

RESOLUTION 2024-30

***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, claiming that the current hospital was 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 cities of Ottawa and Streator, 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 citizens of Streator experienced a hospital closure in 2016 in which all inpatient services were eliminated requiring citizens to travel a minimum of 16 miles to the closest full service hospital, which is currently Saint Elizabeth Medical Center – Ottawa; and

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

WHEREAS, the lack of medical services being provided in Streator and a reduction of services in Ottawa, will further 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 Streator and Ottawa, but other local EMS providers also; and

WHEREAS, the lack of medical services being provided in Streator have had a direct negative effect on the ability of Streator to attract economic development and will be further affected by the reduction of services on Ottawa; and,

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

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

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

Section One: The Council of the City of Streator hereby opposes OSF HealthCare's plans for Saint Elizabeth Medical Center – Ottawa and strongly urges OSF Healthcare to reconsider its decision to reduce services in Ottawa, and furthermore consider expanding available services in Streator for the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Streator, the surrounding communities, and EMS providers.

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.

APPROVED:



Tara Bedei, Mayor

RECORD OF THE VOTE	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Councilman David Conner		√		
Councilman Tim Geary	√			
Councilman Matt McMullen	√			
Councilman David Reed	√			
Mayor Tara Bedei	√			

ATTEST:

Patricia L. Henderson, City Clerk