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HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

12 November 2014

Mike Constantino  
Supervisor, Project Review Section  
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Board  
RE: Project # 14-043

Mr. Constantino:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed move by St. Elizabeth's Hospital out of Belleville, IL. The proposed move is detrimental in a number of key ways:

- Moving St. Elizabeth's Hospital north and east of its current location will leave the southern part of its current service area grossly underserved. The burden of care will fall to nearby hospitals Memorial (Belleville) and Touchette Regional (Centreville), which do not have the capacity to cover the void that would be left should you approve the location of St. Elizabeth's. The move would also create a surplus of beds in an area where many wealthier residents seek care in St. Louis rather than from local hospitals. Much of the area St. Elizabeth's would be abandoning is generally less wealthy, and therefore has less access to hospitals outside the immediate area—a population that depends most heavily on the services St. Elizabeth's provides and would be most at risk should you approve St. Elizabeth's proposed move.
- St. Elizabeth's does not have a reasonable or responsible plan for the infrastructure they will abandon should you approve their move. There is a considerable amount of vacant or underutilized space in the vicinity of the current location that could be utilized to reconfigure their current facility. Should you approve their plan to abandon their present location, they have no clearly defined plan to help repurpose the current facility. This will create an undue hardship on the surrounding community and blight in the heart of the city of Belleville.
- St. Elizabeth's has been providing care at its current location for generations. This community has supported St. Elizabeth's for generations. Please help us keep our hospital so that we can work together to keep both the hospital and our community viable.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Lyri Merrill, MSPT  
Physical Therapist, Phoenix Physical Therapy, Swansea Illinois  
Belleville Resident  
205 South Virginia, Belleville, IL 62220  
lyrilee@att.net

Wayne O. Prince

1716 Tenth Fairway Dr.

Belleville, Illinois 62220

618-578-8393

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Illinois Health Facilities & Review Board

525 W. Jefferson St. Second Floor

Springfield, Ill. 62761

To Whom It May Concern,

I can't imagine that you haven't heard every argument there is for the relocation of St. Elizabeth hospital in Belleville. I'm going to give my 2 cents anyway.

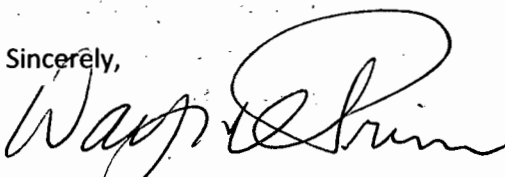
I have been a resident of Belleville since 1968 and have observed both the expansion of the city of O'Fallon and the decline of Belleville. While O'Fallon continues to thrive with all the new business and a growing tax base. Belleville has gone in just the opposite direction. I can't imagine that a new hospital in O'Fallon would make a lot of difference in the town. I can only imagine that the loss of St. Elizabeth in Belleville would be devastating to the tax base and the property values in the entire Belleville area. The immediate neighborhoods and the current hospital will become unkempt and abandoned over time.

I know that the people from the hospital indicate that they will continue to have a presence at the current location. Whatever they would leave in Belleville could not possibly make up for the devastating effect that moving St. Elizabeth to a new facility in O'Fallon would have.

I would hope that those of you who are making this major decision are at least spending some time in the metro-east to see the area and judge for yourselves what the real effect might be. I would sure hope that the final decision comes down to what's best for the entire region. In my opinion saving the city of Belleville has by far the biggest upside for the metro east area.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wayne O. Prince', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Wayne O. Prince