

VILLAGE PRESIDENT
Seth Speiser

VILLAGE CLERK
Jerry Menard

VILLAGE TRUSTEES
Ray Matchett, Jr.
Steve Smith
Mike Blaies
Mathew Trout
Dean Pruett
Elizabeth Niebruegge

VILLAGE OF FREEBURG

FREEBURG MUNICIPAL CENTER
14 SOUTHGATE CENTER, FREEBURG, IL 62243
PHONE: (618) 539-5545 • FAX: (618) 539-5590
Web Site: www.freeburg.com

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR
Tony Funderburg

VILLAGE TREASURER
Bryan A. Vogel

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
John Tolan

POLICE CHIEF
Stanley Donald

VILLAGE ATTORNEY
Weilmuenster Law Group, P.C.

September 26, 2014

RECEIVED

OCT 24 2014

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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

Re: Project Application #14-043

Dear Mr. Constantino,

On behalf of the residents of Freeburg, Illinois, I would like to state my opposition to St. Elizabeth's pending closure of its Belleville facility.

For generations, Freeburg residents have sought care at St. Elizabeth's in Belleville, as it is the closest hospital to our community. I am deeply concerned that moving St. Elizabeth's out of Belleville will leave many of these residents with limited access to nearby health care.

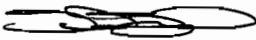
Because Freeburg is southeast of Belleville, travel time to the nearest health care facility could almost double if St. Elizabeth's proposal is approved. This is unacceptable, especially in a medical emergency when every minute is precious.

Having talked with many folks in town, I know they are truly devastated to hear that St. Elizabeth's may relocate. It's distressing for them to accept that the health care they have relied on for years may soon be inaccessible.

For these reasons, the Freeburg Village Board has passed a resolution of opposition against St. Elizabeth's proposal. A copy of this resolution is attached to this letter.

The citizens of Freeburg would be shocked and disappointed to see St. Elizabeth's move out of their reach. Please consider them while reviewing St. Elizabeth's proposal, and vote to against this project.

Sincerely,



Seth Speiser
Mayor of Freeburg

RESOLUTION NO. 14-11

**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE CLOSURE OF
ST. ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL IN BELLEVILLE, IL**

WHEREAS, the Village of Freeburg is located in St. Clair county approximately 9 miles from downtown Belleville; and

WHEREAS, Village Trustees believe that maintaining access to quality and affordable health care is vital for Village residents; and

WHEREAS, the majority of residents in the Village of Freeburg receive medical care at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville; and

WHEREAS, St. Elizabeth's has chosen to close its Belleville Hospital despite the need for those services.

WHEREAS, the closure of St. Elizabeth's will negatively impact emergency services for the Village of Freeburg residents; and

WHEREAS, the closure of St. Elizabeth's will cause residents to seek health care elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, overall access to care residents of the Village of Freeburg will be negatively impacted by the closure of St. Elizabeth's Hospital; and

WHEREAS, St. Elizabeth's Hospital is seeking to build a new hospital in O'Fallon, IL; and

WHEREAS, O'Fallon is located further from the Village of Freeburg, adding significant transportation challenges and travel time for patients.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

SECTION 1: That the Village of Freeburg does hereby oppose the closure of St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville.

SECTION 2: That the Village of Freeburg encourages the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to recognize the negative impact the closure and establishment of a new hospital will have on area patients and deny the application.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF FREEBURG, ILLINOIS, this 20th day of October, 2014.

AYES <u>Trustee Mike Chavira</u>	ABSENT _____
AYES <u>Trustee Elizabeth Niebuhr</u>	ABSENT _____
AYES <u>Trustee Alan Brunt</u>	ABSENT _____
AYES <u>Trustee Matt Frost</u>	ABSENT _____
AYES <u>Trustee Karen Mitchell, Jr.</u>	ABSENT _____
AYES <u>Trustee Alan Smith</u>	ABSENT _____

Vote Recorded By:

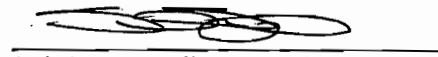
Jerry Lynn Menard
Jerry Menard, Village Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 14-11 cont.

Approved by the Village President of the Village of Freeburg, St. Clair County, Illinois, this 20th day of October, 2014.

ATTEST:


Jerry Lynn Menard, Village Clerk


Seth Speiser, Village President

October 22, 2014

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

RECEIVED

OCT 24 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

RE: Project Application # 14-043

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing this letter in opposition to the proposed move by St. Elizabeth's Hospital of Belleville to a new proposed site in O'Fallon, Illinois.

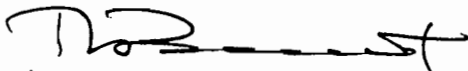
There are two major concerns that are presented by the proposed move of St. Elizabeth—the first is the economic impact on the Belleville community and the second is the availability of and access to medical care for the people in our communities. Further, the location of a new St. Elizabeth hospital in O'Fallon would be a duplication of services as this hospital would be located about two miles from the new Memorial Hospital East, which is slated to open in early 2016.

The economic impact to the City of Belleville is devastating. We will lose over 1,200 jobs and the taxes associated with that loss of employment. Further, the physician offices located nearby the current St. Elizabeth hospital will logically close and relocate to the O'Fallon area creating further decline. Additionally, employees who work at the hospital and live in our community will consider moving out of the community to be closer to their work location and that will have a negative impact on housing and the overall economic climate in Belleville.

Secondly, the move from Belleville will significantly impact medically underserved patients with limited transportation and resources to access care. The reduction in beds and services will strain the capacity of Memorial Hospital and impact those seeking medical care.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,



Thomas G. Barnett

624 Oak Hill Drive

Belleville, IL 62223

CC: Mike Constantino, Supervisor, Project Review Section ✓

October 21, 2014

RECEIVED

OCT 24 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Ms. Courtney Avery
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Project 14-⁰⁴³~~403~~

Dear Ms. Avery,

I oppose the application by Hospital Sisters Health System to build a replacement hospital for St. Elizabeth's Hospital in O'Fallon, IL. The community of O'Fallon and others to the north require access to health care; however, they will have access to healthcare services at Memorial Hospital – East, in Shiloh, IL, located on Interstate 64 and scheduled to open in April of 2016.

When the Board approved the CON for Memorial Hospital – East in 2011, it was after consideration of the full picture of access to health care facilities, services and equipment in our region. The picture considered at that time was one that included St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville with its current complement of beds and services.

With the Memorial Hospital – East project already approved and under construction, the Board must consider an updated picture of access to health care facilities, services and equipment in our region when deciding to allow St. Elizabeth's to leave their facility in Belleville.

- The O'Fallon site for St. Elizabeth's creates a duplication of services, located less than 2 miles from Memorial Hospital – East
- St. Elizabeth's move from Belleville will strain capacity at Memorial Hospital's Belleville campus not only because they are leaving our community but because they are cutting beds and services for area patients
- Patients in communities to the south will have to travel further for care – minutes matter in saving lives

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Jennifer Meinkoth
1816 Tenth Fairway Drive
Belleville, IL 62220
(618) 277-6313

October 22, 2014

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

RECEIVED

OCT 24 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

RE: Project Application # 14-04

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing this letter in opposition to the proposed move by St. Elizabeth's Hospital of Belleville to a new proposed site in O'Fallon, Illinois.

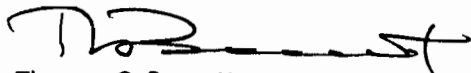
There are two major concerns that are presented by the proposed move of St. Elizabeth—the first is the economic impact on the Belleville community and the second is the availability of and access to medical care for the people in our communities. Further, the location of a new St. Elizabeth hospital in O'Fallon would be a duplication of services as this hospital would be located about two miles from the new Memorial Hospital East, which is slated to open in early 2016.

The economic impact to the City of Belleville is devastating. We will lose over 1,200 jobs and the taxes associated with that loss of employment. Further, the physician offices located nearby the current St. Elizabeth hospital will logically close and relocate to the O'Fallon area creating further decline. Additionally, employees who work at the hospital and live in our community will consider moving out of the community to be closer to their work location and that will have a negative impact on housing and the overall economic climate in Belleville.

Secondly, the move from Belleville will significantly impact medically underserved patients with limited transportation and resources to access care. The reduction in beds and services will strain the capacity of Memorial Hospital and impact those seeking medical care.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,



Thomas G. Barnett

624 Oak Hill Drive

Belleville, IL 62223

CC: Mike Constantino, Supervisor, Project Review Section