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November 23, 2021

(VIA EMAIL: Courtney.Avery@Illinois.gov)
Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review
Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

(VIA EMAIL: Mike.Constantino@Illinois.gov)
Mr. Michael Constantino
Senior Reviewer
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review
Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Opposition to Project No. 21-026 (Rush Specialty Hospital)

Dear Ms. Avery and Mr. Constantino:

I am currently the Mayor of the Village of Broadview. I am also on the Board of Directors for Woodlake Hospital in Melrose Park and serve as the Corporate Secretary for the Board of Directors.

Today, I write in opposition to Project No. 21-026 because I firmly believe that Project No. 21-026 (as it applies to long term acute care beds) will negatively impact Woodlake Hospital, a safety net hospital.

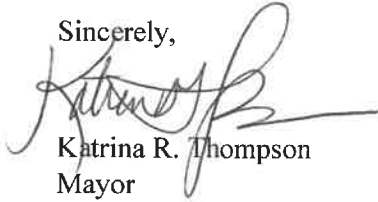
Since Westlake Hospital closed in 2019, I have worked with my fellow elected officials to bring healthcare back to the Westlake Hospital campus. Earlier this year, the Illinois House, the Illinois Senate, and the Governor unanimously passed and signed legislation to facilitate the re-opening of Westlake Hospital as Woodlake Hospital. Then, in August of this year, this Board approved Woodlake Hospital's COE Application to re-open Westlake Hospital. Critical to the re-opening of Westlake Hospital was a financial model built upon 44 long-term acute care beds (which will likely be the only beds in Woodlake Hospital with at least some portion of Medicare patients). Those long-term acute care beds were part of Woodlake Hospital's cross-subsidy strategy because the rest of the patient population at Woodlake Hospital will likely be Medicaid or charity care patients.

If Select Medical, a for-profit operator, and Rush Medical Center are allowed to construct a \$110 million hospital in our service area and also add exactly 44 long-term acute beds, I think we can safely conclude that some patients that would otherwise go to Woodlake Hospital would go to the Select Medical-Rush Hospital. Thereby putting Woodlake Hospital's financial future at risk (even before Woodlake Hospital completes the modernization of Westlake Hospital). My community cannot afford to lose Woodlake Hospital before it even re-opens.

I would strongly urge this Board to deny Project No. 21-026 so a safety net hospital like Woodlake Hospital can re-open Westlake Hospital and survive once opened. The service area already has plenty of options for long-term acute care beds. On the other hand, Woodlake Hospital is needed by my community.

Ultimately, you will get to choose (once again) the fate of the Westlake Hospital campus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katrina R. Thompson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Katrina R. Thompson
Mayor