



Village of Worth
7112 West 11th Street
Worth, IL 60482
708-448-1181

MARY M. WERNER
Village President

BONNIE M. PRICE
Village Clerk

June 20, 2014

RECEIVED

JUN 23 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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

RE: Chicago Ridge Dialysis (Proj. No. 14-020)

Dear Chairwoman Olson:

I am the Mayor of the Village of Worth, and I am pleased to support DaVita's proposal to establish Chicago Ridge Dialysis. The proposed Chicago Ridge facility is important to me, both professionally and personally. Currently, there is no dialysis facility in Worth or Chicago Ridge; the closest facilities (Stony Creek, Mt. Greenwood and FMC Crestwood) are ten minutes away and highly utilized. While this may not seem significant to someone who has not suffered kidney failure or gone on dialysis, I recently lost a neighbor who suffered from ESRD. I know the hardship dialysis places on the patient and his or her family and friends, and the importance of having a dialysis facility close to home.

Dialysis is stressful not only on the patient but also on his friends and family. Patients on dialysis must dialyze three days per week for 3.5 to 5 hours per treatment, or up to 15 hours a week. When dialysis facilities are highly utilized, patients cannot dialyze on a shift that best meets their lifestyle and must schedule their life around dialysis. As a result, many patients of working age are forced to limit their work schedule or quit their jobs altogether in order to manage their dialysis care, which only complicates their lives. Additionally, they miss important events such as birthdays and family celebrations, games, recitals, school performances, etc.

Further, dialysis is very taxing to the body and there are many difficult side-effects to lost kidney function. As a result, many patients are reliant on friends or family members to transport them to and from their dialysis and must schedule their dialysis when transportation is available, which limits scheduling options. Patients with transportation access issues will often miss their dialysis treatments, which results in non-compliance with the treatment regimen. Studies have shown that skipping one or more dialysis sessions in a month has been associated with a 16% higher risk of hospitalization and 30% increased mortality risk compared to compliant patients.

Having a dialysis facility close to home will allow patients to better manage their disease and their lives. They will be able to spend more time with friends and family. When dialysis is closer to home, scheduling transportation is easier and many patients can even drive themselves to and from their appointments. This would relieve some of the stress on friends and family who otherwise would have to transport the patient to and from dialysis.

There is sufficient need for a dialysis facility in the Chicago Ridge/Worth area. Therefore, I support the proposed Chicago Ridge Dialysis to expand access to much needed dialysis in my community and urge the Board to approve this project.

Sincerely,

Mary M. Werner

Mary M. Werner
Village President
Village of Worth



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
VILLAGE OF CHICAGO RIDGE**

**CHARLES E. TOKAR
MAYOR**

RECEIVED

JUN 23 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

June 19, 2014

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

RE: Chicago Ridge Dialysis (Proj. No. 14-020)

Dear Chairwoman Olson:

I am the Mayor of the Village of Chicago Ridge, and I am pleased to support DaVita's proposal to establish Chicago Ridge Dialysis, a 16-station dialysis facility located at 10511 South Harlem Avenue. This proposed facility will improve access to essential dialysis treatment for residents who live in my community. A dialysis facility in the Chicago Ridge/Worth community is vital to the health of our community.

According to data from The Renal Network, there are 69 dialysis patients residing within 5 minutes of the proposed Chicago Ridge Dialysis; however, there are no dialysis facilities in Chicago Ridge or Worth. The closest facilities (Stony Creek Dialysis, Mt. Greenwood Dialysis, and FMC Crestwood) are 10 minutes away. Importantly, Stony Creek Dialysis and Mt. Greenwood Dialysis are operating above the State utilization standard and FMC Crestwood historically operates at or near the State utilization standard.

Given the high utilization at these facilities, there is limited capacity to accommodate future patients. Based upon the 2010 U.S. Census, approximately 16% of the residents of Chicago Ridge and Worth are uninsured. Implementation of the Affordable Care Act will allow more residents, particularly the working poor, to obtain health insurance. As a result, newly insured individuals, many of whom may not have seen a doctor in over a year, will have better access to primary care and kidney screening. This, in turn, will result in higher numbers of newly diagnosed cases of chronic kidney disease (or CKD). Once diagnosed, many of these patients will be further along in the progression of CKD due to the lack of nephrologist care prior to diagnosis. It is imperative stations are available to treat this new influx of end-stage renal disease (or ESRD) patients, who will require dialysis in the next couple of years.

The proposed facility is located on the immediate border of the Village of Chicago Ridge and Worth. DaVita's proposal will not only directly benefit residents of my community who suffer from ESRD, but also those who could benefit from early detection of kidney disease, intervention, and education. In fact, DaVita's Kidney Smart program helps to improve intervention and education for pre-ESRD patients. The overwhelming majority of CKD Medicare patients (approximately 65-75%) have never been evaluated by a nephrologist. Timely CKD care is imperative for patient morbidity and mortality. Adverse outcomes of CKD can often be prevented or delayed through early detection and treatment.

Given the current and future need for dialysis services in Chicago Ridge and Worth, I support the proposed Chicago Ridge Dialysis to expand access to ESRD care in my community and urge the Board to approve this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles E. Tokar" followed by a horizontal line.

Charles E. Tokar, J.D., MPA
Mayor
Village of Chicago Ridge