

RECEIVED

OCT 20 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

October 10, 2014

Mr. Mike Constantino
Supervisor, Project Review Section
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Mr. Constantino,

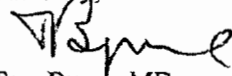
I am writing to express my opposition to Project # 14-043, St. Elizabeth's Hospital, O'Fallon.

I am an emergency medicine physician and have worked in the Belleville community for many years. In addition, for 13 years I served as the Medical Director of the Southwestern Illinois EMS System which includes St. Clair County and surrounding counties. In my former role as EMS Medical Director I have seen the regional EMS volumes and have a good understanding of the negative impact that St. Elizabeth's proposed closure and relocation will have on ED access for residents of Belleville and neighboring communities, particularly for the most critically ill or injured patients that are transported by ambulance to the closest hospital.

In addition to ED access to care, the loss of critical care beds is another significant concern. The proposed relocating of St. Elizabeth's Hospital from downtown Belleville to O'Fallon will result in the transporting of patients who will need inpatient care to Memorial Belleville that are now transported to St. Elizabeth's. Memorial Hospital in Belleville will be reducing its bed capacity by about one third with the opening of Memorial East in Shiloh/O'Fallon and these patients, brought by EMS personnel, will tax Memorial's ED, ICU and support services.

St. Elizabeth's closure in Belleville raises significant concerns and I urge you to reject the application.

Sincerely,


Tom Byrne, MD

Cc: Courtney Avery

Mr. Mike Constantino
Supervisor, Project Review Section
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

CC: Courtney Avery

To whom it may concern;

We must keep our hospital - St Elizabeth
for these reasons:

- A) Time matters in an emergency:
You need 2 ER's in Belleville
- B) Moving jobs out of City will hurt
our city.
- C) Police oppose move - too much
travel time.
- D) Area around hospital needs it
to stay viable.

Thanks
C. Ysura Haepfel

Mr. Mike Constantino
Supervisor, Project Review Section
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

CC: Courtney Avery

Dear Sir,

I am opposed to St. Elizabeth's
Closing for the following reasons:

1. Hurt Community (Bellview)
2. People lose jobs
3. Poor can't get to other facility
4. Need an ER where it is
we have 45,000 people.
5. Surrounding communities
need it - move to far -

Please don't close it!

Sincerely
E. H. H. H.

Mr. Mike Constantino
Supervisor, Project Review Section
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

CC: Courtney Avery

Dear Sir,

We are a very central part of Southern Illinois and we need St. Elizabeth to remain here. We have all kinds of small communities that need Belleville to survive. And the first thing they need is their healthcare. They need an ER and the hospital, and St. Elizabeth's needs to be there for them especially the residents west of Belleville.

Belleville has a lot of changing going on so we don't need our healthcare in Belleville, to change too.

Thank you
Tom Yursa

Mr. Mike Constantino
Supervisor, Project Review Section
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

CC: Courtney Avery

Dear Mr. Constantino,

Please really look at our situation in Belleville, Illinois. Our city can't take the closing of an important facility like St. Elizabeth's Hospital for many reasons.

Here are a few:

We need it to keep our downtown economically sound.

We need it for saving lives.

We need it to help the poor with their healthcare.

We need it for residents of surrounding communities.

Thank you
Bernie Young

Mr. Mike Constantino
Supervisor, Project Review Section
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

CC: Courtney Avery

Dear Sir,

I attended the public hearing on Oct 2 at Lindenwood concerning the closure of St. Elizabeth Hospital in Belleville, Ill. I was all ready to give my oral response but it didn't take place.

Please look closely at our situation here in Belleville, Illinois. It is very dire. We have a lot of changes going on and we need St. Elizabeth to remain and be stable here as it has been for years. First of all our people need it and our city needs it too.

They are just moving to where the people are more affluent and have more money.

Sincerely,
Jen Yelton

Mr. Mike Constantino
Supervisor, Project Review Section
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

CC: Courtney Avery

Dear Sir,

Why is a small community like Skidob
and O'Fallon going to have two hospitals.
They are located right next to each other.
We need to keep our 2 hospital in Belleville.
It will devastate our city. We need
the healthcare and jobs for our
community to survive. Please, please
keep it here where it is needed.

Sincerely,
Sue Maxwell

Mr. Mike Constantino
Supervisor, Project Review Section
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

CC: Courtney Avery

Dear Mr Constantino,

I am writing to voice my concerns
about the closing of St. Elizabeths Hospital.

It will be detrimental to our city.
Moving 1200 jobs out of a city is
devastating and will have a terrible
negative economic impact.

A Hospital first obligation is
to save lives and I don't see
this being St. Elizabeths main obligation.

Please keep St Elizabeths in Bellview
where it is needed most.

Thanks
Ruth Gussie

Mr. Mike Constantino
Supervisor, Project Review Section
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

CC: Courtney Avery

Dear Mr. Constantino,

I am writing in regard to St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville, IL. It is so very important that you review all the information about this move. It will be devastating to our people, city, economy. We need 2 emergency rooms in our city. We have many communities around this area and we need good healthcare near us. Please review all the info and I know you will deny their request.

Sincerely,
Pat O'Quinn

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

525 W. Jefferson St.

2nd Floor

Springfield, IL 62761

Project #14-043

St. Elizabeth's Request for Letter of Need should be called their "Letter of Want".

As a taxpayer, and citizen of St. Clair County Illinois I am totally against St. Elizabeth's request to move.

If, there was a need for a hospital in the O'fallon Illinois area, it is being satisfied by the building of the new Belleville Memorial East. I am sure St. E. is ticked that Memorial Hospital beat them to the O'fallon area. But, to compound their losing out to Memorial Hospital by still wanting to build a second Hospital in a town of 25,000 people is just stupidity.

Most of President MaryAnn Reese's comments in the Belleville News Democrat were very confusing to me:

1. Why would a patient choose the 2nd O'fallon Hospital over the O'fallon Memorial Hospital after those patients have become familiar and accustomed to going to the Memorial Hospital??
2. Next, she mentions the importance of transportation to the new hospital, but the Belleville St. E. Hospital is only .7 of a mile from a 4 lane highway (Illinois route 15) ??
3. She claims patients have mentioned having trouble traveling to Belleville St. E., just wait till they have to negotiate the tractor trailer trucks going over 70 mph on Highway 64 and all the traffic on Green Mount Road and Highway 50.

4. If St. E. had thought outside the box a location next to SWIC would have helped promote a higher education relationship working with SWIC and their nursing program to help encourage students to come to work at St. E's.
5. Ms. Reese's comment about "continuing" to serve Belleville with a location in O'fallon is contradicting. It takes over 20 minutes to get from St. E. to their new O'fallon location. People from Belleville, Swansea, Millstadt, Freeburg, Smithton, Cahokia, Waterloo and E. St. Louis will use Belleville Memorial or St. Louis Hospital's instead of going to O'Fallon.
6. Ms. Reese also mentions that employees will still be working at the Belleville location and they would frequent Belleville's businesses for lunch. What? Most of St. E. employees have 30 minutes for lunch so how are they going to have enough time to go out for lunch??
7. I assume Ms. Reese doesn't have a business degree by her comment, "the moving and building of a new Hospital outside Belleville won't affect Belleville's tax base"? Could you ask her to explain that?
8. In the BND she also mentions that the new location is only 7 miles away and commutes will be just 2 minutes longer?? My GPS shows 7.8 miles and over 20 minutes time between locations. Have you ever tried to drive from Belleville to O'fallon? How about during rush hours? Maybe she left off a zero and meant 20 minutes longer because my GPS suggests 22 minutes.
9. There is mention of how costly it is to keep St. E. Belleville operating, I wonder if St. E. has ever consulted Barnes/Jewish Hospital on how they were able to modernize and keep their old hospital up to code??
10. Also, I am concerned about HSHS's upper management's decision-making ability to build a new building in this "region". I remember their decision to build a Medical Building between Waterloo and Columbia a few years ago and that facility has already closed due to lack of **NEED!!!** Could this be more of the same situation?

In conclusion, the more I read about the St. E. Hospital move it sounds like a car dealership moving to Interstate 64 because more cars drive by on the interstate!! This might make sense if St. E. was selling cars. However, this is about Healthcare for the people in our region and the region only needs one new Medical Center in O'fallon IL. Hopefully, the St. E. Hospital stays in Belleville, where it is needed most by the people of this region.

If by chance, they are granted the move my recommendation would be to sell the building to Lindenwood University for \$1 and let Lindenwood University make that location into a prosperous facility.



Robert Miller

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Luke J. Rheume
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O'Fallon, IL 62269-6132
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2014 October 18

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Opposition to Project #14-043-Saint Elizabeth's Hospital Replacement Hospital in O'Fallon, IL

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing in opposition of Saint Elizabeth's Hospital's plans to build a replacement Hospital in O'Fallon, IL.

I have lived in O'Fallon for twenty years. My children attended O'Fallon public schools. I have participated in the OTHS Band Boosters, Cub Scout Pack 94 and Boy Scout Troop 94, and the Knights of Columbus. I have also interacted with the O'Fallon Parks and Recreation Department regarding the O'Fallon Veterans Monument.

My wife began her treatment for Breast Cancer at Saint Elizabeth's hospital and had to move to Siteman/Barnes Jewish Hospital due to the poor care through Saint Elizabeth's Hospital. We have also had numerous interactions at the Saint Elizabeth's Urgi-care in O'Fallon for X-rays, Physical Therapy, and Labs.

For the most part, Saint Elizabeth's Hospital has been less than Satisfactory in meeting our needs. Time and time again, we have had to go to Saint Louis/Barnes Jewish Hospital to get the care that we needed. A new facility would not change this.

In my opinion, Saint Elizabeth's Hospital is mismanaged. Last year they operated at a loss of over \$100,000.00. They bill in a manner that cost patients more than is necessary. In hospital doctors charge full price – that would normally include the overhead for their staff and facility and then the Hospital also bills for use of the facility and staff.

Saint Elizabeth's Hospital claims to be Non-Profit, yet contract For-Profit companies to provide services (i.e. Lab, X-Ray, Physical Therapy, etc.) within their facility.

In moving, Saint Elizabeth's Hospital abandons the City of Belleville that needs the facility for the central and eastern portions of the city. They would leave behind a facility with significant hazardous medical waste.

I strongly encourage you to DISAPPROVE Saint Elizabeth's replacement hospital in O'Fallon, IL.

v/r



Luke J. Rheume

Mr. Mike Constantino
Supervisor, Project Review Section
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

CC: Courtney Avery

Dear Sir,

I am a resident of
Bellville, Illinois. I am opposed
to St. Elizabeth Hospital closing.

We need the hospital to stay
here and remain open for numerous
reasons, Here are a few:

Will definitely hurt our
economy and people will lose
their jobs. I had all of my
children at St. "E" and can't
believe they are saying it will
help more people. It's simply
not true.

Sincerely
Pat Gura