



Sam Cunningham, Mayor
Janet Kilkelly, City Clerk
Dr. John Schwab, Treasurer

March 20, 2018

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

RECEIVED

MAR 23 2018

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

RE: North Dunes Dialysis (Project Number 17-066)

Dear Ms. Olson:

I was born and raised in Waukegan, Illinois, and I am very proud to serve as the Mayor of this beautiful city. Waukegan is located on the shores of Lake Michigan and we have many thriving businesses and area attractions. We are committed to ensuring the future success of our city and are in the process of improving our infrastructure and revitalizing our lake front area for the enjoyment of future generations.

As Mayor, one of my top priorities is also ensuring that our residents have convenient access to health care services. This is a special issue for Waukegan because we are federally designated as a medically underserved area and a health professional shortage area. This is not a benchmark that we intend to retain and we have been working to bring additional health care services to Waukegan.

Unfortunately, due to increasing rates of kidney disease, we also face a shortage of local dialysis options for residents with kidney failure. While Waukegan has two dialysis clinics in town, both are full. One clinic, operated by DaVita, is at 100% capacity and is even offering an emergency late night shift to meet current demand, and the other clinic is likewise nearing 100% occupancy.

This is a dangerous situation because many Waukegan residents are at heightened risk of developing kidney disease and our need for dialysis services is expected to increase. We have large Hispanic and African American populations and both groups experience higher rates of kidney disease than the general population. One-third of our residents also live below 150% of the federal poverty level - the percentage used to determine eligibility for Illinois Medicaid. And we have an aging population. The elderly and those with low income also experience higher rates of kidney disease. They also have more difficulty travelling out of town for care because they may not own a vehicle or be as mobile as they used to be.

We are fortunate that DaVita is willing to address this access issue by opening North Dunes Dialysis. DaVita is a leading provider of dialysis services in the country and is known for high quality

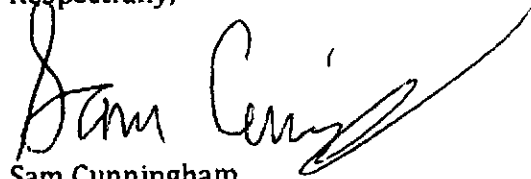
Ms. Kathryn J. Olson
Page 2

patient outcomes and for providing wonderful patient care. I am confident in DaVita's ability to care for our residents with kidney failure.

The site that has been identified for the North Dunes Dialysis center is geographically located to complement the locations of the other dialysis clinics, providing options for people in all neighborhoods in our community. In addition, it is convenient to public transportation, as well as grocery and pharmacy facilities. A new primary care clinic has recently gone through approval processes to construct a new facility across the street, so that, too, would provide synergistic opportunities. The North Dunes Dialysis clinic would offer over 4,500 square feet of space, serving over 55 clients per week.

I support the proposed project and I ask that Health Facilities and Services Review Board approve the application for North Dunes Dialysis to provide better access to dialysis services in Waukegan.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Cunningham", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Sam Cunningham
Mayor
City of Waukegan