

A Special Service Area for Chicago Avenue?

Special Service Areas (SSAs) have been used for over 30 years nationwide as a tool primarily used to protect and promote neighborhood shopping districts. An SSA allows for a property tax levy to underwrite special services in addition to those generally provided by city government. The SSA tax provides benefit as *all funds are locally managed* and can only be used for SSA services within the boundaries.

Could Chicago Avenue benefit from a Special Service Area?

Chicago Avenue was once a major commercial corridor. An SSA can provide programs and services to increase the corridor's competitive edge. These services could include maintenance and beautification services, coordination of promotion and advertising, security and other technical assistance to promote commercial and economic development.

Would the following services help your business?

- Increased cleanliness
- Graffiti removal
- Increased security
- Beautification (planters, flowers, signage, benches, trash receptacles, etc)
- Landscaping
- Coordinated marketing & advertising
- Business retention and recruitment

With government funding cuts, SSAs are filling funding gaps and putting decision-making in local hands.

How is a Special Service Area held accountable?

When an SSA is approved in Chicago, a local SSA Commission is created. The Mayor appoints local business and/or property owners to the Commission pending City Council confirmation. These Commissioners provide local management and oversight by authorizing expenditures and evaluating program performance. A local development agency such as West Humboldt Park Development Council acts as the Service Provider Agency providing administration and oversight of SSA programs. This agency is accountable to the state of Illinois and the City of Chicago through annual certified audits and budget reviews.

The West Humboldt Park Development Council is ready to work with Chicago Avenue business and commercial property owners on forming a Special Service Area. For more information please contact Tom Otto at (773) 342-0036 or tom@whpdevelopmentcouncil.net