

RESOLUTION NO. 049-2024

RESOLUTION OF OPPOSITION TO OSF HEALTHCARE'S PLAN FOR OSF SAINT ELIZABETH MEDICAL CENTER IN OTTAWA, ILLINOIS

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2024, OSF HealthCare announced it would be constructing a new multi-million-dollar hospital in Ottawa to replace the current Saint Elizabeth Medical Center in Ottawa, Illinois, which it states is nearing the end of its useful life; and,

WHEREAS, with this new multi-million-dollar hospital, OSF HealthCare will be reducing the services provided at Saint Elizabeth Medical Center - Ottawa; and

WHEREAS, Saint Elizabeth Medical Center - Ottawa will lose vital services such as in-patient intensive care, in-patient Obstetric care, birthing rooms, several operating rooms, and other essential services to the Ottawa and surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, OSF HealthCare is reducing the number of medical/surgical beds in Ottawa to only twelve beds, a significant decrease from its current bed capacity; and

WHEREAS, the lack of medical services being provided in Ottawa, will strain the Emergency Medical Services and Transport community as there will be a large flux of patients requiring transport to other locations, wasting the valuable time of Emergency Medical Service staff of not just Ottawa, but other local districts EMS providers also; and

WHEREAS, the reduction in medical services provided at Saint Elizabeth Medical Center – Ottawa will require longer transportation times for the citizens of Ottawa and surrounding communities who require services no longer provided in Ottawa; and,

WHEREAS, the reduction in medical services will have a direct negative effect on Ottawa's ability to attract quality health care providers; and,

WHEREAS, the lack of medical services being provided in Ottawa will have a direct negative effect on the ability of Ottawa to attract economic development; and,

WHEREAS, OSF HealthCare only informed City Officials a few hours prior to its public announcement of the new hospital and reduction of services at the new hospital; and

WHEREAS, at the time Ottawa Regional Hospital merged with OSF Healthcare, OSF stated residents will experience greater access to health care services, but OSF HealthCare's plan for Saint Elizabeth Medical Center - Ottawa is instead reducing vital health care services to our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Ottawa finds OSF HealthCare's plans regarding the services to be offered at Saint Elizabeth Medical Center – Ottawa negatively affects the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Ottawa; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Ottawa finds it in the best interests of the citizens of Ottawa to publicly oppose OSF HealthCare's plans regarding the services to be offered at the proposed new Saint Elizabeth Medical Center – Ottawa.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OTTAWA, ILLINOIS, AS FOLLOWS:

Section One: The Council of the City of Ottawa hereby opposes OSF HealthCare's plans for the services to be offered at the proposed new Saint Elizabeth Medical Center – Ottawa and strongly urge for the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Ottawa, the surrounding communities, and EMS providers OSF HealthCare reconsiders their decision and provides Ottawa with the full-service hospital it deserves and currently has.

Section Two: Any resolution or part thereof in conflict herewith is hereby repealed.

Section Three: This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval, and publication in pamphlet form.

	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Commissioner Eichelkraut	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	
Commissioner Ganiere	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	
Commissioner Pearson	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	
Commissioner Barron	_____	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
Mayor Hasty	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	

PASSED and APPROVED this 21st day of May 2024.


Robert Hasty, Mayor

ATTEST:


Shelly L. Munks, City Clerk

