



October 11, 2019

The Honorable Deb Conroy
District Office:
28 S. Villa Ave.
Villa Park, IL 60181

Springfield Office:
275-S Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Representative Conroy,

Thank you for taking the time to come to Itasca yesterday to discuss Haymarket's proposal to convert Holiday Inn-Itasca into a 272-bed drug treatment facility. Village Administrator Carie Anne Ergo and I appreciated the opportunity to meet with you, Senator Tom Cullerton and Representative Diane Pappas to discuss the project at length.

Prior to your meeting request, Representative Pappas had been the only state public official to reach out to me directly regarding the proposal.

I appreciate your passion to help those who struggle with opioid addiction and your offer to push State of Illinois and DuPage County officials to provide funding to offset the financial burden this project would place on our small community. Unfortunately, the State of Illinois does not have a reliable track record of following through on its financial promises to our town. In recent years, Itasca has seen its share of personal property taxes, income taxes and dedicated grants reduced or eliminated.

Equally valuable was your willingness to contact Haymarket to obtain answers to questions that have been outstanding for nearly six months. Without data on Haymarket's historical demand for public safety response services at its facilities, how can Village staff determine what public safety services may be needed to support this large regional facility or the cost to taxpayers? And, I should point out that Haymarket has been telling media, public, staff and I for months that they would share this data as soon as possible.

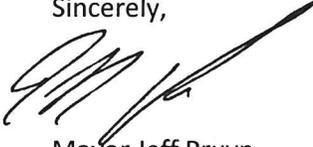
Truthfully, I was disappointed, but not surprised, when you confirmed this morning that Dr. Lustig would not even provide the data to you - Chair of the Mental Health Committee for the Illinois House of Representatives.

At this time, I have no choice but to request that you hold off on requesting any state funding for this project until Village staff has sufficient time to analyze all the data presented at the upcoming public hearings to better determine the total financial impact to Itasca taxpayers.

Finally, please know that I share your concern about the opioid crisis in the Chicagoland region and throughout the country. I stand ready to be a part of any discussion on potential solutions that would not place the financial burden of solving this crisis squarely on the residents and businesses of our small town.

Thank you again for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Pruyn', written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Jeff Pruyn
Village of Itasca