

The opioid crisis and other substance abuse and mental health issues have stolen countless lives and devastated families in every community. It doesn't discriminate, impacting all ages, races, classes and education levels. Thousands of people from DuPage County, including Itasca and other nearby communities, have sought care far from home.

In April, Haymarket Center began outreach to, and held meetings with the mayor and Itasca officials to discuss the Holiday Inn location, an ideal spot given its location in an industrial park and easily convertible to a medical facility. Throughout our conversations with the mayor, we were clear of our intentions to be a partner with the village and sought to explore ways to bring additional services to your community. We will continue to act in good faith as we present our plans and work diligently to dispel rumors that paint an unflattering and false representation of this project.

The hotel ownership detailed the reasons that they would no longer be extending their Holiday Inn license agreement at this location. They cited reduced demand, a difficult location, an aging facility, increased competition from and lack of access from the highway. The taxes received from this hotel have continued to decline. We understand the community concerns about the reduction in revenues and that is why Haymarket Center is carefully examining how we can help. This includes:

- Retaining private ambulance service to minimize any burden on the community's first responders;
- Being a good partner with first responders, medical providers and others in the Village and nearby communities to support and treat individuals and their families who are suffering with substance use and mental health issues;
- Bringing an employment benefit to the community by hiring 160+ full time professional medical staff who will be eating, shopping, buying gas and living in the community;
- Partnering, as we have done with other communities, to acquire 3rd party grants to garner additional revenues and services for Itasca and DuPage;
- Offering training and educational programs to schools, churches, first responders, etc. ; and
- Continuing to provide access to meeting facilities for community groups.

Our patients will not negatively impact the Itasca community. Our presence will not deflate home values or create crime and drug use in your community. We are a long-standing, highly reputable medical provider. Our Center in Chicago's West Loop/Fulton Market District calls million-dollar condominiums and corporations such as Google and McDonald's our neighbors. We intend to bring that same reputable operation to Itasca.

We look forward to working with the Mayor, village administration and the community so everyone can better understand our intentions of being a strong and valuable community partner.

Dr. Dan Lustig
President & CEO