



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

11-095

GERALD R. BENNETT
Mayor

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

October 27, 2011

VIA U.S. MAIL

Mr. Dale Galassie
Chair, Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

RE: Letter of Support for Palos Hills Surgery Center, LLC

Dear Mr. Galassie,

Please accept this letter as evidence of my strong support for the planned establishment of Palos Hills Surgery Center, an ambulatory surgical treatment center to be located at 10330 S. Roberts Road in Palos Hills, Illinois. It is my firm belief that this facility will have a significant positive impact on the health of the Palos Hills community and the surrounding areas. As such, I ask that you approve the application of Dr. Gary Kronen and Dr. Anton Fakhouri so they may open their facility and offer care with greater effectiveness, efficiency, and access than is currently available.

Both doctors have an outstanding reputation in the community as skilled physicians who provide top-level service in their specialties. They have a sense of responsibility to the community, and this proposed facility is part of their ongoing efforts to improve the quality and availability of care to patients in need of their services.


As Mayor of Palos Hills, I appreciate the foresight necessary to develop a program that will provide cost-effective and readily accessible health care to Palos Hills for years to come. It is important to me as a leader of this community that health care is delivered in a timely, convenient and coordinated manner. The establishment of the Palos Hills Surgery Center would make the process of scheduling an outpatient surgery much easier for patients by alleviating wait times and providing a specialized venue for specific procedures. Patients will have access to a local facility and will not have to juggle appointments with multiple providers. The facility will be doubly beneficial to the Palos Hills economy; patients from the surrounding area will utilize the services available here, where all necessary services are concentrated.

This facility will improve access for patients in need of specialized service for problems of the upper extremities. There is a lack of skilled surgeons who can treat these complex injuries. This has necessitated many patients to seek care through already overworked emergency departments or to seek care outside of the community, which weakens our local economy. The care available at the proposed facility would therefore improve access both for patients in need of these particular services, as well as other patients in the community having different health care needs.

As a public official, I can attest with great certainty that the cost of health care is a major issue for all levels of government. The efficient strategies provided by the proposed facility will help lower the cost for all parties, thus providing a benefit not only to the patients served, but to the community as a whole.

The proposed ambulatory surgical center has, for the reasons explained in this letter, strong community support. I therefore ask you to give your support to Palos Hills Surgery Center, LLC's certificate of need application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald R. Bennett", written over a printed name.

Gerald R. Bennett

Mayor

City of Palos Hills

10335 South Roberts Road

Palos Hills, IL 60465