



Greg Hart
DuPage County Board, District 3
421 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL 60187
(630) 407-6060

October 21, 2020

Itasca Plan Commission
Village of Itasca
550 W. Irving Park Road
Itasca, IL 60143

Dear Plan Commissioners:

I currently serve as Co-Chairman of the Heroin Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) Taskforce. This countywide Taskforce is a joint operation of the DuPage County Board and the DuPage County Board of Health. Members of the Task Force come from many sectors in the community, specializing in mental health, law enforcement, adjudication, substance abuse treatment, prevention and education.

However, I write you not in my role as HOPE Chairman, but in my role as a private citizen who knows all too well the severity of the epidemic we are facing. We are facing this epidemic not just in Northern Illinois and in parts of DuPage County, but in all communities including Itasca. I also want to say that this Board has every right to explore the impact that a facility like Haymarket would have on their community. I acknowledge and fully respect that the decision belongs to you and this community. However, I ask that when you make that decision, please fairly consider the public health data that underscores the extensive need for a facility such as the one Haymarket is proposing.

From a public health standpoint, the effects of opioid abuse are far-reaching. An estimated 2.4 million people in the United States abuse prescription painkillers, and almost half a million people suffer from heroin abuse. Opioid use disorder is linked to higher rates of depression, anxiety, and bipolar disorders. Most strikingly, the people suffering from this disease do not fit the typical stigmatic portrayal of the “addict”. The people suffering from this epidemic span all age groups – from 15 to 75, all racial demographics, and all socioeconomic demographics. As some may remember, not long ago, a young member of the famed Kennedy family sadly passed away from this very disease. The people suffering from this disease represent our community in every sense

of the word. When we discuss those suffering from opioid addiction, this is not “them”...this is “us”.

In 2011, the Journal of Pain Medicine released a study showing the economic impact of the opioid crisis. In this regard, the United States has spent a staggering \$55 billion a year in health and social costs related to prescription opioid poisonings. These costs are particularly hard felt in counties like DuPage, where the growth in the epidemic’s size and scope has far surpassed available funding mechanisms needed to respond appropriately.

Despite the daunting health and financial impacts of this crisis, DuPage County responded quickly and effectively to address the spread of opioid addiction and to treat those in need of help. We have spent millions of dollars fighting this epidemic in all of our county’s communities – including Itasca. For example, in 2013, a coalition of County Leaders formed the DuPage Narcan Program to administer Naloxone, an overdose reversal medicine commonly referred to as Narcan in emergencies in which individuals are found unresponsive due to an overdose. This program was the first countywide program in the state and has served as a model for counties throughout Illinois.

Despite the relative success of the program, DuPage County still suffers deaths each year due to opioids. This is a long-term concern that must have resources, commitment and focus over the course of the next generation.

No matter how much Narcan we make available, no matter how much we educate our communities, no matter how many job training programs we make available, and no matter how much money we spend to fight this epidemic – the only way we will make progress is to expand availability of treatment opportunities, particularly in-patient treatment opportunities. This is the reason why having a facility like Haymarket is so critical.

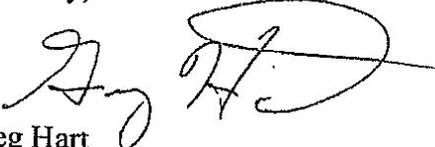
Representatives of Haymarket came to the Task Force in July 2019 and presented their proposal to provide a treatment center in Itasca. We learned that Haymarket is a fully accredited nonprofit organization that annually serves over 12,000 individuals in the State of Illinois. Among them in the last year have been many DuPage County residents, who have traveled to Haymarket in Chicago to secure treatment opportunities which are lacking in DuPage County.

Some have said that they understand the need for treatment, but they do not understand why some HOPE members and some DuPage County officials are supporting Haymarket or this specific project. I firmly believe this is not about one treatment provider – it is about treatment in general. I respond by saying this specific project is the only opportunity currently on the table to expand in-patient treatment in DuPage County. It would be a dereliction of our duty to not advocate for an opportunity to expand treatment when so many families are suffering.

I urge you to recognize the crisis we are all facing. No community, including Itasca, is immune. We are already paying too high a price. I personally ask this Board and this community to work with Haymarket to bring its much needed treatment facility to our community. I hope that you and the Village Board will support it. The people who will benefit from this facility are not strangers – they are our parents, our brothers, our sisters. Please remember that we are not talking about “them.” We are talking about “us”.

Thank you for your time. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,


Greg Hart

September 29, 2020

Itasca Plan Commission
Village of Itasca
550 W. Irving Park Road
Itasca, Illinois 60143

Dear Commissioners:

As President and CEO of the Illinois Primary Health Care Association (IPHCA), I write to support Haymarket Center in Itasca. IPCHA represents community health centers throughout Illinois that provide comprehensive, high-quality care to patients. A vital segment of our integrated approach to health care is substance use disorder treatment. Haymarket Center will therefore provide services that are essential to whole-person care in Itasca, DuPage County, and the collar counties.

IPHCA's members know that treatment for substance use and mental health are crucial to maintaining overall health. Even more important, individuals with chronic health conditions such as diabetes, HIV, hepatitis C, hypertension, and many others, are challenged to maintain their health if they are struggling with a substance use disorder or mental health condition. Haymarket Center has historically integrated care for substance use, mental health, and primary care. Further still, a key component of successful substance use disorder treatment is removing barriers to accessibility, such as insurance. Haymarket Center welcomes any person seeking treatment.

The need for person-centered substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery services in Illinois has never been more acute. The novel coronavirus only accelerated growing numbers of overdose deaths near Itasca. In the first six months of 2020, there were 70 overdose deaths in DuPage County, a 52% increase from the same period in 2019. In Cook County, there were over 100 more overdose deaths in the first sixth months of 2020 than the first sixth months of 2019. Haymarket Center's expansion to Itasca and DuPage County will help to meet this need and provide space to safely administer life-saving care.

Sincerely,



Jordan Powell
President & CEO



NSC Renews Support of Proposed Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center in Itasca, Illinois

October 14, 2020

Treatment centers and those overcoming addiction can lift up their communities.

Itasca, Ill. – Community leaders in Itasca, Illinois, are revisiting a proposal to place a drug treatment and rehabilitation center in the village. The National Safety Council, whose headquarters is located down the street from the proposed center location, maintains its support for placing a treatment facility in Itasca. We also believe it is critical that this plan be debated using the latest facts and data, rather than on hyperbolic or misleading information.

COVID-19 has made access to drug treatment and rehabilitation facilities more important than ever. In September, the American Medical Association announced that more than 40 states have reported increases in opioid-related deaths, as well as ongoing concern for those with [mental health](#) or substance use disorders. We must take action to curtail opioid misuse and help those who are struggling with substance use disorders get the treatment they need to live their fullest lives. Treatment centers provide this necessary assistance.

As was the case in 2019 when conversations began, some area residents have voiced concerns about community safety regarding this proposed project. We would like to reiterate what we said last year:

As the nation's leading safety advocate, no one is more focused on the safety of its own community than the National Safety Council. We follow the data, which support the expansion of treatment, because treatment centers and those overcoming addiction can lift up their communities.

Counties with treatment facilities experience drops in drug-induced mortality rates, according to [a study](#) from the Institute for the Study of Labor. [Research](#) from the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) indicates that adding treatment facilities in counties reduces local crime, both violent and financially motivated. NBER finds that an additional treatment facility reduces homicides by between 0.18% and 0.24%, along with reductions in robbery, motor vehicle theft, burglary and larceny. [Additional research](#) finds that increasing access to treatment significantly decreases robbery, aggravated assault and larceny theft.

Communities with treatment centers also benefit financially. The average cost of operating one facility is \$1.1 million annually, and communities save \$1.2 million to \$2.9 million each year because of reductions in crime.

Access to treatment can be the difference between life and death for many people struggling with substance use disorders. Unfortunately, less than 10% of people with addictions have access to treatment. We must do more to expand that, because counseling and behavioral therapy, coupled with medication-assisted treatment, is the most effective way for most people to address opioid dependency.

Finally, we need better education around the nature of addiction, because it is a disease – not a decision. Miseducation perpetuates stigma, and stigma is a common barrier to treatment, not just for communities but for

those who are struggling with addiction and dependency. In order to save lives, we must approach addiction the same way we approach all chronic illnesses, and that means expanding access to proven treatment options.

The National Safety Council has data, tools and other resources to fight overdose, and encourages community members to review this information so they can learn more about this topic. A need for urgent action exists, including expanded access to treatment.

About the National Safety Council

The National Safety Council is America's leading nonprofit safety advocate – and has been for over 100 years. As a mission-based organization, we work to eliminate the leading causes of preventable death and injury, focusing our efforts on the workplace, roadway and impairment. We create a culture of safety to not only keep people safer at work, but also beyond the workplace so they can live their fullest lives.



WALTER BURNETT, JR.

ALDERMAN, 27TH WARD
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E-MAIL: wburnett@cityofchicago.org

**CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CHICAGO**
COUNCIL CHAMBER

CITY HALL, ROOM 300
121 NORTH LA SALLE STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
TELEPHONE: 312-744-6124
FAX: 312-742-8489

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS
SPECIAL EVENTS, CULTURAL AFFAIRS
AND RECREATION
BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
COMMITTEES, RULES AND ETHICS
FINANCE
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
PUBLIC SAFETY

September 2, 2020

Itasca Plan Commission
Village of Itasca
550 W. Irving Park Road
Itasca, Illinois 60143

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Walter Burnett Jr., and I am Alderman for the 27th ward of Chicago. Our ward includes the West Loop neighborhood and Haymarket Center. I have witnessed the impact of Haymarket Center in our ward for twenty-five years. The people at Haymarket are committed to addiction intervention, and the work they do is essential to recovery. Haymarket is integral to the safety and growth of our community — its presence benefits us all.

In the 27th ward, there are many homeless people who suffer from substance abuse. Haymarket Center provides shelter and treatment to this population. Many times, I referred people to Haymarket and watched them reach sobriety. I am grateful that Haymarket's mission helps to decrease the homeless population in our ward.

Beyond offering treatment to those who struggle with addiction, Haymarket is a great neighbor. Haymarket Center is a well-operated organization dedicated to its role as a community partner. As we welcome new development in the 27th ward, the importance of Haymarket only increases. Our ward succeeds when we continue to serve our most vulnerable residents through institutions like Haymarket.

I am proud to represent the ward that Haymarket Center calls home. I stand behind the leaders of Haymarket in their plans to open a center in Itasca.

Sincerely,


Walter Burnett Jr.
Alderman, 27th Ward





Lori Lightfoot
Mayor

Department of Police • City of Chicago
3510 South Michigan Avenue • Chicago, Illinois 60653

David O. Brown
Superintendent of Police

Chicago Police Department
012th District
1412 S. Blue Island
Chicago IL. 60608
(312) 746-8306

Date: 17 July 2019

Itasca Plan Commission
Village of Itasca
550 W. Irving Park Road
Itasca, Illinois 60143

Dear Commissioners;

I am Business Liaison Officer Luis Crespo with the 012th District Community Policing Office. Our station covers a majority of the West Loop where Haymarket Center is located. The Community Policing system works to identify crime patterns at the neighborhood level and develop community-specific solutions. Our goal is to work with local organizations to create safer communities. Haymarket Center is a valued partner in this objective.

Haymarket does not place any undue burdens on our system. In fact, Haymarket's services decrease our burden. Chicago Police rely on Haymarket to lift some of the strain as we respond to emergency calls for immediate care as a result of substance abuse. The police often drop people off at Haymarket and all are welcomed. There, nurses and staff are better equipped to help those with substance use addictions than police.

With Haymarket nearby, the police are not overwhelmed by the responsibility of finding treatment for people who suffer from addiction. We know exactly where to send people who are in need of long-term care. This reduces the time and resources it takes to locate a treatment center or recovery home that is available.

We are thankful that Haymarket staff cooperates with the Chicago Police Department. Haymarket helps us improve our services to the people we protect. Our System is more efficient, our streets are safer and our resources are less compromised

Sincerely,

Business Liaison Officer Luis Crespo#7592

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P.O. Luis Crespo #7592".

FULTON MARKET ASSOCIATION

FULTONMARKETCHICAGO.ORG

BUSINESS + COMMUNITY + GOVERNMENT

September 15, 2020

Our Chicago-based economic development agency fully supports Haymarket DuPage and its plan to open a treatment facility in Itasca. The opioid crisis is ravaging families across Illinois. More treatment centers are critically important and are urgently need to save lives.

As FMA's Executive Director for 20 years, I have personally witnessed the positive role that Haymarket Chicago has had on our West Loop and Fulton Market community where thousands of residents, families and children live aside hundreds of businesses especially McDonald's world headquarters.

Over the past 10 years, billions have been invested in our community, making it one of the most successful communities in Illinois' including the wealthiest suburbs.

To achieve this, we owe monumental gratitude to Haymarket Center's founder Father Mac for helping to heal and transform our community. We owe monumental gratitude to Haymarket staff, volunteer board and supporters across Illinois who work tirelessly with government, community and their clients to save lives and prevent crime.

Our Association's core mission is public safety. We work directly with the Chicago Police Department and the community.

While our community has experienced serious crimes over the years, no Haymarket client has ever been involved in any crime in our community. Haymarket Center is NOT a public danger to anyone. It is a medical and wellness treatment center, not a magnet for crime.

Haymarket staff have been active on our Chicago Police Department community relations committee. Haymarket has visible exterior security guards and vehicles. Inside, there is zero tolerance for criminal activity, which I know personally having visited there many times. Every time regardless of my familiarity with the staff, I am questioned about my business, and my credentials are affirmed.

There have been no problems with Haymarket clients interacting negatively in public. There is a Chicago Public Library for children and families 1,500 feet away from Haymarket, and we've had no problems. The Chicago Children's Theater and the Montessori Academy of Chicago School for K-8 student are nearby, and we've had no problems. I state emphatically: There is absolutely no correlation between crime and Haymarket Center clients or visitors. Period.

The opposite is true: By helping people recover from medical challenges, Haymarket is an overwhelming force for public safety, reducing taxes paid into the criminal justice system and helping family members across Illinois recover and flourish.

Personally, I live in Hillside in Cook County, a village the same size as Itasca. I honor Itasca's small-town pride and believe fully that Haymarket's presence in Itasca would be overwhelmingly positive. I pledge my personal involvement to make this come true.

Let Haymarket participate in your chamber of commerce, village meetings and community policing. See how we can bring essential medical, economic development and public safety experience to Itasca to benefit your residents and businesses.

I am available around the clock to answer questions or provide sworn testimony. Contact me via phone or email as desired. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Roger Romanelli

Roger Romanelli, Executive Director

Fulton Market Association

roger@fultonmarketchicago.org

(773) 531-6370

www.fultonmarketchicago.org

917 W. Washington Blvd. #225 Chicago IL 60607

U.S. Certified Non-Profit Economic Development Agency Since 1996

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Johnsen, Allison G" <Allison.Johnsen@nm.org>
Date: November 27, 2019 at 2:05:12 PM CST
To: Kenyatta Cathey <KCathey@HCenter.org>, Karen Kissel <KKissel@hcenter.org>
Cc: "Pressley, Tammy" <Tammy.Pressley@nm.org>, "Tinken, Mike" <Michael.Tinken@nm.org>, "Alam, Danesh A" <Danesh.Alam@nm.org>, "Most, Kevin" <Kevin.Most@nm.org>
Subject: Haymarket: Northwestern Medicine at CDH - Support Approved

Hello Karen and Kenyatta,

Thank you for traveling all the way out to Central DuPage Hospital on Monday to meet with Tammy Pressley, Mike Tinken and me. We were glad to learn first-hand of the operational plans for the proposed new Haymarket site in Itasca. After our meeting, Mike and I reviewed the information with Danesh Alam, our Medical Director for Behavioral Health. We all agreed that we will add Northwestern Medicine at Central DuPage Hospital to the list of Healthcare Providers and Organizations on Haymarket's Supporters of Haymarket DuPage document.

DuPage County residents and providers need the residential treatment and recovery home services for underfunded and Medicaid-insured persons seeking treatment for substance use disorders. Central DuPage Hospital's Behavioral Health and emergency department will be glad to collaborate with the future Haymarket Center DuPage. We wish you all the best in this endeavor.

Allison

Allison G. Johnsen, LCPC, BCC
Manager, Business & Program Development
Behavioral Health
Central DuPage Hospital, Delnor Hospital

27W350 High Lake Rd., Winfield, IL 60190

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JASON KINANDER
CEO

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www.electriflex.com

September 15, 2020

Itasca Plan Commission
Village of Itasca
550 W. Irving Park Road
Itasca, Illinois 60143

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Jason Kinander. I am the CEO of Electri-Flex, an electrical conduit manufacturing company based in DuPage County. My wife and I have lived in Itasca for 17 years and chose to raise our family here because of the strong sense of community. I'm sending this letter in support of Haymarket Center's application to locate a behavioral health treatment center in the former Holiday Inn property on Irving Park Road.

Haymarket's use of evidence-based interventions and programming geared towards strong outcomes has made it a nationally recognized leader in the field of addictions and behavioral health treatment. Haymarket is fully licensed by the State of Illinois and is certified nationally by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

Although Itasca residents agree that treatment centers are vital, some argue that Itasca is a small community that does not have the resources to support one. They question why Itasca was chosen when there are larger municipalities in DuPage County.

Why not in our community? The opioid crisis is ravaging our neighborhoods and communities throughout DuPage. Itasca residents look out for and support each other through hard times. We welcome people who come to Itasca to improve their lives. As to Itasca's resources, I believe the net revenue impact, after considering job creation and operating expenditures, will be a minimal cost to Itasca compared to the services provided. I trust the commitments made by Haymarket to help minimize to our public safety services.

We may be a small community, but our strengths are why we are a great one. It is time to do the right thing for our neighbors in need. I am proud to support the proposed Haymarket Center to be located in Itasca.

Sincerely,

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

Jason W. Kinander
CEO, Electri-Flex Company





W.S. Darley & Co.

325 Spring Lake Drive, Itasca, IL 60143 USA
Phone 630-735-3500 ex 330 Toll Free 800-323-0244
pauldarley@darley.com

Letter of Support

October 6, 2020

Itasca Plan Commission
Village of Itasca
550 W. Irving Park Road
Itasca, Illinois 60143

Dear Commissioners:

As President and CEO of W.S. Darley & Company, I would like to express my support for the proposed Haymarket Center facility in Itasca.

I am a supporter of Haymarket Center because I recognize the need for a high quality, proven substance use treatment provider in DuPage and the collar counties. For over 13 years, we have been a member of Itasca's business community and tenant of the Spring Lakes Business Park.

I followed the hearings closely last year. I understand and appreciate the concerns of citizens of Itasca. In terms of proximity, my business is located nearer or as near to the proposed facility as any resident. While I don't live in Itasca, we share their concerns relative to *potential* impact on the safety, taxing of our first responders, property value impact, etc.

As a business that serves first responders, I appreciate and understand that concerns relative to potential financial and personnel strain on our EMS and other services has been addressed.

The Village of Itasca has been a wonderful place to operate our 113-year-old family business. As we served our first responders, you even allowed us temporary storage containers to facilitate the shipment of PPE orders we shipped locally and across the country. I've attached a copy of our recent newsletter showing what you helped us to accomplish.

I have expressed my concerns to the Haymarket Center Board and they have assured us there are misperceptions about the type and amount of traffic from patients, visitors, etc. Based on our discussions, I believe they will be a good neighbor in the business park and an active member of the Itasca community.

I know we all share the desire to continue to look for ways to protect our safe and wonderful community, and I feel any risk associated with granting Haymarket Center the ability to operate a much-needed health care facility in this location, will be overshadowed by the caring and compassionate community supporting efforts to address an epidemic of opioid deaths and overdoses in DuPage and the collar counties.

We will continue to work closely with the Village either way, but as an impacted neighbor we are supportive of this project and urge you to vote in support of Haymarket Center in Itasca.

Thank you for your hard work on behalf of the business and residence of Itasca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul C. Darley".

Paul C. Darley
President & CEO



Letter of Support

October 9, 2020

Itasca Plan Commission
Village of Itasca
550 W. Irving Park Road
Itasca, Illinois 60143

Dear Commissioners:

As Pastor of the Faith Community Church of Itasca, the Vice President of Interfaith Mental Health Council and the Executive Director Mental Health America Quad Counties, I would like to express my support for the proposed Haymarket Center facility in Itasca.

As we model the work of Christ to meet the intergenerational and cross-cultural needs to strengthen families and communities, I am a supporter of Haymarket Center because the need for a quality, proven substance use treatment provider in DuPage and the collar counties is increasingly important. For more than twenty-years, I know and have seen first-hand the value of offering health care services, mental health services and other wholistic programs designed to help transform the lives of people and strengthen communities. In fact, as a community of faith, we are guided by both the practical and theological underpinning of Holy Scripture:

- **Matthew 25:35-36** - "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me"
- **Romans 12:1-2** - I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.

As a community of faith, the ministries of our church have been blessed to see the positive transformation through mentoring, counseling, workshops and sessions focused on: health and wellness; to include diabetes, mental-health first-aid and companionship training, cultural-sensitivity focused groups and modeling a Christ-centered approach to care for individuals, families and the bereaved impacted by COVID-19. This global pandemic poses unique and unprecedented challenges.

As a community partner, on two separate occasions Faith Community Church of Itasca has used the Haymarket Center parking lot in Itasca to host one of two worship services to the Lord. Many were blessed by the parking lot worship service and remain prayerful for Haymarket Center and its plans for the future use of the facility to provide health care services. I believe the Haymarket Center will be a beacon of hope and support that we all can be proud in making a positive difference in the lives of people.



Lastly, our church leadership have attended the zoning meetings and visited their West Loop location to learn more about their services, patient outcomes and took a tour of their facility. I was impressed. I believe that approving Haymarket Center's application to offer health care services in Itasca that saves lives not only benefits our community but society as a whole. I urge you to vote in support of Haymarket Center in Itasca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Darryl T. Jenkins", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Darryl T. Jenkins
Pastor Faith Community Church of Itasca



October 8, 2020

Itasca Plan Commission
Village of Itasca
550 W. Irving Park Road
Itasca, Illinois 60143

Dear Commissioners:

As President and co-founder of Trilab Health, a DuPage County-based business, I am writing to you to express my support for the proposed Haymarket Center in Itasca.

Located in Elmhurst and Schaumburg, Trilab Health is a physician-led specialized reference laboratory founded by Dr. Sameer Naseeruddin, Dr. Kaleem Malik and myself as a response to the substance abuse and opioid epidemic. Dr. Naseeruddin is on staff with the AMITA network, including Alexian Brothers and St. Alexius Medical Center, as well as Northwest Community Hospital. Dr. Malik is the Director for Medical Disaster Response for Humanity First USA, and the recipient of the 2020 Red Cross Heroes of the Year Award for Humanitarian Service in disasters. I myself have more than 30 years of progressive and diversified healthcare experience, holding executive management positions with Tenet Healthcare, Rush University Medical Center and MacNeal Health Network.

Federal data shows that 23 million Americans – roughly 1 in 10 adults – have struggled with a drug-use disorder at some point in their lives. Alcohol addiction is even more prevalent, with one study finding evidence that 1 in 8 Americans are affected. According to the CDC, drug overdoses killed approximately 72,000 people in 2019, while excessive drinking caused more than 95,000 deaths in the United States each year, or 261 deaths per day.

Opioid overdose deaths have surged nationwide and in DuPage County while the global pandemic continues. It truly is an epidemic amid a pandemic. Hindered access to treatment and recovery services is one of the likely reasons fueling the increase, but here in Illinois we already faced a severe shortage of substance use disorder treatment beds and facilities.

I implore you to grant Haymarket Center approval to bring a much-needed facility to our region. I tell you without hesitation that Haymarket Center is widely respected in the field of substance use disorder treatment for providing comprehensive behavioral health solutions. Haymarket has been on the cutting edge of treatment protocols and is renowned for its ongoing education offerings that are an invaluable asset to professionals from far and wide. And Haymarket's mission of treating all individuals in need is an example of how accessible all healthcare should be.

Granting approval for Haymarket's comprehensive treatment center will save lives. It's that simple. The alternative will result in one outcome of which I am sure: more residents of our region will not get the help they need and some will die.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Sorrentino".

Patrick Sorrentino MHA, ACHE
President & Co-Founder, Trilab Health



September 14, 2020

Itasca Plan Commission
Village Hall
550 W. Irving Park Road
Itasca, IL60143

Dear Commissioners,

We at Hope for Healing stand in support of the proposed Haymarket DuPage healthcare facility for substance use and behavioral health disorders in Itasca. Hope for Healing is a family foundation we started after the loss of our son and brother Matthew Stefani to an overdose in 2015. Matt battled with his addiction for about two years, in which time he sought treatment through more than half a dozen outpatient and inpatient programs. But even when he was actively seeking treatment for his addiction, we had trouble getting Matt into nearby programs, because although these programs exist in DuPage County, there are a limited number of beds available. We ran into this problem even with private, comprehensive health insurance. This meant that despite our best efforts, our brother, son, and friend to many ended up living in a halfway house. All he wanted was to heal and be with his family, but without nearby treatment options available, he couldn't.

Our rationale in supporting Haymarket goes beyond our personal, emotional experience. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a massive increase in overdoses in every major metropolitan area, including DuPage County. According to DuPage Coroner Rich Jorgensen, many of those who died were living alone, having personal or marital difficulty, or suffering from depression. The circumstances of the pandemic have made the problem of substance use and overdose significantly worse.

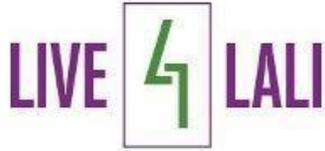
Because we live in a suburban area that is thought of as safe and quiet, it is easy to assume we don't have problems with addiction and overdose in our communities. But the truth of the matter is that addiction is a chronic, relapsing brain disease that does not discriminate. The "not in my backyard" mentality has left many families in the western suburbs with limited options when seeking care locally and has forced them to look out of town and often out of state for treatment. Finding and coordinating these kinds of services is always complex, but even more so when the inpatient treatment program is not part of the patient's community. In addition to being forced to turn to far away programs for effective treatment, there is the essential need for well-coordinated after-care and a recovery community to assist those in recovery with staying on track after inpatient treatment. The proposed Haymarket DuPage inpatient program in Itasca will provide a much-needed recovery program to the western suburbs and allow for a well-coordinated continuum of care.



We know that substance use disorders can be uncomfortable to discuss, but now more than ever we must acknowledge that this issue is impacting our communities. We owe it to our friends, families, and neighbors to provide accessible treatment options, and the time is now.

Sincerely,

Roger, Marge, Steve and Ben Stefani
Founders and Board Members



Itasca Plan Commission
Village Hall
550 W. Irving Park Road
Itasca, IL 60143

October 1, 2020

Dear Sir or Madame,

I would like to publicly offer my support to the Haymarket Center in their endeavor to open a facility in DuPage County. Haymarket has made a significant impact in the substance use arena since their inception in 1975, and one we refer clients to often. Haymarket is the largest not-for-profit, community based adult detox, residential, and outpatient substance treatment facility in Chicago, serving over 12,000 clients a year. In 2019 DuPage County experienced 92 overdose deaths. With the Covid-19 pandemic, Dr. Richard Jorgensen, DuPage Coroner, reported a 52% increase in overdose deaths compared to this time last year. Neighboring Cook County has seen a 55% increase since the first of the year. The Covid-19 pandemic is exponentially increasing overdose deaths, indicating an even greater, desperate need for treatment options in the state of Illinois! While these deaths are comparable to neighboring counties of similar demographics, it is apparent that we need to be doing more.

DuPage County's mission statement states in part: "ensure that its communities will always be desirable places to live, work, and raise families by providing innovative cost-effective services, promoting a high quality of life for all residents, and acting as a leader with local and regional partners in anticipating issues and developing solutions." All residents include those suffering from substance use or mental health conditions.

With Haymarket's long standing proven track record in the industry, it will not only serve the needs of the community as evident with the number of drug related ER visit, and deaths due to overdose, but be a tremendous addition to the county, as is evident in their advocacy work with the Illinois Behavioral Health Consortium, Illinois Association for Behavioral Health, Illinois Partners on Human Services, and the National Council on Behavioral Health. They offer many continuing education workshops to the community, including the very popular Summer Institute on Addictions, which is in its 25th Year. They have met the challenge of our current circumstances by offering all workshops virtually. Haymarket Center will add not only resources for DuPage County residents, but for the communities at large by providing much needed

services to all residents. I fully support Haymarket and look forward to collaborating with them when we begin our mobile harm reduction outreach in DuPage County. Offering people more options for treatment can only bring good to the community!

“The opposite of addiction isn’t sobriety, the opposite of addiction is connection” – Johann Hari. Let us offer more connection, not less.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura Fry', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Laura Fry, Executive Director
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Mike "Pop" Murray
Bloomington Township Mental Health Auxiliary
Sept. 18, 2019

I'm not able to attend the meeting tonight because of a meeting of the Bloomington Township Mental Health Board, but I wanted to make a statement. My name is Mike Murray and I've lived and raised a family in Roselle for over 30 years and, of course, take Irving Park on an almost daily basis traveling past the Holiday Inn.

When my children were younger, we visited Itasca on many Christmas Eves. The display of "luminaria" allowed our family to talk about the hope of Christmas and the hope that even the darkest days give way. The luminaria reflected to our family the community spirit and the hope of new beginnings that I believe is the heart of Itasca.

Haymarket and those working to cure the disease of addiction represent that same hope of the luminaria to the addicted. Itasca – by welcoming Haymarket – **affirms** its roots and **affirms** it has the **biggest of hearts...**

Haymarket, rather than being feared, gives Itasca the ability to demonstrate leadership to its neighbors and to reach out and confront rather than run from the disease of addiction afflicting so many in our county and country.

My heart tells me that with soul searching Itasca will do the right thing. Thank you for listening.

----- Original Message -----

From: Kathleen White <sugarcat62@comcast.net<<mailto:sugarcat62@comcast.net>>>

Date: September 18, 2019 at 10:34 AM

Subject: Haymarket Proposal, Itasca

Good Morning,

My name is Kathy White. I am a longtime resident of the western suburbs of Chicago. I am a member of the national Recovery Advocacy Project and an ambassador of Shatterproof, a non for profit dedicated to ending the devastation addiction causes individuals, families and communities. I am a mom, educator and voter. Most importantly, I am a person living in long term recovery from substance use disorder.

I am writing you today to ask you to support the proposal to place a drug treatment and rehabilitation center in the village of Itasca. My story is not unique. I struggled with mental health issues all my life and experienced trauma at a very early age. In my mid 30s I turned to drugs and alcohol to ease the pain. My brain was primed for substance use disorder. Because I had excellent insurance and a strong support system, I was fortunate to access science based treatment. Sadly, although my story is not unique, it is the exception for so many who suffer today. I have watched countless people struggle endlessly and some die. Less than 10% of people with addictions have access to treatment. Everyday people are dying preventable deaths from this disease. Our country is facing one of the worst health crises of our time. Over 130 people die a day from opioid overdoses alone. Alcohol related deaths have become the 3rd leading preventable cause of death in the US. 1 in 3 families are affected by addiction. Those who suffer should not be stigmatized, ignored or criminalized. Addiction is a disease, not a decision. Access to health treatment is a fundamental right for everyone who suffers from any chronic, fatal disease.

The opposition to this treatment center is based on fear and misinformation. It is a prime example of discrimination at its worst. It is crucial that the key decision makers base their conclusions on the latest facts and data. When it comes to treatment, the data supports expansion of treatment. Treatment centers and those overcoming addiction benefit their communities. The National Bureau of Economic Research states that adding treatment facilities in counties reduces crime of all kinds and contributes positively to the economy.

I appreciate you taking the time to read my letter. It is my hope that you join me and so many others in standing up for recovery. With your informed support, we can change the narrative around addiction and make RECOVERY the epidemic.

Regards,

Kathy White

National Recovery Advocacy Project Leader



Robert Butler



August 7 at 6:47 PM · 🌐

In my community the lawns are littered with 'No Haymarket' signs. It's a response to the possibility of a well known treatment center wanting to open a recovery facility. There is a website with "facts" and a call to action to attend a community meeting in September. It's good for people to get involved and research information to gain understanding. I would like to share some additional insight. The signs are communicating more messages than possibly intended. They are inflicting pain. Yes. Pain.

There are addicts, alcoholics and individuals with mental illness in this community. There are also families dealing with the impact. I know this fact because I see it everyday. Addiction is a terrorist. It thrives on fear and misinformation. It takes hostages and creates division. It kills the individual, the family and the community. It is evil.

The last several days have been emotionally and spiritually draining. Everywhere I go people share their feelings, ranging from anger to heartbreak, about the neighborhood 'No Haymarket' signs. These are the people who have been touched by the epidemic, either directly or indirectly. They are housewives, mothers, executives, fathers and even young people. All have been to the pit of hell and have recovered to help others in our community. They are today's good Samaritans.

A "Good Samaritan" is a term I believe our culture has forgotten. The phrase comes from the Bible. Jesus was answering a question from a group of upper-class religious leaders, "Who is my neighbor?" and to make a point he shared a parable. A traveler was mugged and left for dead on the side of the road. The priest sees the man, crosses to the other side of the road and continues on his way. Another person with high status in the community sees the man beaten and crosses as well. Finally, a Samaritan, considered the under-class of society, came upon the beaten man. He immediately took pity on him and took care of him until he was completely restored. He freely gave of his time, resources and his own agenda to care for his neighbor. To get the full extent of the parable, you have to understand the prejudice, fear and hatred the public felt towards the Samaritans. For generations, even walking on land controlled by the half-breed Samaritans made a person dirty. Jesus was answering the question very clearly. "Who is my neighbor? Everyone."

I believe loving God and our neighbor means thinking and acting in ways that

believe loving God and our neighbor means thinking and acting in ways that do no harm as well as bringing a little bit of heaven to earth.

"...as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." "Go and do likewise."

Yes Jesus.

   65

18 Comments 4 Shares

 Like

 Share



Margaret Redman Amen

Like · 5d



Stacy Gyuricza Amen! So sad people form opinions about a place like "Haymarket" and the people who need it. My guess is a lot of those protesting have a need for it too.

Like · 5d



Liz Gaddis Thank you for this post. I work with people who struggle with addiction on a daily basis and they are trying, but the stigma of addiction and lack of understanding by people are getting in the way. I work every day to talk about addiction and help people understand. So thank you for this post

Like · 5d



Kevin MacDonald To ignore the need and the solutions a place like that brings is to ignore they are as prevalent as they are in our society...and to choose fear of more of "those" people in our community or what it "might" do to our home values is a lack of realization that there are already "those" people in our community who will now be cared for making a safer and caring community.

Like · 5d · Edited



Stacy Gyuricza I don't think people realize just how close they probably already are to these problems. It's the scary unfamiliar.

Like · 5d



Linda Tkachenko People have a mistaken attitude about treatment facilities. They are populated with people just like us who are hurting and have to learn better ways than alcohol and drugs to cope with it.

Making them feel less than isn't going to help. Have compassion people and pray your family never needs it.

Like · 5d · Edited



Deb McCormick It's good to be reminded about the Samaritan. I was out of town for a week came back to signs in many yards I have not done my research but I have seen addiction

Like · 5d



Candy Helms Amen

Like · 5d



Maria Misura DeMaio Amen!

Like · 5d



Sonya Redman



Like · 5d



Jim Lloyd Well said. Thanks Bob for you "right on" thoughts

Like · 5d



Marisa Zavala I left a message in your voice mail. ...

Like · 5d

Laura Lu Semenzin I appreciate you adding your voice to this community discussion. I'm so heartbroken by it all. ❤️

Like · 5d



Colleen Thomas Here! Here! Great post. ❤️

Like · 5d



John Higgins Amen

Like · 4d



Trish Jones Fairbanks What people forget is that addiction is already in your neighborhood, destroying families and hurting our young

in your neighborhood, destroying families and hurting our young people. But if it is cloaked in secrecy, people can ignore it. A treatment center provides a safe haven for people openly seeking recovery.

... [See More](#)

Like · 4d



 **Paula Zavala Riordan** Many of the miracles I've witnessed, have had their origin at rehab centers. So many lives have been saved by these homes, people who have become productive and good hearted members of society again. I just don't get it. The polarization of our society, this idea of "them" and "us" needs to stop. We're all in the same boat. There's no "them", it's all US.

Like · 4d · Edited



 **Dave Miech** Well said brother and on point!

Like · 4d



From: Lindsey
Sent: Sunday, September 15, 2019 10:29:29 AM (UTC-06:00) Central America
To: Haymarket Center DuPage
Subject: Support for Haymarket from a second Generation Itasciate

My connection to Itasca starts long before I even came into this World. My grandparents, who were seeking room for their growing family moved to Itasca in the 1960s. They purchased a historic home, which included a full size barn and even an outhouse! My grandma to this day, reminds my grandfather how they could have easier purchased a larger home with a swimming pool in a different community but Grandfather was just drawn to Itasca.

As my father and his siblings grew up they witnessed a lot of change around them, dirt roads became roads and prairie fields turned to houses.

One of those new homes, built in the 1970s on Lombard rd would eventually become my childhood home. I loved being able to walk to nature center and Itasca pool. Going to Wednesday concerts at Usher Park and always being on the lookout for new baby swans. I remember the protest when Students from Franzen and Washington were to combined as one. But in the end, everything worked out great and I met some of my very best friends through this transition. It also made the process of starting Peacock a little less stressful, since I already knew all my classmates.

Itasca was the background for my childhood and I don't believe I could have chosen a better one. I was always proud to say I was not only from Itasca. I loved being college friends home to show off Itasca's charm. I even had my wedding at my Grandmothers house in front of that old barn. That pride in Itasca was all but erased when I was invited to the NO Itasca Haymarket Facebook group. I was embarrassed by the ignorance I was seeing. I felt ashamed that Itasca seemed so out of touch with current opioid epidemic. An epidemic that has effect several of my former Itasca classmates. Classmates that I sat next to during D. A. R. E. we're now struggling, mental, physically and emotionally from the effects of three opioid crisis. Good kids, kids that were in sports, that participated in Peacock's plays were now fighting for their life. I would occasionally run into their parents at events like Itasca fest, and they just looked downhearted and defeated. Parents that once gave encouraging speeches as Itasca soccer and baseball coaches, looked aged beyond their years and the worry shown of their face even through attempts to smile.

We need this facility, not just for those struggling today, but to prevent those from struggling in the future. I may be in the minority with this next statement, but for me I will always prefer to save life's over Tax dollars any day of the week. Our community needs this center if it wants to continue to grow and improve. If we continue to not actively fight the opioid epidemic, I fear Itasca future will be similar to what the once great communities along Cape Cod are currently facing today. Communities once know for housing the Kennedys and now unable to keep up the daily number of overdoses.

Sent from my iPhone