

**STATE STREET COMMISSION**

**State Street Commission Meeting**

**Tuesday, November 21, 2023**

**2:00 PM**

**Zoom**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Commission Members Present**

Mark Anderson  
Greg Cameron  
Konstantine “Gus” Drosos  
Kristin Duncan  
La Verne Morris

Ryan Segal  
Cole Stallard

**Commission Members Absent**

Erin Harkey

John Idler

**Others Present**

Melvin Craig III  
Michael Edwards  
Rich Gamble  
Brian Grossman (Commission Nominee)  
Dan Luna  
Sheamus Mannion  
Aimea Ochiekeleye (Commission Nominee)  
Abel Rodriguez  
Mark Roschen

Cynthia Roubik

Sean Wiedel

**AFFILIATION**

Hines  
Joffrey Ballet  
Palmer House Hilton  
Renaissance Hotel  
20 North State Street Condo  
Assn.  
Acadia Realty Trust  
Department of Streets and  
Sanitation

Department of Cultural  
Affairs And Special Events  
ABC7

Chicago Loop Alliance  
Chicago Loop Alliance  
Chicago Loop Alliance  
Walgreens  
34<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman’s Office  
Chicago Police Department  
Macy’s  
Chicago Loop Alliance  
Department of Planning and  
Development  
Department of Planning and  
Development  
Department of Transportation

## **Call to Order**

The State Street SSA Commission meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup> was convened at 2:00 PM by Chair Greg Cameron.

## **Public Comment**

No comments were made by the public.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Cameron asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Commission. Kristin Duncan motioned to approve the minutes, and Ryan Segal seconded that motion. The motion carried, and the minutes were approved.

## **Financial Statements as of October 31, 2023**

The Chair requested an update on the SSA financials ending October 31, 2023, from Abel Rodriguez, the Chief Financial Officer of the Chicago Loop Alliance. The report was presented during the Zoom meeting and was also included in the meeting reminder email for those in attendance. Rodriguez reported that there had been no new deposits to the SSA bank account since the last meeting, and there were no significant changes to report.

By the end of October, total expenses amounted to \$2.5 million, which is 77% of the budget. Normally, this figure would be closer to 90%. However, CLA is holding off on some major expenditures until the levy funds are received in case the deposited funds fall short of the expected amount due to property tax appeals. At present, the SSA owes CLA \$870,000.

Rodriguez invited questions about the report. In response, Commissioner Duncan inquired about the possibility of the funds not being disbursed or being held beyond their due date. Rodriguez expressed concern about the timing of the deposit and the potential for a reduction in funds due to property tax appeals, noting that there was an unpaid amount of \$120,000 last year.

Edwards asked Mark Roschen if there was any chance the SSA would not receive any funds. Roschen indicated that was unlikely.

## **Security Update**

The Chair then turned the meeting over to Lieutenant Sheamus Mannion, who was standing in for Commander David Harris, who was attending a funeral out of state. Lieutenant Mannion began his update with a quick overview of the "Window Detail" that is currently patrolling State Street for the holiday season. Chair Cameron mentioned that he had made a point of introducing himself to some members of the detail and urged other Commissioners to do the same if they encountered the detail while out and about. The idea of creating a palm card for the Window Detail officers was discussed and agreed upon by the Chair, Michael Edwards (President and CEO of the Chicago Loop Alliance), and Lieutenant Mannion. They plan to collaborate with the

supervisor of the detail to make this happen. Mannion then went over the latest crime statistics within the SSA boundaries. Over the past 28 days, the area has seen no instances of homicides or shootings. However, there has been a slight increase in aggravated batteries, with 9 incidents this year as opposed to 4 in the same period last year. Robberies have slightly decreased, with 19 cases this year compared to 20 last year. Carjackings have also seen a decrease, from 3 cases last year to just 1 this year. Burglaries have seen a minor increase, from 3 last year to 4 cases this year. The number of motor vehicle thefts and gun arrests has remained consistent with last year's figures. Notably, arrests have seen a significant increase, doubling from 93 last year to 219 this year. Lieutenant Mannion has attributed the rise in arrests to an increase in pedestrian activity, a higher number of 911 calls, and greater vigilance among civilians despite the decrease in violent crime.

### **Sole Service Provider Report**

Rodriguez continued with the report from the sole service provider. He reiterated to the new and existing Commissioners the need to complete the necessary documents for the Commissioner renewal process. Given the sensitive nature of these applications, Rodriguez suggested that the Commissioners could submit their documents directly to Jennifer Mulligan at the Department of Planning and Development rather than through the CLA. He also advised everyone to make copies of their documents before submitting them to the city as a precaution against loss.

Edwards mentioned that he would be contacting the staff of the SSA's aldermen to obtain approval letters for the Commissioners. He then briefly discussed CLA's holiday marketing initiatives, which include the annual Holidays in the Loop campaign and holiday lighting on State Street. With assistance from the city, large decorative Christmas ornaments have been purchased to enhance the festive atmosphere of the SSA.

Edwards then discussed the recent completion of the aggregate replacement in late October. 69 squares that were in poor condition were repaired and replaced with colored broomed concrete. He mentioned that he had spoken to Hard Surface Finishers, the repair company, about the color match of the concrete. He suggested that the new squares might need a season to wear before they more closely match the existing color of the existing aggregate. If the color match is still not satisfactory, the color for the next round of replacements can be adjusted.

As part of CLA's newly adopted 5-year strategic plan, Edwards mentioned that an inventory of the infrastructure on State Street will be taken to develop a capital plan for improvements, funded by the SSA and other sources.

The Chair expressed gratitude towards Edwards and conveyed excitement about the commencement of the work and the establishment of a plan for future repairs and improvements.

### **Department Reports**

Commissioner Cole Stallard from the Department of Streets and Sanitation expressed his delight at the increased liveliness of the Loop. Due to a surge in pedestrian traffic close to pre-pandemic levels, he mentioned that he had to shift 40-50 workers to the Loop to maintain cleanliness and

manage waste. He acknowledged the presence of minor graffiti but assured it was under control. He praised the cleanliness of the Pedway near Macy's, describing it as a significant improvement. Edwards also appreciated the efforts of Streets and Sanitation in maintaining the cleanliness of State Street and Couch Place.

Sean Wiedel from CDOT mentioned that he didn't have much to update from the past month.

Cindy Roubik from the Department of Planning and Development started her report by sharing her anticipation for the release of the ULI Elevate State report, expected towards the end of November, post-Thanksgiving. She noted that it is likely that some features of all three of the recent ULI reports will be folded into the Central Area Plan. She also informed the group about an open house for the Central Area Plan update scheduled on December 6th at the Preston Bradley Hall in the Cultural Center. The event, running from 5 PM to 6:30 PM, will feature live music and light refreshments.

### **Other Business**

There was no other business.

### **Adjournment**

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La Verne Morris, Secretary