

***Proceedings of the Council of the City of Joliet, Illinois  
held on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of August, A.D. 2007***

SPECIAL MEETING of the Council of the City of Joliet, Illinois held on Saturday, August 25, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers, Joliet Municipal Building, 150 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois.

An Invocation was delivered by Reverend Isaac Singleton of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 402 Singleton Place, Joliet, Illinois.

Reverend Singleton then led the pledge to the flag.

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: MAYOR ARTHUR SCHULTZ and DISTRICT 4 COUNCILWOMAN SUSIE BARBER, DISTRICT 5 COUNCILMAN WARREN C. DORRIS, COUNCILWOMAN AT LARGE JAN QUILLMAN, DISTRICT 1 COUNCILMAN JOSEPH R. SHETINA, COUNCILMAN AT LARGE MICHAEL F. TURK and DISTRICT 3 COUNCILMAN ANTHONY UREMOVIC.

ABSENT: DISTRICT 2 COUNCILMAN TIMOTHY M. BROPHY and COUNCILMAN AT LARGE THOMAS C. GIARRANTE.

ALSO PRESENT: DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JAMES P. SHAPARD and CORPORATION COUNSEL JEFFREY PLYMAN.

A Notice of Special Meeting/Town Hall Meeting of the Council of the City of Joliet, Illinois to be held on Saturday, August 25, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon in the City Council Chambers, Joliet Municipal Building, 150 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois for the following purpose was submitted:

1) Silver Cross Hospital Relocation

MAYOR SCHULTZ stated he would like to thank everybody for coming this morning and said he didn't think we'd get this large of a crowd. He said there are only a couple of questions he wants to ask and then he's going to turn it over to COUNCILWOMAN BARBER, who is hosting the town hall meeting.

MAYOR SCHULTZ asked Silver Cross President and CEO Paul Pawlak if things are the same way now as they were at the last meeting. He said for instance, are you still decided you are going to make the move.

Mr. Pawlak said yes.

MAYOR SCHULTZ asked if you have not decided what you are going to do with the property.

Mr. Pawlak said that's correct.

MAYOR SCHULTZ said it is the same as it was at the last meeting.

Mr. Pawlak said yes.

MAYOR SCHULTZ then thanked Mr. Pawlak and asked if anybody else had any questions.

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COUNCILWOMAN BARBER thanked everyone for coming to the Special Town Hall meeting and stated our purpose this morning is to provide you with information regarding the potential effects of the proposed move of Silver Cross Hospital to New Lenox and to hear your comments and concerns.

COUNCILWOMAN BARBER introduced the following elected officials who were present: Will County Board Members Margie Woods, Frank Stewart and Henry Travis, Will County Executive Larry Walsh, Joliet School Board member Dave Evans and Senator A.J. Wilhelmi. She said she is grateful for the presence of MAYOR SCHULTZ and the City Council. She said this is a very, very important meeting and she is truly honored and humbled by the trust and confidence the people of the 4<sup>th</sup> District have shown in her.

**STAFF PRESENTATION**

The Director of Community and Economic Development began a PowerPoint presentation and stated he wanted to explain some of the impacts that we think the Silver Cross relocation will have on the citizens of Joliet. He said the first thing that hit us when we assessed this was the fact that we couldn't put a dollar figure on this; we knew the impact of the move would have a grave impact on the City of Joliet, and we'll probably have to live through it before we can do a financial assessment on what it would cost the City, but we do know it will be significant. He said we categorized it into three basic impacts - the impact to public safety, the economic impact and then the social impact in the neighborhoods and what's it's going to do to the areas that surround the current Silver Cross facility.

The Director of Community and Economic Development said the first impact would be the public safety impact which includes the Police Department impacts and the Fire Department impacts. He asked the Police Chief to summarize some of the impacts that he expects over the course of the next four years as they prepare for a move to a new location.

Police Chief Fred Hayes said the Police Department did a real thorough review on what we think the impact would have on us and as a public safety issue. He said the Police Department responds very close to 800 times a year to Silver Cross Hospital on a variety of different issues and over the last 5 years, we have responded there 3,657 times, so we do spend quite a bit of time at Silver Cross and we do have a commitment of a lot of resources. He said there are two major categories that will impact police operations – one is in the area of response times and the second one is in the economy of resources. He said in the area of response times, on average we respond to emergencies in the City of Joliet anywhere from 3 to 7 minutes on a priority one call. He said quite often when officers respond to the scene, they then have to respond to other locations, and in particular in the east district of the Police Department's operation, that response is to Silver Cross Hospital. He said that travel time usually averages about another 7 minutes. He said with the move, we anticipate an increase of travel time between 4 and 7 minutes. He said we feel this will significantly impact public safety and the operations of the Police Department.

The Police Chief said the additional response times goes to the second category of economy of resources. He said what he means by that is the Police Department has so many police officers that we can put out in the City at one time, and for police operations, the City is divided into three districts – a central district, a west district and an east district, and in each one of those districts,

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there are 17 patrol sectors. He said in the east district there are 6 patrol sectors, in the central there are 6, and in the west there are 5 sectors. He said when officers respond to different areas of the City, we have cover units then who fill in when officers aren't available for these patrol sectors, so when there are emergency operations occurring, it is a constant rotation of personnel to different areas in the City, and we're always pulling from different beats to fill in areas where other officers are involved in a situation. He said with this move and the added response times, we feel there will be an impact, particularly in the east district, and that impact will greatly strain our resources in that area and quite possibly pull police officers from the west district all the way over to east district locations. He said in many of the 800 times that we have responded to Silver Cross, we have had multiple officers responding. He said we feel this additional response will pull our resources into New Lenox which is outside of the City. He said quite often we are able to have quite a few resources at Silver Cross Hospital addressing a particular crime issue that's occurred, but those officers are very close to the surrounding neighborhood and surrounding police beat districts, so if there's another emergency that arises in the neighborhood, we're able to pull those officers immediately right out of Silver Cross and respond to emergencies, so there's less of an impact when they're that close in the neighborhood and available to respond in a much quicker fashion.

The Police Chief said we also feel there is a Homeland Security issue in responding to major incidents in the City of Joliet, particularly a mass casualty incident or a critical incident. He said we have strategic plans and have developed critical incident response plans to respond to mass casualty incidents, and these incidents can involve a terrorist attack or even possibly a mass casualty incident if we were to have some kind of public medical emergency involving a lot of people in our community. He said our department is prepared to respond to the hospital in case of capacity issues where the hospital is overwhelmed by multiple victims or multiple people from the public who are responding there. He said the Police Department is prepared to respond to an incident like that, and we have the resources to do that. He said he really questions whether or not a small village police department has the resources that a major city police department has. He said the New Lenox Police Department is a fantastic, professionally developed police department, however, the City of Joliet has over 300 sworn police officers to respond to a major incident like that, where a village police department has a much smaller amount of officers, probably less than 50, and the Joliet Police Department more than likely will still respond to that location in a major incident, but a mutual aid response call would pull on our resources to respond there.

The Director of Community and Economic Development showed a graphic of the City of Joliet limits, the existing Silver Cross facility, the St. Joe's Hospital facility, and where the new proposed location of the hospital will be. He said the distance now between the hospitals, instead of being 4 miles apart, becomes 8 miles apart, and as he gets into the next graphics, he thinks it's very important. He said this is a prelude to having the Fire Chief talk about how this will impact the operation on ambulance calls. He said he thinks that's very significant.

The Director of Community and Economic Development went back to the Power Point screen and pointed out the current emergency service provision map. He said by law, in the State of Illinois, under the Department of Public Health, and also by the 911 operating committee, ambulance calls have to go to the closest hospital by distance, so right now the river is effectively the halfway point on all of our ambulance calls, so any ambulance call that happens on the near west side

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of Joliet automatically gets routed to Provena St. Joe's Hospital. He said any activity on the east side of the river automatically gets channeled over the current Silver Cross facility. He said if they were allowed to move, and go that 4 miles further out, what would happen is it would skew the way the ambulance calls are provided now. He said if the move were to happen, the St. Joe's Provena service area would grow quite substantially. He said so the front door of the current Silver Cross facility would be the dividing line between ambulance calls that would go east and west, and that creates quite a strain on the operations of both departments because then as they're taking patients to the far west side of Joliet, to the St. Joe's facility, a lot of times what happens, especially in acute cases, it's not just the ambulance that goes over there, many times it's the ambulance and fire truck because the paramedic from the fire truck has to follow the ambulance over, and then in addition to that, it's also the police cars that then have to go do the reporting of the incident that happened, so it's a huge shift in the resources of the City that now stay on the east side, and will now have to go to the west side to provide the necessary treatments and the follow-ups for those things.

The Director of Community and Economic Development said we looked at the current coverage, and with the river as the dividing line, about 21 square miles of the City would be routed to Silver Cross, and 33 square miles would be routed to the St. Joe's facility. He said if Silver Cross is allowed to move and go 4 miles further to the east, what that does is it skews the ambulance coverage and the emergency services so that portion of the City of Joliet in the Silver Cross area gets reduced down from 21 square miles to 6 square miles, and the St. Joe's area increases from 33 square miles up to 49 square miles. He said we think that's a dramatic impact on the operations of the public safety folks in the City of Joliet.

Fire Chief Rich Marose stated we respond to about 12,500 EMS related calls annually. He said we're split into 3 responding districts, east, central and west, and he explained the equipment in the fire houses and the districts. He said in the paper recently it was misquoted that an engine follows an ambulance to a hospital on every call, and that is not true. He said an engine follows an ambulance to a hospital on critical calls which are CPR, major traumas and those types of incidents which happen quite often in the City of Joliet. He said our concern from a Fire Department standpoint is moving these engines outside of the City of Joliet for an extended period of time, thus our customer base will suffer. He said if we have an engine and an ambulance outside of the City limits, the people we are paid to protect will be suffering if this move is allowed to take place. He said we can talk numbers here, we can talk response districts, we can talk about things that people do or don't understand, but the bottom line is we are here to protect our citizens in our City. He said we have 9 fire stations, 9 front line ALS ambulances and our operations will be significantly affected if this hospital is allowed to move 3.5 miles east. He said our turnaround times and out of service times would go from 7 minutes up to maybe 15 to 20 minutes. He said our primary concern is with our citizens here in Joliet, our response times and our operations.

The Fire Chief said to clarify the bypass situation, what we do is call the medical staff at Silver Cross Hospital and ask for a bypass if the patient requests that. He said those bypasses are given as long as a patient is not in a critical state. He said so any patient in the City of Joliet can ask for a bypass to go to either hospital as long as their medical situation doesn't warrant them going to the nearest hospital.

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Mr. Dave Maurer, Director/EMS Coordinator at Silver Cross Hospital for the Will/Grundy EMS System, said Joliet is one of our members, and in my role there overseeing paramedic operations, I interact with Chief Marose and I thank the Chief for clarifying the misquote in the newspaper the other day. He said certainly the fire engine doesn't come with the ambulance every time it comes. He said and what the Chief said was correct, that the fire engine will come if it's a very critical call and they need additional manpower, and how often that happens I really don't know. He said what I wanted to do though is clarify that my interpretation of the State of Illinois Rules and Regulations under the EMS Act states that an ambulance should go to the closest appropriate medical facility. He said there are two things that stick out in my mind. He said one is if you are not a trauma center and you have a trauma patient, then that's not an appropriate medical facility, and the other one is it does not say the word mileage. He said I've talked to the Illinois Department of Public Health several times on this issue. He said my question is how does the City of Joliet handle it on the west side where the fire stations are significantly farther from Provena St. Joseph Medical Center. He said if you have the same issues there, do you see a lower survival rate there or is there any impact on services there.

The Fire Chief stated as the City expanded farther and farther west those issues were definitely brought up. He said the potential of using Morris Hospital as a responding hospital is now becoming more and more a reality in the City of Joliet. He said those issues are things we do have to address as we expand. He said our problems lie in the situation that Silver Cross has been here for 105 years and we based our operational capacities on their location. He said as we know what to expect on the east side of Joliet and the central district in Joliet, we also know what to expect on the west side of Joliet, and as new hospitals try to get into that west side corridor we are going to probably be looking at bringing them back into our system as he is sure they will too.

The Director of Community and Economic Development said the next thing we would like to talk about are the economic impacts. He said one of the things that would sting the most for the folks in the City of Joliet is the loss of jobs that would leave our community and go to an adjoining community. He said right now I've heard a couple of figures that jobs at the current Silver Cross facility could be as high as 1,800, and we know that many of those jobs are held by the citizens of the City of Joliet. He said we know that there are a number of citizens that live within very close proximity of the current facility, and we would worry that we would lose the ability to get to those jobs, to have those jobs within our community, and the big thing that we worry about is what message this sends to the development community -- that one of our largest employers has left the City. He mentioned the downturn in the early 1980s and the leaving of several major employers, and said it sends a bad message out into the development community. He said we've been on a very positive trend in the past 15 or so years and we worry that the move of Silver Cross to New Lenox creates that void in our system where we lose the 1,800 jobs that are counted in our workforce and just the economic spin off impacts and the message that sends in the local community.

The Director of Community and Economic Development continued with the Power Point presentation and said in the next slide, we talk about the added costs to the City. He said we've talked about the service side of things, having to go out to a greater distance, but the thing that is very apparent to us is we started to see a growth or resurgence and interest in activity around the current Silver

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Cross facility for medical offices and doctors and laboratories and things on the private side of things as they were looking for sites up and down that immediate area on Draper, Walnut Street and Maple Road. He said we were seeing a trend starting to emerge like the medical campus at Provena on the west side with many doctor's offices right around that facility.

The Director of Community and Economic Development said the thing that pains me the most personally is I sat on the development of Ridgewood committee, and Silver Cross to their credit really was the driving force behind the current effort to redevelop that whole Ridgewood community. He said they were very fortunate to get the ear of the federal, state and local legislators and they brought us to the table and we are in the process now of working on a plan to correct some of the problems that Ridgewood has suffered for over the past 100 plus years, and my fear is that when they leave, that they won't have the same emphasis on that and this thing will start to falter. He said all of us public folks know that our budgets are pushed to the maximum, and they were the catalyst that kept this all together, so we do worry about that.

The Director of Community and Economic Development showed a slide of the current Silver Cross facility and said we're going to get into a retention mode now. He said one of the biggest things that we do in economic development here in the City is retention. He said we do a lot of business attraction where we try to get new businesses, industries and new jobs created in the community, but we can't lose focus on trying to keep those folks who are already here, and we spend a lot of time doing that; it's very important to us. He said we've worked with universities, churches, industries, social service agencies, and every other form of commercial business that I can think of, and in the majority of cases, we've been very successful in keeping them here and allowing them to prosper. He said we had to get very creative at times, and I think the thing that bothers us the most is that we were never given the opportunity to come to the aid of Silver Cross and to see what we can do in this particular location to get them to stay or to find them a site close by.

Planning Director Don Fisher discussed the initial reactions the Mayor, City Council and staff had over the move. He said I was very surprised and shocked and kept thinking over and over why wasn't Mr. Haller, other officials at the City or I contacted 3 months ago, 6 months ago, a year or three years ago and given the chance to plan for the success of Silver Cross Hospital. He said I understands that it is a competitive industry and you have to work on it kind of quietly. He said we understand development confidentiality with projects the City works on. He said staff had worked with the staff at Provena St. Joe's for two years prior to any public acknowledgement on what their thoughts were and what they planned on doing with their expansion. He said again we understand confidentiality and we want to help businesses like St. Joseph's and Silver Cross prosper within the community. He said St. Joseph's also has a tough site. He said the staff and I want Silver Cross to be successful with a state of the art facility as well as our community having a state of the art facility and prospering. He said I hope now we can work together to find another solution for Silver Cross' long term facility needs. He said the staff and I feel if there is a will there is a way to get things done, and we have the will and I hope we have the opportunity to find a way for everyone to be successful.

COUNCILWOMAN BARBER said she wants to make sure everybody understands the reason why she has called this meeting, and that is to set the record straight that we want Silver Cross to stay in Joliet, that is the bottom line,

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we want them to stay in Joliet and we want to know what will it take for you to stay. She said we're not here putting Silver Cross down, we love Silver Cross, but we just want them to know that we want them to stay and be our partner. She said you've been our partner for a very, very long time, so why break up the relationship now.

The Director of Community and Economic Development said the next graphic on the presentation is the current Provena St. Joseph's site on the west side of Joliet. He said the reason that is up there is because you saw the Silver Cross site before in a previous slide, and the Silver Cross site is currently 50 acres, and what they tell us is that the current site is about 35 buildable acres, and they're claiming that the site is too small and they couldn't do anything on the existing site. He said we met with the Provena folks and they're on a 30 acre site. He said we asked them specifically could you expand for the next 100 years worth of health care on your existing site, on the 30 acres, and they said absolutely, what we would do is we would build up, and they anticipate the site could accommodate future growth for the next 100 years without much of a problem.

The Director of Community and Economic Development said when we met with the Silver Cross folks early on, the first reaction that I had was they never even asked us what we could have done for them, and one of the things I thought to myself within the first minute was a 50 acre site at Briggs Street and I-80. He said we would have talked about traffic signalization, ramp improvements, site improvements and vacations of New Lenox Road to accommodate a campus over there for future growth. He said there's a lot of things we would have done if we were given the opportunity to investigate, so I just call this out as an example as a freeway site on I-80, not a tollway site, so the folks that come there would not have to pay a toll to get there.

The Director of Community and Economic Development said the other thing that was very apparent to us was that Silver Cross has a desire to build a brand new facility and I guess we can't fault them for that, but the thing that we find disturbing is that they didn't even look at the possibility of a new facility on their existing site. He said the graphic here is the current Silver Cross facility and the adjoining Gompers Jr. High School on Briggs Street at Copperfield and there is a large tract of open space on the Gompers site. He said we've got an excellent working relationship with District 86, and what I envision here if we were given the chance to discuss this, is the possibility of building a completely new facility across the parking lot and maybe straddling the two sites that would be at the existing location, and we could figure out some way that we could accommodate the school needs and the hospital needs all on the same facility. He said and again, we were never given the chance to ferret this out. He said it's a possibility, and it might not work out, but we were never given the opportunity to talk about that.

Planner Pete Saunders said he did some research on similar hospitals that have been faced with relocation decisions, hospitals that are in neighborhoods similar to east Joliet to try to see some of the things that they've done as they've been faced with those decisions. He said Mt. Sinai Hospital which is on the west side of Chicago was at a point where they were looking at the possibility of relocation in the early 1990's and faced with a community that was in a fairly rapid decline at that time, and they were looking at how they were going to maintain their commitment and service in the community. He said being a teaching hospital they decided they were going to increase their teaching and research commitment in the community. He said they started an institute in their

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community and interacted not just in a health situation with community members, but also tried to include the quality of life of residents.

Mr. Saunders said Mercy Hospital which is on the near south side of Chicago also considered relocating in the early 1990's, and being one of the first hospitals in the Chicago area decided to invest heavily in the hospital and in the community with a satellite network of health centers in the area and expanded their emergency room in 2003. He said they opened a Breast and Women's Center in 2006. He said another key thing they did was become a partner in residential development in the area with the development of the East Gate Village which is property that was part of their own site, and they bought up additional property in the area.

Mr. Saunders said he thinks the key thing to learn is that both of these hospitals deepened their commitment, and they let people know what their concerns were and what their prospects were in the community if they were not able to get some emphasis or recognition from the City about what those needs were. He said they worked with the City of Chicago in both of these cases to be able to come to an agreement as to what they could do in those surrounding communities.

The Director of Community and Economic Development said the last part of our presentation is to talk about the social impacts in the neighborhoods and the initiative that we had in Districts 4 and 5 with the Quality of Life Taskforce.

The Director of Neighborhood Services stated we have been working on the Quality of Life Taskforce since November of 2006 and worked with residents of Districts 4 and 5 and have met with over 100 stakeholders in the community and in the County and hundreds of residents at community meetings. He said the essential strategy is to bring prosperity and a higher standard of living to Districts 4 and 5 which the hospital is in. He said by leveraging the assets of the community to attract investment, the proposed relocation would drastically undermine this effort by subtracting one of the planning area's major assets which includes upgrading housing, transportation, retail and employment. He said employment is based on high growth industries and there isn't a higher growth industry than the medical industry that provides wages that can support families. He said on the educational level, it assumes there are corporate entities in the community that work with leaders to encourage workforce development. He said one of the most important things they are studying is that the biggest asset that Districts 4 and 5 have is actually the residents of those districts, and by working with local industries we can continue to build on that human capital together for the future.

The Director of Community and Economic Development said that concludes our presentation and we'll be here to answer any questions.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

COUNCILWOMAN BARBER asked for comments from citizens at this time.

Pastor Hector Edwards of Mount Olive Baptist Church and Chairman of the clergy caucus of JACOB said from a business point of view Silver Cross' move to New Lenox is a "no-brainer", from a profit and loss point of view Silver Cross' move to New Lenox is brilliant, but from a moral point of view Silver Cross' move to New Lenox from Joliet's east side is reprehensible. He said Silver Cross' coverage of Joliet's east side in this proposed move will shrink from 21 square

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miles to 6 square miles and he asked what disastrous effect the move will have on the emergency room at Provena St. Joe's Hospital.

Annie Little, a retired teacher and a member of JACOB, said she believes if they can spend \$400 million to build in New Lenox they can spend the money to figure out how to build a new hospital right next door to where they are now. She said the land is there. She said she doesn't want to see neglected mothers with children, Medicare and Medicaid patients.

Tamala Clayton said she is here for her and her family. She said her Mom has been sick for a very long time and if it wasn't for Silver Cross she wouldn't be here. She said we need Silver Cross here and for them to move is not a good idea.

Gwen Ulmer said she is a very proud 39 year employee of Silver Cross. She said she knows what they have done for this community, for our minority people and she knows what they will continue to do. She said they will continue to make that commitment and they need to be heard. She said everyone needs to listen to the facts and then make an informed, educated decision.

Peggy Gricius, Vice President of Patient Care Services at Silver Cross Hospital and the Chief Nursing Officer, said what she has heard this morning is passion and that you are dedicated to public safety and that you want to maximize your resources and you want a higher standard. She said they want the same thing and her responsibility is to make sure that patients are safe, and in order to do that they need to enhance the quality of care at Silver Cross Hospital. She said there are many inefficiencies in the hospital and a lack of new technologies.

Mary Brenczewski, 1220 Buell Avenue, said she has been a lifelong resident of Joliet. She said Silver Cross Hospital needs this opportunity to grow. She said she has been a nurse there for 35 years. She said they have the best care possible and they are taking that team to the replacement hospital. She said they are not leaving anybody, they are just embracing other areas and they need the opportunity to expand.

Olga Martinez said she works at Silver Cross Hospital and she was born here. She said at first she was reluctant to consider moving to the replacement hospital because she was born at Silver Cross and has been employed there for 10 years. She said after considering all the points positive and negative she has come to the conclusion that the replacement hospital is the right decision.

COUNCILWOMAN BARBER asked for a show of hands of how many people in the audience were from Silver Cross Hospital and how many people live in the City of Joliet. She said she knows that everyone from Silver Cross is going to say how great Silver Cross is and we think you're great too, but our purpose here today is to make sure people understand that we want you to stay. She said she thinks another thing is the fact that we have concerned people that live in Joliet on the east side and have some very good concerns and if the hospital moves, they're in big trouble.

Manuela Bartello said she is a 15 year employee of Silver Cross Hospital and that her father, who doesn't speak English, was told at church that Silver Cross was closing its doors and that is wrong. She said the Hispanic community is not being told that Silver Cross is moving 3.5 miles to the east. She said she wants

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to make sure the City Council understands the message that the community is getting is wrong.

COUNCILWOMAN BARBER said everybody got a flyer that went out from her and it said the purpose was to "Voice your Concerns". She said the reason why we're having a town hall meeting is so you can voice those concerns.

**SILVER CROSS HOSPITAL COMMENTS**

MAYOR SCHULTZ asked Mr. Pawlak to explain what Silver Cross is going to do.

Mr. Paul Pawlak thanked everyone for being here and having this Town Hall meeting. He said whether you're for Silver Cross or against Silver Cross, this is an important issue for the City of Joliet but also for the County of Will, because 50% of our patients come from Will County as well. He said our Board is predominantly Joliet and this has been a very, very difficult decision. He said in all of our lives we've had to make decisions that might be health care related, legally related or family related and you have two choices when you make a decision like that. He said you can make an easy decision and it might have a short term benefit and a short term solution, or you can make a tough decision that you know is going to be painful, challenging and might even provoke a town meeting like this, but that's what our board did. He said it was a very tough decision and why did we make that decision. He said the easiest decision was to build a \$200 million addition to our facility; we would attach it to 11 existing buildings right now and the oldest building is from 1919. He said we really don't have the capacity to expand; if we do another major building that will be our last major expansion. He said it will have a useful life of 15 to 20 years and our future generations will be here debating the future of Silver Cross Hospital. He said what our Board of Trustees did was make a very difficult decision to do a \$400 million project because they want Children's Hospital to come and bring in their specialists. He said right now for those specialists we're going to Chicago and we don't want to do that. He said we also have the possibility of having other specialists from other academic centers that want to come to our new location. He said we have worked very hard to make Silver Cross a top 100 hospital and being in the top 4% in the country in customer service, but we cannot bring those specialists to Silver Cross where we are right now. He said if we build another building we'll be back here in 15 to 20 years for another town meeting and a lot of people will not be happy with Silver Cross.

Mr. Pawlak said we are not abandoning the poor, the uninsured and the Medicaid. He said 20% of our patients are Medicaid, 7% are underinsured no-pay, the average hospital in the State of Illinois and across the country is 8% and we're 20%. He said we are doing more than our fair share; we do not want to abandon these people. He said all we're asking you to do is to drive 3.5 miles more and we are going to welcome you with open arms and give you top 100 service and give you the best customer service.

Mr. Pawlak said if we are granted permission by the State to build this \$400 million hospital this will be the largest capital expenditure in Will County's history and with that being said, we will create 800 new construction jobs and as our hospital grows we will add 200 more employees, and that is a total of 1,000 new jobs.

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COUNCILMAN UREMOVIC stated you said you still have a commitment to the Medicaid and uninsured patients and Mr. Pawlak said that's true. He then asked if it will be an equal commitment because when your service line shifts east, there will be those patients you're not going to service any longer. He asked if he was correct or incorrect.

Mr. Pawlak said just about 100% of all of our patients drive to the hospital and very few people walk. He said what we're asking them to do is to drive the extra 3.5 miles and drive 5 more minutes.

COUNCILMAN UREMOVIC said that doesn't answer the question. He said what he is asking is if those people now are serviced from an ambulance and now it goes to St. Joe's because that's the service area, now you are minimizing your Medicaid and non-insured. He said that is an economic decision that you're making. He said when you talk about the buildings you make it seem like your complex is 100 years old and by all means it's not even close to that. He said 7 buildings are less than 20 years old and there is still some bonded debt on those buildings. He said we compliment you on being an "A" quality, top service hospital in the nation and we believe you can do that still right here. He said we didn't see the plans, the other options, so why not show those other options so we could take a look as a Council and our staff has the ability to take a look at the financials. He said Mr. Haller brought up a point about being transparent. He said we have to be transparent, with government we should be. He said you're a big player in the community, a large component, and the more transparent you are with us the better we can make a decision and not be divisive, so we hope that you could forward that material to us in the future.

Mr. Pawlak said they have Dr. Dave Mikolajczak with us this morning as well as Mr. Dave Maurer who spoke earlier and they will be able to give you better answers to that question than I can. He said he does believe in transparency and those two gentlemen will give you a much better explanation than he can. He said there was another slide that talked about other areas that we might locate in Joliet, and a gentleman by the name of Jeff Tryon has some information that can hopefully clarify the situation a lot better than perhaps he can. He said if we do build a new building on our present campus and we do believe we will have a useful life of 15 to 20 years, we currently have two hospitals in Will County, and in a few months we're going to have a third hospital in Bolingbrook. He said will that impact both hospitals and the answer is yes. He said there is another hospital that wants to be built in Plainfield and they are trying very hard to do that and if that hospital is built will that have an impact on St. Joe's and Silver Cross, yes. He said there is another hospital that wants to be built near Mokena by Advocate/St. Francis and if that is built that will have a major impact on us. He said what will Silver Cross look like in 15 to 20 years when they are taking care of the Blue Cross patients and we are taking care of the Medicaid and perhaps no-pay. He said what will Silver Cross look like in 15 to 20 years. He said you have to understand what the total impact is.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS CONTINUED**

Miguel Rodriguez said he doesn't think all avenues have been exhausted in how to make this hospital work in its location and is 7 minutes worth one more life, he doesn't think so. He said he thinks they can do it right where it's at and keep the community happy and if they need to expand upwards than we do it.

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Patricia Pascall said she believes the Board of Trustees of Silver Cross Hospital should be required to have at least one resident from the east side of Joliet on their board. She said they need to hear from their neighbors. She said she is willing to work on the board and she is sure there are plenty of other residents that live on the east side who would be willing to work with the board as well.

Cornelius Gray said Silver Cross is a not a profit corporation and is supposed to behave like a public charity. He said he believes they are not behaving like public charity and are behaving like a profit making hospital and he thinks they should pay taxes like any other profit making business that are not pretending to be a charity.

Thelma Holman said Mr. Pawlak said that Silver Cross will not abandon the poor and uninsured and she wants him to sign a commitment that the hospital will always serve at least 20% Medicaid patients and 7% charity care patients like it does now.

Judy Studer said she is a resident of Ridgewood and a registered nurse at Silver Cross and was born there. She said medicine changes practically weekly and we have to keep up with the technology. She said if you had been concentrating on the east side of Joliet as much as you have concentrated on Oswego and Kendall County then this would not even be an issue right now. She said the kids that go to A.O. Marshall walk to school in the sewer that goes down Krakar and Harwood and Scribner and rolls down to Cass Street which is in the City, and that is deplorable.

COUNCILMAN UREMOVIC said it should be pointed out that Ridgewood is not a part of the City of Joliet, it is in Joliet Township and not a part of the City.

Barb Spann said she is a 40 year employee of Silver Cross and a resident of the east side of Joliet and when she first heard about the relocation of the hospital her first thought was what about the people on the east side of Joliet. She said she was assured through the presentations that our quality care of all patients will be the same. She said she is in favor of the relocation. She said if the hospital does relocate what about the use of the land and the thousands of jobs that could be created with that site.

Dr. David Mikolajczak, the Silver Cross and Will/Grundy EMS Medical Director, said he is responsible for the education and training and the on-going medical care that the paramedics provide in Will and Grundy County. He said he is well aware of the response time. He said a difference of 4 minutes in a transport time is not going to make a significant difference in the majority of our patients. He said the medics can provide cardiac resuscitation, advanced airways, medications and trauma support to all of the patients that they contact. He said by moving the hospital 3 miles they are placed in the center of their primary service area.

Mr. Dave Maurer said he wanted to voice how appalled he is at the completely erroneous and unfounded statement that was just made that Silver Cross does not provide charity care and is not a non-profit organization, as nothing could be further from the truth. He said he is the director of a department that costs his hospital \$500,000 a year to train EMS providers including the fine folks at the City of Joliet. He said that is not going to change with the proposed move. He said the EMS system is there and we're going to continue to do that and we have that commitment that's there. He said that commitment is not going away. He

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said we just made a large donation for the purchase of 12 cardiac monitors to help strengthen the bond of pre-hospital care to hospital care.

Silver Cross Hospital Vice President of Operations Geoff Tryon said he has spent 90% of his professional career on the east side between teaching and working at the hospital. He said there isn't anybody in this room that can say Silver Cross hasn't been there for them at some point in their lives and we are not going to stop doing that. He said he is very disappointed today in this format in that the City has had an hour or so to present information and a lot of people here have good questions that need to be answered. He said we have not had the opportunity to do that and we'll be glad to do that if there is some other format that we can set up and talk to all of you that have questions.

Mr. Tryon said it was a very hard decision but they feel it's the right decision, you have to trust Silver Cross. He said we helped get the Ridgewood project going. He said Larry Walsh, Jack McGuire and himself got the \$1 million to do Walnut Street. He said we have made all of these improvements on the east side and the hospital has put \$1 million in the last five years into improving the east side. He said the City brought up the site at Briggs Street and he doesn't have time to go into that and there are a lot of reasons they could not pick that site. He said the new site is 1,500 ft. from the City limits, that's five football fields. He said the City about 10 years ago had the chance to annex that parcel into the City and they were unsuccessful and he doesn't know why, but it seemed to be OK at that time and a good idea for the City to annex it, but now all of a sudden it's not a good idea.

The Corporation Counsel stated regarding Mr. Tryon's comment on the annexation, he wanted to correct that statement. He said the proposed hospital site was annexed by New Lenox in 1988 or shortly thereafter. He said New Lenox filed a petition in court to have that site and 1,000 other acres of farmland annexed to the Village of New Lenox. He said Joliet never had a request to annex that property. He said we tried to fight it in court and we lost back in early 1989. He said so just so the record is straight, Joliet never had the opportunity to annex that site.

Geraldine Mabry said she is an employee of Silver Cross Hospital and an east side resident and she loves Silver Cross. She said everyone receives A-1 care, that is what they are about and because they change buildings they are not changing their standard of care. She said the east side residents are going to be loved and taken care of the way we've been doing it for 112 years.

Alex Ledesma of 432 Columbia Street said he has lived there for 43 years. He said he is blessed to have Silver Cross right at his doorstep and yes he is against the Silver Cross move, but he would prefer a new building with the latest technology that's going to save our future generations. He said we have to move on with the future, and the latest technology cannot be installed at the old building. He said nobody has questioned the violations about the old buildings and there are still rooms that have window air conditioners and that is unheard of. He said please support the latest technology with the latest building that we can rely on and don't have to come back 30 years from now.

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Mr. Robert Holmes said he has concerns with Medicaid. He asked why is this such a done deal. He said if they move they are going to lose a lot of patients going that way and he doesn't understand it.

Mr. Dave Evans said he is a resident of the east side and a member of the Quality of Life Taskforce and the focus of most of the people here from Silver Cross seems to be the fact that we are opposed to Silver Cross moving, that's not the case at all. He said the case is that you are moving out of Joliet. He said you did not even give us the common courtesy of coming to our City Council and allowing them to show you the opportunities that are available in Joliet. He said he is concerned with the transportation these people will have to use to get to the new facility. He said we are not opposed to you moving, we are opposed to you moving outside of Joliet.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

COUNCILMAN DORRIS said he just spent 5 days in the intensive care unit of Silver Cross Hospital and his best friend and brother-in-law passed away there this week. He said he received outstanding care and unfortunately he didn't make it. He said when he was first called and told about this move he was told that there was significant support and that Silver Cross had committed to giving this land to the City to develop for a major east side project which fit very well with our Quality of Life Taskforce, and that those same people that were being served all over the City would be served. He said he found out later that is not the case, there has not been a commitment by Silver Cross to give this land to the City to develop. He said he has known Paul Pawlak for years and he believes Silver Cross is a great organization but to say you're transparent and this decision was made in a vacuum, only the Board knew about it. He said the Mayor and City Council was never given an opportunity to work together to see if there was another solution. He said it's amazing to him that when we wanted to move Evergreen Terrace, everybody was involved. He said we had the CED, we held meetings, there were some confidential things we had to do because of the land with HUD, and he traveled to Washington D.C. with some of the members who are on your Board and we met with the Secretary of HUD and we were able to work together on that project. He said we have not prevailed but we are still moving forward, but this decision was made in a vacuum.

COUNCILMAN DORRIS said the City of Joliet was never given an opportunity to try to come up with a different solution for this hospital. He said he believes there could be another solution that would keep this hospital in the City of Joliet and still allow Silver Cross to tap into the big dollars that are in Frankfort and New Lenox. He said he does recognize this is one of the major issues and as Pastor Edwards said this is a great financial move for Silver Cross Hospital, but what is money worth. He said there is no money that is going to bring my brother-in-law back and there is no money that is going to ease the burden that could be on this community. He said in the hospital as he walked in every day there was a sign and a picture of the new hospital at every elevator and it says "You deserve better". He said that really ticked him off because it makes him wonder who are we really playing to. He said the people of New Lenox, when they come in and see it they get excited, when the people from the east side come in, it means my hospital is moving. He said he really thinks that's insensitive as hot as this button is. He said he was told by some of the nurses that the employees have given concessions to make this hospital happen and he doesn't know if that's true, but there has to be a way if we really believe in doing what we say we do to at least

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give the City of Joliet an opportunity to look at some of these alternatives. He said the citizens of Joliet deserve that and he does believe that there was no reason for this decision to be made in a vacuum only by your Board. He said and lastly he wonders about the sign that says "You deserve better" and maybe you should just change it to "We want more" and just be truthful about it.

COUNCILMAN UREMOVIC said you know you have to stop for a second and just thank God for the country we're in that we can sit here and have serious differences but not be violent about it. He said it looks like their vision is that they're facing serious competition in the future and they want to position themselves in an area where they have higher Blue Cross/Blue Shield and less lower paying Medicaid and no insurance. He said so that comes out right away. He said he would hope that we could have additional meetings to clear this up so we know exactly is this really an economic financial decision, that's what it's about. He said when you look at a City like Joliet does this make economic sense. He said we're in a City that's grown phenomenally over the last 15 years and why would a hospital that's growing and prospering in this community want to move out, it doesn't make good economic sense. He said you have to look through the City's eyes for a little bit. He said try to do it here and work with us. He said more importantly, when you look at this, two things are going to take place. He said one is when you see this economic impact and it's going to happen, there's no two ways about it. He said bonding agencies, Standard and Poor's, Moody's, they're looking at us right now because we're going to lose 1,800 jobs, we hope we don't but there will be 1,800 jobs moving out of this community. He said our job as a Mayor and City Council is to encourage and enhance job opportunities in the City of Joliet and create good paying jobs. He said those good paying jobs are going to leave and a big facility like this is going to be in turmoil and we have no idea how to work to restructure this. He said there is going to be a serious economic impact. He said the quality of life on the east side is still trying to rebound from the closing of the steel mill, Texaco and the prison. He said there is a lot of property that just devastated the east side and this is one thing that is not going to help the east side one bit and it won't help Joliet one bit. He said he would encourage Silver Cross to look and stay in Joliet.

COUNCILMAN TURK thanked COUNCILWOMAN BARBER for hosting this meeting today and said he thinks it gets a lot of things out in the open. He said Gwen made the comment she is proud of Silver Cross, and he's proud of Silver Cross and he thinks everyone in this room is proud of Silver Cross. He said he doesn't fault the hospital for wanting a new state of the art facility. He said he thinks the patients and employees deserve a state of the art facility. He said Silver Cross has been a wonderful, wonderful asset to the City of Joliet and he thinks if it wasn't such a precious asset and they said they were going to move, we'd just watch them go, but that's not the case, we want them here. He said as has been said all along and as COUNCILMAN DORRIS said, I think we can accomplish the same opportunity within the corporate limits of the City of Joliet. He said he thinks we can by dialogue get through it and it shouldn't be us vs. them. He said we're all here for the betterment of health care and the betterment of the City of Joliet. He said when he goes out in this community from the far west side of the City to the far east side of the City, and he doesn't talk to people who are employees of Silver Cross or employees of the City of Joliet, the common concern is they're very concerned about this move and they don't want to see it happen. He said it's out of our hands and it's going to come down to a regulatory board of the State of Illinois who is going to make the decision and approve it. He said the Board has made their decision and it sounds like it's in

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concrete. He said the City is doing what they can to oppose it but he thinks when it comes down to it, things could be resolved with dialogue and he thinks that's where we should be heading. He thanked everyone for their comments and to say this is not an emotional issue is an understatement. He said he thinks people care so much about the City of Joliet and care so much about this hospital that it is a very, very important issue.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA said no one's mind has been changed here today. He said he had a lot of things to say but they're just divisive and Paul that is what you've done with the mood. He said one lady made a comment about 120 minutes being wasted but we would have loved to have those 120 minutes with you Paul when the time was right for it, not now. He said we would have loved to have those 18 months ago. He said you're taking away our right to request that you stay here and you are vehement in your concerns and you've done a great job of getting your people to come here to say you're wrong City Council we don't want to stay here we want to go to New Lenox and that's what we're doing, we're going to do it, nothing has changed. He said the divisiveness here is one of the things that really upsets him, it's so divisive. He said we would have liked to have those 120 minutes with you and your board 18 months ago.

MAYOR SCHULTZ thanked everybody for coming today and said if we need more meetings we will have them irregardless of how long it takes. He said at our last meeting we passed a Resolution that we want Silver Cross to stay in Joliet and that hasn't changed. He said we're going to make it very difficult for them to move.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said she knows most of the people in the room and before she gets any mail saying why didn't you speak up or say anything, it has been explained before, and she asked the Corporation Counsel to explain briefly why she is taking it all in and not commenting.

The Corporation Counsel said most people in the room know COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN wears two hats. He said she works at Silver Cross Hospital and has worked there for many years and two years ago was elected a City Councilwoman. He said because of that she is in a very unique legal situation and has a conflict of interest. He said as hard as it is to keep her out of the debate, because he knows it interests her very much, he has recommended to her that under Illinois Conflict of Interest Law that she not vote on any Resolution or other item that comes before the Council on the Silver Cross relocation.

COUNCILWOMAN BARBER said she gets the feeling that people are upset and mad about something. She said this meeting was called for everybody to voice their concerns and we are not saying that we don't love Silver Cross. She said we are saying we want Silver Cross to stay here. She said she doesn't want anyone to leave here thinking that it's a fight between the City Council and you, that is not the reason for this meeting. She said the meeting was to let everyone understand our feelings about why we need you to stay here. She then asked Paul Pawlak to stand and said on behalf of the City of Joliet and the residents of Joliet, she is going to ask him a question that has a yes or no answer. She asked if he would agree to meet with the City of Joliet to explore a site for the replacement hospital in the City of Joliet, and to please answer yes or no.

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Mr. Pawlak asked her to repeat the question one more time and COUNCILWOMAN BARBER repeated the question.

Mr. Pawlak said he cannot answer yes or no and asked if he could explain why.

COUNCILWOMAN BARBER said no.

Mr. Pawlak said that is unfortunate then.

COUNCILWOMAN BARBER said that is unfortunate but we've asked you in all kinds of ways to answer today.

Mr. Pawlak said give me 10 seconds. He said I have a Board of Trustees and they are my boss.

COUNCILWOMAN BARBER said maybe I should redirect the question.

Mr. Pawlak said he has to consult with the Board and based on their deliberations and their decisions they will instruct him what they wish to do.

MAYOR SCHULTZ said he was born in Silver Cross and so were his four children. He said he asked Paul a question at the beginning of the meeting and Paul said yes, that you have plans to move from the City of Joliet.

Mr. Pawlak said that's correct Mayor.

MAYOR SCHULTZ said thank you very much.

COUNCILWOMAN BARBER asked if they had any of their Board here today and she asked them to stand.

Mr. Pawlak said Lou Sehring, the Chairman-Elect, is present.

COUNCILWOMAN BARBER asked how long he has been on the board and Mr. Sehring said 27 years.

Mr. Pawlak said Jim Roof is present and at one point George Mahoney was here. He said Mr. Roof has been on the board 6 or 7 years. He said Lou is probably their longest tenured Board member and as you all know his father was Dr. Sehring, a long practicing OB/GYN doctor here in Joliet. He said they have 13 board members and then they also include himself and the Chief of Staff. He said they are ex officio with votes so it makes it 15.

COUNCILMAN DORRIS said Paul, since you could not answer that question, would you pose that question to your Board if they will be willing to sit down with the Mayor and City Council and our Planning people and then give us an answer from your Board. He said understanding how Boards work, you cannot answer that question but will you take that request back to your Board and then have them come back with an answer if we can sit down and have some dialogue.

Mr. Pawlak said yes he would.

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COUNCILWOMAN BARBER thanked everyone again who attended this meeting and said she hopes you learned something about the facts of the purpose of the move of Silver Cross Hospital and again they would love for them to stay in Joliet.

**ADJOURNMENT**

COUNCILMAN SHETINA moved that the Council adjourn.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN BROPHY.

Motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILWOMAN BARBER, COUNCILMAN DORRIS,  
COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN, COUNCILMEN SHETINA, TURK,  
UREMOVIC and MAYOR SCHULTZ.

NAYS: NONE.

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ARTHUR SCHULTZ  
Mayor

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JANET K. TRAVEN  
City Clerk

Recorded on Tape