



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
**301 River Park Drive**  
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April 10, 2008

Councilman Eddie Jackson  
Councilman Delbert Marion  
Councilman Robert Eastern III  
Councilman Roy Mosley Sr.  
All Other Elected Officials  
Corporate Citizens  
Churches  
Community Organizations  
Public Entities  
All Interested in Healthcare Justice  
All Residents of East St. Louis and the Greater Community

This letter thanks you for all support you have given to keeping Kenneth Hall Regional Hospital from merging with Touchette Regional Hospital and to keeping a full-service hospital in East St. Louis. It also points out our potential next steps as a community and asks for your continued support.

You have helped us to stand mightily, and for that, I am eternally grateful. Take a quick verbal look at how we have stood.

1. Over 30,000 people have signed letters and petitions opposing the merger and asking the State of Illinois to keep a full-service hospital.
2. Over 700 people attended a public hearing in the City Hall Rotunda of East St. Louis to express the same on August 24, 2007.
3. Over 400 people marched and rallied in East St. Louis to express the same on November 9, 2007.
4. 1,000 people travelled to Springfield, IL on January 15, 2008 to ensure that the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board felt our presence.
5. People braved the snow, sleet, ice, and rain on January 31, 2008 to protest the closing of the Trauma Center.
6. About 400 people participated in the Jericho Walk to pray for the future of the hospital on March 30, 2008.

7. Close to 1,000 people attended the hearing in Springfield, IL on April 8, 2008 to ensure that the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board felt our presence.
8. Our churches, businesses, community organizations, philanthropists, and citizens in general have supported our efforts ferociously.
9. Many of our elected officials have supported our position.
10. The East St. Louis City Council resolved unanimously to oppose the merger and to support the keeping of a hospital in East St. Louis.

As you know, the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board granted the operator of the hospitals the merger, with a stipulation that they would improve the emergency room in East St. Louis.

We have two major responsibilities in the months ahead.

1. To ensure, along with the Illinois Department of Public Health, that the operators do improve the emergency room to the level that East St. Louis deserves.
2. To plan for the building and operation of a brand new hospital that is located in the City of East St. Louis, preferably in our medical district.

We will need your continued support as we move forward.

This has thanked you for your efforts. It has also asked you to continue working for the best in hospital care for East St. Louis and our region.

Please contact us at 618-482-6601 if you questions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Alvin Parks Jr.  
Mayor  
City of East St. Louis