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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Dear State of Illinois, Franciscan Sisters, St. James Personnel, Board Members, and All Parties Involved:

I know St. James hospital in Chicago Heights is an old building. I was born there and an employee there. I also trained there to be an EMT-B and was state licensed from 2001-2005. I have been a hospital patient there on several occasions most recently the first weekend in Oct. 2015. It was an overnight stay, but I am still following up with my medical condition, and seeing a kidney doctor at the end of February in Olympia Fields to continue with my care.

I really like the parking garage in Chicago Heights, and never felt like it was going to fall down. I have parked there since I was a patient, an employee, and a student. I have always felt it was a blessing to have a parking garage so one would know where your car was.

Yes; the hospital is old, but again I have never felt the building was going to fall down. I know money goes hand in hand with plans and ideas. I also know that having a hospital nearby is convenient. I understand you want a mega hospital campus in Olympia Fields, with doctor's offices etc.; that is a good idea, too. I know I would still like a hospital in Chicago Heights as it is a direct route from my house to go to the hospital, where travel time is imperative. I drove my Son to Chicago Heights ER as he was attacked at a basketball event in the area. He had a concussion and could not tell me what grade he was in or what year it was. He was in bad shape. I only knew to go to St. James in Chicago Heights. I called 911 and was in route to the hospital talking with the 911 operator. I spoke with a police officer who came to the hospital and spoke with me there. My son's friends were also beat up that night, and knowing the hospital was close to home was a comfort. It is a thirteen minute drive to the Chicago Heights Campus versus a twenty minute drive to the Olympia Fields Campus. If my son's condition was worse, those extra seven minutes could have meant the difference between life and death.

I know accidents happen every day to people and we need the hospital and emergency room in Chicago Heights. As parents we only know to go to the hospital in Chicago Heights especially if one was born there, has worked there, and brought children there. Yes, I follow routine and procedures as I was a Certified Nursing Assistant starting in 1982. Yes, I worked lots of places caring for people, but being closer to home makes all the difference.

There is always debate, but we need St. James hospital! Make the needed improvements: fix the parking garage, the building, and keep a piece of history. Please bring hundreds of families comfort by keeping the Chicago Heights Campus. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Lisa Horvath