.

Our staff is looking forward to working in an environment designed to deliver services in a contemporary fashion. In the long run, that will improve patient care. And that's what this is all about.

I look forward to approval of this plan.

My name is Father Ron Kondziolka, director of Spiritual Care, at Franciscan St. James Health. I want to express my unwavering support for Franciscan St. James and the plan to consolidate inpatient and emergency services at the Olympia Fields hospital. St. James and the Sisters' mission have been a beacon of hope for people in the Southland who come to us for care and we care for them mind, body and spirit. We have for more than 100 years and will in the future.

I'm encouraged that Archbishop Cupich of the Archdiocese of Chicago has already affirmed support of St. James' plan, stating that the Archdiocese understands the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration's unwavering commitment to the region, the fact that alternatives to the hospital's closing have been thoroughly evaluated, and the financial realities of operating two hospitals in such close proximity to one another in a rapidly changing health care environment.

I urge your consideration of this project proposal and your informed decision to approve it. Thank you for the opportunity to talk with you today.

My name is Debbie Bergonia and I am the director of revenue management at Franciscan St. James Health.

St. James wants to provide excellence in healthcare for our communities. Over the years, the hospital has made efforts to consolidate existing resources, reduce redundancies, all the while expanding the range of services, improving access and elevating the quality of healthcare in the Southland. St. James has been successful in its efforts thus far, but the reality is that the Chicago Heights hospital is hampered by the age and physical constraints of the existing facility.

The decision to consolidate the two inpatient campuses to a single facility is based on solid planning focused on the health needs of patients and will result in improved access to care. It is the right thing to do. I encourage the Health Facilities Board to approve this solid plan for the future of Franciscan St. James.

I am Tonja Austin, a board-certified Family Medicine physician and president of the medical staff at Franciscan St. James Health.

On behalf of the medical staff, it is important that I assure you that the medical staff is committed to continue partnering with Franciscan St. James in its delivery of quality health care that is uniquely outfitted for the Southland community that we serve together. We are especially appreciative of the investments that St. James has already made to improve access to, not only primary care, but specialty care physician services in our underserved and underinsured communities and the commitment to continue in that ministry.

I can provide personal testimony regarding my experience as a patient at Franciscan St. James. In 2003, I was rushed to the St. James ER. Once there, I was assessed to be in critical condition and required emergency surgery. I can truly say that the care that I received was not only exceptional but compassionate. And for that reason, I have continued to seek out all of my personal healthcare needs within the Franciscan St. James health system. I can personally attest to St. James' continued dedication to improving the quality of health care service to the community and also to its ability to deliver on that promise.

Our medical staff is part of that promise. Our physicians are all on staff at both St. James hospitals in Chicago Heights and Olympia Fields. Your relationship with your physician will not change. Additionally, St. James' plans to renovate the Chicago Heights medical office building and expand primary care access are key to keeping patients out of the emergency room and in an appropriate care setting. This is better health care for the Southland.

I urge the board to approve the plan before you without delay.

Copy #2

"PUBLIC RECORD COPY"

February 9, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Ann Anne and I reside at 11110 I've lived in the Southland for ___ years. I support Franciscan St. James Health Restructuring Plan. We need to recognize the role that the Sisters have played for over a century in terms of providing health care services into the entire region. Franciscan St. James Health has a plan to transform healthcare by consolidating acute-care services at a single campus and expanding primary care throughout the region.

Opposition to the consolidation plan may likely result in the closure of both locations and NO hospitals in either Chicago Heights or Olympia Fields. Franciscan St. James, CEO, Arnie Kimmel, performed above expectations in the first three years of his tenure. His initial goal was to clean up the balance sheet financially to make the business attractive for a divestiture. He did better than the "Sisters" expected, so now, they have approved a plan going forward to restructure some of the operations of the Chicago Heights and Olympia Fields locations. The plan going forward includes a substantial new investment, (\$137,000,000) one hundred thirty seven million dollars. One of the corollary benefits of this expansion will be JOBS. And these are not service level jobs. These are good paying jobs with a future in the health care field.

Instead of fighting 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 expansion of service in Olympia Fields, the re-development of their Chicago Heights campus, on the recruitment of more physicians to our community, and on the development of alternatives way to an emergency room. St James has already started that process according to the plans that they have laid out, and rather than fighting them, we should be working with them to improve access for the entire region.

Best regards,

Signature

Copy #2

"PUBLIC RECORD COPY"

February 9, 2016

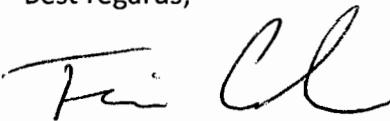
To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Tim Coleman and I reside at 2570 Lawrence Ln
Homewood, IL. I've lived in the Southland for 5 years. I support Franciscan St. James Health Restructuring Plan. We need to recognize the role that the Sisters have played for over a century in terms of providing health care services into the entire region. Franciscan St. James Health has a plan to transform healthcare by consolidating acute-care services at a single campus and expanding primary care throughout the region.

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Best regards,



Signature

Copy #1

Verbal Statement: "MY NAME IS Debbie Berry AND I RESIDE AT Joliet, IL. I'M HERE TO DEMONSTRATE MY SUPPORT TO THE FRANCISCAN ST. JAMES STRATEGIC RECONSTRUCTING PLAN AS OUTLINED IN THIS DOCUMENT, WHICH I WOULD LIKE MAKE PART OF THE PUBLIC RECORD."

SPEAKER SHOULD TEAR OFF COPY #2 (ATTACHED) AND HAND TO THE PUBLIC RECORD ATTENDANT

February 9, 2016

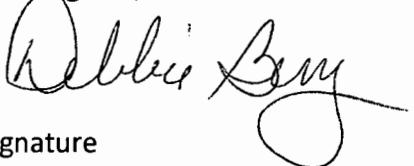
To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Debbie Berry and I reside at Joliet IL. I've lived in the Southland for 16 years. I support Franciscan St. James Health Restructuring Plan. We need to recognize the role that the Sisters have played for over a century in terms of providing health care services into the entire region. Franciscan St. James Health has a plan to transform healthcare by consolidating acute-care services at a single campus and expanding primary care throughout the region.

Opposition to the consolidation plan may likely result in the closure of both locations and NO hospitals in either Chicago Heights or Olympia Fields. Franciscan St. James, CEO, Arnie Kimmel, performed above expectations in the first three years of his tenure. His initial goal was to clean up the balance sheet financially to make the business attractive for a divestiture. He did better than the "Sisters" expected, so now, they have approved a plan going forward to restructure some of the operations of the Chicago Heights and Olympia Fields locations. The plan going forward includes a substantial new investment, (\$137,000,000) one hundred thirty seven million dollars. One of the corollary benefits of this expansion will be JOBS. And these are not service level jobs. These are good paying jobs with a future in the health care field.

Instead of fighting 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 expansion of service in Olympia Fields, the re-development of their Chicago Heights campus, on the recruitment of more physicians to our community, and on the development of alternatives way to an emergency room. St James has already started that process according to the plans that they have laid out, and rather than fighting them, we should be working with them to improve access for the entire region.

Best regards,



Signature

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February 9, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Julie Mulhollan and I reside at 2700 Coriander Lane Frankfort. I've lived in the Southland for 48 years. I support Franciscan St. James Health Restructuring Plan. We need to recognize the role that the Sisters have played for over a century in terms of providing health care services into the entire region. Franciscan St. James Health has a plan to transform healthcare by consolidating acute-care services at a single campus and expanding primary care throughout the region.

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Best regards,



Signature

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February 9, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Dr. Mark Fritsch and I reside at Chicago, IL. I've ^{worked} lived in the Southland for 7.5 years. I support Franciscan St. James Health Restructuring Plan. We need to recognize the role that the Sisters have played for over a century in terms of providing health care services into the entire region. Franciscan St. James Health has a plan to transform healthcare by consolidating acute-care services at a single campus and expanding primary care throughout the region.

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February 9, 2016

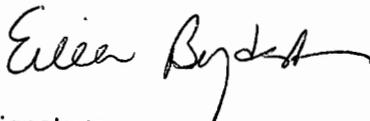
To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Eileen Boydston and I reside at Homewood. I've lived in the Southland for 21 years. I support Franciscan St. James Health Restructuring Plan. We need to recognize the role that the Sisters have played for over a century in terms of providing health care services into the entire region. Franciscan St. James Health has a plan to transform healthcare by consolidating acute-care services at a single campus and expanding primary care throughout the region.

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Best regards,



Signature

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February 9, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is GEORGE M BROSS and I reside at 22615 Postwell Ln of Frankl. I've lived in the Southland for 59 years. I support Franciscan St. James Health Restructuring Plan. We need to recognize the role that the Sisters have played for over a century in terms of providing health care services into the entire region. Franciscan St. James Health has a plan to transform healthcare by consolidating acute-care services at a single campus and expanding primary care throughout the region.

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Best regards,

Signature





F. H. Ayer Manufacturing Co.

2015 HALSTED STREET
P.O. BOX 247
CHICAGO HEIGHTS, IL 60411-0247
PHONE: 708-755-0550
FAX: 708-755-7435
E-mail: fhayer@fhayer.com
Visit our website at www.fhayer.com

February 1, 2016

ILLINOIS HEALTH FACILITIES
AND SERVICES REVISION BOARD
2ND FLOOR
525 W. JEFFERSON ST.
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62761

ATTN: MR. MIKE CONSTANTINO

Re: Franciscan St. James Health Facilities

Dear Mr. Constantino:

Franciscan St. James operates two hospitals in Illinois – one in Chicago Heights and the other in Olympia Fields. The Chicago Heights facility located at 1423 Chicago Road will be reduced in size and will no longer have emergency care or private patient rooms.

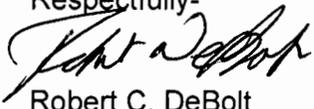
My concerns are as follows:

1. St. James is a large employer in Chicago Heights. These jobs will disappear.
2. There was no attempt by the hospital to contact any of the towns in their service area about these changes to the facility.
3. Without emergency room service I worry that the industries in Chicago Heights will not receive prompt response in case of an accident.
4. Chicago Heights is trying to attract new businesses and the reduction in health care services will not help
5. Emergency care will be moved to other area hospitals which are already overloaded
6. Dialog between the cities of Chicago Heights, Steger, Beecher, South Chicago Heights, Park Forest, Crete, Glenwood and Sauk Village and Franciscan St. James is non-existent. It seems the hospital decided to move ahead with this project without regard to the towns it services.

There must be a way to accommodate both the hospital's needs and those of the areas it services. Talking is a first step!

Thank you for this opportunity.

Respectfully-

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert C. DeBolt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "D".

Robert C. DeBolt
President
F.H. Ayer Mfg. Co, Inc.

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"PUBLIC RECORD COPY"

February 9, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Richard Greep and I reside at 8203 Schaulna. I've lived in the Southland for 49 years. I support Franciscan St. James Health Restructuring Plan. We need to recognize the role that the Sisters have played for over a century in terms of providing health care services into the entire region. Franciscan St. James Health has a plan to transform healthcare by consolidating acute-care services at a single campus and expanding primary care throughout the region.

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Best regards,



Signature

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February 9, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Eric Bihl and I reside at Tinley Park. I've lived in the Southland for 60 years. I support Franciscan St. James Health Restructuring Plan. We need to recognize the role that the Sisters have played for over a century in terms of providing health care services into the entire region. Franciscan St. James Health has a plan to transform healthcare by consolidating acute-care services at a single campus and expanding primary care throughout the region.

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