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RECEIVED
DEC 22
CGFA

December 19, 2008

VIA FAX: 217-782-3513

Senator Jeffery Schoenberg and Representative Richard Myers, Co-Chairs
Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Co-Chairs Schoenberg and Myers:

AFSCME Council 31 objects in the strongest possible terms to the recommendations submitted to COGFA aimed at closing Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center. Simply stated, the plans to shutter these facilities put money before people—indeed some of our state's most vulnerable people. These closures would harm not just the 1,000 workers employed at the Centers or the regional economy; more importantly they remove from the Southland two centers that provide a desperately needed resource for those whose severe disabilities make it difficult to impossible for them to rely solely on the community-based service system.

This is a second attempt by the Blagojevich Administration to close Tinley Park MHC and sell the valuable land that surrounds it. Four years ago that proposal met with strong resistance from the individuals served and their families as well as community health centers, private hospitals and local governments in the Southland which rely upon the center. Over the ensuing years Tinley MHC and Howe DC suffered such neglect by the Illinois Department of Human Services that they have now been decertified. Those decertifications – brought about by consistent understaffing and poor facility leadership – should not be used to reward the Administration which is responsible for them, while punishing those who still rely on Tinley Park and Howe.

We have heard promises that some of the proceeds from the land sale will be used to strengthen the human service delivery system. In more prosperous economic times similar promises made when other facilities were closed were not kept. It is even less likely that they would be kept in a time of economic crisis when the demands on the state's budget are mounting daily.

Specific Concerns Regarding the Tinley Park MHC Recommendation

When the DHS plan to close Tinley Park in 2004 met with widespread community opposition, DHS convened a Task Force, of which AFSCME was a member. This Task Force – made up of community providers, area hospitals, former patients and their family members, and state trade associations – agreed that a public hospital was needed in the Southland. DHS said it would build a new hospital to replace the old one. That was four years ago and in all that time, nothing had been done to move toward that goal.

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Council 31
TEL (312) 641-6060 FAX (312) 346-1016 WEB www.afscme31.org 29 N. Wacker Dr., Suite 800, Chicago, Illinois 60606

Then last May DHS again announced it would build a new hospital, but in the interim Tinley Park would be downsized to 30 to 40 beds. Again this plan met with opposition. The failure of the recent attempt to redirect patients from the Southland for admission to Madden MHC in the western suburbs and Read MHC on Chicago's North side confirmed the need for 75-100 beds at Tinley. Connecting patients to the community care necessary to prevent hospital readmission is much more difficult when those patients are at a physical remove. And fewer inpatient beds at Tinley meant longer waits for admissions at all three Chicago area hospitals, resulting in backups in private hospital emergency rooms.

DHS has now revised its proposed closure scheme. Instead of calling for an interim downsizing, the department plans to continue operations at the TPMHC while a new facility is built, though all services will be consolidated in the Maple building. However, in public testimony DHS Director Jones did reserve the right to shift patients from Tinley Park to Madden and Read as the need arose, and mental health advocates questioned whether Maple is sufficient to house all necessary services to support even the 75 beds currently open at Tinley. So while a downsizing is not in the formal plan submitted to COGFA, clearly an interim downsizing is still very likely.

Although four years ago, the stakeholder Task Force explicitly called for a *public* hospital, today DHS asserts that any new hospital will be privately operated. Yet private hospitals in the area have said consistently that they are neither prepared to, nor capable of, serving the very acutely ill patients now sent to Tinley. It is not clear that there will be any local private operators willing to take on this role.

DHS explains their desire to privatize by pointing to examples in other states, specifically Florida, Georgia, and Utah. A cursory review of the track record in these states reveals:

- Such a privately-operated hospital is no more a reality—and no less controversial--in Georgia than it is in Illinois. The GA Mental Health Service Delivery Commission -- the Georgia governor's own hand-picked MH experts -- has not endorsed his recently announced privatization initiative. In their recent report, they pointedly did not support the proposal, but instead listed critical questions about privatization that the state must answer prior to awarding a contract. The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* has editorialized against privatization of the state's MH system. According to the editorial (10/7/08), "Justice officials are unlikely to see the move as a legitimate effort on the state's part to improve the quality of care for patients. Taxpayers should also be skeptical of it."

- Florida's 10-year record does not clearly demonstrate whether the state has been able to reduce a high rate of re-hospitalization among patients. It is also difficult to determine whether there has been any substantial cost savings to taxpayers because of privatization. There may be lower per-patient costs, but as the state had already paid the capital costs underlying many of the services – buildings, infrastructure, etc. – taxpayers are already picking up the tab for much of it.

- MH privatization in UT also appears to have its flaws. From the Salt Lake Tribune (7/14/08), "Davis County's sole provider of mental health services to low-income residents wasted $850,000 to create new corporations that didn't help patients, according to a state audit released Thursday. ...Billed as a way to provide better services in the wake of new Medicaid restrictions, the reorganization was approved by Davis County Commission, which 'may not have understood the issues,' according to the audit."

Our greatest concern is whether – if COGFA permits Tinley's closure – a new hospital will ever be built. It is curious that DHS is seeking leave to close Tinley now, before a new hospital has been constructed and before a location or a contractor has been identified. AFSCME does not oppose the construction of a 100 bed public hospital, as was envisioned by the Task Force four years ago. But given the many past attempts by the Blagojevich administration to downsize and close this facility over community opposition, COGFA should not give DHS authority to close at this time. To do so would remove legislative oversight of a still controversial project.

Specific Concerns Regarding Howe DC Recommendation

DHS says Howe is closing because its decertification means the state is unable to claim federal Medicaid matching funds. This is costing the state some $30 million per year. Yet since at least May, 2008, DHS has made no attempt to certify even one unit at Howe, despite pleas from family members and offers of assistance from our union to do so.

Why is DHS not pursing recertification, when more than $30 million is at stake? This is fiscally irresponsible and fuels suspicions that the closure is not about quality of care, but rather about the sale of valuable land. This unwillingness to seek at least partial certification provides further evidence that Howe has been set up to fail.

All of the rhetoric justifying the closure gives the false impression that individuals are now being served in an "institution" and will be moved to "community" placements or "independent living" if the closure goes forward. The reality is very different.

First, DHS's own plan only provides for 75 of Howe's 315 residents to be moved to community group homes. That means that some 240 individuals will be moved to other already overcrowded and/or understaffed state-operated developmental centers—a clear acknowledgement that there is no community-based system of care prepared to serve individuals with the severe developmental disabilities, multiple physical disabilities, behavioral disorders and fragile medical conditions that characterize Howe's population.

Moreover, many families doubt that there will be appropriate community placements available even for the 75 individuals slated to move into them. The credit crisis and state budget crisis have community providers' backs against the financial wall. In fact, up until very recently, DHS was actually planning to reduce the rates at which community providers are reimbursed below last year's level. And even now DHS is proceeding to make large cuts in grants for day training and other vital programs in

community-based agencies. Furthermore, the state owes these agencies millions of dollars in late payments stacked up for months, and the banking crisis means they cannot easily borrow to sustain their cash flow. Howe residents present among the most challenging cases – which means they require the most expensive care. That means Howe residents are the least likely to be accepted for services by reputable providers struggling for financial survival.

At the same time, state developmental centers too are impacted by budget constraints on top of years of inadequate staffing by the Blagojevich administration. There are three facilities listed as placements in the Howe closure plan. DHS says it will send 50 residents to nearby Ludeman and 100 to Shapiro in Kankakee. But neither of these facilities currently has that number of certified beds available. And that is still only 150 possible placements for the 240 (or more) residents who are slated for state center placement. That's why the plan calls for 70 residents to go to Murray Center in Centralia – 250 miles away. Will this really provide a better quality of life for Howe residents? Obviously not.

And while two-thirds of the Howe residents will move to other state centers, the state plans on moving far less staffing capacity to these centers. A total of 370 staff positions will be added to the three facilities above, while Howe employs 800. So these three facilities will be expected to care for two-thirds of the Howe residents with less than half of the staff. These state centers, already understaffed, are now also being set up to fail by this irresponsible administration. And by short staffing more state centers, they will cost Illinois taxpayers millions more in lost Medicaid funding.

The Blagojevich administration's plan does not put resident choice or quality of care first. Hundreds of family members have stated clearly and repeatedly that they have confidence that Howe, with new leadership, can be recertified. And they have rejected the attacks on Howe's reputation by groups who have a record of ideological opposition to state centers. These family members have stated again and again on the record that Howe is today a better place for their loved ones than any alternative placement they have been offered.

Undoubtedly, Howe's decertification by the federal government and the related charges leveled against it by Equip for Equality have tarnished the center's longstanding reputation for providing high quality care and services. However, it is very wrong to assume that the problems that have been identified are irremediable. In fact, even a cursory reading of the findings makes clear that many are matters of routine housekeeping and recordkeeping which can readily be corrected with greater managerial rigor and oversight, while others—including some of the most serious and tragic—are a direct result of inadequate staffing levels. Few, if any, are due to outright negligence or abuse, as closure proponents have attempted to suggest.

Finally, it is important to point out the false dichotomy established by closure proponents between state centers and "the community". In reality, Howe DC is in a community—right in the heart of Tinley Park—and is itself a community. With intensive staff support, many Howe residents regularly are able to go to movies, sports events, churches, shopping centers and other venues in the broader Tinley Park

community. And the Howe campus, with its small cottages (akin to group homes) provides its own community for residents—long-term staff who know well and care greatly for the individuals they serve, a wide variety of group activities, such as sports, games, movies, etc., and strong bonds among the individuals themselves.

Larger impacts of the closures

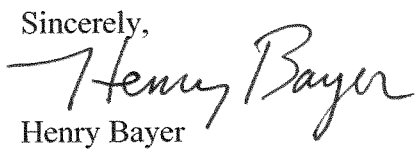
While the welfare of the residents at Howe and the patients who need Tinley Park must be every stakeholder's primary concern, the economic loss to the Southland if both facilities close should also raise concerns. The economic impact studies submitted by DHS understate the devastation of 1,000 job losses in the current economic climate.

DHS provides a very thin economic impact study. The authors are fairly forthright in that they say they can't predict much of the impact because the plan is not yet clear. But what is clear that over 1,000 jobs that provide a living wage, with good benefits, are being eliminated. On page 8 of the study the authors indicate that only 12-20% of these employees are expected to be transferred to other facilities in the greater Chicago region. They state a direct loss of over $35 million in employee salaries to Cook County alone. They estimate a total labor income impact of over $90 million dollars. If this were a corporation shutting down, state government would be working to prevent these job losses. In the current economy, for state government to be cutting jobs at this rate – especially when vulnerable people are being hurt by the closure at the same time – is highly irresponsible.

AFSCME Council 31 is committed to quality care at state centers and in community settings, where we represent thousands of direct care employees. Our union offered our full cooperation in any effort to ensure recertification. In fact, Council 31 offered as late as May, 2008 to provide technical assistance for an employee involvement program that would more fully draw on the ideas of facility employees to develop a strategy for recertification. DHS never responded to that offer, calling into question whether the department sincerely wanted to recertify the facilities or was merely seeking to hasten their demise.

We ask the Commission to reject the closures of both Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC. At the same time the Commission should urge DHS to immediately put in place a new management team at Howe Center which is committed to the recertification process. The Commission should also inform DHS that it will only consider a Tinley Park closure plan at the point when there is a new public mental health center ready to open in the Southland.

Sincerely,



Henry Bayer
Executive Director

cc: COGFA members

CAMPAIGN TO SAVE
HOWE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER - TINLEY PARK MENTAL HEALTH CENTER
935 West 175th Street – Homewood, IL 60430

Statement of Purpose

The undersigned organizations hereby state their opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center, and urge Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facilities.

Endorsers

Howe Families and Friends Association

Illinois League of Advocates for the Developmentally Disabled

Lansing Assembly of God

St. Julie Billiart Church

St. Gregorios Cathedral Church

Trinity All Nations Church

Brookfield Kiwanis Club

Joliet Area Community Hospice

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Council 31

Cement Mason's Local 11

Laborer's Union Local 75

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 19

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 21

Illinois Federation of Public Employees Local 4408, IFT

Township Supervisory Thomas J. Somer, Bloom Township

Robert E. Polk and the Village of Burnham Board

Mayor Michelle Markiewicz Qualkinbush and the Calumet City City Council

Mayor Anthony De Luca, and the Chicago Heights City Council

Chief of Police Anthony J. Murphy, Chicago Heights

President Larry Stringfellow, School District 170, Chicago Heights

Mayor Dwight Welch and the Country Club Hills City Council

Mayor Keevan Grimmett and the Village of Dixmoor

Mayor Saul L. Beck and the Village of Ford Heights

Mayor Eric J. Kellogg and the City of Harvey City Council

Mayor Robert B. Donaldson and the Village of Hazel Crest Board of Trustees

President Richard A. Hofeld of Homewood

Mayor David Webb Jr. and the Markham City Council

President Andre B. Ashmore and the Village of Matteson Board of Trustees

Mayor Timothy A. Baldermann of New Lenox

President Linzey D. Jones and the Village of Olympia Fields Board of Trustees

President Terry Wells and the Village of Phoenix Board of Trustees

President Donald W. Schupek and the Village of Posen Board of Trustees

President Richard P. Reinbold, Village of Richton Park

President Zenobia Evans and the Village of Riverdale Board of Trustees

President David L. Owen and the Village of South Chicago Heights Board of Trustees

President Don A. DeGraff and the Village of South Holland Board of Trustees

President Edward S. Guzdziol and the Village of Worth

Lawrence M. Walsh, Will County Executive

U.S. Representative Jesse Jackson, Jr., 2nd District

Village of Richton Park

RICHARD REINBOLD
Village President

BENJAMIN HUGHES
Village Trustee

CYNTHIA BUTLER
Village Trustee

STEVEN DUDLEY
Village Trustee

VALERIE BABKA
Village Trustee

SHARON D. KRIHA
Village Trustee

HARRY OLSON
Village Trustee

MARY E. PIERCE
Village Clerk

12-5-08

State Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg
State Representative Richard P. Myers
Co-Chairmen
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Myers,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center. Both of these facilities provide vital services to Richton Park and the rest of the Southland area.

The fact is that there are no comparable alternatives to providing care in the south suburbs for individuals with mental health crises or high need developmental disabilities. Without the safety net provide by these facilities many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration. Others will be removed far from their families or will receive inadequate care.

In addition, closure would mean the loss of 800 jobs with decent wages, pensions, and health benefits. This would be a severe economic blow to our area, one we are especially unable to afford in the current recession.

Sincerely,

Proud Past - Bright Future

Rick Reinbold
Village President

4455 SAUK TRAIL • RICHTON PARK, ILLINOIS 60471-1197 • 708-481-8950 • FAX 708-481-8980 • www.richtonpark.org

VILLAGE OF NEW LENOX

1 VETERANS PARKWAY
NEW LENOX, ILLINOIS 60451

VILLAGE OFFICE 815.462.6400
FAX NUMBER 815.462.6449
BUILDING DEPT. FAX 815.462.6469

MAYOR
TIMOTHY BALDERMANN

ADMINISTRATOR
RUSS LOEBE

VILLAGE CLERK
MARCIA ENGLERT

TRUSTEES
ANNETTE BOWDEN
DAVID BUTTERFIELD
NANCY DYE
KEITH MADSEN
DAVID SMITH
RAY TUMINELLO

December 3, 2008

Mr. Daniel R. Long, Executive Director
State of Illinois
Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield IL 62706

Dear Mr. Long:

Recent announcements from Governor Blagojevich regarding the closure of the Howe Developmental Center and the shut down of admissions to the Tinley Park Mental Health Center are disconcerting. Unfortunately, my schedule does not permit me to personally attend the December 11th meeting but I wanted voice my displeasure at the prospect of closing these valuable facilities.

The closure of these two facilities would cause undo harm to individuals that look to their state government for their care and welfare. Moving disabled individuals from the home that they know and requiring their family members to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause stress and suffering that is not necessary. Annually, 2,000 admissions are made to the Tinley Park Mental Health Center which shows a great need for the services of the center.

During these hard economic times, job loss is an issue that government officials need to help address. By closing these facilities, the government would be adding another 800 permanent jobs to the loss column. This should not be acceptable and should be avoided at all costs.

At the end of the day, the health and well-being of ALL citizens of the State of Illinois should be taken into account.

Sincerely,

VILLAGE OF NEW LENOX

Timothy A. Baldermann
Mayor

Copy: Governor Rod Blagojevich
Senate President Emil Jones
House Speaker Michael J. Madigan

TREE CITY USA

#1078

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF RIVERDALE, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN SUPPORT OF HOWE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER AND TINLEY PARK MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

WHEREAS, the Howe Developmental Center ("Howe DC") in Tinley Park, Illinois, is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Howe DC has small homes on a campus setting and offers extensive support such as psychiatric and behavioral services, 24/7 nursing care, access to medical services on grounds and at the University of Illinois Hospital, and on-site medical and dental clinics, all of which are not readily available in community group homes; and

WHEREAS, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center ("Tinley Park MHC") in Tinley Park, Illinois provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for southern Cook County and the collar counties; and

WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich's administration has announced that it is closing both Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

WHEREAS, the administration says it will "redistribute" most of the residents from Howe DC to other state-operated developmental centers, such as the Murray Developmental Center in downstate Centralia some 250 miles away; and

WHEREAS, moving disabled individuals from their home and requiring families to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause great harm and suffering; and

WHEREAS, shuttering Tinley Park MHC would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, providing a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professional and paraprofessionals specially trained to serve patients suffering from very severe mental illness as well as planning which links patients to community outpatient resources; and

WHEREAS, some 2,000 admissions annually to Tinley Park MHC are a clear indication of the great need for its services, and the demand for services at the center; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable alternatives to providing care to these populations in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis while community group homes for the developmentally disabled are too underfunded and understaffed to handle individuals with complex needs; and

WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too

many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Riverdale, Cook County, Illinois, that the Village of Riverdale hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village of Riverdale urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., House Speaker Michael J. Madigan and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent the Village of Riverdale.

PASSED this 25th day of NOVEMBER, A.D., 2008.

Frances Richard-Bey
Village Clerk

APPROVED this 25th day of NOVEMBER, A.D., 2008.

Zenovia G. Evans
Village President

ATTEST:

Frances Richard-Bey
Village Clerk

RECORD OF THE VOTE	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
PRESIDENT ZENOVIA G. EVANS				
TRUSTEE FOY				
TRUSTEE DEAN				
TRUSTEE PEYTON				
TRUSTEE RUSSELL				
TRUSTEE SANDERS				
TRUSTEE SMILEY				

N:\Word\TIM\RIVERDALE\RESOLUTI\2008\HOWE DC & TINLEY PARK MHC.RES

PROCLAMATION

IN SUPPORT OF HOWE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER AND TINLEY PARK MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

WHEREAS, the Howe Developmental Center (Howe DC) in Tinley Park, IL is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Howe DC has small homes on a campus setting and offers extensive supports such as psychiatric and behavioral services, 24/7 nursing care, access to medical services on grounds and at the University of Illinois Hospital, and on-site medical and dental clinics, all of which are not readily available in community group homes; and

WHEREAS, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center (Tinley Park MH) in Tinley Park, IL provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for southern Cook County and the collar counties; and

WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich's administration has announced that it is closing both Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

WHEREAS, the administration says it will "redistribute" most of the residents from Howe DC to other state-operated developmental centers, such as the Murray Developmental Center in downstate Centralia some 250 miles away; and

WHEREAS, moving disabled individuals from their home and requiring families to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause great harm and suffering; and

WHEREAS, shuttering Tinley Park MHC would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, providing a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professional and paraprofessionals specially trained to serve patients suffering from very severe mental illness as well as planning which links patients to community outpatient resources; and

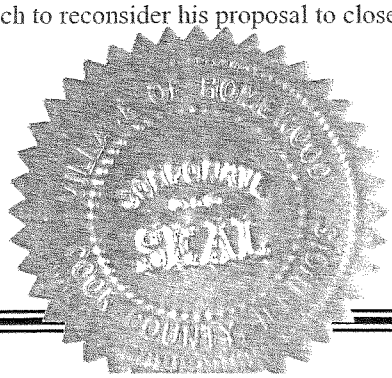
WHEREAS, some 2,000 admissions annually to Tinley Park MHC are a clear indication of the great need for its services, and the demand for services at the center; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable alternatives to providing care to these populations in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis while community group homes for the developmentally disabled are too underfunded and understaffed to handle individuals with complex needs; and

WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MCH and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, Richard A. Hofeld, Mayor of Homewood, Illinois, hereby state my opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urge Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility.



Given under my hand and seal this
first day of December, 2008.

Richard A. Hofeld, Mayor
Homewood, Illinois

Proclamation
In Support of
Howe Development Center
&
Tinley Park Mental Health Center

Whereas, the State of Illinois has announced that it is closing both Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center, Tinley Park, Illinois; and

Whereas, the Howe Developmental Center in Tinley Park, Illinois is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

Whereas, Howe Developmental Center has small homes on a campus setting and offers extensive support such as psychiatric and behavioral services, 24/7 nursing care, access to medical services on grounds and at the University of Illinois Hospital, and on-site medical and dental clinic, all of which are not readily available in community group homes; and

Whereas, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center, Tinley Park, Illinois provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for southern Cook County and the collar counties; and

Whereas, the residents from Howe Developmental Center will be moved to other state-operated developmental centers, such as Murray in downstate Centralia, nearly 250 miles away; and

Whereas, the closing of Tinley Park Mental Health Center would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, providing a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professionally trained individuals meeting the needs of its severely mentally ill residents while providing employment for nearly 800 individuals who currently receive fair wages and good benefits; and

Whereas, the closing of Tinley Park Mental Health Center provides an important link to community outpatient resources with its nearly 2,000 annual admissions; and

Whereas, there are no comparable alternatives available to provide these much needed services in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis; and

Whereas, any current community group homes for the developmentally disabled are currently underfunded and understaffed to provide services for those with complex needs.

Without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Village of Matteson hereby declares its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges the State of Illinois to reconsider the proposal to close these facilities and that the Village of Matteson urges our legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent the Village of Matteson.

André B. Ashmore
Village President

(Seal)

Dorothy Grisco
Village Clerk

RESOLUTION

In support of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center

WHEREAS, the Howe Developmental Center (Howe DC) in Tinley Park, Illinois is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Howe DC has small homes on a campus setting and offers extensive supports such as psychiatric and behavioral services, 24/7 nursing care, access to medical services on grounds and at the University of Illinois Hospital, and on site medical and dental clinics, all of which are not readily available in community group homes; and

WHEREAS, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center ("Tinley Park MHC") in Tinley Park, Illinois provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for southern Cook County and the collar counties; and

WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich's administration has announced that it is closing both Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

WHEREAS, the administration says it will "redistribute" most of the residents from Howe DC to other state-operated developmental centers, such as the Murray Developmental Center in downstate Centralia some 250 miles away; and

WHEREAS, moving disabled individuals from their home and requiring families to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause great harm and suffering; and

WHEREAS, shuttering Tinley Park MHC would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, providing a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professional and paraprofessionals specially trained to serve patients suffering from very severe mental illness as well as planning which links patients to community outpatient resources; and

WHEREAS, some 2,000 admissions annually to Tinley Park MHC are a clear indication of the great need for its services, and the demand for services at the center; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable alternatives to providing care to these populations in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis while community group homes for the developmentally disabled are too underfunded and understaffed to handle individuals with complex needs; and

WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The Village of Burnham hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The Village of Burnham urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent The Village of Burnham.

R-18-08

RESOLUTION

In support of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center

WHEREAS, the Howe Developmental Center (Howe DC) in Tinley Park, Illinois is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Howe DC has small homes on a campus setting and offers extensive supports such as psychiatric and behavioral services, 24/7 nursing care, access to medical services on grounds and at the University of Illinois Hospital, and on site medical and dental clinics, all of which are not readily available in community group homes; and

WHEREAS, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center ("Tinley Park MHC") in Tinley Park, Illinois provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for southern Cook County and the collar counties; and

WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich's administration has announced that it is closing both Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

WHEREAS, the administration says it will "redistribute" most of the residents from Howe DC to other state-operated developmental centers, such as the Murray Developmental Center in downstate Centralia some 250 miles away; and

WHEREAS, moving disabled individuals from their home and requiring families to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause great harm and suffering; and

WHEREAS, shuttering Tinley Park MHC would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, providing a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professional and paraprofessionals specially trained to serve patients suffering from very severe mental illness as well as planning which links patients to community outpatient resources; and

WHEREAS, some 2,000 admissions annually to Tinley Park MHC are a clear indication of the great need for its services, and the demand for services at the center; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable alternatives to providing care to these populations in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis while community group homes for the developmentally disabled are too underfunded and understaffed to handle individuals with complex needs; and

WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Country Club Hills hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor & City Council of the City of Country Club Hills urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, *Jr.,* House Speaker Michael *J.* Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent The City of Country Club Hills.

Passed by Roll Call Vote this 24th dayof November, 2008.

Ayes - 9 - Aldermen Watts, Hutson, Battie, Comein, Singleton, Lockett, Martin, Williams and Ford.

Nays -0

Absent 1- Alderman Lee.

Dwight W. Welch, Mayor

Deborah M. McIlvain, City Clerk

RESOLUTION

In support of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center

WHEREAS, the Howe Developmental Center (Howe DC) in Tinley Park, Illinois is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

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WHEREAS, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center ("Tinley Park MHC") in Tinley Park, Illinois provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for southern Cook County and the collar counties; and

WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich's administration has announced that it is closing both Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

WHEREAS, the administration says it will "redistribute" most of the residents from Howe DC to other state-operated developmental centers, such as the Murray Developmental Center in downstate Centralia some 250 miles away; and

WHEREAS, moving disabled individuals from their home and requiring families to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause great harm and suffering; and

WHEREAS, shuttering Tinley Park MHC would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, providing a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professional and paraprofessionals specially trained to serve patients suffering from very severe mental illness as well as planning which links patients to community outpatient resources; and

WHEREAS, some 2,000 admissions annually to Tinley Park MHC are a clear indication of the great need for its services, and the demand for services at the center; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable alternatives to providing care to these populations in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis while community group homes for the developmentally disabled are too underfunded and understaffed to handle individuals with complex needs; and

WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that TANC (organization name) Trinity all Nations church hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that TANC (organization name) Trinity all Nations church urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent TANC (organization name) Trinity all Nations church

RESOLUTION

In support of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center

WHEREAS, the Howe Developmental Center (Howe DC) in Tinley Park, Illinois is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Howe DC has small homes on a campus setting and offers extensive supports such as psychiatric and behavioral services, 24/7 nursing care, access to medical services on grounds and at the University of Illinois Hospital, and on site medical and dental clinics, all of which are not readily available in community group homes; and

WHEREAS, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center ("Tinley Park MHC") in Tinley Park, Illinois provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for southern Cook County and the collar counties; and

WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich's administration has announced that it is closing both Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

WHEREAS, the administration says it will "redistribute" most of the residents from Howe DC to other state-operated developmental centers, such as the Murray Developmental Center in downstate Centralia some 250 miles away; and

WHEREAS, moving disabled individuals from their home and requiring families to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause great harm and suffering; and

WHEREAS, shuttering Tinley Park MHC would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, providing a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professional and paraprofessionals specially trained to serve patients suffering from very severe mental illness as well as planning which links patients to community outpatient resources; and

WHEREAS, some 2,000 admissions annually to Tinley Park MHC are a clear indication of the great need for its services, and the demand for services at the center; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable alternatives to providing care to these populations in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis while community group homes for the developmentally disabled are too underfunded and understaffed to handle individuals with complex needs; and

WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that (organization name) IBEW LOCAL 19 hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that (organization name) IBEW LOCAL 19 urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, *Jr.*, House Speaker Michael *J.* Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent (organization name) IBEW LOCAL 19.

RESOLUTION

In support of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center

WHEREAS, the Howe Developmental Center (Howe DC) in Tinley Park, Illinois is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Howe DC has small homes on a campus setting and offers extensive supports such as psychiatric and behavioral services, 24/7 nursing care, access to medical services on grounds and at the University of Illinois Hospital, and on site medical and dental clinics, all of which are not readily available in community group homes; and

WHEREAS, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center ("Tinley Park MHC") in Tinley Park, Illinois provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for southern Cook County and the collar counties; and

WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich's administration has announced that it is closing both Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

WHEREAS, the administration says it will "redistribute" most of the residents from Howe DC to other state-operated developmental centers, such as the Murray Developmental Center in downstate Centralia some 250 miles away; and

WHEREAS, moving disabled individuals from their home and requiring families to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause great harm and suffering; and

WHEREAS, shuttering Tinley Park MHC would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, providing a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professional and paraprofessionals specially trained to serve patients suffering from very severe mental illness as well as planning which links patients to community outpatient resources; and

WHEREAS, some 2,000 admissions annually to Tinley Park MHC are a clear indication of the great need for its services, and the demand for services at the center; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable alternatives to providing care to these populations in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis while community group homes for the developmentally disabled are too underfunded and understaffed to handle individuals with complex needs; and

WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that (organization name)_____ _____hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that (organization name)_____ urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, *Jr.,* House Speaker Michael *J.* Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent (organization name)_____.

LARRY Stringfellow
PRESIDENT
SCHOOL DIST. #170
CHICAGO HTS. IL 60411

RESOLUTION

In Support of Howe Development and Tinley Park Mental Health Center

WHEREAS, the Howe Development Center (Howe DC) in Tinley Park, Illinois is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

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WHEREAS, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center ("Tinley Park MHC") in Tinley Park, Illinois provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for southern Cook County and the collar counties; and

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WHEREAS, the administration says it will "redistribute" most of the residents from Howe DC to other state-operated developmental centers, such as the Murray Developmental Center in downstate Centralia some 250 miles away; and

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WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE OT RESOLVED, that Thomas J. Somer, Bloom Township Supervisor hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Center and urges Governor Blagojevich reconsider his proposal to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Thomas J. Somer, Bloom Township Supervisor urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas J. Somer
Bloom Township Supervisor

Thomas J. Somer
Bloom Township Supervisor
425 S. Halsted St.
Chicago Heights, IL 60411
(708) 756-4250

RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that (organization name) Cement Mason's local # 11 _____ hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that (organization name) Cement Masons local # 11 _____ urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, *Jr.*, House Speaker Michael *J.* Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent (organization name) Cement Mason's local # 11 .

Charles Frontini President

RESOLUTION

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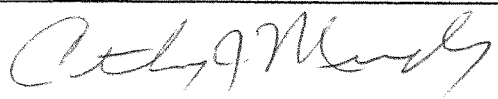
WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that (organization name) _____ hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that (organization name) _____ urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, *Jr.*, House Speaker Michael *J.* Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent (organization name) ANTHONY J. MURPHY CHIEF OF POLICE CHICAGO HEIGHTS



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WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that (organization name) Laborers' Union Local 75 hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that (organization name) Laborers' Union Local 75 urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, *Jr.*, House Speaker Michael *J.* Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent (organization name) Laborers Union Local 75.

RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that St. Gregorios Cathedral Church (organization name) Bellwood. hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that St. Gregorios Cathedral Church, Bellwood (organization name) urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent St. Gregorios Cathedral Church (organization name).

RESOLUTION

In support of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center

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WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that St Julie Billiart Parish Staff (organization name) hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that St Julie Billiart Parish Staff (organization name) urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent St Julie Billiart Parish Staff (organization name).

10-20-08

Rev. STEVEN M. LANZA

Rev. ARTUR SOWA

Deacon MICHAEL E. KILEY

SHEILA M. PLUCHAR

Gael Gensler, GAEL GENSLER

PATRICIA KMAK

MARYALICE ROTH

DEANNE TUMPICH

RESOLUTION

In support of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center

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WHEREAS, some 2,000 admissions annually to Tinley Park MHC are a clear indication of the great need for its services, and the demand for services at the center; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable alternatives to providing care to these populations in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis while community group homes for the developmentally disabled are too underfunded and understaffed to handle individuals with complex needs; and

WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that _____(organization name) BROOKFIELD KIWANIS CLUB hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that _____(organization name) BROOKFIELD KIWANIS CLUB urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent _____(organization name) BROOKFIELD KIWANIS CLUB.

Maureen Lauer
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBER
BROOKFIELD KIWANIS CLUB

VILLAGE OF POSEN
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-07

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HOWE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER AND TINLEY PARK MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

WHEREAS, the Howe Developmental Center (Howe DC) in Tinley Park, Illinois is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Howe DC has small homes on a campus setting and offers extensive supports such as psychiatric and behavioral services, 24/7 nursing care, access to medical services on grounds and at the University of Illinois Hospital, and on site medical and dental clinics, all of which are not readily available in community group homes; and

WHEREAS, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center ("Tinley Park MHC") in Tinley Park, Illinois provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for southern Cook County and the collar counties, and

WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich's administration has announced that it is closing both Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC, and

WHEREAS, the administration says it will "redistribute" most of the residents from Howe DC to other state-operated developmental centers, such as the Murray Developmental Center in downstate Centralia some 250 miles away; and

WHEREAS, moving disabled individuals from their home and requiring families to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause great harm and suffering; and

WHEREAS, shuttering Tinley Park MHC would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, providing a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professional and paraprofessionals specially trained to serve patients suffering from very severe mental illness as well as planning which links patients to community outpatient resources; and

WHEREAS, some 2,000 admissions annually to Tinley Park MHC are a clear indication of the great need for its services, and the demand for services at the center; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable alternatives to providing care to those populations in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis while community group homes for the developmentally disabled are too underfunded and understaffed to handle individuals with complex needs, and

WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF POSEN, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: The Village of Posen hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility.

SECTION 2: The Village of Posen urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continuing operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC.

SECTION 3: Suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President John Cullerton, House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent the Village of Posen.

Passed this 9th day of December, 2008, on the following roll call vote.

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

ABSENT: _____

Approved by me this 9th day of December, 2008

Donald W. Schupek
Village President

Attested to this 9th day of December, 2008

Veronica Grabowski
Village Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 08-25

IN SUPPORT OF HOWE DEVELOPMENT CENTER AND TINLEY PARK MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

WHEREAS, the Howe Developmental Center ("Howe DC") in Tinley Park, Illinois is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Howe DC has small homes on a campus setting and offers extensive supports such as psychiatric and behavioral services, 24/7 nursing care, access to medical services on grounds and at the University of Illinois Hospital, and on site medical and dental clinics, all of which are not readily available in community group homes; and

WHEREAS, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center ("Tinley Park MHC") in Tinley Park, Illinois provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for Southern Cook County and collar counties; and

WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich's administration has announced that it is closing both Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

WHEREAS, the administration says it will "redistribute" most of the residents from Howe Dc to other state-operated developmental centers, such as the Murray Developmental Center in downstate Centralia, some 250 miles away; and

WHEREAS, moving disabled individuals from their home and requiring families to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause great harm and suffering; and

WHEREAS, shuttering Tinley Park MHC would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, providing a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professionals and paraprofessionals specially trained to serve patients suffering from very severe mental illness, as well as, planning which links patients to community outpatient resources; and

WHEREAS, some 2,000 admissions annually to Tinley Park MHC are a clear indication of the great need for its services, and the demand for services at the center; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable alternatives to providing care to these populations in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis, while community group homes for the developmentally disabled are too underfunded and understaffed to handle individuals with complex needs; and

WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Chicago Heights hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Chicago Heights urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent the City of Chicago Heights.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois this 4th day of December, 2008.

Anthony De Luca

Anthony De Luca
Mayor

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSENT: _____

ATTEST:

Ethel M Taylor

City Clerk

Phone: 708.331.4905
Fax: 708.331.8667
Police: 708.331.2171

City of Markham

16313 KEDZIE PARKWAY
(HONORABLE MAYOR EVANS R. MILLER PARKWAY)
MARKHAM, ILLINOIS 60428

DAVID WEBB, JR., *Mayor* JENNIFER COLES, *City Clerk* KAREN COHN, *City Treasurer*

CERTIFICATION

I, Jennifer Coles, do hereby certify that I am the duly elected and qualified City Clerk of the

City of Markham, Illinois, County of Cook.

I further certify that the attached is a true and correct copy of _____

Resolution 08-R-393B A Resolution in support of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center.

Passed by the City Council of the City of Markham, at their __Regular_____

Meeting on the __19th__ Day of _November__, 2008_____

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of

Markham, this __05th_ day of __December 2008_, at Markham,

Illinois.

_____
Jennifer, City Clerk
By: Estella Thomas, Deputy Clerk

(S E A L)

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARKHAM, ILLINOIS

RESOLUTION NO. 08 - R - 393B

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HOWE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER AND TINLEY PARK MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

WHEREAS, the Howe Developmental Center (Howe DC) in Tinley Park, Illinois is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Howe DC has small homes in a campus setting and offers extensive supports such as psychiatric and behavioral services, 24/7 nursing care, access to medical services on grounds and at the University of Illinois Hospital, and on site medical and dental clinics, all of which are not readily available in community group homes; and

WHEREAS, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center ("Tinley Park MHC") in Tinley Park, Illinois provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for southern Cook County and collar counties; and

WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich's administration has announced that it is closing both Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

WHEREAS, the administration says it will "redistribute" most of the residents from Howe DC to other state-operated developmental centers, such as the Murray Developmental Center in downstate Centralia more than 250 miles away; and

WHEREAS, moving disabled individuals from their home and requiring families to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause great harm and suffering; and

WHEREAS, shuttering Tinley Park MHC would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, keeping the facility open would provide a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professional and paraprofessionals specially trained to serve patients suffering from very severe mental illness as well as planning which links patients to community outpatient resources; and

WHEREAS, some 2,000 admissions annually to Tinley Park MHC are a clear indication of the great need for its services, and the demand for services at the center; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable alternatives to providing care to these populations in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis while community group homes for the developmentally disabled are too underfunded and understaffed to handle individuals with complex needs; and

WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employs some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Markham, Illinois, as follows:

Section 1. The City of Markham opposes to the closure of Howe Development Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility.

Section 2. The City of Markham urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe Development Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center.

Section 3. That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent Howe Development Center, Tinley Mental Health Center and surrounding legislative districts.

Section 4. This resolution shall be effective upon passage, approval and publication according to law.

Section 5. All resolutions or portions of resolutions in conflict with the terms and provisions of this resolution are hereby rescinded and revoked to the extent of such conflict.

ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARKHAM, ILLINOIS, ON THE 19TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2008, ON THE MOTION OF ALDERMAN Clifton Howard AND THE SECOND OF ALDERMAN Geraldine Dudek AND THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE:

4 AYES, Ø NAYS, Ø ABSTENTIONS AND Ø ABSENT

APPROVED BY ME THIS 19TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2008.

DAVID WEBB, JR., Mayor

ATTEST:

JENNIFER COLES, City Clerk

CAMPAIGN TO SAVE
HOWE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER - TINLEY PARK MENTAL HEALTH CENTER
935 West 175th Street - Homewood, IL 60430

Statement of Purpose

The undersigned organizations hereby state their opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center, and urge Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facilities.

Endorsers

Howe Families and Friends Association

Illinois League of Advocates for the Developmentally Disabled

Lansing Assembly of God

St. Julie Billiart Church

St. Gregorios Cathedral Church

Trinity All Nations Church

Brookfield Kiwanis Club

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Council 31

Cement Mason's Local 11

Laborer's Union Local 75

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 19

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 21

Illinois Federation of Public Employees Local 4408, IFT

Township Supervisory Thomas J. Somer, Bloom Township

Robert E. Polk and the Village of Burnham Board

Mayor Anthony De Luca, and the Chicago Heights City Council

Chief of Police Anthony J. Murphy, Chicago Heights

President Larry Stringfellow, School District 170, Chicago Heights

Mayor Dwight Welch and the Country Club Hills City Council

President Richard A. Hofeld of Homewood

Mayor David Webb Jr. and the Markham City Council

President Andre B. Ashmore and the Village of Matteson Board of Trustees

Mayor Timothy A. Baldermann of New Lenox

President Terry Wells and the Village of Phoenix Board of Trustees

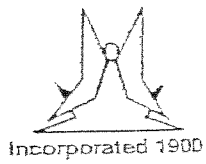
President Donald W. Schupek and the Village of Posen Board of Trustees

President Richard P. Reinbold, Village of Richton Park

President Zenobia Evans and the Village of Riverdale Board of Trustees

U.S. Representative Jesse Jackson, Jr., 2nd District

VILLAGE OF PHOENIX
633 EAST 151ST STREET - PHOENIX, IL. 60426
Telephone 708-331-2636 Fax 708-331-2642
www.villageofphoenix.com



VILLAGE PRESIDENT
Terry R. Wells

VILLAGE CLERK
Johnnie M. Lane

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR
Dorothy Carter

VILLAGE TRUSTEES
Albert Kirklin
Arthur T. Burton, Jr.
Jerome Ferrell, Jr.
Martina Mahaffey
Elizabeth Loggins
Willie Mae Smith

RESOLUTION
In Support of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center

WHEREAS, the Howe Development Center (Howe DC) in Tinley Park, Illinois is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Howe DC has small homes on a campus setting and offers extensive supports such as psychiatric and behavioral services, 24/7 nursing care, access to medical services on grounds and at the University of Illinois Hospital, and on site medical and dental clinics, all of which are not readily available in community group homes; and

WHEREAS, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center ("Tinley Park MHC") in Tinley Park, Illinois provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for southern Cook County and the collar counties; and

WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich's administration has announced that it is closing both Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

WHEREAS, the administration says it will "redistribute" most of the residents from Howe DC to other state-operated developmental centers, such as the Murray Developmental Center in downstate Centralia some 250 miles away; and

WHEREAS, moving disabled individuals from their home and requiring families to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause great harm and suffering; and

WHEREAS, shutting Tinley Park MHC would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, providing a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professional and paraprofessionals specially trained to serve patients suffering from very severe mental illness as well as planning which links patients to community outpatient resources; and

WHEREAS, some 2,000 admissions annually to Tinley Park MHC are a clear indication of the great need for its services, and the demand for services at the center; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable alternatives to providing care to these populations in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis while community group homes for the developmentally disables are too under funded and under staffed to handle individuals with complex needs; and

WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Phoenix hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village of Phoenix urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, and all member of the Illinois General Assembly who represent the Village of Phoenix.

ADOPTED this 25 day of November 2008, pursuant to a roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Trustees Albert Kirklin, Arthur Burton, Jerome Ferrell, Jr. Martina Mahaffey, Elizabeth Loggins & Willie Mae Smith.

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Terry R. Wells, Village President

ATTEST:

Johnnie M. Lane, Village Clerk

RESOLUTION

In support of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center

WHEREAS, the Howe Developmental Center (Howe DC) in Tinley Park, Illinois is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Howe DC has small homes on a campus setting and offers extensive supports such as psychiatric and behavioral services, 24/7 nursing care, access to medical services on grounds and at the University of Illinois Hospital, and on site medical and dental clinics, all of which are not readily available in community group homes; and

WHEREAS, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center ("Tinley Park MHC") in Tinley Park, Illinois provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for southern Cook County and the collar counties; and

WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich's administration has announced that it is closing both Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

WHEREAS, the administration says it will "redistribute" most of the residents from Howe DC to other state-operated developmental centers, such as the Murray Developmental Center in downstate Centralia some 250 miles away; and

WHEREAS, moving disabled individuals from their home and requiring families to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause great harm and suffering; and

WHEREAS, shuttering Tinley Park MHC would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, providing a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professional and paraprofessionals specially trained to serve patients suffering from very severe mental illness as well as planning which links patients to community outpatient resources; and

WHEREAS, some 2,000 admissions annually to Tinley Park MHC are a clear indication of the great need for its services, and the demand for services at the center; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable alternatives to providing care to these populations in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis while community group homes for the developmentally disabled are too underfunded and understaffed to handle individuals with complex needs; and

WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that _____(organization name)_____ hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that _____(organization name)_____ urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent _____(organization name)_____.