



**Albany Park
& Irving Park
SSA #60**

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Public mural commissioned by
SSA60 located at 2941 W. Montrose
to celebrate the community's
#GlobalRootsLocalHeart.

DECEMBER 27, 2019

DEAR PROPERTY OWNERS, BUSINESS OWNERS, AND RESIDENTS:

The economic development staff at North River Commission and the Albany Park Chamber of Commerce hope that you had a productive year. We were busy helping our small businesses grow and supporting our business corridors. As 2020 begins, it's time for the annual update on services funded by the Albany Park & Irving Park Special Service Area (SSA #60) including:

2020 FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM APPLICATION: NOW OPEN

2019 PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

SSA SNOW CLEARING REMINDER: SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Thank you for all that you do to support and contribute to our local economy. We look forward to working together with you, our volunteer Commissioners, and the public in improving our business districts and strengthening our small business community. Have a happy and prosperous 2020!

Keep informed on our work; sign up for our weekly email updates at bit.ly/newsNRC.

Sincerely,


Thomas Applegate

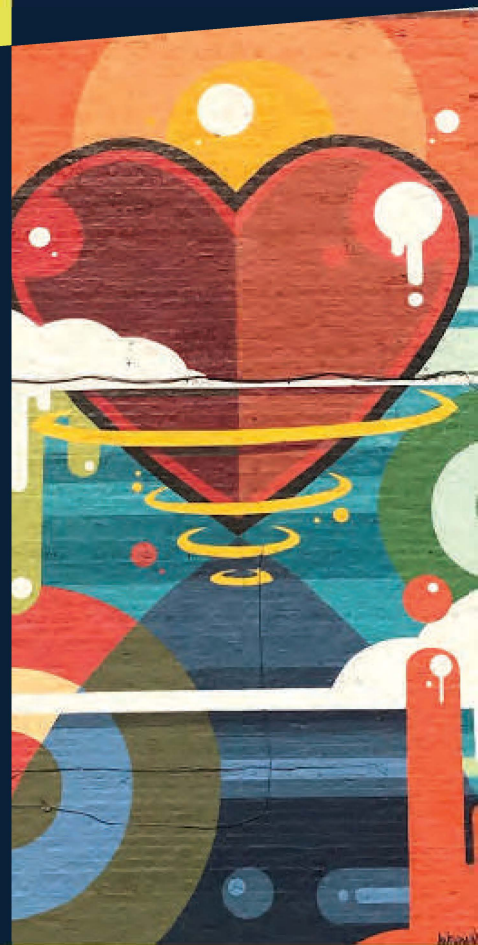
NRC Executive Director


Alexa Schutz

NRC Economic Development
Coordinator & SSA Manager

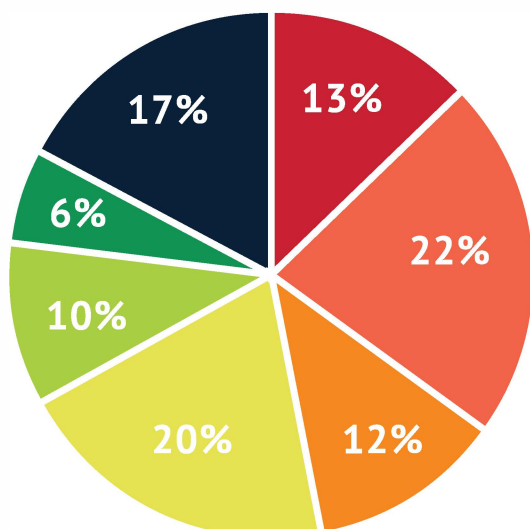

Mark Aistrophe

Chair, Special Service Area #60



**Albany Park
& Irving Park
SSA #60**

BUDGET BREAKDOWN



13% CUSTOMER ATTRACTION

district banners, special events,
public art, district promotion

22% STOREFRONT BEAUTIFICATION & REBATES

facade improvement program rebates,
window merchandising

12% SNOW REMOVAL

20% LITTER & GRAFFITI ABATEMENT

10% SUSTAINABILITY
landscaping, streetscaping

6% SSA MANAGEMENT

administrative expenses, audit

17% PROGRAM DELIVERY

salaries and fringe

What is an SSA?

SPECIAL SERVICE AREAS (SSA) are local business districts that fund expanded services and programs through a localized property tax levy. The small percentage of additional taxes are retained in the district and reinvested into improvements. SSA-funded projects include: litter abatement and snow removal; landscaping and beautification; district marketing and advertising; business retention and attraction; special events and promotional activities; security enhancements; and façade improvement rebates for businesses and property owners.

Albany Park & Irving Park Special Service Area #60 boundaries are below; view the map at bit.ly/ssa60map. SSA60 is partially located in 33rd and 35th Wards.

2900–3399 W. LAWRENCE AVE: Chicago River to Kimball

2650–3559 W. MONTROSE AVE: Chicago River to Central Park

3000–3259 W. IRVING PARK RD: Sacramento to Spaulding

4000–4901 N. KEDZIE AVE: Irving Park to Ainslie

4700 BLOCK OF N. KIMBALL AVE: Lawrence to Leland

As the service provider for SSA#60, North River Commission is committed to providing these economic development services and initiatives to foster a vibrant, inviting, and safe community for all.

2000 ATTENDEES

at SSA-sponsored district events

38" OF SNOW

\$58K snow contract removed more than 3 feet of snow

298 DAYS

of litter removal from a \$76K trash abatement contract

\$163,381

total project investment including \$60,000 in matching funds from SSA for facade improvements

248 BANNERS

installed across 124 light poles



**Albany Park
Chamber of Commerce**

Albany Park Chamber of Commerce

As a complement to the work and investment of the Special Service Area, North River Commission also operates the Albany Park Chamber of Commerce to grow thriving businesses in Albany Park, Irving Park, North Park and Mayfair business districts.

IN 2019 THE CHAMBER DELIVERED:

- **36** district-wide events, business to business workshops, and networking events
- **162** one-on-one business consultations to assess opportunities to grow
- **463** referrals from one business to another to foster growth, create collaborations, and remove obstacles
- **105** new businesses or renewed business licenses contacted to welcome them and offer our assistance
- **2** Small Business Improvement Funds (SBIF) rollouts for 2 area TIF districts resulting in 50 applications
- **DAILY** posting on social media to promote business events, openings, #shopsmall, and offerings



North River Commission

North River Commission (NRC) is the sole service provider of the Albany Park & Irving Park Special Service Area #60.

North River Commission is the nonprofit community and economic development agency for the northwest side of Chicago, from the Chicago River to Cicero and Addison to Devon. Founded in 1962 by concerned residents and neighborhood institutions, North River Commission unites hundreds of civic associations, businesses, schools, institutions, and places of worship.

NRC serves the community areas and neighborhoods within Albany Park, Irving Park, and North Park to "improve the quality of life in our communities by developing affordable housing, quality education, arts & cultural endeavors, open spaces, and thriving neighborhood businesses."

GET INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY AND WORK ALONGSIDE US!

Sign up for our newsletter at bit.ly/newsNRC, follow us on social media, come to a meeting, or contact us.



Performance & Impact

BUSINESS DISTRICT BEAUTIFICATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

28 PLANTER BOXES

maintained with landscaping for summer and holiday

45 BIKE RACKS

locations planned to complement businesses and commuters

298 DAYS OF LITTER PICK UP

7 days/week from April–October and 4 days/week from November–March

38" OF SNOW REMOVED

with services triggered at 1" of accumulation

248 BANNERS

installed with plans to add 180+ more across the entire SSA in 2020.

Contact us to sponsor!

\$60,000 IN FACADE IMPROVEMENT REBATES

to building owners and business tenants for exterior beautification



Snow Removal Reminder

The SSA snow and salting contractor clears a 5-foot wide path along the 7.5 miles of sidewalks in the SSA. This service assists you in removing snow for public safety and commuting, but it does not replace your own responsibility to keep the sidewalks clear. Residents, customers, delivery staff, and employees all need a clear path on sidewalks, so please remember that snow removal starts with you.



Local business owners representing 6 different businesses at the intersection of Montrose and Troy, who gathered to welcome Naranja Dulce to the district.

2020 Facade Improvement Program

Building owners and business tenants who are located in the SSA boundaries that plan to make at least \$500 of exterior improvements can apply for this 50% rebate. The maximum rebate per storefront is \$7,500 and for one building where renovations include three or more storefronts, the maximum rebate is \$20,000.

You are encouraged to reach out to staff for guidance as you plan your project and submit a complete application; approval is required before work can begin. Applications for the first and second rounds of funding are due no later than January 31 and February 29, 2020. Applications will be accepted through the last day of each month until all facade funds are committed to approved projects.

Download the application and learn more about the program and eligible improvements such as tuckpointing, signage, awnings, windows, doors, cameras, paint, and lighting: bit.ly/facadeprogram



Events

CUSTOMER ATTRACTION

2019 was an amazing year for special events and marketing that included sponsorship from SSA #60. These district events had 20+ media spotlights on TV and online articles, coupled with tens of thousands of impressions on various social platforms, further promoting our communities and businesses collectively:

Flavors of Albany Park Restaurant Crawl expanded to 3 routes with 49 participating businesses and a new record of 515 attendees

Tastes & Tours of Albany Park welcomed 279 attendees for historical walking tours and food tour

Mosaic Albany Park Arts Festival returned to celebrate the arts with 750+ attendees who participated in 40+ cultural activities offered across the community

Lot Jams! summer music series grew to 4 outdoor concerts that gathered 400+ attendees



**Albany Park
& Irving Park
SSA #60**

COMMISSIONERS:

Mark Aistrophe – Chair: Meeting Tomorrow

Andrew Levin – Treasurer: Bass Realty

Stephanie Fishel – Secretary: The Residents of Irving Park

Saima Causevic: North Side Realty

David Maletin: Maletin Management

Kareeshma Ali: Surge Coffee Bar + Billiards

Daniella Cornue: Le Village Cowork

Contact Us

SOCIAL MEDIA:

**FACEBOOK.COM/
NORTHRIVERCOMMISSION**

**FACEBOOK.COM/
ALBANYPARKCHAMBER**

**INSTAGRAM.COM/
ALBANYPARKCHAMBER**

NORTHRIVERCOMMISSION.ORG

**NORTH RIVER COMMISSION
3403 WEST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SUITE 201,
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60625**

**CONTACT: ALEXA SCHUTZ
ALEXA@NORTHRIVERCOMMISSION.ORG
312-860-7884**

MEETING DATE SCHEDULE: 2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:30pm at 3403 W. Lawrence Avenue Suite 201 unless otherwise noted; check our website for more information and meeting minutes.