

The loss of St Elizabeth Hospital seems too much for one community to endure. St. E's has been located in Belleville so long. When you tell someone your loved one is in St. E's. You don't even have to tell them where; Belleville, where else. It is connected to the Heart Institute on one side and by a walkway over the street to the Doctors Offices on the other. That is a lot of empty buildings. Oh, I know, no one said that they would all be empty, that they will all move. But you and I know that they will to be more convenient to the hospital.

Not only are the buildings being empty a concern, but what about the people. What about the cashier in the gift shop? Will she be able to keep her job? How about the volunteer that sits at the receptionist desk when you walk in. Straight ahead of you...the lady that has trouble getting around. Will she be able to volunteer at another hospital? Probably not too much walking. And the cashier at the luncheon/yogurt snack bar? What about all of the nurses? Their lives have been set between the hours that they work, their children's caregivers, getting them to school on time. This has all been organized. So all of the staff that is employed by St. Elizabeth, their schedules and lives are not of any of your concern either? Some of them drive quite a few miles now. So they can either drive farther or find other employment?

Will there be a church across the street, like our St Peter's Cathedral where you can go and walk around the grounds when your loved one is in recovery? Where you can sit on the steps and pray? Where you can Thank God for bringing them through the surgery and pray for God to continue watching over them? I know that there is a chapel in hospitals, but it is not same as our St Peter's Cathedral.

And what about the Senior Living at the Cottages at Cathedral Square Development? St. Elizabeth's Hospital being so close would have to be an advantage to all seniors.

St. Elizabeth's Hospital is part of our City's skyline. If you remove it. There will be an empty hole...in more ways than one.

Cindy Owens

14-043

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SEP 08 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to express my extreme concern over the proposed move of St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville to O'Fallon, Illinois. I strongly oppose the relocation.

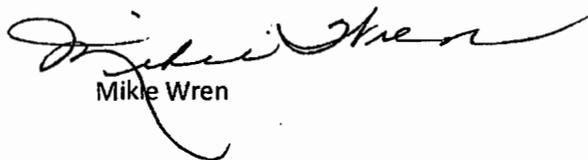
I am from Belleville and it would definitely be a terrible tragedy for our City. In addition, it is devastating for patients in the rural areas of St. Clair County. When time is of the essence in an emergency, miles can make a big difference.

It seems odd to me that Belleville has a much larger population than O'Fallon and if St. Elizabeth's certificate is granted they will have two hospitals to serve their city, leaving Belleville with only one. Could it be that St. Elizabeth's is only interested in their payer mix as opposed to providing healthcare where it is needed most?

I understand that the City of Belleville has made offers to them to procure more land to enlarge their campus and build and a new facility at the same site and also offered other sites in Belleville to build. Apparently it never was St. Elizabeth's Intention to stay in Belleville.

I strongly encourage you to deny St. Elizabeth's Certificate of Need application.

Thank you,



Mike Wren

To whom it may concern:

I am voicing my opposition to the proposed relocation of St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville to O'Fallon, Illinois. The move would be a devastating blow to the City of Belleville and its residents, not only limiting healthcare choices but it would also have a substantial financial impact.

Having only one hospital in a city the size of Belleville will create a huge burden on the existing hospital. Increased wait times and care will almost certainly be compromised due to the sheer volume of patients. When you are ill generally you go to the nearest facility. I can't imagine being sick enough to go to the hospital and having to either wait a lengthy time for care or driving miles away to O'Fallon.

St. Elizabeth's has a long rich history in Belleville and is a vital part of the downtown area. The 1,800 employees have a significant impact on the economy of Belleville. Abandoning the Belleville site would create a blight that would take countless years for recovery.

It saddens me to see that St. Elizabeth's has forgotten their mission of helping people of all economic backgrounds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dorothy Meyer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" and "M".

Dorothy A. Meyer

St. Elizabeth Hospital in Belleville is where my children and I were born and where my parents were on staff as physicians.

It is the most convenient hospital by far for my family and other patients living in Belleville and the many communities south and east of Belleville.

We will not be served by driving farther to a traffic-snarled area in a newer part of the county that is farther away.

It is a sad reflection on the mission of the hospital (and its Sisters) when it follows the pattern of Walmart: a large building is abandoned in the heart of the community with no plans but to leave it for blight to manifest and eat the city from the inside out.

The O'Fallon corridor will be amply provided for by Memorial Hospital who is maintaining its Belleville facility. It is overkill to have another hospital in O'Fallon when a vast area of the county will be greatly inconvenienced and underserved by a possible relocation of St E's.

Good bye to sentimentality and emotional attachment to what has been a bulwark of health care to St Clair County.

Nancy R. Larson
Harter, Larson & Dodd LLC
201 South Jackson Street
Belleville, IL 62220

August 29, 2014

To whom it may Concern,

I write this letter regarding St Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville with a sad heart. St. Elizabeth's has played a large role in my life and the life of my family. I was employed at STE for 29 years. Those were some of the best years of my life. I worked as a RN on the 6th floor. We were a hard working group and proud of the floor. At that time we were known in the hospital and medical circles as the place to be if you wanted the best nursing care in Belleville. Some Doctors would only send their patients to us.

Unfortunately things change and times change. After I left STE, I never found a place as good as STE.

Both of my children and my grandson were born at STE. STE has been the go to hospital for my family for as long as we have lived in Belleville, 34 years. To hear that STE is leaving the area leaves a hole in the neighborhood and community of Belleville. I live only 8 blocks from the current STE. I managed to get to work even during the great blizzard of 1982, I could walk.

It is my hope along with many others in the community of Belleville, that the HSHS group will reconsider and keep patient care in Belleville. I understand that the building is old, but it is a solid building. How many spirits are alive in those hospital walls? How many memories? Spirits and memoires don't make money and today is a money driven world. This institution has been a part of the community for so many years.

I no longer work at STE and have been gone for 8 years, but a part of me will always be at STE.

Please, reconsider and keep patient care in downtown Belleville!

Thank you,

June Benedick RN



September 3, 2014

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, Second Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Dear Ms. Avery,

My husband and I have been residents of Belleville for 30-plus years and would just like to add our opinion on St. Elizabeth's proposal to relocate their hospital to O'Fallon, Illinois. We are opposed to this relocation since we feel that our city needs BOTH our good hospitals, Memorial and St. E's, to provide adequate coverage of the healthcare needs of this community.

Had the desire been to add an additional facility in the O'Fallon area, as Memorial Hospital is doing, we could get behind that idea but to leave Belleville altogether, in Maryann Reese's words "is not survivable". There are many people here, older – disabled – poor, for whom the travel to O'Fallon would be extremely problematic if not next to impossible. It is difficult to understand how the St. Elizabeth's Hospital Board of Directors and Hospital Sisters of St. Francis could see this undertaking as fulfilling their mission statement.

Just this past Labor Day weekend we happened to be visiting at Memorial and their Emergency Department was terribly busy with the number of admitted patients being higher than it had been for some time. We tried to imagine what that volume of activity would have been without the same services being available at St. Elizabeth's in Belleville and how could Memorial adequately handle the additional load? From what we know of the demographics, Memorial's Belleville facility would get more than their fair share of public aid and non-insured patients; the O'Fallon area is known to be more affluent and we suspect the majority of that population are privately insured and/or can probably afford to pay for their services.

Mayor Eckert has been working to improve the economy and image of our city, but events such as this just seem to push those efforts in a backward direction. What must a prospect considering a move to the Belleville area think when a major hospital facility is looking to leave a town it has served more than 100 years?

Finally, it does not make sense to build a new hospital less than two miles from a hospital already under construction in Shiloh, Illinois.....it would not seem fair to detract from the business that Memorial Hospital East planned long before St. Elizabeth's decided to enter that ring! Is it not one of the IHFSRB's responsibilities to see that there is not duplication of services in a small geographic area?

We do understand the need for St. Elizabeth's to update their facility and we truly wish there would be more consideration given to maintaining their presence here in Belleville. They would certainly have our support in that regard!

Thank you for your consideration,



Mr. and Mrs. Steven L. Gruenke
52 French Quarter
Belleville, Illinois 62223