STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD
PROJECT #20-037
BLESSING AMBULATORY SURGERY TREATMENT CENTER
PUBLIC HEARING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2020
10:00
VIA WEBEX

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    APPEARANCES:
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    MR. MIKE CONSTANTINO, Hearing Officer
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    MS. COURTNEY AVERY
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1	(Meeting commenced at 10 a.m. via Webex)
2	MR. CONSTANTINO: Good morning. My name
3	is Mike Constantino. I am with the Illinois
4	Department of Public Health and I will be the
5	hearing officer for today's hearing.
6	Remotely with me today is Courtney Avery,
7	the Administrator of the State Board, and Michael
8	Mitchell with the Illinois Department of Public
9	Health.
10	On behalf of the State Board, I want to
11	thank you for attending the public hearing for
12	Blessing Hospital ASTC Project No. 20-037. This
13	project proposes to buildout of shell space at a
14	cost of approximately \$763,000.
15	As part of this public hearing, I need to
16	make you aware of the HIPAA requirements that the
17	State Board is required to follow. The Health
18	Insurance Affordability and Accountability Act of
19	1996 requires us to warn you that, if you submit
20	oral or written testimony that discloses protected
21	health information of individuals, you must have a
22	valid written authorization from that individual.
23	The authorization shall allow the covered entity to
24	share the individual's protected health information

1 at this hearing. 2 In addition, those of you who came with 3 prepared text of your testimony should note that you 4 can submit the written text by email to 5 wph.hfsrb.publichearings@illinois.gov. All written and oral testimony will be 6 7 entered into today's record and it will be made 8 available for all Board Members prior to the September 22, 2020 State Board meeting for the Board 9 Member's consideration. 10 11 I ask that you please limit your 12 testimony to three minutes. Prior to beginning your 13 remarks, please clearly state your name and spell 14 your first and last name for the court reporter. 15 Thank you so much. 16 Ms. Maureen Kahn will be the first 17 presenter. 18 MS. KAHN: Thank you, Mr. Constantino. 19 Maureen Kahn, M-a-u-r-e-e-n, K-a-h-n. 20 Hello. I am Maureen Kahn. I am the 21 president and chief executive officer of Blessing 22 Health System and Blessing Hospital. I have been at 23 Blessing now for 20 years. Blessing is dedicated to 24 improving high quality, accessible health care,

1 showing compassion and respect to those that we
2 serve.

As we have been transparent throughout the project, I am here today to share with you our plans to add an additional surgery room to our relocated modernized surgery center that is currently under construction.

8 Since March 2020, construction of the 9 surgery center has been underway. Also since March 10 of this year, our region has been responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. As the region's leader in caring 11 12 for people with COVID-19, there are many extra steps 13 required to ensure patient and staff safety. Some 14 of those necessary steps impact significantly the 15 turnaround time of surgical spaces to allow for 16 proper sanitation. Blessing's desire to enhance 17 patient and staff safety, while decreasing turnaround time, leads us to ask the Illinois Health 18 19 Facilities Planning and Review Board to accelerate 20 our plan for construction of the fourth operating room in what was proposed initially as shell space 21 22 in the ambulatory surgery center currently under construction on the Blessing Hospital campus in 23 24 Quincy.

1	Blessing Hospital follows guidance for
2	surgical procedures offered by the Illinois
3	Department of Public Health, Centers for Disease
4	Control and Prevention and the American College of
5	Surgeons throughout the pandemic. The processes for
6	induction of patients with an unknown COVID-19
7	status or other airborne diseases is imperative to
8	protecting other patients, clinicians and,
9	ultimately, the community.
10	The utilization of our negative pressure
11	processes also requires a significant increase in
12	time. In order to ensure airborne contaminates are
13	removed at 99.9 percent following an intubation or
14	extubation, a complete air exchange must take place
15	which is related to the number of air exchanges per
16	hour for that room. Due to room turnover times
17	varying, the fourth operating room will be used as a
18	flip room for COVID-19 suspect patients. The
19	additional operating room will allow the surgeons to
20	utilize a second room reducing wait times between
21	procedures, thus improving efficiencies with the
22	schedule.

After exploring alternatives, Blessinghas chosen to ask for permission to buildout the

1 shell space of the current ASTC for an additional 2 operating room. 3 In closing, I respectfully ask for the 4 community's support of this additional room for 5 Blessing Hospital's Ambulatory Surgery Center that is currently under construction. Thank you. 6 7 MR. CONSTANTINO: Thank you, Maureen. 8 MS. KAHN: Thank you. 9 MR. CONSTANTINO: Is there anyone else 10 who would like to provide public comment? 11 MR. MITCHELL: Mike, we have several 12 people online. I will check with them to see who 13 wants to provide testimony. 14 MR. CONSTANTINO: Okay. 15 MR. MITCHELL: I have an Aaron Clark 16 online. 17 MR. CLARK: No, thanks. 18 MR. MITCHELL: No testimony. Okay. 19 Thank you. 20 Okay. There is a Jacob Axel online. 21 Would you like to provide testimony? 22 MR. AXEL: No, thank you. 23 MR. MITCHELL: All right. 24 We have Joe Ourth online. Would you like

1 to provide testimony? 2 MR. OURTH: Mike, no testimony from Joe 3 Ourth. 4 MR. MITCHELL: Thank you. 5 All right. We have a K. Mast. Would you 6 like to provide testimony? 7 MS. MAST: No, thank you. 8 MR. MITCHELL: Thank you. And next we have Lisa Niesen. Would you 9 10 like to provide testimony on this project? 11 MS. NIESEN: No, thank you. 12 Thank you. MR. MITCHELL: 13 Next there is a Lori Banks. Would you 14 like to provide testimony? Lori Banks. Are you 15 there, Lori? 16 All right. We have a Steve Felde online. 17 Would you like to provide testimony on this project? 18 MR. FELDE: No, sir. Thank you. 19 MR. MITCHELL: All right. Thank you. 20 We'll go back and try Lori Banks again. 21 Lori, are you there? Lori. 22 All right. No response. 23 That is all the people that we have online at the moment. 24

1	MR. CONSTANTINO: I am going to keep the
2	public hearing open for a few minutes to see if
3	anyone else joins us. Appreciate your patience.
4	I see Ann Guild has joined us.
5	Joyce, Ann is with the State Board.
6	MS. AVERY: Mike, we're going to break
7	until we have someone that's interested in speaking
8	or providing testimony.
9	MR. MITCHELL: Okay.
10	MS. AVERY: We'll break until we have
11	someone that comes in and raises their hand to
12	provide testimony.
13	MR. MITCHELL: If I see anyone else
14	connect, we'll check with them and see if they want
15	to provide testimony.
16	All right. I have an Erica Stollard
17	online now. Erica Stollard, do you wish to provide
18	testimony on this project?
19	MS. STOLLARD: I do not.
20	MR. MITCHELL: All right. Thank you.
21	(Pause)
22	MR. MITCHELL: It's eleven o'clock now.
23	MR. CONSTANTINO: I'm going to close the
24	public hearing. I have a short statement to make.

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1
                Is there anyone else that wants to
 2
     provide public testimony?
 3
                MR. MITCHELL: I can check with the few
 4
     people we still have online. Just a moment.
 5
                Aaron Clark.
                MR. CLARK: No, thank you.
 6
 7
                MR. MITCHELL: Thank you.
 8
                Lisa Niesen, do you wish to testify?
 9
                MS. NIESEN: No, thank you.
10
                MR. MITCHELL: Thank you very much.
11
                And Steve Felde.
12
                MR. FELDE: No, thank you.
13
                MR. MITCHELL: All right. Thank you.
14
                That's all, Mike.
15
                MR. CONSTANTINO: Okay. I would like to
16
     note that Gregory Friday, who requested this public
17
     hearing, did not testify.
18
                Thank you and that concludes today's
19
     public hearing. I appreciate it.
20
                MR. AVERY: Thank you, everyone. Have a
21
     good day.
22
                MR. CONSTANTINO: We would like the
23
     transcript by Friday.
24
              (Hearing concludes at 11:01 a.m.)
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1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER 2 3 I, JOYCE LAWRENCE, CSR# 84-1716, for 4 the State of Illinois, do hereby certify that the hearing was reported by me in stenotype and 5 that the transcript is a true and correct transcription of my shorthand notes of said 6 hearing. 7 I further certify that said hearing took place at the time and place hereinabove set forth and that the taking of said hearing was 8 commenced and completed as hereinabove set out. 9 10 I further certify that I am not counsel for nor in any way related to any of the parties to this suit, nor am I in any way 11 interested in the outcome thereof. 12 13 14 15 augur ucredec 16 17 Joyce D. Lawrence Certified Shorthand Reporter 18 Registered Professional Reporter State of Illinois CSR License #84-1716 19 20 21 2.2 23 24

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