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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Special Service Area #61 Schedules Commission Meeting to Review Service Provider Letters of Interest

CHICAGO, IL, August 4, 2017 — Special Service Area #61 (“Downtown Hyde Park”) announced that the Commissioners will meet at 7:00pm on August 16, 2017 at the Hyde Park Bank Lobby located at 1525 E. 53rd Street. The sole agenda item will be Letters of Interest submitted by nonprofit organizations who would like to operate as the SSA Service Provider Agency.

Information guidelines can be requested by contacting George Rumsey, Vice Chair, SSA #61, at his work number (773) 955-4455 or via email at gwrumsey@att.net. Requested information must be received by the SSA #61 Chair before noon, Friday, August 11. The requested information includes, among other things, audited financial statement, a summary of organizational experience and corporate structure, history of contract administration and project management, and a sample SSA budget for 2018 (using the City’s template). Interested organizations must also demonstrate the ability to establish a Line of Credit in their own name for SSA use.

SSA #61 Chair Michael McGarry noted “it’s not that we’re displeased with our current service provider,” but observed that the Commissioners were approached by another organization who expressed an interest and that this would be a “best practice” endeavor for the board. The current service provider, the South East Chicago Commission, was the original sponsoring organization for the formation of the SSA in 2013, at the request of the 5th Ward and 4th Ward aldermen.

The City of Chicago contracts with nonprofit Service Providers to manage the SSAs. Mayorally-appointed SSA Commissioners oversee and recommend the annual services, budget, and Service Provider Agency to the City. There are currently 53 active SSAs in Chicago.

The Hyde Park SSA #61 has an annual operating budget of approximately \$265,000, collected from property taxes on real estate within the SSA footprint (53rd Street, Lake Park, 55th between Harper and Hyde Park). Projects supported by the SSA have included tree replacement, new bike racks, sidewalk cleaning, event sponsorship (such as the Silver Room Block Party and the 4th on 53rd Parade), flower baskets and banners, and customer attraction.

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