

August 23, 2019

Ms. Courtney R. Avery, Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

**RECEIVED**

AUG 27 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

**Re: Project 19-029, Blessing Hospital ASTC, Quincy, IL**

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Cecil Weathers, and I am the Board Chairman of the Jackson-Lincoln pool in Quincy, Illinois. As Board Chairman, I have firsthand knowledge of the support Blessing Hospital provides in the community, as they are a neighbor of our Northside neighborhood in Quincy and a major sponsor of our not-for-profit community pool. I am writing to express my support of CON Project 19-029.

The Jackson-Lincoln pool was established in 1997 as a result of the vision and generosity of the late Mr. Bill Black, who saw the importance of providing the youth and their families of the City of Quincy, particularly those of lower socio-economic means, with a quality public swimming facility. Thanks to Mr. Black's generosity and the efforts of community partners like Blessing Hospital, our large swimming complex provides recreational activities to the youth of Quincy, providing them with a healthy and positive outlet for their energy and keeping them active throughout the summer.

To maintain and operate the facility, volunteers of the Jackson-Lincoln Swimming Complex must raise over 95 percent of the funds needed annually. Our partnership with Blessing Hospital goes back many years, and each year, Blessing has been a primary benefactor of our community swimming pool, most recently meeting our need to replace a damaged pool pump with an \$8,000 donation.

In addition, Blessing has hosted "Family Swim Nights" since 2009, providing the opportunity for families to eat dinner and swim, free of charge, on Thursday evenings throughout the summer.

We are grateful to Blessing Hospital for being a good neighbor and supporting this valuable community resource. We understand that Blessing's ability to relocate its surgery center is a vital part of its strategic plan, to be able to meet community health needs and to continue to support the communities Blessing serves, including our community pool.

For this reason and on behalf of the Jackson-Lincoln Swimming Complex board of Directors, we support Project 19-029.

Respectfully,



Cecil Weathers  
Chairperson, Board of Directors  
Jackson-Lincoln Swimming Complex, Inc.