

STATE STREET COMMISSION

State Street Commission Meeting

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

2:00 PM

ABC 7 190 N. State Street, 10th Floor

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

AFFILIATION

Commission Members Present

Greg Cameron

Konstantine “Gus” Drosos

Kristin Duncan

Brian Grossman

John Idler

Ryan Segal

La Verne Morris

Joffrey Ballet

Palmer House Hilton

Renaissance Hotel

Walgreens

ABC 7

Acadia Realty Trust

20 N. State Condo Assn.

Commission Members Absent

Mark Anderson

Ciere Boatright

Tom Carney

Clinèe Hedspeth

Aimeabilomon Ochiekeleye

Cole Stallard

Hines

DPD

CDOT

DCASE

Macy’s on State Street

Streets & Sanitation

Others Present

Christian Boyer

Melvin Craig III

Debbie De Lopez

Michael Edwards

Ariella Gibson

Randall Harrington

David Harris

Aayush Hedao

Dan Luna

Arturo Rodriguez

Abel Rodriguez

Mark Roschen

Cindy Roubik

Eileen Sweeney

Chicago Loop Alliance

Chicago Loop Alliance

Streets & Sanitation

Chicago Loop Alliance

Chicago Loop Alliance

Ald. Reilly’s Office

CPD

Chicago Loop Alliance

Ald. Conway’s Office

CDOT

Chicago Loop Alliance

DPD

DPD

DPD

Call to Order

Chair Ryan Segal convened the State Street SSA Commission meeting on November 19th at 2:00 PM. The Chair welcomed attendees and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Public Comment

No comments were made by the public.

Approval of Minutes

Segal subsequently requested a motion to approve the October 2024 meeting minutes. Kristin Duncan motioned to approve the minutes, and Brian Grossman seconded that motion. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.

Financial Statements as of October 31, 2024

Abel Rodriguez, Chief Financial Officer of Chicago Loop Alliance, provided an update on the organization's financial status. He reported that there had been little change since the previous meeting, though approximately \$47,000 in funds from the levy had been deposited into the SSA bank account.

Rodriguez also noted that \$183,000 had not yet been deposited and that the city/county had already issued \$53,000 in rebates to property owners. He explained that while \$3.4 million was budgeted for the year, only \$3.2 million has been received. Rodriguez then asked Mark Roschen of DPD if CLA was authorized to use part of the carryover funds to cover the shortfall. Roschen clarified that CLA could only use the carryover if it remained within the budgeted spending limit. Roschen further clarified that any costs covered by the carryover must be recorded as payable to CLA.

Regarding the property assessments in the Loop, Rodriguez highlighted an anticipated 16% decrease in the Equalized Assessed Value (EAV). He explained that if this reduction occurs, the assessment rate must be adjusted to maintain the same dollar amount in collections as in previous years.

A motion was made by Greg Cameron and seconded by Brian Grossman to approve the financial statements as presented. The Chair then requested an update from 1st District Police Commander Davis Harris.

1st District Police Update

Commander Harris began his update by reviewing the crime statistics for the SSA district

over the past 28 days. He reported that there were no homicides or shootings during this period. Aggravated batteries have decreased by 77%, while robberies have increased, with four more incidents compared to the same time last year (YTD). There was one vehicular hijacking and four burglaries reported. Motor vehicle thefts have dropped by 29%, thefts are down by 20%, and there have been eight fewer arrests than at this time last year.

After presenting additional crime statistics, Harris shared positive community feedback from the recent 2025 District Strategic Plan meeting held at the Walnut Room in Macy's. He thanked the Chicago Loop Alliance (CLA) for helping encourage community participation. Harris also announced that the finalized strategic plan will be posted online for public review by late 2024 or early 2025.

Harris then discussed upcoming events, including the Tree Lighting, the Magnificent Mile Lights Festival, and the Thanksgiving Day Parade, and outlined general police readiness.

Dan Luna thanked Commander Harris for distributing the recent business alert, noting that he and several interns personally delivered flyers to local businesses to ensure they were informed.

Kristin Duncan inquired about any progress on the ongoing issues at Walgreens since the last meeting. Brian Grossman of Walgreens responded, stating that conditions have slightly improved after a meeting with the store manager. However, he also reported a recent burglary and a broken window at the store. Commander Harris added that the suspect responsible for the burglary was apprehended on the spot. Greg Cameron asked for guidance on how to appropriately respond to certain issues and the best way to address them. Commander Harris clarified that 911 should be called for emergencies or imminent violent situations. For quality-of-life concerns, he advised reaching out to him directly.

Streets and Sanitation Update

Debbie De Lopez from Streets and Sanitation noted that she didn't have much to update the group on but that folks should feel free to reach out and let her know if they have any issues they need her team's help with. Dan Luna commended Debbie and her staff for their help with over 200 graffiti requests, which have all been taken care of in Alderman Conway's district.

CDOT Update

Art Rodriguez from the Department of Transportation similarly noted that folks should feel free to let him know of any issues with street lights or traffic lights so that his team can handle them. He also gave an update on street closings related to the State & Lake Station renovation, noting that lane closures on Lake, west of State, will begin in January and last about two weeks, although one lane will always remain open.

DPD Update

Cindy Roubik, Deputy Commissioner at the Department of Planning & Development, began her update by highlighting the recently passed State & Michigan Sign Ordinance, which provides businesses and theaters with greater flexibility in advertising and signage. Applications to take advantage of these new provisions can be submitted starting this month. She thanked Chicago Loop Alliance for their letter of support in this effort.

In other updates, Roubik discussed the LaSalle Street Reimagined Adaptive Reuse projects, which have received city council approval and are set to begin construction next year. These projects are expected to be completed by 2026. She also noted that by then, the street will look significantly different, as the Thompson Center is slated for completion in time for Google's planned move to the building.

Holiday Marketing

Ariella Gibson, Director of Marketing & Communications for Chicago Loop Alliance, detailed the organization's marketing initiatives for the upcoming holiday season. These efforts include distributing over 50,000 *Holidays in the Loop* guides across Chicagoland, leveraging social media campaigns, and garnering earned media coverage. She also highlighted the holiday-themed maps displayed on CTA head houses along State Street.

Ambassador Survey

Aayush Hedao, Planning Intern at Chicago Loop Alliance, presented the findings from an on-street survey evaluating CLA's Clean and Safe Program. The results have been positive, with the program receiving a rating of 8.17 out of 10—an improvement from the 7.73 rating recorded in the previous survey conducted in 2019.

Loop-wide BID

Michael Edwards shared that the City of Chicago has introduced a new application process for establishing Business Improvement Districts (BIDs). Mark Roschen provided the group with a brief comparison of BIDs, which are widely used across the country, and Special Service Areas (SSAs), which are specific to Chicago. He explained that while both offer similar services, their creation and administration differ. For instance, BID officers are elected, whereas SSA Commissioners must be approved by the Mayor and City Council. Edwards also noted that organizations such as the Magnificent Mile Association and BOMA Chicago have expressed interest in a Loop-wide BID, and the Chicago Loop Alliance is likewise exploring the possibility of implementing one.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

La Verne Morris, Secretary