

7221 Town Hall Road
Belleville, IL 62223

November 10, 2014

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

RECEIVED

NOV 17 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Re: St. Elizabeth's Project #14-043

Dear Mr. Constantino,

I am writing as a Belleville resident and healthcare provider to express my opposition of St. Elizabeth's Certificate of Need (Project #14-043) to build a hospital in O'Fallon therefore moving from Belleville.

This relocation has multiple issues. It will limit access to care for those patients who rely on public transportation as well as those who live in rural areas to the south and west of O'Fallon. As a resident on the west end of Belleville, traveling to O'Fallon is currently difficult due to distance and traffic. In turn, it would be even more challenging to obtain immediate medical care at the St. Elizabeth's O'Fallon location in a crisis situation.

A decrease in beds and services will place an additional strain on Memorial Hospital's Emergency Services and bed availability for admissions. With a lack of beds, patients will need to be stabilized and transferred which is not conducive to a positive patient outcome.

By relocating, St. Elizabeth's project will be a duplication of the services that Memorial East will provide. This is not the best use of healthcare resources.

While it is very important to build an infrastructure to support and provide the technology of today, I feel there is ample space along the west corridor in which St. Elizabeth's Hospital can relocate and continue to provide quality healthcare.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to voice my opposition to this project.

Respectfully,



Colette Hoffarth

November 14, 2014

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NOV 17 2014

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

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

**RE: Project #14-034
I OPPOSE THIS PROJECT**

Ms. Avery:

Please note my strong disapproval for this project. I live in close proximity to Memorial Hospital and I am concerned about the increase in traffic which will include ambulances as well as patient traffic. Additionally, I cannot imagine how Memorial is going to be able to handle the increased patient volume because of St. Elizabeth's desire to abandon Belleville.

I do not understand why St. E's can't just build a hospital on their current site. If they've got enough money to build a new hospital, they should just build one in their current location.

Respectfully,



Shinta Montgomery
5795 Brett Michael Lane
Belleville, IL 62223

November 7, 2014

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NOV 17 2014

Ms. Courtney Avery
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761
RE: Project Application #14-043

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Ms. Avery:

I have lived all of my 95 years in O'Fallon, Illinois and spent most of my working career as a proud employee of Saint Clair County. I am writing to express my concerns surrounding the plans for St. Elizabeth's Hospital Belleville to relocate from Belleville the proposed location in O'Fallon. Having worked in downtown Belleville, I am acutely aware of the continued need for the health care services St. Elizabeth's provides to Belleville and surrounding area. I believe this move would harm not only the residents of Belleville, but also the community in general. The City of Belleville has done much to try to revitalize the downtown area. Closing St. Elizabeth's downtown location would be a step backward and will harm local businesses and increase unemployment in the area as a result.

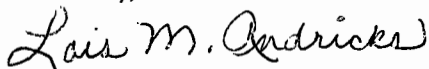
I also realize the harm that could come to residents in Belleville and areas south if St. Elizabeth's moves. St. Elizabeth's is the closest hospital to communities such as Smithton and cities south of Belleville. The extra travel time to O'Fallon would be a matter of life or death for many people. This move would also lead to a serious overcrowding situation at Memorial Hospital. One hospital cannot support all of Belleville and areas south and west of the city, especially for emergency and intensive care needs. Further, the area around O'Fallon will be well served when Memorial East, a full-service acute care hospital, opens in 2016. A city the size of O'Fallon does not need 238 hospital beds. Surely the Board will recognize this as over-bedding.

St. Elizabeth's claims that travel time from Belleville and areas south and west is short. The person that made this statement has obviously not traveled these roads in the morning or afternoon when the travel time from downtown Belleville to O'Fallon is 35-40 minutes. The current infrastructure of roads between these two towns cannot support the increased traffic moving the hospital would bring.

Finally, and most importantly, in moving from Belleville to O'Fallon, St. Elizabeth's is abandoning some of the most economically disadvantaged people in the area. How can the leadership of HSHS claim to have a mission of serving the poor when they are so anxious to move away from the very people that need their help the most?

For these reasons, I am opposed to St. Elizabeth's proposal to move to O'Fallon. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,



Lois M. Andricks
O'Fallon, Illinois

Cc: Mr. Mike Constantino

Gwendolyn Riley
105 Benham Drive
Millstadt, IL 62260
November 12, 2014

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NOV 17 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:

I am writing to ask you to oppose the Certificate of Need application submitted by St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville, IL. As a resident of the greater Belleville area, I am greatly concerned about the impact on the area if St. Elizabeth's Hospital were to relocate the proposed 7+ miles to O'fallon.

There are currently two Emergency Departments in Belleville. On any given day, either of these are backlogged with patients waiting to be treated. Closing an ED in Belleville will potentially leave hundreds of patients every day waiting even longer to be seen in an already extremely busy ED at Memorial Hospital. That hospital is not equipped nor staffed to handle this surge. What will happen to those patients if they need to be admitted? When Memorial East opens, the current Memorial Hospital's inpatient bed capacity will decrease by nearly 100 beds as approved in their C.O.N. The O'fallon region will be gaining a full service ED in just over 1 year with the expansion of Memorial Hospital to Shiloh—less than 3 miles from the proposed St. Elizabeth's site.

St. Elizabeth's has reported in local media that the cost to update their current facility is far greater than the cost to relocate and build an entirely new facility. They have reported that they are "landlocked" in their downtown location. There are countless "landlocked" healthcare facilities in this state and around the country. There are state of the art medical centers in every major city that have little room for expansion on their current plot of land and yet they have found ways to keep up with patient demands and technology. Future investment in our community is needed to promote other businesses and families to join the area.

Representatives from St. Elizabeth's stated at the recent public hearing that 70% of their patients come from zip codes outside of Belleville. They did not expand on that statement to say what zip codes. It would be interesting to see what part of that 70% would be better served by a hospital in O'fallon vs. Belleville. I have included a table listing the zip codes of St. Clair County, along with the population, median income and the % of people living below poverty per www.census.gov. I did some additional

Mr. Mike Constantino

November 11, 2014

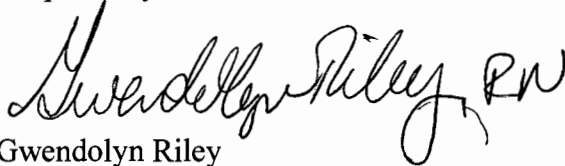
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research regarding the average distance between the zip codes—comparing 62220 (current location of St. Elizabeth's Hospital) and 62269 (proposed site). Of the 21 zip codes listed, only 6 are closer to the proposed site. That equates to approximately 75,414 people having closer access if St. Elizabeth's is granted permission to move—leaving 199,289 people farther from their care. The six zip codes closer to the proposed site have a higher average median income—14% greater than the St. Clair County average.

It makes business sense for St. Elizabeth's to want to move to a more affluent area but does it make sense for the people of our region? This proposal moves access to St. Elizabeth's further away for approximately 72.5% of the residents of St. Clair County, including some of the poorest areas. It removes nearly 1200 jobs from Belleville and away from the countless businesses that worked hard to rejuvenate the downtown Belleville area. The proposed move places an undue hardship on Memorial Hospital, left caring for the abandoned people of the greater Belleville area. I urge you to oppose this move.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gwendolyn Riley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and a stylized "R" at the end.

Gwendolyn Riley

cc: Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761
RE: Project Application #14-043

St. Clair County Zip Codes

Zipcode	Population	Median Income	% Below Poverty	Distance from St. E's now*	Distance from Proposed site*
62223	42,895	\$48,085	9.2	4.9	7.8
62226	29,744	\$49,830	13	4.9	5.9
	20,504	\$51,314	17.7	0	7.2
62221	27,858	\$56,637	8.8	2.9	4.6
62285	4,484	\$83,432	5.1	7.5	14.4
62260	7,290	\$75,044	4.1	6.8	13.3
62243	5,910	\$69,211	6.5	6.9	11.7
62208	17,376	\$60,965	9.5	6.3	4.4
62264	3,338	\$57,162	5.5	13.5	18.9
62225	5,381	\$57,436	3.9	6.8	4.8
	31,348	\$77,963	7	7.2	0
62254	6,089	\$58,843	10.8	11.5	5.4
62232	7,260	\$42,443	13.5	9.2	6.2
62204	7,960	\$16,623	49.8	11	10.5
62203	8,209	\$27,331	30	8.2	8.6
62201	7,547	\$16,684	54.4	12.1	12.3
62205	9,329	\$23,346	32.9	11	11.6
62206	16,509	\$21,478	36.5	10.9	13.8
62207	8,750	\$19,085	44.1	9.7	11.6
62240	1,966	\$40,977	20.5	12.8	17
62239	4,954	\$43,967	11.9	11.9	16.2
	274,701	\$47,517	18.80	8.38	9.82

Current St. Elizabeth's Zip Code

Proposed Site Zip Code

Population, medium income, and poverty data from www.factfinder2.census.gov

*Average distance between zip codes calculated using melissadata.com

- \$45,572 average median income of zip codes closer to current site
- \$52,379 average median income of zip codes closer to proposed site
 - 8.3 average miles from zip codes to current site
 - 9.8 average miles from zip codes to proposed site
- 20.0 average % living below poverty of zip codes closer to current site
- 15.8 average % living below poverty of zip codes closer to proposed site