

# STATE STREET COMMISSION

## State Street Commission Meeting

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

2:00 PM

Via Zoom

### MINUTES

#### ATTENDANCE

##### Commission Members Present

Commissioner Mark Anderson  
Commissioner Greg Cameron  
Commissioner Kristin Duncan  
Commissioner John Idler  
Commissioner Mark Kelly  
Commissioner Dean Lane  
Commissioner Laverne Morris  
Commissioner Ryan Segal  
Commissioner Andrea Schwartz  
Commissioner John Tully

#### AFFILIATION

Hines  
Joffrey Ballet  
Renaissance Hotel  
ABC7  
DCASE  
Palmer House  
20 North State Street Condos  
Acadia  
Macy's  
Department of Streets & Sanitation

##### Commission Members Absent

Commissioner Gia Biagi  
Commissioner Maurice Cox  
Commissioner Eric Finnegan

CDOT  
Department of Planning & Development (DPD)  
CIM Group

##### Others Present

Michael Edwards  
Karl Guider  
Mark Roschen  
Abel Rodriguez  
David Seglin  
James Turner

Chicago Loop Alliance  
Chicago Public Library  
Department of Planning & Development  
Chicago Loop Alliance (CLA)  
Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT)  
CIBC/CLA Board Chair

#### **I. Call to Order**

Chairman John Idler welcomed everyone and called the Zoom meeting to order at 2:05 PM.

#### **II. Public Comment**

No comments were made by the public.

#### **III. Approval of Minutes**

A motion to accept the Tuesday, June 16, 2020, meeting minutes as presented was made by Commissioner Duncan and seconded by Commissioner Lane. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **IV. Financial Statements as of June 30, 2020**

Abel Rodriguez reviewed the financial statements. The report included the 2020 budget compared to the actual revenues and expenses through June 30, 2020. The SSA did receive the first half of 2020 levy for revenue of \$1.4 million. On the expense side we are halfway through the year and overall expenses are running at about 39% as we are being conservative. Michael Edwards indicated our core services have continued to be provided and are running at 50% through June 30<sup>th</sup> including landscaping, sidewalk cleaning, and our safety programs. We still anticipate a delay in the receipt of the second half tax payments and anticipate not completing some of the infrastructure work later in the year and carrying forward about \$350,000 into 2021.

Abel Rodriguez screen shared the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter performance metrics with the Commission. This report is required by DPD as part of the SSA program to track the performance of SSA's across the city. For example, CLA was projecting 265,000 attendees to events, but due to the cancellation of the Memorial Day parade we missed this performance goal by a lot. When asked, Mark Roschen of DPD indicated they are seeing similar trends around the city.

Hearing no further questions or discussion, John Idler thanked Abel for the financial and performance reports. A motion was made by Commissioner Cameron and seconded by Commissioner Duncan to accept the June 30<sup>th</sup> financial report and second quarter performance report as presented. Motion carried.

## **V. Status Reports/Outstanding Issues**

### **1. Security**

John Idler invited 1<sup>st</sup> District Commander Jake Alderden to give the Commission an update on security issues affecting State Street and the Loop. The Commander has been the 1<sup>st</sup> District Commander since February 2020. Prior to that he was a 1<sup>st</sup> District Captain, has been on the force for 19 years and has lived in the Loop for the last 20 years. He knows and loves the Loop.

The Commander believes not one business was unaffected by the May 30<sup>th</sup> protests and riots on State Street and north into CPD District 18. CPD was shocked by the wide-spread destruction and it was only once the vehicle barrier was put in place, late Saturday night and early Sunday, that destruction in the Loop stop. Since May 31<sup>st</sup> (that Sunday) the 1<sup>st</sup> District has been responding to an average of 4 protests per day. The protests are largely peaceful, but an occasional flare up happens such as the Columbus statue. CPD and State Street also was impacted the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. There were 3,000 people in the Loop, CPD closed Millennium Park and 1,500 juveniles moved to Michigan Avenue and the Loop. There was some rowdy behavior and windows broken at Macy's.

The 1st District police are great and while robbery arrests are down across the city, they are less down in the Loop. Police stops are up in the 1<sup>st</sup> District. The most alarming trend to the Commander is the 225% year to date growth in the unlawful use of a weapon. The arrest of people with firearms is up 300% in just the last 28 days! Overall crime is down, but this is because of the impact of COVID-19 and generally a lot less people in the 1<sup>st</sup> District. Commander Alderden feels the 1<sup>st</sup> District is doing a good job with the limited resources they receive. The CPD is pretty stretched right now.

Michael Edwards asked if the rumor was true that cops would be taken from the Loop and redeployed in other areas of the city? The Commander stated former 1<sup>st</sup> District Commander Michael Pigott oversees a newly created Incident Unit designed to service large events like baseball games, parades and concerts. When these resources are not working a special event, they will be available to the 1<sup>st</sup> District. Commissioner Schwartz asked if any new 'hot spots' have been identified and if CPD is deploying forces any differently? The Commander said the situation is still evolving and the police are reacting at this point to the new round of protests. Michael Edwards asked if between the rioting and the police brutality charges from Black Lives Matter, is there a strange tension in the Loop (and State Street) between citizens feeling embolden to committee property damage and act more aggressively and the police officer being apprehensive to interact? The Commander stated the police officers are aware they are being watched closely and that is affecting some of their decisions to engage citizens.

To conclude, Commander Alderden asked for the Commissioner help in pressing charges and filing complaints so the police can enforce the laws designed to keep State Street a safe and hospitable shopping district.

### **2. DCASE**

Commissioner Kelly reported the City of Chicago and DCASE cancelled of all their major events through 2020. Millennium Park has opened as a passive park, as has the Riverwalk. Commissioner Kelly indicated DCASE is still programming what it can within the boundaries set by public health agencies and the Cultural Center may be opening soon. DCASE continues to have success with online programming capturing 350,000 viewers.

### **3. Streets & Sanitation**

Commissioner Tully stated his department has been working throughout COVID-19 and providing essential services throughout the city and in the Loop. Currently, they are providing necessary support to CPD to keep the Loop and State Street clean and safe. The Commissioner stated new trash cans have been placed along State Street as requested by the SSA Commission. John Idler thanked Commissioner Tully for his efforts.

### **4. CDOT**

David Seglin reported he has a system available to provide Chicago Loop Alliance and the State Street Commission with daily, weekly or monthly reports on permits for construction activity along State Street. Including work done by CDOT, water management, utilities and others. Michael Edwards indicated CLA would like to receive weekly reports and he will follow-up with the names and emails of the CLA staff to receive the notices.

## **5. DPD**

Mark Roschen, DPD reported he, along with executive staff appreciated the tour of State Street following the protest and rioting. With regards to the filing of Commissioner paperwork, Mark said he would speak with Jennifer (administrator) but noted the new administration is updating these filings and unfortunately there is still some missing 2019 submissions.

## **6. CTA**

There was no one in attendance to report

## **VI. 2021 SSA Draft #2 Operating Budget**

Michael Edwards reviewed the 2021 SSA budget development process with a goal of submitting a final budget to the City of Chicago this week. This process has included the CLA staff and Finance Committee developing an initial budget that was reviewed by the CLA Executive Committee on June 9, 2020. That recommended draft is what the Commission was reviewed on June 16, 2020. The CLA Finance Committee and full Board is pleased submit a recommended final Draft #2 budget for further review and approval by the SSA Commission today. Once approved a final budget will go to the City of Chicago Department of Planning & Development as required.

Michael Edwards providing some opening remarks stating the todays budget lowers the proposed 25% increase in the levy to 11% and a shared screen was brought up to highlight the fiscal impact of an 11% levy increase on the top 20 ratepayers in the State Street SSA. Abel Rodriquez brought the budget up on the shared screen. Edwards indicated this remains a ‘Go Big’ budget with increased revenue for marketing, cleanliness and safety to accelerate State Streets recovery in 2021. Edwards highlighted a number of changes including no funding for the Arts in the Dark parade (James Turner indicated CLA will look at supporting this important event); Edwards describe a more robust clean and a safe program with 19 versus 11 people, more competitive wages, a dedicated homeless outreach person and additional equipment. This would include staff dedicated to cleaning per COVID-19 and disinfecting monthly. \$100,000 was included in the budget to address social justice issues brought up by the recent protest with an eye on making State Street more inviting and enjoyable for Black people.

There was good discussion around the draft budget. Most, if not all Commissioners agreed due to the lack of business amongst many of the key State Street sectors such as office, retail, hotel and arts & culture there should be no increase in the levy. There was support for new investment in clean & safe, but those increases should be phased in as State Street comes back to life. This may not be the time to invest more in marketing given the unknowns and some Commissioners had questions regarding the set aside for social justice. James Turner indicated the CLA Board did suspect the Commission would be looking for cost reductions and suggested these could be found in placemaking.

John Idler directed staff to consider the conversation today and reduce the budget so there is no or only a minimal increase in the levy. Edwards indicated this will be completed for distribution to the full SSA Commission this Friday and with Mark Roschen, DPD’s approval, set up a Zoom meeting for next week Wednesday, July 29<sup>th</sup> for final adoption and submission to the City of Chicago.

## **VII. Other Business**

There was no other business brought before the Commission

## **VIII. Adjournment**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Laverne Morris  
Secretary