

## **Constantino, Mike**

---

**From:** Amanda Cortes [amanda.cortes22@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 09, 2012 4:49 PM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** JVanLeer@polsinelli.com  
**Attachments:** Lawndale Dialysis Support Letter.pdf

Dear Mr. Constantino:

Attached you will find the Alderman's support letter for the Lawndale Dialysis Project. If you should have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Cortes

Assistant to Alderman Ricardo Munoz  
22 Ward  
2500 S. St. Louis  
Chicago, IL 60623  
(773) 762-1771



**COUNCIL CHAMBER**

CITY HALL, ROOM 209  
121 NORTH LA SALLE STREET  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602  
TELEPHONE: (312) 744-8401

**RICARDO MUÑOZ**

**ALDERMAN - 22ND WARD  
PUBLIC SERVICE OFFICE**

2500 SOUTH ST. LOUIS AVENUE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60623  
TELEPHONE: (773) 762-1771  
FAX: (773) 762-1825

11-627-001

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

RULES AND ETHICS

EDUCATION

PARKS AND RECREATION

HUMAN RELATIONS

BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

August 9, 2012

Mr. Dale Galassie, Chair  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62761

**Re: Letter of Support for Lawndale Dialysis – Proj. No. 11-103**

Dear Mr. Galassie:

I am the Alderman representing Chicago's 22nd Ward, which includes Lawndale Dialysis' proposed site and the surrounding community. As I am in full support of this project for the valuable healthcare resources that it will bring to my community, I was in attendance at the July 24<sup>th</sup> Health Facilities and Services Review Board meeting in Bolingbrook to testify in support of DaVita's proposal to establish a 16-station dialysis facility at 3934 West 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Chicago, Illinois 60623. However, because the meeting took longer than expected, I had to leave to attend another meeting and was thus unable to personally testify when the Board heard remarks on this project.

As such, I asked another individual to read the testimony I prepared. To ensure that my testimony is noted in the record, I attach a copy of it as Attachment 1 to this letter. I fully support DaVita's application for a certificate of need to establish Lawndale Dialysis in my Ward and urge the Board to approve their project.

Sincerely,

Ricardo Munoz  
Alderman, 22<sup>nd</sup> Ward

**Attachment 1**

**Alderman Ricardo Munoz  
Lawndale Dialysis HFSRB Presentation, Proj. No. 11-103**

I am Ricardo Muñoz, the Alderman representing Chicago's 22nd Ward. My ward includes Lawndale Dialysis' proposed site and the surrounding community. I am here to support DaVita's proposal to provide dialysis services to my community. Lawndale Dialysis will improve access to essential dialysis treatment for Chicago residents who live in my Ward.

I have called Little Village home for most of my life. I grew up here. In fact, my office is just one block from the house I grew up in and two blocks from the grammar school I graduated from in 1979. My ward has one of the higher concentration of Hispanics in the City of Chicago, and as a Mexican-American myself, I represent my community's interests with a passion. That is why I am here today. My community faces many impediments to access to health care including cultural disparities and a lack of understanding of the health care system, financial issues and racism. Health education and wellness is hampered by lack of education and insurance and poor nutrition.

Unfortunately, because of public health issues, we need these dialysis services in our community. The project will help meet the well documented medical needs of an underserved community. As you may know, Latinos are particularly vulnerable to increased rates of obesity, hypertension, and diabetes. DaVita, as a willing provider of such services, should not only be permitted, but encouraged to come to our community. This is particularly true when your inventory shows a need for 92 stations in the City of Chicago.

DaVita contributes directly to improving patients' lives, both locally and nationally through service innovations and community investment. DaVita has demonstrated its commitment to the City of Chicago in many ways. DaVita has

accounted for approximately millions in charitable donations nationally and has committed \$1.5 million for their employees, or “teammates,” as they call them, to put toward charitable work in communities much like Lawndale.

DaVita’s facilities hire locally, and even provide scholarships for staff to enhance their skills and their ability to be promoted in the company. I have been an active participant in improving conditions for the working class and one of my proudest achievements is being one of the original City Council sponsors of the historic Chicago Living Wage legislation that requires city contractors pay employees a salary that is high enough to support a family. I was also instrumental in the City’s passage of a wage increase.

This Board is tasked with maintaining and improving the provision of essential health care services, and increasing the accessibility of those services to the medically underserved and indigent. This project will further these goals.

Lastly, I ask that the Board consider for a moment what it is like to live in the life of a dialysis patient for a month and walk in their shoes. I think you would understand the necessity to have these services well-dispersed. At least until no need for inventory need for stations in the City of Chicago, this Board should encourage dialysis providers to build in communities like mine.

Accordingly, I respectfully ask that the Board approve this project. Thank you for your time.