



February 18, 2014

DONALD P. SCHOENHEIDER
MAYOR

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Ms. Kathryn J. Olson, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Project No. 14-006 – Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital

Dear Chairwoman Olson,

As Mayor of the City of Lake Forest, I am writing to express the City's full support for the campus revitalization project at Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital (NLFH). This project includes construction of a replacement hospital on the current hospital site, traffic circulation and infrastructure improvements and overall enhancements to the campus. I respectfully urge the Health Facilities Services and Review Board (Review Board) to approve a permit for the project.

The hospital has been an important and highly valued institution in Lake Forest for over 100 years. The hospital began serving Lake County residents from its current location in 1942. Today, the hospital campus is ideally located near major roadways offering direct and efficient access from areas throughout Lake County by way of the Tollway and various State highways. This revitalization project takes advantage of the available land and the campus' ideal location and will position the hospital to serve residents of greater Lake County for generations.

The existing hospital facility has outlived its useful life and simply cannot meet the demands that will be associated with providing access to quality health care in the immediate and longer term future. I understand that in September, 2013, your Board unanimously approved NLFH's Master Design Permit. Since then, the Hospital Campus Master Plan and detailed site and building plans received approval from the City of Lake Forest City Council. This project has been thoroughly vetted by the community and has the full support of the City Council.

This project affirms NLFH's commitment to serving not only Lake Forest residents, but all Lake County residents. NLFH's vision is to expand access to primary and specialty care by bringing nationally recognized physicians and innovative research to the hospital campus. In addition, an important part of the revitalization project is to create a campus and culture that not only is there to provide medical care, but a facility that supports wellness through education, events and on-site facilities.

In closing, I again express my support for NLFH's application to build a replacement hospital facility. On behalf of the City Council and all of the residents of the City of Lake Forest, I urge the Board to approve this project. Thank you for your service and for your favorable consideration of this application.

Sincerely,