



Mayor Mike Schutzbach
Comnr. Hank Stephens
Comnr. Larry Micenheimer
Comnr. Merv Gillenwater
Comnr. Libby Moeller

September 2, 2020

Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761
Courtney.avery@illinois.gov

Re: Letter of Clarification – Certificate of Need - CON Project #20-30

Dear Ms. Avery:

Please accept this letter as clarification to my August 26, 2020 letter regarding the above matter.

As stated in my previous letter, I truly desire the Review Board find a win-win for our community. The City is neutral on this matter and desires the Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board find a way to maintain our existing HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital and allow for a more modern replacement building at the SBL Effingham Bonutti Clinic location.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Schutzbach". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mike Schutzbach
Mayor, City of Effingham
201 E. Jefferson Avenue
Effingham, IL 62401

Cc: Mike Constantino
Project Reviewer
Illinois Health Facilities & Review Board

Crossroads of Opportunity



Mayor Mike Schutzbach
Comnr. Hank Stephens
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August 26, 2020

Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761
courtney.avery@illinois.gov

Re: Concerns about CON Project #20-030

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am advised that this CON application, filed by a valued Effingham business, will in its submitted form have impacts on our federally designated Sole Community Hospital, HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital (SAH), the largest employer in our city and county. According to SAH, this CON application also proposes new services that are presently performed at the hospital – and would result in a shift of patient volumes and associated hospital revenue. For a rural hospital that already operates below state utilization standards and is now reeling from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, this added financial stress could lead to service cuts, job losses and reduced community engagement by SAH.

Hopefully, the Review Board can find a win-win solution that allows for a modernized replacement building while avoiding hardship to our existing hospital.

As a former police chief, I fully understand the significance of maintaining our 24/7/365 emergency department at SAH, as well as the hospital's partnership with law enforcement that helps prevent needless deaths due to the ongoing opioid crisis. As a mayor, I appreciate the many ways SAH contributes to our community, not only in providing quality health care, but also through collaboration with our schools, park district and many community organizations. Hopefully, the Review Board can work toward an outcome that does not jeopardize existing hospital services and community engagement while allowing for a new and modernized medical office building. Striking the right balance has always been important to maintaining strong rural health care, and now with the coronavirus pandemic even more so.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Schutzbach".

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