

**Rebecca Murray**

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**From:** Timothy Tincknell  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 26, 2013 8:06 AM  
**To:** Anita McKinney; Rebecca Murray  
**Subject:** Markham Renal Center - patient support letters  
**Importance:** High  
**Attachments:** CHIDM-#177508-v2-Markham\_Patient\_Support\_Ltr\_(White).doc; CHIDM-#177512-v2-Markham\_Patient\_Support\_Ltr\_(Mills).doc

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Anita & Rebecca,

Thank you for the hospitality yesterday and for arranging the interviews with Mr White and Mr Mills. Attached please find the drafted letters. Please have them each sign their respective letter and if you could fax them directly back to me at my e-fax number tomorrow, I would greatly appreciate it.

Thank you both very much again,  
Tim

Tim Tincknell, FACHE  
Administrator, CON Projects  
DaVita HealthCare Partners, Inc  
2611 N Halsted St  
Chicago, IL 60614  
773/549-9412 (office)  
773/255-7010 (cell)  
~~866/506-5211 (e-fax)~~  
[timothy.tincknell@davita.com](mailto:timothy.tincknell@davita.com)

*Please Fax Signed letters to Tim*

February 27, 2013

Dale Galassie, Chair  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62761

RE: **Markham Renal Center, Project No. 12-097**

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Dear Chairman Galassie:

My name is Jackie White. I am 55 years old and have been on dialysis almost four years. One day I just woke up weak, frustrated, tired, and confused. I did not know what was happening. I went to see my primary care doctor followed by a kidney doctor who confirmed the life changing news that I needed to go on dialysis. My kidneys were failing. I had no advanced warning signs. I'm currently on daily medications and have been on the transplant list for almost a year now. I prefer getting my treatment at Markham Renal Center versus other modalities because I like the regular interaction with the staff that delivers my care. I have been a patient at Markham since I began dialyzing.

I tend to experience joint pain in my right shoulder and an occasional headache after every one of my 3 ½ hour dialysis sessions. Beyond this, treatment is just an overwhelmingly exhausting experience. My health is clearly not what it used to be. Just getting around to visit family, friends, shop, pretty much do anything, is difficult because I feel worn out all of the time. In my condition, I am unable to work and have no savings. I often have trouble sleeping due to the mental and physical stress of kidney disease.

I am particularly looking forward to receiving care at an updated Markham Renal Center. This facility is in immediate need of relocation to a modern space. The staff are constantly battling a heating and cooling system that has cannot seem to find the right temperature, which causes patients to be uncomfortable. The facility is also constantly replacing ceiling tiles because of a persistent roof leak.

Additionally, the entrance of the facility in the back versus the front of the mall (like every other business), which not only seems shameful, but results in an unnecessary safety hazard for patients that must actively watch out for delivery trucks going to other sites in the mall. Finally, the current Markham Renal Center has only one unisex patient bathroom, which causes all of the patients inconvenience. I..

For all of these reasons, I support DaVita's proposal to relocate the Markham Renal Center and urge the Board to approve the project.

Sincerely,

*Jackie White*

Mr. Jackie White

February 27, 2013

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525 West Jefferson Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
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HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

RE: **Markham Renal Center, Project No. 12-097**

Dear Chairman Galassie:

I am Mr. Willie Mills, a former Field Representative for General Electric, servicing the Nuclear Power Plant industry. My life was forever altered 13 years and 7 months ago when my kidneys failed due to congestive heart failure. I have been an in-center hemodialysis patient at Markham Renal Center ever since. Although I was once eligible for a kidney transplant, the operation was unsuccessful and I am no longer a candidate due to complications with my lower extremities. I also was on peritoneal dialysis in the past, but got sick and needed to be hospitalized. I am on various daily medicines now for low blood pressure, stomach issues, and a blood thinner, among others, upon just being released from the hospital.

Kidney disease runs in my family as my mother required dialysis and my grandmother passed away due to kidney failure, before the advent of dialysis. I now require dialysis three times a week for four hours each treatment. It has changed everything in my life. I used to be physically active in various sports and enjoyed playing golf. Dialysis leaves me too weak for any type of physical activity and really saps me of energy. I used to travel internationally for work and throughout the U.S. with various family members. I am much too frail to consider this now. Kidney disease has not just affected me. It has taken a toll on the lives of my son, sisters, and brothers, as shown by their ongoing concern for me. My livelihood, my standard of living, my independence has all been impacted by this horrible disease. Given all of these inconveniences, even the most subtle improvements in my day-to-day life can make a significant difference.

This is one of the reasons I support the relocation of Markham Renal Center to a modern facility. The existing center is showing its age. I've noticed ongoing issues with leaks in the roof, which result in dripping water from ceiling tiles and require ongoing maintenance. Furthermore, the heating and cooling system can never seem to find the right temperature and it is too cold in the unit when they turn on the air conditioning in the summer.

Notably, I also have concerns for my own well-being and the well-being of other patients when arriving and leaving the facility. While I try to limit my use of a walker to my home, many of the unit's patients are not as able-bodied as me. Delivery vehicles, including semi-trailer trucks, drive directly by the entrance of the facility daily, delivering goods to neighboring businesses. The dialysis center's entrance is in the rear of the strip mall, which results in unnecessary safety concerns. Relocation to a modern facility with more convenient parking is a much needed improvement.

For this and the reasons already stated above, I fully support the relocation of Markham Renal Center and ask that the Board approve this project at the March HFSRB meeting.

Sincerely,

*Willie H. Mills*

Willie Mills

**KIDNEY DOCTORS, LTD.**  
**19550 S. Governors Highway - Suite 2000**  
**Flossmoor, Illinois 60422**

February 26, 2013

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Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
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**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
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**RE: Markham Renal Center, Project No. 12-097**

Dear Chairman Galassie:

I am writing to reiterate my support of DaVita HealthCare Partners Inc.'s proposal to relocate Markham Renal Center. Markham Renal Center is presently treating 100 End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) patients, as of December 31, 2012, a 4.2 percent increase from the previous quarter, and a 10 percent since in the last year. As referenced in my previous letter of support, I anticipate that my practice will experience significant growth within the next 12 to 18 months.

This is not surprising, given the demographic makeup of Markham Renal Center's patient mix, which currently 94 percent African American. African Americans demonstrate an increased prevalence of diabetes and hypertension, the two leading risk factors for ESRD. Further, there is a need for 51 ESRD stations in HSA 7. The proposed relocation of Markham Renal Center to a modern facility will help meet this need.

DaVita is well suited to accomplish this task. In my years as a nephrologist, I have been part of a vast improvement in the quality of renal care provided to patients. While the nephrology community can take a lot of credit for improvements in dialysis protocols, DaVita is responsible for implementing many processes and quality initiatives, such as Kidney Smart, IMPACT, and CathAway which are aimed at improving patient education and outcomes. The Kidney Smart classes and the accompanying website educate individuals on the kidneys and kidney disease, how to better manage their health and slow the progression of the disease, and available treatment options. Knowledge is power. When patients are better educated, they make more informed decisions and have better outcomes.

Thus, for all of these reasons, I fully support DaVita HealthCare Partners Inc.'s proposed relocation of the Markham Renal Center and ask that the Board approve this project at the March IHFSRB meeting.

Sincerely,



Kenneth N. Cline, MD, Nephrologist  
Kidney Doctors, Ltd, President  
19550 Governors Highway  
Flossmoor, Illinois 60422