

**MEETING REGARDING THE PROPOSED
CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL HOSPITAL HELIPORT**

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

July 25, 2009
9:15 a.m.

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

KAREN A. FAZIO, CSR



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311 Monroe Street
Suite 1200
Chicago, IL 60606

MEETING REGARDING THE PROPOSED
CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL HOSPITAL HELIPIORT

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS held at
303 East Superior Street, Chicago, Illinois, on the
25th of July, A.D., 2009, at 9:15 a.m.

BEFORE: HONORABLE RICHARD E. NEVILLE,
Hearing Officer.



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1 PRESENT:

2 MADSEN, FARKAS & POWEN, LLC,
3 (20 South Clark Street, Suite 1050,
4 Chicago, Illinois 60603,
5 (312) 379-3444), by:

6 MR. ALLEN L. FARKAS,

7 and

8 DALEY AND GEORGE, LTD.,
9 (20 North Clark Street, Suite 400,
10 Chicago, Illinois 60603,
11 (312) 726-8787), by:

12 MR. JOHN J. GEORGE,

13 appeared on behalf of Children's
14 Memorial Hospital;

15
16 LAW OFFICES OF RICHARD PORTER,
17 (100 Park Avenue, [!ADDRESS-B3],
18 Rockford, Illinois 61105,
19 (815) 490-4900), by:

20 MR. RICHARD PORTER,

21 appeared on behalf of SOAR.
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PRESENT (Continued):

IDOT PANEL MEMBERS PRESENT:

MS. ELLEN SCHANZLE-HASKINS;

MR. MICHAEL SELIG;

MR. RAYMOND SYMS;

DR. SUSAN SHEA;

MR. GARY STEVENS; and

MR. JERRY LAY.

REPORTED BY: KAREN A. FAZIO, C.S.R. No. 84-1834



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1 THE HEARING OFFICER: Usually I ask if anybody
2 in the back can hear me, but there's nobody in the
3 back.

4 Well, just as an order of process, my
5 name is Richard Neville, I am the hearing officer
6 appointed by IDOT to help organize and run these
7 meetings or this public hearing, and we have IDOT
8 representatives here, and they've been introduced
9 every day. If there's anyone in the audience that
10 needs to know each of the individuals from IDOT and
11 their experts who are with them, feel free to come
12 up here, and we'll give you a personal introduction
13 with everybody.

14 Secondly, it appears this morning that
15 many of the people who are here, at least were here
16 yesterday or know from talking with the attorneys
17 that they were asked not to give presentations that
18 go on too long. I want to modify that a little bit
19 to say that everybody that's here for this hearing
20 has a right to say what they choose to, as long as
21 it's related to the issues that we have here, which
22 is the heliport on top of the Children's Memorial
23 Hospital which has yet to be constructed. But it
24 is true that over the last three days we've had



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1 lots of presentations where people have reiterated
2 concerns that other people have had, and the
3 comments about what they think about the experts.
4 Everyone is free to make their own choice about how
5 they want to do that, it's a public hearing, it's
6 not supposed to be monitored in a way that prevents
7 people from having free access to the record,
8 because IDOT is charged with using this record as
9 part of their determination for their ruling on
10 whether or not there will be permission to build
11 the heliport.

12 However, with all that being said, use
13 your best judgment about how long you need to
14 speak. And, secondly, when you -- originally we
15 said five minutes for everyone, and last night
16 things -- people started talking for eight, nine,
17 ten minutes. There's nothing wrong with that, we
18 didn't stop anyone, and I'm not going to stop
19 anyone today. So if you have -- that's unless you
20 start repeating things or start doing a dance up
21 here. But feel free, as I say, I think it's
22 important that everybody feels free to be able to
23 express themselves. It makes it easier for there
24 to be a coherent record about everyone's position.



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1 So with that being said, I think we're
2 ready to proceed. And I have a list of people.
3 Mr. Fantas has asked if he could start out early
4 because he has another engagement, an important
5 one, a public hearing, so I'm going to let him come
6 up and start.

7 MR. FANTAS: Good morning. My name is Maurice
8 Fantas, and I've been a resident of Streeterville
9 for the past 35 years.

10 I have a simple question for the IDOT
11 representatives. How could you say yes? Thursday
12 night, one expert after another told us about the
13 serious lack of safety study or assessment
14 performed by the hospital. Much doubt was gathered
15 in my mind about this proposal. Each expert raised
16 great questions. Why was no safety assessment
17 performed? Why did hospitals not have an
18 independent medical expert look at the cases of
19 those who were transported by the helicopter last
20 year? Why was data submitted to IDOT that was
21 outdated and based on the previous heliport design?

22 All these questions raised doubts.
23 Doubt is a powerful force. The lessons we learned
24 last Thursday night increased the doubt I already



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1 have about this proposal. Doubt is what causes us
2 to be cautious. Doubt is what makes us ask more
3 questions. Doubt makes us act carefully. So I say
4 to you, IDOT, if you have any doubts of your own,
5 then your choice is easy, deny the request. Doubt
6 is the first step of safety. Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 THE HEARING OFFICER: I'm going to -- I have a
9 list that I was given by IDOT. I'm just going to
10 run down that list, and we'll see who's here and
11 see how things proceed. Number one is Ed Stritch.

12 MR. STRITCH: Good morning. My name is Ed
13 Stritch, and I reside at 100 East Huron, and I
14 support a heliport at the Ann and Robert H. Lurie
15 Children's Hospital here in Streeterville. I'm
16 here to encourage your support for the heliport at
17 the ne Children's Hospital here in Streeterville.
18 I strongly believe that this heliport will be an
19 integral part of the hospital's mission, and that a
20 lack of a heliport will -- would impair the
21 hospital's ability to save lives.

22 Children's Memorial Hospital has had a
23 heliport in Lincoln Park for many years without
24 negative impact on the surrounding community. At



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