



VILLAGE of CRETE

FIRE DEPARTMENT

524 WEST EXCHANGE STREET • P.O. BOX 337 • CRETE, ILLINOIS 60417
(708) 672-4650 • FAX: (708) 672-9130
www.villageofcrete.org/firedepartment

VILLAGE PRESIDENT
MICHAEL S. EINHORN

VILLAGE CLERK
DEBORAH S. BACHERT

FIRE ADMINISTRATOR
LYLE BACHERT

RECEIVED

MAR 08 2016

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

February 12, 2016

Mike Constantino, Supervisor, Project Review Section
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street (2nd Floor)
Springfield, Illinois 62761

RE: Opposition to Application E-008-16 Franciscan St. James Health-Chicago Heights, Chicago Heights

To the Members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board:

As Fire Administrator and Chief, I am submitting a letter of opposition regarding an application filed by St. James Health to discontinue emergency and critical health care services in Chicago Heights.

The Village of Crete has a resident population of 8259. During 2015 Village of Crete Fire Department responded to 696 EMS calls with the majority of these patients transported to St. James Chicago Heights. There are many factors that determine the destination hospital including patient condition, road condition, available personnel and location of nearest hospital. From most locations in the Village of Crete, St. James Chicago Heights is the closest hospital.

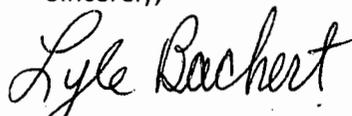
Closing the St. James Chicago Heights emergency department will have a significant impact on this departments operation as it relates to providing the residents of the Village of Crete emergency medical service and fire protection. Our personnel are trained in firefighting and EMS, and are required to deliver both services as the need arises. The additional transport time going to St James Olympia Fields hospital, even with lights and siren activated, presents the potential for patient condition to deteriorate in addition to placing an ambulance and personnel unavailable for a second concurrent call. Once the patient has been delivered to the emergency department, the unit back in service time to the Village of Crete will be extended while traveling with the normal flow of traffic from the greater distance. There is no direct route from the Village of Crete to St. James Olympia Fields. The available routes are complicated by railroad crossings and flooded viaducts at times of high rain fall totals. The weather and road conditions will both factor into the overall back in service time for our ambulance.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

STEVEN BEAUDOIN DEAN GAFFNEY DORIS HARMON-WARREN STEPHEN E. JOHNSON HOLLY MILBURN MARK WIATER

In conclusion, I would request St. James Health consider maintaining an emergency department located at the current location in Chicago Heights which would allow us to continue to serve the residence without additional expense for equipment and personnel.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lyle Bachert".

Lyle Bachert

Fire Administrator

FLOSSMOOR FIRE DEPARTMENT

2828 FLOSSMOOR ROAD
FLOSSMOOR, ILLINOIS 60422



March 2, 2016

Mike Constantino, Supervisor, Project Review Section
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street (2nd Floor)
Springfield, Illinois 62761

RE: Opposition to Application E-008-16 Franciscan St. James Health-Chicago Heights, Chicago Heights

To the Members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board:

As Fire Chief for the Village of Flossmoor, I am submitting a letter of opposition regarding an application filed by St. James Health to discontinue emergency and critical health care services in Chicago Heights. Closing this facility would impact the Village of Flossmoor greatly; a few examples are listed below.

- The Village of Flossmoor has 11,500 residents with over 950 ems ambulance calls with transport to area hospital emergency rooms per year
- Transport issues
- Critical minutes lost transporting patients, down time for equipment and personnel at ER
- Issues with roads and infrastructure
- Impact on village budget for personnel and equipment

I urge you to please review St. James' application. If you have any questions or need further information please feel free to call me at 708-798-3885. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Chris Sewell
Fire Chief



EMERGENCY PHONE: 9-1-1
OFFICE PHONE: 708-798-3885
OFFICE FAX: 708-798-7480

