

**RESOLUTION**

**May 22, 2024**

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

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**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 influx 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

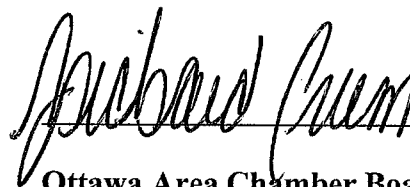
**WHEREAS**, the Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry finds OSF HealthCare's plans regarding Saint Elizabeth Medical Center – Ottawa negatively affects the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Ottawa; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry finds it in the best interests of the citizens of Ottawa to publicly oppose OSF HealthCare's plans regarding Saint Elizabeth Medical Center – Ottawa.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE OTTAWA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AS FOLLOWS:**

The Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry hereby opposes OSF HealthCare's plans for Saint Elizabeth Medical Center – Ottawa and strongly urges 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.

**Passed this 22<sup>nd</sup> Day of May, 2024**



**Ottawa Area Chamber Board Chairman**