

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

IN RE:  
THE MATTER OF THE PROPOSED  
CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
ROOFTOP HELIPORT TO BE LOCATED  
IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

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**TRANSCRIPT OF STATEMENTS**

July 24, 2009  
6:00 p.m.

Robert W. Lurie Medical Research Center  
Hughes Auditorium Mezzanine, 303 East Superior Street  
Chicago, Illinois

KATHLEEN A. MARTHALER, CSR



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TRANSCRIPT OF STATEMENTS had in the  
above-entitled matter held at the Robert W. Lurie  
Medical Research Center, Hughes Auditorium  
Mezzanine, 303 East Superior Street, Chicago,  
Illinois, on the 24th day of July, A.D., 2009,  
at 6:00 p.m.



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WRITTEN STATEMENTS

MR. RICHARD CARLSON  
 MR. LAWRENCE L. McCRACKEN  
 MICHAEL A. BECKER, M.D.

REPORTED BY: KATHLEEN A. MARTHALER, CSR  
 CSR No. 84-4083



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## STATEMENT OF HERBERT ZUREICH

Concerning the heliport at Northwestern on top of the Children's Hospital, I am against the heliport principally for safety reasons.

I know we need to save the lives of the children coming to the hospital and other such things -- I understand there is an alternative eight-tenths of a mile away, which I think is sufficient to also save lives -- but I am concerned that it's a very densely populated residential and business neighborhood.

I'm a neighbor on Pearson Street, and I'm very concerned about the safety issue. Therefore, I am against the Heliport.

Thank you.

## STATEMENT OF BART DAVIS

My name is Bart Davis, and my wife and I have a condo at 777 North Michigan, Unit 3406. It's an in-town place, but I look right at -- I will be looking right at the top -- in fact, the top of the Children's Hospital where they're putting the Heliport is right above me.

I'm at the back -- the east side back of the Olympia Center, and if they put a helicopter up



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1       there -- I've already lost my view of the lake,  
2       which we figured we were going to lose it anyway,  
3       but if they put a heliport up there, if they have a  
4       problem landing, I could end up with parts of the  
5       helicopter or the contents right in my lap because  
6       I'm on the 34th floor, which makes me 340 feet over  
7       the ground, and that will be over 400 feet.

8                       When they had the Air Show in Chicago,  
9       they tried to limit it to being over the lakefront  
10      and they wanted to extend it inland.

11                      In fact, there was one person that wanted  
12      to fly a loop around the Hancock Building, which  
13      really sounds ridiculous with all the updrafts they  
14      have there.

15                      And when the rain falls, the water coming  
16      down the side of the Olympia Center comes along the  
17      building, and there must be some terrible drafts  
18      there

19                      I have been in helicopters in the  
20      service. I've flown with people a lot younger and  
21      have flown with people who were just learning to fly  
22      and that was on level ground, and I cannot see with  
23      the air currents and the wind and the distance of my  
24      unit there from the top of the hospital, I don't



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1 wish to spend any time there now hardly because of  
2 that.

3 Thank you.

4 STATEMENT OF ROGER WEIR

5 My name is Roger Weir, and I'm a resident at  
6 161 East Chicago Avenue. That is Chicago, Illinois  
7 60611.

8 I live and work in the neighborhood, and  
9 I have done so for probably thirty years. So I have  
10 seen many changes in the community and I have always  
11 tried to be very aware of how those changes have  
12 affected the community.

13 Clearly, this addition of Children's  
14 Memorial Hospital has made a much bigger impact on  
15 the community than just an ordinary building because  
16 we are looking at a safety issue that is going to  
17 have repercussions that we can't even imagine.

18 With Children's Memorial Hospital being  
19 part of the larger Northwestern Memorial Hospital  
20 complex, if, indeed, there is an accident that is in  
21 the area of the emergency facility of Northwestern  
22 Memorial Hospital, we are looking at the possibility  
23 of having no emergency service in the community.

24 Without that emergency service, any



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1 accident or any victims because of that accident  
2 would then be unable to be cared for, and so we are  
3 looking at a situation of not only injury but not  
4 having access to emergency facilities and clearly  
5 this is something that no community can be without.

6 STATEMENT OF BARBARA MEYERS

7 My name is Barbara Meyers. I live at 260 East  
8 Chestnut, the Plaza on DeWitt, in Streeterville.  
9 I've lived in Streeterville since 1982. I serve on  
10 our board of directors, but I am just representing  
11 my own personal opinion tonight.

12 I wanted to be on record as opposing  
13 vehemently a rooftop helicopter two blocks from my  
14 home, which is in the direct flight pattern  
15 established by the research given during these  
16 sessions.

17 It is not on a personal basis that I am  
18 giving my opinion. It's due to all the evidence  
19 presented by the professionals obtained by SOAR  
20 which totally destroyed the evidence given by  
21 Children's in terms of safety, liability, all their  
22 studies which were not the least bit scientific.

23 There is an alternative, but were there  
24 no alternative, I still would not be for a rooftop



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1 heliport. But since there is a safe alternative a  
2 block or two blocks from the hospital, I think it's  
3 imperative that that conclusion be reached by IDOT.

4 As far as we're concerned in our  
5 neighborhood of close to 90,000 people, it's a  
6 no-brainer.

7 That's about it. Thank you.

8 STATEMENT OF ROBERT GALLO

9 My name is Robert Gallo. I appreciate IDOT  
10 taking such care and consideration for all sides of  
11 the discussion.

12 Obviously, safety is a concern for  
13 everybody. I think one thing that a lot of those  
14 people, thankfully, have not had to experience is  
15 having a child that is critically in danger.

16 I almost lost my daughter when she was  
17 first born within a few hours. You can't tell me  
18 that -- no one can tell me that seconds don't  
19 matter. Children's gets the sick of the sick, so  
20 absolutely seconds matter.

21 I'm sure if a lot of these residents had  
22 the unfortunate experience that my wife and I had,  
23 my guess is they would be lobbying in support of the  
24 helipad as strongly as they are lobbying against.



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