

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

MARCH 29, 2021

## DEAR PROPERTY OWNERS, BUSINESS OWNERS, AND RESIDENTS:

The Albany Park & Irving Park Special Service Area (SSA#60) is an incredibly effective, locally-managed, resource to support small businesses growth and improve our neighborhood business corridors. SSA#60's volunteer Commission and community members collaborate together to help provide funds to many business district improvements, such as creating public art murals and installations, beautification of storefronts, litter and snow removal, and marketing and special events to bring local residents and visitors to our area. Included in this annual report are our 2020 Performance Highlights, budget breakdown, and a summary of our COVID-19 response efforts.

Thank you for all that you do to support and contribute to our local economy. Together, we look forward to working with you, the public, and the sole service provider North River Commission in improving and strengthening our small business community. Now more than ever, we ask you to please continue to spend your dollars as locally as possible. Have a happy, healthy and prosperous 2021!

Keep informed on our work; sign up for our weekly email updates at [bit.ly/newsNRC](http://bit.ly/newsNRC).

Sincerely,



Mark Aistrop

Chair, Special Service Area #60



Albany Park  
& Irving Park  
SSA #60

# WHAT IS AN SSA?

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

**Albany Park & Irving Park Special Service Area #60 boundaries are below; view the map at [bit.ly/ssa60map](http://bit.ly/ssa60map). SSA#60 is located in both the 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.

## 182 DAYS

of litter removal along 7.5 miles of sidewalks

## 21" OF SNOW

removed along 7.5 miles of sidewalks

## \$82,684

in total investment from five storefront improvement projects who received \$41,342 in grants from the SSA

## 408 BANNERS

installed across 204 light poles in the SSA for neighborhood branding and business marketing

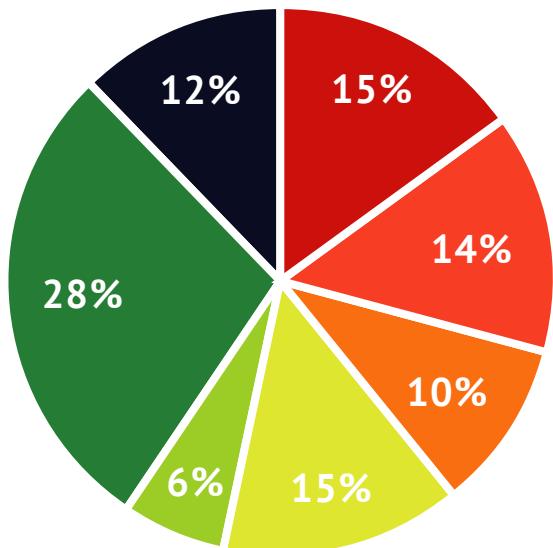
## 2 NEW PROGRAMS

created in response to Covid-19 resulting in \$9,931 in grants for sidewalk patio cafe permits and emergency board-ups

## 2 ART MURALS

located at 3215 W Lawrence and 3142 W Lawrence, including the five "Portraits of Resilience"

# BUDGET BREAKDOWN



## 15% CUSTOMER ATTRACTION

district banners, special events, public art, district promotion

## 14% STOREFRONT BEAUTIFICATION GRANTS & MERCHANDISING

storefront improvement program rebates, window merchandising

## 10% SNOW REMOVAL

## 15% LITTER & GRAFFITI REMOVAL

## 6% TREES, PLANTINGS, BENCHES & BIKE RACKS

## 28% PROGRAM DELIVERY & MANAGEMENT

small business support, administrative expenses, audit

## 12% CARRYOVER/RETAINED EARNINGS

# PERFORMANCE & IMPACT

## BUSINESS DISTRICT BEAUTIFICATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

### SSA FUNDS INVESTED IN OUR BUSINESS DISTRICTS

#### 91 PAINTED OR REFRESHED

bike racks, parking meters, and trash cans

#### 2 PUBLIC ART MURALS

at 3215 W Lawrence and 3142 W Lawrence, plus sidewalk stenciling

#### 408 DISTRICT BANNERS

installed across 204 SSA-area light poles to promote community branding and business sponsors

### RESULTS OF SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT

#### \$1.2 MILLION

in State of Illinois Business Interruption Grants funds issued to 33 businesses and nonprofits

#### \$100,000

secured by small businesses from various private and public relief funds

#### 100'S OF BUSINESSES

secured PPP funds and SBA Economic Disaster Injury Loans (EIDL)

#### DOZENS OF NEW

and enhanced outdoor dining areas as part of the City's Expanded Outdoor Dining programs

#### 76 TREES

treated to help retain our urban tree canopy & fight Emerald Ash Borer

#### 29+ SMALL BUSINESSES

participated in "virtual" Flavors of Albany Park Restaurant Crawl

#### 2 NEW GRANT PROGRAMS

created for outdoor dining and emergency board-ups

#### 14 BUSINESSES

received \$5,000 grants from \$62,000 in funds raised by NRC from local donors

#### \$44,000

in donations given to 24 businesses from NRC's weekly GoFundMe Challenge

#### 9 RIBBON-CUTTING

ceremonies to welcome new businesses to the community

#### 3+ WEBSITES

dedicated to business pandemic relief and resources to support small businesses



BEFORE

AFTER



Pictured: Ward Bakery (4744 N Kedzie Ave)

### 2021 STOREFRONT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

This important program has been renewed for 2021 and will build on its success over the last 6 years. 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% grant. The maximum grant per storefront is \$7,500 and for one building where renovations include two or more storefronts, the maximum grant is \$15,000.

The Storefront Improvement Program fulfills the SSA's purpose to "support a vibrant, safe, clean, beautiful and welcoming commercial district, filled with restaurants, attractive retail and services, entertainment and cultural options that meet the needs of the local residents and attract visitors."

You are encouraged to reach out to us for guidance as you plan your project and submit a complete application; approval is required before work can begin.

Applications are due on the last day of each month. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis 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](http://bit.ly/facadeprogram)



## North River Commission



North River Commission (NRC) is the 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, North Park, Peterson Park, and Mayfair to "improve the quality of life in our communities by developing affordable housing, quality education, arts & cultural endeavors, open spaces, environmental sustainability, and thriving neighborhood businesses."



**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 and the Lawrence Avenue Development Corporation to grow thriving businesses in Albany Park, Irving Park, North Park, Peterson Park and Mayfair business districts.

**GET INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY AND WORK ALONGSIDE US!**

Sign up for our newsletter at [bit.ly/newsNRC](http://bit.ly/newsNRC), follow us on social media, come to a meeting, or contact us.

# COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESPONSE

**SINCE MARCH 2020**, SSA#60 in collaboration with North River Commission, the Albany Park Chamber of Commerce, and the Lawrence Avenue Development Corporation has provided critical resources to small businesses and property owners. The SSA has proven to be a reliable and resilient community resource, capable of rising to the moment and pivoting funds towards areas of need and best use.

The SSA deployed its resources to ensure hundreds of businesses received over a million dollars in aid, new grant programs were established to expand outdoor dining, and public art and district banners were installed to promote the community's identity and branding.

Three websites were developed to promote business pandemic resources and encourage the community to support small businesses. The October COVID-19 Response Report was created for added transparency to show how funds were directed during the pandemic.

**Download and read the full COVID-19 Response Report at:**  
[bit.ly/SSA60CovidReport](https://bit.ly/SSA60CovidReport)





## CONTACT US

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**SOCIAL MEDIA:**  
**@NORTHRIVERCOMMISSION**  
**@ALBANYPARKCHAMBER**

**MEETING DATE SCHEDULE:** 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6pm on Zoom until further notice; check our website for more information and meeting minutes.

## COMMISSIONERS:

**Mark Aistrope – Chair:** Meeting Tomorrow

**Andrew Levin – Treasurer:** Bass Management

**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

## NORTHRIVERCOMMISSION.ORG

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