

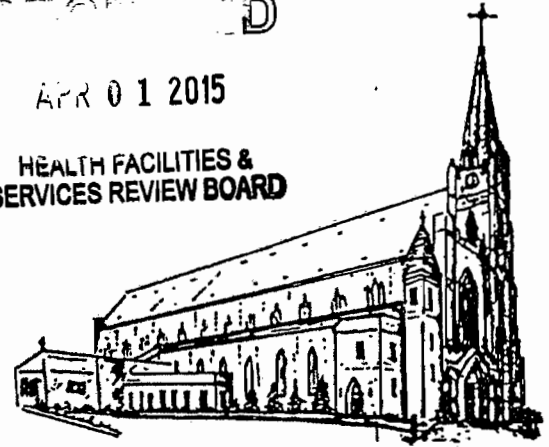
SAINT PETER'S CATHEDRAL

200 West Harrison Street
Belleville, Illinois 62220-2090
618-234-1166

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APR 01 2015

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD



July 15, 2014

As a professional clergyman who has resided in this area for fifty-plus years, I must write in opposition to the proposed move of St. Elizabeth Hospital.

The hospital leadership keeps reminding us that their proposed move is **"only seven miles away."**

I ask you to consider:

- **"Only seven miles"** is quite a distance for the poor who have no means of transportation.
- **"Only seven miles"** is an important consideration for the sick and injured who are in immediate need of critical, even life-saving care.
- **"Only seven miles"** is, in most cases, a burden for those support staff – especially those who are in or near "minimum wage" jobs now at the hospital.
- **"Only seven miles"** may mean little to the Administrators of the hospital, but can mean the difference between "care" and "no care" to many.
- **"Only seven miles"** would oddly place St. Elizabeth's very near other hospitals already in place.
- **"Only seven miles"** disturbs the peace of minds of the Seniors who will be residing at our "Cottages at Cathedral Square" development – folks who have expressed their desire to be *near* church, doctors *and* the hospital.

Finally, **"only seven miles"** distance seems at odds with a genuinely "Franciscan" mission; it is contrary to Francis to ask those in need "to travel" to him; rather, Franciscans are – and have been for centuries – right among the people ... *not* in a well-to-do place, asking the people instead to come to them.

I urge the Hospital and the City of Belleville to enter into sincere discussions regarding the many ways in which civic generosity can result in a new St. Elizabeth Hospital here in the city of Belleville.

Reverend Monsignor John T. Myler
Cathedral Rector and
Catholic Vicar for Metro East Illinois

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