

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## **Downtown Hyde Park Chicago Installs 60 New Bike Racks in Business District**

*Special Service Area commissions the installation of new bicycle racks in the business corridors on 53rd Street, 55th Street and Lake Park Avenue in Hyde Park.*

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CHICAGO, April 28, 2016 / Hyde Park / -- **Downtown Hyde Park Chicago** recently commissioned the installation of 60 new bike racks within the Special Service Area Hyde Park footprint. The new additions will complement the 103 existing black hoop parking rails that were installed by the Chicago Department of Transportation more than two decades ago.

The SSA Hyde Park Commissioners recognize bicycling has grown tremendously, outpacing the supply of convenient bike parking. Based on mapping and comprehensive study data, the Commissioners unanimously supported a 2016 budget line item of \$23,000 to fill in the gaps where secure bicycle parking was not easily accessible.

Ceremonial unveilings of the new bike racks will be held on **Monday, May 2, 2016 at 12 pm Noon** in front of **Valois Restaurant** at 1518 E. 53<sup>rd</sup> Street (4<sup>th</sup> Ward) and at **1:00 pm at 55<sup>th</sup> and Cornell Avenue** (5<sup>th</sup> Ward).



SSA Director **Eric E. Reaves** said, *"We simply need more racks. In addition to 34 standard black hoop rails, we also added 26 blue and white branded bike racks that are even easier to locate. They stand out nicely from the black poles and street signs."*

The Cara Program's social enterprise, **Cleanslate Chicago, LLC**, will install the racks. Reaves continued, *"Hopefully we can dramatically reduce, if not eliminate, the need to chain bicycles to city poles, trees or railings on private property. That's the goal."*

In addition to convenient bicycle parking, Hyde Park commuters, visitors, and local cyclists have easy access to bicycle sales, rentals, repair, and tours via **Ancien Cycles** (1558 E. 53<sup>rd</sup> St.), **DJ's Bike Doctor** (1344 E. 55<sup>th</sup> St), **Tomango Coffee and Bikes** (5501 S. Everett Ave.), and **Blackstone Bicycle Works** nearby in Woodlawn.

The expanded bike parking keeps Downtown Hyde Park aligned with Mayor Rahm Emanuel's vision of a world-class bike network, as well as the [Chicago's Streets for Cycling Plan 2020](#).

### **About Downtown Hyde Park**

Downtown Hyde Park Chicago is the creation of Special Service Area #61, which is comprised of the 53rd and 55th Street business corridors connected by Lake Park Avenue. The SSA is a taxing mechanism used to finance business district services, public way maintenance and beautification; business retention/attraction, marketing activities; auto and bike transit; security; facade improvements; and other commercial and economic development initiatives. The South East Chicago Commission is the service provider for SSA Hyde Park. For more info, please visit [downtownhydeparkchicago.com](http://downtownhydeparkchicago.com).

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CONTACT: Eric E. Reaves, 773-324-6928 or Wendy Walker Williams, 773-324-6926