



Thomas P. McNamara
Mayor
Office of the Mayor

March 14, 2018

Kathryn Olson, Board Chair
Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Re: Alpine Dialysis (Proj. No. 17-039)

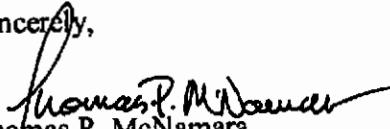
Dear Ms. Olson:

I am the Mayor of Rockford, Illinois, a vibrant community of approximately 150,000 residents that bridges the Rock River in northern Illinois. Rockford is a close-knit community with a small-town feel, but we are also the largest city in Illinois outside of the Chicago metropolitan area, and we have many wonderful amenities and area businesses. While our size greatly benefits our community, it also means that travelling "across town" takes more time than it used to, and it can also create difficulty for those who are chronically ill and lack convenient access to transportation.

Because of this, I write to support the proposed Alpine Dialysis clinic. Currently there are no dialysis clinics in the southeast portion of the city – an area of town with a tremendous need for dialysis services. Many residents of southeast Rockford are Hispanic or African American – two groups that experience higher rates of kidney disease than the general population. Additionally, southeast Rockford has a lower average income than other areas of the community. This can cause issues with health care access and a lack of health insurance, which also contribute to higher rates of kidney failure because those who have kidney disease may not learn of their illness until it is too late to reverse the problem. It also means folks in this area often rely on public transportation. As a result, it is not unusual for residents with kidney failure in southeast Rockford to take an eighty minute round-trip bus ride to their dialysis appointments elsewhere in town, three times per week. This can be challenging for our elderly and very sick residents, and it can cause some patients to miss their appointments when public transportation is delayed due to inclement weather or traffic. Rockford needs a dialysis clinic in the region where these patients live.

We are fortunate that DaVita is willing to open a dialysis clinic in southeast Rockford to better serve these residents. I am in full support of the proposed Alpine Dialysis clinic and I ask that the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board approve this project.

Sincerely,


Thomas P. McNamara
Mayor of Rockford, Illinois

City of Rockford, Illinois USA

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