

**RECEIVED**

SEP 04 2013

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

September 4, 2013

Courtney Avery  
State Board Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson Street, Second Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Preferred SurgiCenter, LLC (CON Project 13-007)

Dear Ms. Avery:

I, Sohair Omar, Co-Chair of Governor Quinn's Muslim American Advisory Council (MAAC), am writing to express my full support for the certificate of need (CON) permit application submitted by Preferred SurgiCenter, LLC (PSC).

MAAC was created to advise the Governor on a host of issues that are important to Illinois residents who are Muslim American, including but limited to access to affordable healthcare. In our First Semiannual Report, we made the following recommendation to Governor Quinn:

Muslim Americans are the most racially diverse religious group in America, where no race represents a majority. Since race rather than religious affiliation is a predictor of income, access to affordable healthcare is a serious problem for the indigenous African American subgroup of Illinois Muslims. They are disproportionately represented in uninsured and underinsured categories and, therefore, should be specifically targeted by Health Insurance Marketplace outreach efforts. Additionally, all Muslim Americans can benefit from special accommodations by healthcare providers with regards to cultural and linguistic barriers and cross-gender interaction in clinical and hospital settings.

PSC is proposing to establish a health care facility that is unique to Illinois because the surgery center will make reasonable efforts to meet the cultural and religious needs of Muslim American patients who are in need of surgical services. I am not aware of any other surgical care provider in Illinois that has willingly and openly made this commitment to the Muslim American community. PSC has also pledged to hire or contract with physicians and staff

who are bilingual in Arabic. PSC's intent to have physicians and staff who are bilingual and also sensitive to the needs of Muslim Americans is a very important step towards ensuring access to health care services among this demographic group. Furthermore, PSC will enroll as a vendor in the Illinois Medicaid program and has committed to offering a generous charity care program to all persons who are not able to afford the types of surgical services offered by PSC's physicians. These commitments by PSC are consistent with MAAC's goals of expanding access to affordable healthcare services for Muslim Americans.

In conclusion, I ask the members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to vote in favor of this project and allow PSC to establish a multi-specialty surgery center in Orland Park, Illinois that is willing to address the special needs of Arab and Muslim Americans. I believe the project proposed by PSC is both necessary and in the best interests of the Arab and Muslim American community.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sofair Omar', written over a large, circular scribble.

Sofair Omar

Co-Chair, Governor Quinn's Muslim American Advisory Council

Enclosure (1)

**STATE OF ILLINOIS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
MUSLIM AMERICAN ADVISORY COUNCIL**



**FIRST SEMIANNUAL REPORT  
JUNE 30, 2013**

# Members

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**Kareem M. Irfan, Esq., Co-Chair**

Former President, Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago

**Sohair Omar, Co-Chair**

Deputy Director, Illinois Finance Authority

**Dr. Bambade Shakoor-Abdullah**

Founder and Director, Leadership Development Institute and CMECCA School

**Dr. Irfan Ahmad**

Executive Director, Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology, University of Illinois Research Faculty, Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, University of Illinois

**Murad Moosa Bhaidani**

President, Ismaili Council for the Midwestern United States

**Mumtaz Champsi**

Founder, Enviro Capital

**Clyde El-Amin**

Former President, Olive-Harvey College

**Tariq El-Amin**

Founder and Executive Director, Bridging The Gap

**Inamul Haq**

Adjunct Professor, Elmhurst College

**S. Jafer Hasnain**

Co-Founder and Managing Partner, Lifeline Assets

**Dr. Mohammed Kaiseruddin, Ex-Officio**

Co-Founder and Chairman, Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago

**Dzafer Kulenovic**

President, J. Kulenovic & Associates

**Dr. Sevil Kutay**

President, Turkish American Chamber of Commerce & Industry Midwest

**Tariq Malhance**

Former Chief Financial Officer, Cook County

**Laila Muhammad**

President, Alshamseyya Social Service Organization

**Najjar Abdul-Musawwir**

Associate Professor of Fine Arts, Southern Illinois University

**Rami Nashashibi**

Executive Director, Inner-City Muslim Action Network

**Salim Al Nurridin**

Chief Executive Officer, Healthcare Consortium of Illinois

**Eboo Patel**

Executive Director, Interfaith Youth Core

**Aisha Qadeem**

Member, Islamic Society of Greater Springfield

**Imad Rahman**

Co-Founder and Chief Financial Officer, Avicenna Community Health Center  
Former President, Central Illinois Mosque and Islamic Center

**Ahmed Rehab**

Executive Director, Council on American-Islamic Relations—Chicago

**Dr. Mohammed Zaher Sahloul**

Chairman, Syrian American Medical Society

**Anas Osman**

Director, Sales Strategy and Operations, Americas, Google

**Safaa Zarzour, Esq.**

General Counsel and Chief Operating Officer, Zakat Foundation

# Letter from the Co-Chairs

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Who Is My Neighbor? Elgin, IL



Illinois Muslim ACTION! Day Springfield, IL



Health Care Rally Chicago, IL

Dear Governor Quinn,

It gives us great pleasure to submit the first semiannual report of your Muslim American Advisory Council (“MAAC” or “the Council”), the first public body of its kind in the nation.

Your commitment to the inclusion and empowerment of religious minorities is a testament of your visionary leadership, a reflection of core American values and a model that elected officials across our nation ought to emulate.

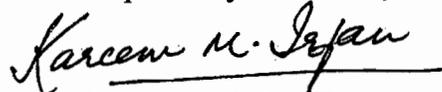
**“Everybody in. Nobody left out.”**  
– Governor Quinn

Muslim Americans comprise the third largest religious group in Illinois and have made countless contributions to our State – from designing signature buildings (for example, Willis Tower and John Hancock) to actively participating in its civil rights movement. Muslim Americans are an integral part of Illinois. They are our doctors, our business partners, our teachers, our neighbors and last but not least our fellow Illinoisans.

This report is a call for partnership and positive engagement. It offers recommendations in policy areas that are most important to Illinois Muslims such as public safety and community and economic development. Muslim Americans want safer neighborhoods, better education and employment opportunities for all youth, affordable healthcare and a prosperous Illinois economy.

On behalf of MAAC Members, thank you, Governor Quinn, for establishing and supporting the Council.

Respectfully submitted,



Kareem M. Irfan, Esq.  
Co-Chair



Sohair Omar  
Co-Chair

# Recommendations

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## Public Safety

- ❖ **Partner with faith-based communities to reduce violence and youth unemployment in Illinois.** As stated in House Resolution 1003 of the 97<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, faith-based organizations play a critical role in preventing and intervening in cycles of youth violence around the country. Muslim Americans and our faith partners are equally impacted by the negative effects of youth violence and strongly desire to collaborate with Governor Quinn, the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority and others to end this epidemic. For example, a pilot program that links at-risk youth with permanent employment at local businesses through pre-employment training, counseling and mentoring ought to be developed and implemented by all parties at stake.
- ❖ **Expand and increase funding for youth employment programs.** Jobs for youth, a key component of Governor Quinn’s anti-violence strategy, must be equally accessible to faith-based organizations and available year-round. The current youth employment program administered by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is limited to one season (summer) and does not provide adequate opportunities for faith-based organizations to apply. Partnering with faith-based organizations in collaboration with local businesses on expanding the current youth employment program will require additional resources. Additionally, graduates of the existing youth employment program ought to be trained, counseled and mentored until they find permanent employment. Muslim-owned businesses located in at-risk communities have expressed an interest in participating in and contributing to such programs.
- ❖ **End racial and religious profiling and intrusive surveillance.** The Muslim American community is opposed – as is the Illinois General Assembly (via Senate Bill 1587 of the 98<sup>th</sup> General Assembly) – to unwarranted drone surveillance or any other measure that infringes upon our or any other racial or religious groups’ fundamental constitutional rights; and encourages Governor Quinn to sign Senate Bill 1587, which mandates important drone-related surveillance safeguards, into law.
- ❖ **Block the expansion of gambling in Illinois.** The disruptive social and financial impact of gambling on individuals, families and communities outweigh any estimate of potential tax revenue. The Muslim American community commends and stands by Governor Quinn in his opposition to gambling expansion legislation.

# Recommendations

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## Economic Development

- ❖ **Coordinate trade promotion activities with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and other member-based organizations.** To tap markets in MENASA plus SEA (Middle East, North Africa, South Asia and South East Asia), especially those fast-growing economies of the Persian/Arab Gulf, the Illinois Office of Trade and Investment must continue to engage them and organizations that represent them in areas of construction (e.g., GCC rail projects and 2012 FIFA World Cup in Qatar), healthcare and education.
- ❖ **Host a series of “Why Illinois” seminars in partnership with foreign consulates and large companies to attract foreign direct investment.** A pitch book highlighting the competitive advantages of Illinois must be developed, presented and provided to business persons and groups travelling to and from Illinois and foreign markets.
- ❖ **Designate an employee at the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to focus on trade and higher education linkages.** To bolster trade relationships, strategic partnerships between Illinois public and private universities and universities and medical and research centers abroad (e.g., King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in Saudi Arabia) must be identified and created.
- ❖ **Create a State-level Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program.** A focus on innovation and entrepreneurship is key to the long-term, economic success of Illinois. Using the SBIR program administered by the U.S. Small Business Administration as a model, Illinois should create a research grant program for small businesses to spur technological innovation and commercialize State-funded investments.

## Government Services

- ❖ **Expand outreach to Muslim American community in Illinois.** Muslim American households and businesses are generally unaware of opportunities to partner with the State. Through the creation of MAAC, Governor Quinn has empowered MAAC Members to conduct outreach on behalf of the State. Relying on the extensive networks of MAAC Members, Illinois State agencies must also reach out to mosques (or masjids) and Islamic centers and institutions, especially when community and economic development and public safety is concerned.

# Recommendations

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## Human Services

- ❖ **Continue to fund immigrant and refugee services programs.** To achieve Governor Quinn's goal of making Illinois the most welcoming State in the nation, funding for the Immigrant Family Resource Program, the New American Initiative and other comparable programs cannot be compromised. Many Illinois Muslims have migrated to the U.S. from strife-torn countries and are dependent on temporary assistance while they integrate into American society.

## Healthcare

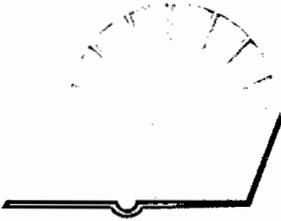
- ❖ **Expand access to affordable healthcare in Illinois.** Muslim Americans are the most racially diverse religious group in America, where no race represents a majority. Since race rather than religious affiliation is a predictor of income, access to affordable healthcare is a serious problem for the indigenous African American subgroup of Illinois Muslims. They are disproportionately represented in uninsured and underinsured categories and, therefore, should be specifically targeted by Health Insurance Marketplace outreach efforts. Additionally, all Muslim Americans can benefit from special accommodations by healthcare providers with regards to cultural and linguistic barriers and cross-gender interaction in clinical and hospital settings.

## Education

- ❖ **Increase cultural and global understanding through education.** To increase the competitiveness of Illinois' workforce, the State must continue to fund programs, such as the Arts and Foreign Language Implementation and Planning Assistance Grants Program administered by the Illinois Arts Council and the Illinois State Board of Education, that help Illinois students learn about world cultures and languages, including but not limited to Arabic.

**Printed by the authority of the State of Illinois.**

**[www.muslimamerican.illinois.gov](http://www.muslimamerican.illinois.gov)**



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PRINCE SHAKOOR-ABDULLAH  
708-339-0287 (v)  
708-339-0267 (f)

CHICAGO METROPOLITAN EDUCATIONAL CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson Street, Second Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62761  
Attention: Courtney Avery, State Board Administrator

September 2, 2013

**Re: Letter of Support for Preferred SurgiCenter, LLC, Orland Park, Illinois (Project 13-007)**

Dear Board Members:

I am currently serving on Governor Patrick Quinn's Muslim American Advisory Council (MAAC), a panel created to advise the governor on issues that are important to Illinois' Muslim American community. A primary directive given to the MAAC by Governor Quinn is to support projects that expand access to affordable healthcare for Muslim Americans. Based on this directive, I am writing to express my support for the certificate of need (CON) permit application submitted by Preferred SurgiCenter, LLC (PSC) and ask the members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board (State Board) to vote in favor of this project. Your affirmative vote will allow PSC to establish a multi-specialty ambulatory surgical treatment center (ASTC) that is sensitive to the cultural, religious, and other special needs of Muslim Americans who need surgical services.

The proposed ASTC will be beneficial to Muslim American community and should be supported for the following reasons:

- The ASTC will enhance access to needed healthcare services for Muslim Americans and will be an important first step towards meeting the unmet health care needs of this key population group.
- The ASTC will provide important assistance to low-income Muslim Americans. The ASTC will be enrolled as a vendor in the Illinois Medicaid program and offer a generous charity care program to meet the needs of persons who are uninsured and under-insured. This part of PSC's proposal will address the MAAC's goal to expand access to affordable healthcare for Muslim Americans.
- The ASTC will appropriate treatment and care options that are presently unavailable to Muslim Americans living in Chicago and its southwest suburbs. PSC has pledged to have bilingual staff to address language barriers created when a prospective Muslim American patient is not fluent in the English language. PSC has committed to providing services that take into account the cultural and religious beliefs of its patients, with an emphasis being placed on Arab and Muslim American patients. The MAAC has concluded that all Muslim Americans can benefit from special accommodations by healthcare providers with regards to cultural and linguistic barriers and cross-gender interaction in clinical and hospital settings.

I kindly request that you approve this application, which will allow Preferred SurgiCenter to expand the health care options available to Arab and Muslim Americans. I believe the project is both necessary and in the best interest of our community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Bambade Shakoor-Abdullah, PhD*

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243-E Stratton Building  
Springfield, Illinois 62706  
(217) 782-5280

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
9 Riverside Road  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor South  
Riverside, IL 60546  
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(708) 442-6501 Fax



**MICHAEL J. ZALEWSKI**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
**23<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT**

COMMITTEES:  
Appropriations Public Safety  
Environment  
Health Care Licenses - Chair  
Judiciary  
Personnel & Pensions  
Revenue & Finance - Vice Chair

August 19, 2013

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
Illinois Department of Public Health  
525 West Jefferson St., 2nd Floor  
Springfield IL 62761

Attention: Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator

**Re: Project 13-007 (Preferred SurgiCenter, LLC)**

Dear Ms. Avery:

Please let the members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board (State Board) know that I fully support CON project 13-007, which is proposing the establishment of a multi-specialty surgery center in Orland Park, Illinois. Moreover, I ask the State Board to approve this project so that Arab and Muslim Americans living in my legislative district can obtain surgical services from a health care provider that understands their special needs. As the State Representative for the 23<sup>rd</sup> District, I am keenly aware that Arab and Muslim Americans in my area are not obtaining sufficient access to our health care system.

The proposed surgery center is needed because it will address specific unmet health care needs within the communities that I represent. For the following reasons, I ask the members of the State Board to support the CON project submitted by Preferred SurgiCenter:

- The proposed surgery center will enhance access to health care services, especially in relation to Arab and Muslim Americans who feel disenfranchised from our existing health care system.
- The proposed surgery center will combat health disparities among the Arab and Muslim American populations in my district by giving them a place where they feel comfortable obtaining culturally sensitive health care services.

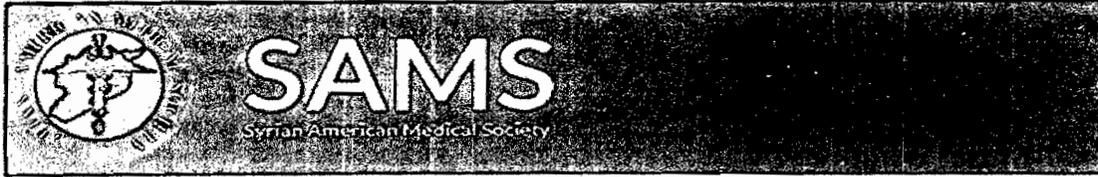
- The proposed surgery center will be committed to serving all persons in my area who need surgical services but cannot afford them. I support this project because the proposed surgery center will serve Medicaid beneficiaries and also have a robust charity care program.
- The proposed surgery center will also save the state money. Generally, surgery centers cost less than hospitals providing the same type of care in an outpatient surgical setting. In tight budget times, we must do everything we can to alleviate the financial burdens on our health care system.

For the reasons noted above, I ask the State Board to approve this CON permit application. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Michael J. Zalewski  
State Representative  
23<sup>rd</sup> District



**SAMS/Midwest  
Board of Directors**

August 28th, 2013

**Ammar Bayrakdar M.D., F.A.C.E.**  
President

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Vice President

**Shadi Latta M.D.**  
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Board Member

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Board Member

**Mamon Abdoh, MD**  
Board Member

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson Street, Second Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Attention: Courtney Avery, State Board Administrator

Dear Board Members:

The Syrian American Medical Society's Midwest Chapter is writing this letter to express their support for one of its member's (Dr. M. Alzein's) Preferred SurgiCenter's certificates of need permit application (CON Project No. 13-007). We believe that this center will fulfill the need for the community in the southwest suburbs and give patients more choices for health care delivery. This center's approval would also lead to increased access to healthcare services, especially for persons in need of charity care services or Medicaid. We kindly request that you approve this application which will allow Preferred SurgiCenter to expand the health care options available to residents of the community.

We believe the project is both necessary and is in the best interest of our community.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ammar Bayrakdar M.D.  
Syrian American Medical Society  
Midwest Chapter - President

September 4, 2013

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson Street, Second Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62761  
Attention: Courtney Avery, State Board Administrator

**Re: Letter of Support for Preferred SurgiCenter, LLC, Orland Park, Illinois (Project 13-007)**

Dear Board Members:

I am currently serving on Governor Patrick Quinn's Muslim American Advisory Council (MAAC), a panel created to advise the governor on issues that are important to Illinois' Muslim American community. A primary directive given to the MAAC by Governor Quinn is to support projects that expand access to affordable healthcare for Muslim Americans. Based on this directive, I am writing to express my support for the certificate of need (CON) permit application submitted by Preferred SurgiCenter, LLC (PSC) and ask the members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board (State Board) to vote in favor of this project. Your affirmative vote will allow PSC to establish a multi-specialty ambulatory surgical treatment center (ASTC) that is sensitive to the cultural, religious, and other special needs of Muslim Americans who need surgical services.

The proposed ASTC will be beneficial to Muslim American community and should be supported for the following reasons:

- The ASTC will enhance access to needed healthcare services for Muslim Americans and will be an important first step towards meeting the unmet health care needs of this key population group.
- The ASTC will provide important assistance to low-income Muslim Americans. The ASTC will be enrolled as a vendor in the Illinois Medicaid program and offer a generous charity care program to meet the needs of persons who are uninsured and under-insured. This part of PSC's proposal will address the MAAC's goal to expand access to affordable healthcare for Muslim Americans.
- The ASTC will appropriate treatment and care options that are presently unavailable to Muslim Americans living in Chicago and its southwest suburbs. PSC has pledged to have bilingual staff to address language barriers created when a prospective Muslim American patient is not fluent in the English language. PSC has committed to providing services that take into account the cultural and religious beliefs of its patients, with an emphasis being placed on Arab and Muslim American patients. The MAAC has concluded that all Muslim Americans can benefit from special accommodations by healthcare providers with regards to cultural and linguistic barriers and cross-gender interaction in clinical and hospital settings.

I kindly request that you approve this application, which will allow Preferred SurgiCenter to expand the health care options available to Arab and Muslim Americans. I believe the project is both necessary and in the best interest of our community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Signature

Tariq I. El-Amin  
Name

3123 224<sup>th</sup> St, Sauk Village, IL 60411  
Address

#25459339\_v1

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CHRISTINE@SENATORRADOGNO.COM

ILLINOIS STATE SENATE  
**CHRISTINE RADOGNO**  
SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER  
41<sup>ST</sup> SENATE DISTRICT

September 3, 2013

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62761  
Attention: Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator

**Re: Project 13-007 (Preferred SurgiCenter, LLC)**

Dear Ms. Avery:

Please let the members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board (State Board) know that I urge thoughtful consideration of the certificate of need (CON) permit application submitted by Preferred SurgiCenter (Applicant). In this case, the Applicant is proposing the establishment of a multi-specialty ambulatory surgical treatment center (ASTC) in Orland Park, Illinois, and plans to offer specialized services to meet the unmet health care needs of Muslim Americans living throughout the southwest suburbs.

I ask the State Board to give full consideration of this project so that Arab and Muslim Americans living in my legislative district can obtain surgical services from a health care provider that understands their cultural values, religious beliefs, and other special needs. Arab and Muslim Americans must confront many challenges with obtaining health care services that take into account their particular needs. While the proposed surgery center will not be located in my district, I believe that it will benefit the residents of the 41<sup>st</sup> Senate District, especially persons who are Muslim American.

I ask the members of the State Board to give full and timely consideration to the Applicant's CON project for the following reasons:

- The proposed ASTC will enhance access to health care services, especially in relation to Arab and Muslim Americans, two population groups that often feel disenfranchised from our existing health care system because existing providers do not offer services that take into account their cultural values and religious beliefs.
- By offering services that consider patients' cultural values and religious beliefs, the proposed ASTC will combat health disparities that exist within Arab and Muslim American populations, including persons living in the southwest suburbs. As explained

to me, the ASTC will also provide language assistance services, having physicians and staff who are bilingual in Arabic or other similar language. It appears the ASTC will give Arab and Muslim American patients a place where they feel comfortable obtaining health care services.

I ask the State Board to give full consideration to this CON permit application. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine Radogno". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christine Radogno  
Senate Republican Leader  
41<sup>st</sup> District  
1011 State Street, Suite 210  
Lemont, IL 60439