

Jim Zito
CEO of Prairie Heart Institute of Illinois
Remarks in Support of Project #14-044

Good evening. I'm Jim Zito and I am the CEO of Prairie Heart Institute of Illinois. I am honored to be here to support our partner St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

First, I want to say thank you to John Enzwiler for telling his story. I never tire of hearing our patients talk about their healing experiences with our physicians.

And, John's was a particularly special case. I recall talking with Dr. Saha about John as Dr. Saha prepared for the procedure. These are two amazing men – John and Dr. Saha.

Now, let me tell you why I support St. Elizabeth's plans.

- 1) A physicians' office building right next door to the hospital is vital to providing high-quality health care because it gives physicians the opportunity to round in the early morning and see patients in the physicians' office building as part of their normal office hours.

~~(Line of reduced resources for maximizing productivity)~~ 

- 2) I understand the Ambulatory Care Center will house a residency clinic for those who train at St. Elizabeth's. This is great news because it will help keep them closely associated with the hospital, and, therefore encourage them to stay in the area to work, at a time when we need more physicians and specialists in the region.

3) St. Elizabeth's has been a great partner and our physicians have been pleased to work with them in Belleville. We look forward to growing that partnership in this new ambulatory care center and physicians' office building.

I implore the members of the Review Board to approve this project for the sake of our cardiac patients like John – and all patients – in the Metro East region.

Thank you.

PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of Susan Beeler, Project Manager, St. Elizabeth's Hospital

In Support of Project # 14-044
St. Elizabeth's Hospital – Ambulatory Care Center, O'Fallon
October 2, 2014

Hello, I'm Sue Beeler. I'm St. Elizabeth's Hospital's project manager. I have been coordinating plans for our proposed ambulatory care center and physicians' office building, as well as the replacement hospital you heard about earlier today. I am, of course, here this evening to show my support for the replacement hospital and associated ACC POB, and to remind you of how integral it is to our plans for the future of health care delivery in the Metro East region.

Like almost all hospitals built today, St. Elizabeth's wanted to make sure that its new hospital is directly attached to an ambulatory care center and physicians' office building for convenience for our patients and physicians.

Our patients will appreciate the proximity of the ambulatory care center to the hospital for outpatient services such as imaging and laboratory. They won't have to drive somewhere else. They'll be able to walk next door.

Physicians like the efficiency of this location because it allows for patient-centered care. It means they can easily do rounds before and after office hours, or even in the middle of the day, if needed.

Public Hearing Testimony
Kellie Burge, RN
Obstetrics Nurse, St. Elizabeth's Hospital

Good evening. My name is Kellie Burge. I'm a registered nurse in the obstetrics department at St. Elizabeth's Hospital and I'm pleased to be here in support of St. Elizabeth's plans for an ambulatory care center and physicians' office building next to its proposed replacement hospital.

I have worked at St. Elizabeth's for about five years. I am proud to say that I also participated in the nursing residency program at St. Elizabeth's. I'm particularly eager to see the ambulatory care center because it will have a residency clinic.

The residency clinic provides valuable experience in the primary care setting. It is a place for long-time health care professionals to mentor new doctors and nurses and to establish relationships that last a lifetime. These bonds help keep students in the Metro East to open their practices and continue their work close to home.

And, having the residency clinic as part of the ACC that is next door to the state-of-the-art St. Elizabeth's Hospital also gives residents tremendous access to training in the main hospital building.

The plans for the ACC are necessary, and responsibly embody the principles of best practices in health care delivery. I ask the Review Board to approve St. Elizabeth's plans. Thank you.

As Maryann mentioned, the ACC also will house a residency clinic for residents who train at St. Elizabeth's.

From the financial perspective we designed these two projects with the idea of keeping costs as low as we could. We weighed which services to offer in the hospital and which to offer in the ACC. We knew that whatever we added to the main hospital building would cost more per gross square foot because of the Life Safety Code requirements of hospitals. So, we wanted to ensure that we chose wisely about what needed to be in the hospital and what could be in the ACC, which we did.

Also from the cost perspective, we are putting in less capital upfront and taking on less risk by having a well-known developer construct the entire building. The hospital has committed to lease a portion of space within the building for outpatient hospital services and the residency clinic.

Thank you for your time today. I'm respectfully asking the Review Board to approve our plans for the future.

Good evening. My name is John Enzwiler. I have been a patient at St. Elizabeth's Hospital and I am here this evening to show my support for the proposed ambulatory care center.

I had a heart arrhythmia that needed special care. I was blessed to have a cardiac physician, Dr. Paban Saha from Prairie Heart Institute of Illinois, who specializes in heart rhythm disorders and electrophysiology. Because of my condition, he needed to perform an electrophysiology ablation.

I was nervous as I prepared for the surgery because it was the first time Dr. Saha was to perform this procedure at St. Elizabeth's and it was complex. It involved special electrode catheters to my heart, radiofrequency energy and burning cells to get rid of my arrhythmia.

Dr. Saha put my mind at ease by walking me through the procedure, answering my questions and explaining my follow-up care. He said he would be checking in on me regularly at the hospital, since his office building was right next to the hospital. I didn't understand just how important that one bit of information was until after my surgery.

Dr. Saha did come by frequently, which I believe led to better care and faster recovery. Plus, for all the heart scans and blood work I needed before and after surgery it was convenient to have the lab and imaging services on site.

Now, I understand why it is so important for physicians to have offices near the hospital to visit patients and to have needed services in an ambulatory care center next door. I think it is the best way to provide care.

I'm so thankful for the partnership St. Elizabeth's Hospital has with Prairie Heart Institute. I'm thankful for the care I received from everyone with both organizations. And, I'm thankful for the opportunity to speak here today in support of these plans.

I ask the Review Board to approve St. Elizabeth's plans for an ambulatory care center and physicians' office building next to its planned replacement hospital at the corner of Green Mount Road and Regency Parkway.

There are all sorts of representations contained in the application but there is no documentation provided to support it. There is no citation of any deficiencies the government has brought against the hospital to justify their needing this new surgery center. There is no mention of the fact that by providing the exact same surgical procedure outside of their hospital and in the surgery center next door, they are increasing their profit margin... not to mention the cost to the patients. There may be lots of benefits to this project for St. Elizabeth's and HSHS - - - but it's hard to figure out the benefit for the public and the patients.

Ph. Randy Jung

Dr. Randy Jung

St. Elizabeth's Hospital – Ambulatory Care Center, O'Fallon (#14-044)

October 2, 2014, Public Hearing Remarks

Hello, my name is Dr. Randy Jung. I am the medical director for St. Elizabeth's Hospital and chairman of the Department of Psychiatry. I am a board certified psychiatrist who has been practicing for more than 20 years.

I am pleased to be here this evening to show my support for St. Elizabeth's planned ambulatory care center and physicians' office building next to its proposed replacement hospital off Interstate 64 in St. Clair County.

This is the way of hospital construction today – physicians' office buildings and ambulatory care centers next to hospitals. This is much more convenient for physicians. It also helps to reduce patient and physician stress.

For several reasons, patients feel less stress when they go to an ambulatory care center rather than the hospital:

1. They don't have to navigate the sometimes confusing hospital hallways.
2. It is a more comfortable environment.
3. They are usually going for less intensive care; generally check-ups, imaging or lab work.

Reducing stress is important in the health care environment. Especially when studies show that 43 percent of adults suffer adverse health effects from stress, and 75 to 90 percent of all doctor's office visits are for stress-related complaints.

The proximity will help alleviate stress for our physicians, too. Their travel time from hospital to office will be reduced, which frees up time to focus on patient-centered care.

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We are designed to experience stress and react to it. This ACC, office building and hospital will be designed to reduce stress, and therefore its harmful effects on our health.

I respectfully ask the Review Board to approve these plans.

Thank you for your time this evening.

We have made the determination to offer our opposition through our presence, rather than present the same objections over again. We respect the time and effort it takes for the Board and staff to review these comments, but in as much as the project is incorporating essential components of the hospital and will result in downtown Belleville losing access to a hospital – we oppose this project.

Something the Board might want to ask of St. Elizabeth's - - if they do not receive the approval to build this new hospital and abandon downtown Belleville, are they still going to want this surgery center and medical office building? If yes – we don't oppose modernizing the healthcare available for the community. If No... then why is this split into two separate projects? They are housing essential hospital functions inside the medical office building, so I wonder if these really are separate projects?

Brian Flynn

PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of Maryann L. Reese, President and Chief Executive Officer
St. Elizabeth's Hospital

Reese
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In Support of Project # 14-044
St. Elizabeth's Hospital – Ambulatory Care Center, O'Fallon
October 2, 2014

Good evening. My name is Maryann Reese, and I am the President and CEO of St. Elizabeth's Hospital. I am here today to support St. Elizabeth's plans for an ambulatory care center and physicians' office building near our proposed replacement hospital just off Interstate 64 in St. Clair County.

First, I would like to acknowledge our supporters – some of whom have stayed from the earlier replacement hospital public hearing to show their support for this project, too. There are representatives of community organizations, other health care providers, first responders, patients and hospital associates from throughout the Metro East region. I am thankful for their enthusiasm and support.

It is standard now for hospitals to have associated ambulatory care centers and physicians' office buildings. This allows outpatient hospital services to be located in the ambulatory care center, which is a more user-friendly setting for patients who need outpatient care than the full hospital.

The ACC also will house a residency clinic for residents who train at St. Elizabeth's. This is good for the community and provides invaluable primary care training to the residents. It also keeps them closely associated with the hospital for training purposes.

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The ACC is cost effective because the construction cost per gross square foot in a main hospital building is higher than in an ambulatory care center. So, we have worked diligently to place the hospital services that most closely align with the ambulatory care center services in the ACC. This makes access to needed services easier for patients and physicians.

And, it costs less to place hospital services in the ACC than if we had built out additional space for them in the main hospital building. It also is cheaper because it allows for a developer to construct the entire building and lease out space to physicians. While the hospital could do this on its own, involving a known developer means less capital upfront and less risk for the hospital.

Additionally, we are making efficient use of the new ACC with respect to the already existing 18-year-old O'Fallon medical office building. We will move many of the existing services in the O'Fallon medical office building to the new ambulatory care center and re-invent the current medical office building as administrative office space.

In conclusion, our proposal is based on years of careful analysis and study, and we strongly believe this ambulatory care center will complement our plans for a replacement hospital. The two projects combined are the best way forward for St. Elizabeth's Hospital to serve all patients from across the Metro East region.

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Sue Decker
for 2/22

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