

912 N 13th Street
DeKalb, IL 60115
July 21, 2023

Mike Constantino
Illinois Department of Public Health
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Mr. Constantino:

I am writing in opposition to the sale of the DeKalb County Rehab and Nursing Center. I have done a great deal of research on the survey results from the investigations of on-going lack of care, concern, and responsibility for the residents of the other ten nursing homes that the protentional owners hold toward the people whose lives are dependent on the care of the facilities where they live. In my experience, past performance is an excellent forecaster of future performance in a new facility. Mr. Blonder and/or Mr. Singer both have significant ownership in 10 nursing homes in Illinois. I have read every word of the surveys done by IDPH for lack of compliance to policies of their nursing home and to policies of IDPH and the State of Illinois's Department of Aging.

As I analyzed the surveys, two things became clear: 1. A pattern of problems appear repeatedly in the same facility and across many of SABA's other facilities. These patterns indicate that similar problems will result at DCRNC after the sale to SABA. 2. Examples of egregious findings would indicate a lack of care and concern for the residents who make their home in a SABA facility. People who have disabilities (mental and physical), who are aged and unable to care for themselves, who have no one able to care for them, deserve to live in dignity and shown respect from facilities administrators, staff and owners who are charged with caring for them depend on being safe and well cared for in a place that has become their home. These are not throw-away people who are cash cows for owners who put profit ahead of their responsibility to ensure quality care for those who make their home in a SABA facility.

My greatest concern is for the care and respect of the current residents of the DCRNC. The egregious examples of non-compliance to the rules and policies that govern the smooth and supportive running of a nursing home has me in total shock. I do understand that we are watching how the politics, financial concerns, and desire for power and convenience are blatantly apparent, without the slightest thought of the fear that this sale is creating in the people who can no longer care or advocate for themselves. I do not want any of the current or potential residents of DCRNC to have to endure this well-founded anxiety because of the selfish and irresponsible attitudes of the parties involved.

Currently DCRNC has a caring administration and staff that continue to put residents before themselves in terms of care and service. Over the last year and a half that I have been involved with the current problem, I have watched my dear one receive the kind of respectful care that I would expect from a 4- or 5-star facility. I have watched the staff and the administration pick up the slack created by a continued lack of concern on the part of the DeKalb County government, who apparently have decided that their lives will be easier if DCRNC is no longer a responsibility of theirs. I have been appalled by the county government who have shown nothing but open opposition to pursue any possible opportunities for positive solutions of this problem, the manipulation of those who oppose the selling of the facility to these

slum landlords, and the lack of respect for the long history (167 years) of service to the elderly that residents of the county depend on and which really has been their responsibility.

I am also deeply concerned that the Certificate of Need Board has been willing to sell this nursing home to buyers who have such a terrible track record with the ten homes they already own in Illinois. How can SABA come up with the financing to buy yet another nursing home when they cannot afford to bring their eight one -star and two two-star facilities up to providing reasonable level of care. I was under the impression that the reason for the Certificate of Need Board and IDPH oversight of nursing homes was to make sure that residents are safe, well cared for, properly medicated, and treated with respect. This does not seem like it will happen with SABA's track record of willingness to pay very expensive fines to continue to make the most possible money in the shortest time possible.

I am also concerned as to why was the meeting to decide the sale was moved to the day after the deadline for correspondence regarding this sale? I believe the Certificate of Need Board should have rescheduled their meeting with SABA and DCRNC to their October meeting so more of the problems that have been identified and alternative solutions could be found regarding the sale, rather than rescheduling the meeting concerning the sale to make sure to save as much money and required responsibility for the residents as possible for the buyer and the seller. There is absolutely no reason to turn a 3-star nursing home into a 1-star facility that does not benefit the residents, the staff or and the community residents of DeKalb County.

I have appreciated the hard work that the IDPH has done to oversee the viability of this sale. In addition, I appreciate that they were willing to come to DeKalb and listen to members of DeKalb County voice their concerns about the probability of decrease in care if this sale goes through. I hope that the Board will at least postpone the sale of IDPH until the underlying problems with the application, the required paperwork that should have been included throughout the process, and the lack of responsibility to keep the nursing home out of the hands of predatory landlords can be further investigated.

Respectively submitted,

Carol Deemer

2600 Annie Glidden Road
DeKalb, IL 60115
July 24, 2023

Mr. Mike Constantino
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Sir:

I have lived at the DeKalb County Rehab and Nursing Center for almost 7 years. I have been well cared for and I truly feel like this is my home. I have a long history with DCRNC. My sisters have been cared for here and my mother passed away here. DeKalb County Rehab and Nursing Center has been a resource and a special destination for people who can no longer care for themselves. The administration and the staff clearly care about us. They listen to us, make sure our needs are met, take care of medicine and arranging for doctor visits, try to make sure that the food is not only healthy but also tasty and pleases most of us.

The sale of DCRNC has caused enormous anxiety among the residents. We know the reputation of SABA, the probable buyers and everyone here is very worried that our lovely home. How can we feel confident about how we will be treated when the other nursing homes these buyers already own have conditions that are unsafe, unhealthy, unclean, and disrespectful.

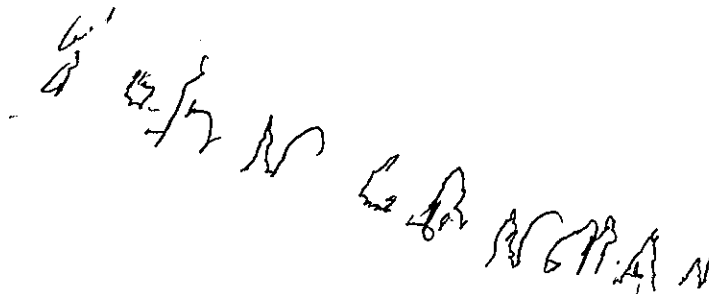
This is our home. We certainly have not been part of the decision-making in any way. I am not at all sure that our well-being has even been considered by the people who have made the decision to sell. This whole process has been very difficult for the residents! I attended the County Board meetings last fall when this was discussed. Unfortunately, I have not been well and have not been able to be in the audience for the County Board meetings this spring or at the Public Hearing put on by the IDPH in July. Even though I did not attend does not mean that I am disinterested. I want to continue to live in a home that is welcoming and full of friendship. It is important that we have a place where we feel safe and comfortable.

Be aware that the people who love us are not going to let this go. They will still be watchful and will work at making sure that conditions here are not harmful for the residents. People from the county are willing to continue to try to make things work.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

John Garmon

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Garmon". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned below the typed name "John Garmon".

2600 Annie Glidden Road
DeKalb IL 60115
July 24, 2023

Mr. Mike Constantino
IDPH
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Mr. Constantino:

I am writing in protest to the sale of the DeKalb County Rehab and Nursing Center to SABA. SABA has developed a diagram of mismanagement for nursing homes. It seems to have been constructed that way on purpose. Illinois Department of Public Health made recommendations to assist SABA to correct problems and those problems were solved. But only temporarily! Clearly, they have continued to manage their properties in the exact same way, so they continue to reoccur. Many of the problems that have been addressed in the surveys are likely to appear at DeKalb County Rehab and Nursing Center if SABA purchases the property.

Residents are aware of SABA's reputation of owning many 1-star facilities. This has created a great deal of anxiety because residents are afraid that the nursing home will become so unlivable that they will suffer under SABA's management. There is no indication that your management style will change.

One of our main concerns is the application process. The people who were responsible for the application have ignored what they were required to provide. They certainly have not dotted their "i's" and crossed their 't's "during the application process.

We are not sure how the application has been presented to the IDPH. We know that there have been some omissions in the paperwork that has been presented. We find this extremely concerning, because it will have a bearing on the final decision. It appears that this sale has been rammed through the process dealing with the sale price, the bank statement, and the qualifications of the county administrators to sell this property. We know that the actual application was submitted without a name of a buyer.

It would have been appropriate to send a letter to the Resident Council at DCRNC in a timely way to let the residents know of the intent of the county board to sell the property to these nursing home owners that had such a poor reputation. If the residents counted at all to the seller, why was not there an attempt to put a referendum before the voters of DeKalb County?

The entire process of the sale of our nursing home has been shady at best. There are rumors that probably have a kernel of truth at least about the way the county board members have been manipulated and threatened. To whom has the nursing home administrators been responsible to?

Are the residents even a part of this decision? These people live here, eat here, have friends here, and most of them do not have the ability to get away this facility. Are they prisoners or clients? Are they just sent here to die? We are not disposable commodity. We are a viable part of the communities of DeKalb County. We are not just a bunch of mentally deficient souls waiting for a place in heaven, because it seems like the residents of SABA's other nursing homes are living in a type of hell.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brother. Abdul El-Jamal

Brother El-Jamal