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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tobolski Asks 'Where Was Tony Peraica on "Country Club" Hospital'?

"Why didn't Tony Peraica, or the Board for that matter, know about this sooner? It's their job to oversee the Oak Forest Hospital. I think this is yet another example of a talking head instead of moving feet ."- Jeff Tobolski

La Grange, IL – Yesterday's disturbing *Sun-Times* investigative report labeling Oak Forest Hospital "Country Club" Hospital has led Cook County Commissioner Candidate and McCook Mayor Jeff Tobolski to call upon Tony Peraica and the Cook County Board to do their jobs, and stop wasting taxpayer money.

The report stated that "on a given day, more than two-thirds of its 213 beds are empty, and 21 percent of the buildings on its hilltop campus are vacant," yet the hospital remains staffed by 743 doctors, nurses and other employees while only 55 patients on average are hospitalized there. That comes to 13 staffers for each hospitalized patient -- nearly triple the national average.

"When I was reading the story I came across a quote from our perpetually outraged Commissioner, Tony Peraica. He stated that he doesn't know what these employees have been doing with their time, and wants an audit conducted. This is typical. A story breaks, and Tony Peraica jumps into the foray to express his opinion," said Tobolski. "Why didn't Tony Peraica, or the Board for that matter, know about this sooner? It's their job to oversee the Oak Forest Hospital.

"I think this is yet another example of a talking head instead of moving feet. He has been Commissioner now for eight years, and hasn't done anything except scream about county inefficiencies after the fact," said Tobolski. "The County Board established the Independent Hospital Board to root out waste and fraud, and all it ended up doing was passing the buck. Taxpayers are fed up with excuses."

Cook County District 16 includes the villages of Berwyn, Cicero, Schiller Park, Franklin Park, McCook, Hodgkins, Lyons, Summit, Willow Springs, Countryside, Western Springs, LaGrange, LaGrange Park, Northlake, Forest Park, Westchester, Stone Park, Berkley, Broadview, Hillside, Melrose Park, Brookfield, Riverside, North Riverside, and Stickney.

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