

Mike Constantino, Chairman
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62751

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JAN 10 2013
HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

RE: Letter of Opposition, Project #12-089, Riverside Medical Center-Frankfort

Dear Mr. Constantino,

I am writing to oppose the new Riverside Freestanding Emergency Care Facility proposed for Frankfort. As someone who is concerned with preserving both the quality of life as well as the healthcare system in Will County, I believe that an emergency care facility in this location would be both unnecessary and harmful to the community for the following reasons.

Currently, residents of the proposed service area already have access to ten community hospital locations, countless medical office providers, as well as a Freestanding Emergency Care Center in Homer Glen, and urgent care facilities in Orland Park, Tinley Park & Oak Lawn. For most of the proposed service area, the proximity of existing hospital locations and urgent care facilities is much closer and accessible than that of Riverside's proposal. Consequently, I am concerned that this emergency health care facility would duplicate existing services, result in an unnecessary increase in patient transfers, and jeopardize the quality of care to patients in the area. No one is arguing that access to healthcare is a critical matter. However, in time-sensitive medical situations, most county residents are already within 15 minutes of emergency departments.

Furthermore, the location of Riverside's Freestanding Emergency Care Facility is in a highly residential area. Consequently, developing a site in such an area would disrupt the quality of life for thousands of residents subjected to constant siren noise, traffic noise, major road reconstruction, increased road congestion, and diminish home values.

For these reasons, I strongly oppose this project. Not only does it fail to provide greater accessibility and proximity of emergency health care services to the majority of the area which is already adequately serviced, but it is also in a completely unsuitable location due to its direct proximity to various residential neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

Signature Mary Kay Helmlich
Printed Name MARY KAY HELMLICH
Address 11457 MCKENNA DR
City/State/Zip: FRANKFORT, IL 60423
Date: 1-4-13