

# Patrick M. Magoon Statement

June 23, 2011

Good evening.

My name is Patrick Magoon, and I am the President and CEO of Children's Memorial Hospital.

I would like to thank Susan Shea, Director of the Division of Aeronautics, Illinois Department of Transportation and her counsel, Ellen Schanzle-Haskins, for organizing this hearing, and the Honorable Judge Richard Neville for providing his guidance and management this evening.

I also want to thank Joseph Horn and Continuum Dynamics for conducting an extensive study and presenting the findings to the public.

We began the process of studying the feasibility of a rooftop heliport on our new hospital more than five years ago. Our top priority since day one has been safety. We engaged several of the industry's leading experts in heliport planning and wind analyses to advise us in this effort. After reviewing their comprehensive reports, we felt comfortable proceeding with our plans to submit an application to IDOT for rooftop heliport approval.

In anticipation of our future operations, we have developed an initial set of protocols and procedures to ensure that this heliport would be operated as safely as possible. Although the initial draft of our procedures and limitations is more comprehensive and forward thinking than any existing helipad that we know of, we are committed to further refine this document as we gather more information.

Today, we commend IDOT for their decision to engage independent wind experts to review our studies and conduct their own analysis of the airwake effects on heliport operations at our new hospital, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, which will open in June of 2012.

We are pleased that this extensive, comprehensive and independent analysis essentially confirms our experts' findings. We believe this study supports our institution's conclusion that a heliport can be safely operated on the roof of Lurie Children's. We are very happy to have the benefit of this report as we move toward our shared goal of maintaining the highest safety standards possible. Towards this end, we are pleased that the report offers additional recommendations for how to ensure that the heliport is operated as safely as possible, and we look forward to working with our experts and IDOT to further analyze these recommendations.

I want to close with one final point. Following this hearing, IDOT will make a decision about whether to enact their Order and grant us heliport approval. We urge IDOT to grant this approval, but I want to commit to you that this approval would only be the beginning of our efforts to make this heliport as safe as it can be.

The clinicians, researchers and administrators at Children's Memorial Hospital are dedicated to providing the best care possible to sick children. This is what we do, and we are constantly trying to improve this care to make it better, safer, more effective. We plan to manage and operate this heliport with the same philosophy. IDOT approval would provide us the authority to begin our own rigorous program of evaluating and refining our procedures, operating limitations, use of available equipment, and development of orientation and educational materials for pilots.

Our goal will always be to continue to work to make this heliport as safe as it can be.

Thank you.