



June 17, 2024

IL HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

525 WEST JEFFERSON

2ND FLOOR

SPRINGFIELD, IL 62761

ATTENTION: DEBRA SAVAGE, CHAIRWOMAN

RE: LETTER OF OPPOSITION FOR OSF ST. ELIZABETH MEDICAL CENTER-REPLACEMENT (CON PROJECT #24-011); &

LETTER OF OPPOSITION FOR OSF ST. ELIZABETH MEDICAL CENTER-DISCONTINUATION OF FACILITY (CON PROJECT #24-013)

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN SAVAGE:

ON BEHALF OF OTTAWA SENIOR HOUSING LP I, I AM WRITING TO YOU IN OPPOSITION OF OSF'S PLANS TO DISCONTINUE SERVICE AT ST. ELIZABETH MEDICAL CENTER ("SEMC") IN OTTAWA, AS WELL AS, TO DEMOLISH THE HOSPITAL AND BUILD A NEWER, SMALLER FACILITY THAT SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCES THE ACCESS TO INPATIENT HOSPITAL SERVICES. THE NEW PROPOSED HOSPITAL WOULD ELIMINATE THE 5-BED ICU, AND LEAVE ONLY 12 OF THE EXISTING 54 MEDICAL/SURGERY BEDS. DUE TO THE NEW LIMITED CAPACITY AND NO ICU, MANY EMERGENCY AND SURGERY SITUATIONS WILL NEED TO BE DIVERTED TO A HOSPITAL IN PERU WHICH IS AN ADDITIONAL 30 MINUTE DRIVE.

OUR SENIOR HOUSING PROPERTY RELIES ON HAVING A FULL-SERVICE HOSPITAL NEARBY. THE AVAILABILITY OF PROPER AND LOCAL MEDICAL CARE WAS ONE OF THE MAJOR CONSIDERATIONS USED TO BUILD OUR SITE IN ITS CURRENT LOCATION. TO OUR SENIOR RESIDENTS, THE NEGATIVE IMPLICATIONS OF DOWNSIZING AND DOWNGRADING THE OTTAWA HOSPITAL ARE SEVERE AND WILL PUT OUR SENIOR RESIDENTS AT RISK. EXTENDED DRIVES TO PROPER MEDICAL CARE INCREASES THE LIKELIHOOD OF TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES.

OUR FIRM DEVELOPED SENIOR HOUSING AND NOW MANAGES THE RESULTANT PROPERTIES. OUR PROPERTY IN OTTAWA HOUSES OVER 70 LOW-INCOME SENIORS. THIS PROPERTY WAS DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTED UNDER FEDERAL LOW-INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDITS. ITS CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONS ARE MONITORED CLOSELY BY THE ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY. OUR RESIDENTS HAVE VERY LIMITED FINANCIAL RESOURCES. SOME OF OUR RESIDENTS ARE BELOW THE 30% AREA MEDIAN INCOME LEVEL.

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RECEIVED

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