



Why do CEOs oppose a hospital in Plainfield?

By Donald E. Bennett,
Plainfield Village Administrator

I read with disbelief a recent letter to the editor that the CEOs of Adventist Bolingbrook, Provena St.-Joe's and Rush Copley sent to Illinois newspapers criticizing Edward Hospital CEO Pam Davis for fighting to clean up the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board.

Instead of applauding Ms. Davis for her efforts in cleaning up Illinois politics, they criticize her.

We see their continued opposition to the Plainfield Hospital for what it is — the protection of their hospitals. Obviously, these men would rather see people wait in their facilities than receive the care they need locally, even after the planning board received 30,000 signatures in support of the Plainfield Hospital.

In fact, these CEOs should be more concerned about the quality of health care at their own facilities, rather than opposing a Plainfield Hospital.

We have just a few questions for the other hospitals and their CEOs:

Why are you afraid of competition?

Why do you hide behind outdated planning rules? (The fact of the matter is that no project meets all of the rules.)

Why is Rush Copley opposing a Plainfield hospital when Plainfield isn't even listed in their primary service area?

Why did Provena give \$25,000 to the Friends of Blagojevich just weeks before the planning board members turned down Edward Hospital in 2004? Isn't that considered playing politics?

People deserve more than just the "adequate" health care that Mr. Brickman, Mr. Finn and Mr. Mace reference, and the planning board should not be able to dictate their choices. Let people make their own choices.

And although it's obvious the three CEOs do not support Ms. Davis' efforts at reform, we (the Village of Plainfield), like many others in the State of Illinois, support cleaning up Illinois government.

Let's start by getting rid of the CON process, the planning board and planning staff — especially in light of the recent revelation by State Sen. Susan Garrett that David Carvalho and Jeffrey Mark may have gotten their jobs because of Tony Rezko.

Based on all of the testimony heard during task force and reform commission hearings, it's clear that they will never be able to overcome the problems of the past. Perhaps once the board and process are abolished, new projects will receive fair consideration, instead of continuing the status quo — protecting existing facilities by preventing the construction of new facilities.

Although some people don't want reform, the people of Illinois demand it. It's obvious that the CON process is just not working. And the simple fact of the matter is that Plainfield still needs a hospital, and our residents support, want and need a hospital.

Let Plainfield and its residents deal with bringing quality health care to our community without the interference of other hospitals and their CEOs.