FINANCIAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

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FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2015

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Alexander Mannie & Company, P.C.

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Commissioners of Special Service Area Number 61

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Special Service Area Number 61 ("SSA"), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2015, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the SSA's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

The financial statements presented to present only the Special Service Area Number 61, and do not purport to, and do not present fairly the financial position of South East Chicago Commission, as of December 31, 2015 and the changes in the financial position for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the presentation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

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Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Special Service Area Number 61 as of December 31, 2015, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principle generally accepted in the United States of America requires that the statement of revenues and expenditures-budget and actual on pages 9 to 12 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient to evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose if forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the SSA's basic financial statements. The summary schedule of findings is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basis financial statements.

The summary schedule of findings is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the summary schedule of findings is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

The summary schedule of findings has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements, and accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

Elepander Mannie & Compay, P.C.

Matteson, Illinois April 20, 2016

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION AND GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015

ASSETS	Governmental Fund	Adjustments	Statement of Net Position
Cash Property tax receivables, net of allowance	\$ 30,548 265,906	\$ - 	\$ 30,548 265,906
Total Assets	\$ 296,454	<u>\$</u>	\$ 296,454
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable Due to affiliate-SECC	\$ 27,893 20,911	\$ - -	\$ 27,893 20,911
Total Liabilities	48,804		48,804
DEFERRED INFLOWS			
Deferred property tax revenue	257,396	(257,396)	-
FUND BALANCES/NET POSITION			
Unassigned	(9,746)		(9,746)
Total Fund Balance	(9,746)		(9,746)
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows and Fund Balance	\$ 296,454		
Net Position			
Restricted		247,650	247,650
Total Net Position		\$ 247,650	\$ 247,650
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net p	osition are differen	nt because:	
Total fund balance-governmental funds			\$ (9,746)
Property tax revenue is recognized in the period for which levied rat A portion of the property tax is deferred as it is not available in the g		257,396	
Total net position-governmental activities			<u>\$ 247,650</u>

The accompany notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS, REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

REVENUE:	Go	vernmental Funds	Ac	ljustments	of Activities
Tax levy revenue Interest income	\$	264,803 <u>4</u>	\$	266	\$ 265,069 <u>4</u>
Total Revenue		264,807		266	 265,073
EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES:					
Customer Attraction Public Way Aesthetics Sustainability and Public Places		135,907 103,568 500		- -	135,907 103,568 500
Economic/Business Development SSA Management Personnel		54,054 14,360 57,293		-	 54,054 14,360 57,293
Total Expenditures/Expenses		365,682			 365,682
Excess of expenditures over revenues		(100,875)		100,875	-
Change in Net Position		-		(100,609)	(100,609)
Fund Balance/Net Position:					
Beginning of year		91,129		257,130	 348,259
End of year	\$	(9,746)	\$	257,396	 247,650
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activi	ties are	different beca	ause:		
Net change in fund balance-governmental fund					\$ (100,875)
Property tax revenue is recognized in the year it is levied rather than whether the second se	hen it i	s available			 266
Change in net position-governmental activities					\$ (100,609)

The accompany notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) <u>Reporting Entity</u>

Special Service Area 61 ("SSA") provides services on behalf of the City of Chicago ("City") within a specified geographic area. These services include promotional and advertising, maintenance of the public way, safety, and other functions. The SSA is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the internal revenue code.

(b) <u>Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements</u>

The financial statements of SSA have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as applied to governmental units, hereinafter referred to as GAAP (generally accepted accounting principles). The accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles is GASB (the Governmental Accounting Standards Board).

Government-Wide financial statements (statement of net position and statement of activities) are prepared using the economic resources measurement focus and accrued basis of accounting for all of the SSA's activities. The Fund Financial Statements, which focus on the SSA's governmental funds current financial resources measurement focus, are prepared on the modified accrual basis.

The SSA accounts for its activities in one fund, its general fund.

(c) Measurement Focus, Basic of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the accrued basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenues in the year in which they are levied.

The governmental fund financial statements are prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting with only current assets and liabilities included on the balance sheet. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recorded when susceptible to accrual, i.e. both measurable and available to finance expenditures of the current period. Available means collected within the current period or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period. Property taxes are susceptible to accrual and recognized as a receivable in the year levied. Revenue recognition is deferred unless the taxes are received within 60 days subsequent to year-end. Expenditures are recorded when the liability is incurred.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(c) <u>Measurement Focus, Basic of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation</u> (continued)

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures/expenses during the reporting period. According, actual results could differ from those estimates.

(d) Assets, Liabilities, and Net Position

Cash, cash equivalents and investments

The SSA's cash and cash equivalent are considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits, and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition. Presently, SSA does not have any short-term investments.

Receivables

All property tax receivables are shown net of allowances. As of December 31, 2015, the SSA does not have an allowance for outstanding property taxes.

Prepaid items

Certain payments to vendors reflect cost applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid items in both the government-wide and fund financial statements.

Fund Equity/Net Position

Governmental fund equity is classified as fund balance. Fund balance is further classified as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, or unassigned. Nonspendable fund balance cannot be spent because of its form. Restricted fund balance has limitations imposed by enabling legislation or an outside party. Committed fund balance is a limitation imposed by the SSA board through approval of resolutions. Assigned fund balance is a limitation imposed by a designee of the SSA board. Unassigned fund balance is the net resources in excess of what can be properly classified in one of the above four categories.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(d) <u>Assets, Liabilities, and Net Position (continued):</u>

Fund Equity/Net Position (continued)

When both restricted and unrestricted fund balances are available for use, it is the SSA's policy to use restricted fund balance first, then unrestricted fund balance. Furthermore, committed fund balance is reduced first, followed by assigned amounts, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of those unrestricted fund balance classifications can be used.

For the government-wide financial statements, net position is reported as invested in capital assets net of related debt, restricted or unrestricted. Invested in capital assets, net of related debt, if applicable, is comprised of the net capital asset balance less any related debt. Restricted net position is when restrictions are placed on net assets from 1) externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments or 2) imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. The remaining net position is classified as unrestricted.

Note 2 - Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are subject to custodial credit risk n the event of a bank failure, the SSA deposit may not be returned. The SSA maintains its cash in bank deposit, at times, may exceed FDIC insured limits. The amount of cash that exceed FDIC insured limits is \$0 as of December 31, 2015.

Note 3 - Property Taxes

Property taxes become an enforceable lien on the real property on January 1 of the year it is levied. Taxes are payable in two installments in the subsequent year. The first installment is an estimate based on the prior year billed levy (55%) and is due in March. The second installment is due on August 1, or 30 days from the mailing of the tax bills if issued later than July 1. The second installment is based on the remaining amount of the levy on file with the County. Bills are issued and collected by Cook County who remits the SSA's share to the City who then remits the monies to the SSA.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

Note 4 - Related Party Transactions

SSA is affiliate with South East Chicago Commission, which provides certain administrative services for SSA. As of December 31, 2015, \$20,911 was payable for services provided. The balance resulted from the time lag that 1) goods and services are being provided or reimbursable expenditures occur, 2) transactions are recorded in the accounting system and 3) payments are being made.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

	Budget Actual		Variance			
REVENUE:			^		.	100
Property taxes		4,314	\$	264,803	\$	489
Carryover		7,250		-		(47,250)
Late collections	1	3,225		-		(13,225)
Interest Income		-		4		4
Total Revenue	32	4,789		264,807		(59,982)
EXPENDITURES:						
Customer Attraction						
Website		5,000		21,908		16,908
Special events	1	5,000		81,006		66,006
Social media outreach	1	0,000		5,505		(4,495)
Decorative banners	1	5,000		14,458		(542)
Holiday decorations	1	0,000		-		(10,000)
Print materials		3,000		13,030		10,030
Other:	1	3,225				(13,225)
Total Customer Attraction	7	1,225		135,907		64,682
Public Way Aesthetics						
Acid etching removal and/or prevention		3,000		-		(3,000)
Landscaping (plants, watering, etc.)	3	5,000		40,658		5,658
Façade enhancement program-rebates	1	5,000		-		(15,000)
Way finding/signage		3,000		1,500		(1,500)
Streetscape elements (include capital installation, maintenance)		5,000		-		(5,000)
Sidewalk maintenance		5,100		61,410		6,310
Total Public Way Aesthetics	11	6,100		103,568		(12,532)
Sustainability and Public Places						
Public transit enhancements	2	0,000		500		(19,500)
Total Sustainability and Pubic Places	2	0,000		500		(19,500)
Economic/Business Development						
Site marketing (materials, services, etc.)		5,000		7,060		2,060
Supplemental transit (shuttle, trolley, etc.)	1	0,000		-		(10,000)
Wi-Fi district infrastructure/maintenance		5,000		-		(5,000)
Strategic planning		5,000		904		(4,096)
Economic impact study, market study, branding study, etc.	1	0,000		46,090		36,090
Commission development (policy governance, training, etc.)		3,000				(3,000)
Total Economic/Business Development	3	8,000		54,054		16,054

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

	Budget	Actual	Variance
SSA Management			
SSA annual report	3,000	-	(3,000)
SSA audit	2,500	2,500	-
Office rent	5,000	5,000	-
Office utilities	2,000	-	(2,000)
Office supplies	1,900	2,660	760
Office equipment lease/maintenance	2,000	981	(1,019)
Office printing	400	-	(400)
Postage	200	952	752
Meeting Expense	4,650	2,153	(2,497)
Subscriptions/dues	600	114	(486)
Bank fees	1,400		(1,400)
Total SSA Management	23,650	14,360	(9,290)
Personnel			
Director	45,960	45,960	-
Office administrator	6,854	8,628	1,774
Bookkeeper	2,500	2,705	205
Total Personnel	55,314	57,293	1,979
Loss Collection			
Loss Collection	500		(500)
Total Loss Collection	500		(500)
Total Expenditures	324,789	365,682	40,893
Excess of Revenues Over Expenses	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$ (100,875)</u>	<u>\$ (100,875)</u>

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

	Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUE:			
Property taxes	\$ 264,508	\$ 271,692	\$ 7,184
Interest Income		3	3
Total Revenue	264,508	271,695	7,187
EXPENDITURES:			
Advertising & Promotion			
Website and social media	10,000	438	(9,562)
Public and/or media relations	10,000	10,000	-
Special events	20,000	30,095	10,095
Total Advertising & Promotion	40,000	40,533	533
Public Way Maintenance			
Sidewalk cleaning	45,000	20,997	(24,003)
Sidewalk snow plowing	25,000	1,596	(23,404)
Total Public Way Maintenance	70,000	22,593	(47,407)
Public Way Aesthetics			
Decorative banner and /or holiday decorations	15,000	450	(14,550)
Landscaping (plants, watering, etc.)	17,000	29,900	12,900
Total Public Way Aesthetics	32,000	30,350	(1,650)
Tenant Retention/Attraction			
Data collection	100		(100)
Total Tenant Retention/Attraction	100	-	(100)
Façade Improvements			
Façade enhancement program-rebates	100		(100)
Total Façade Improvements	100	-	(100)
Parking/Transit/Accessibility			
Supplemental transit (shuttle, trolley, etc.)	31,000	10,725	(20,275)
Total Parking/Transit/Accessibility	31,000	10,725	(20,275)
Safety Program			
Public way surveillance cameras maintenance	50		(50)
Total Safety Program	50	-	(50)
SSA District Planning			
SSA designation	50		(50)
Total SSA District Planning	50		(50)

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

	Budget	Actual	Variance
Personnel	6		
Personnel cost	55,814	55,814	
Total Personnel	55,814	55,814	-
Admin. Non-Personnel			
Audit	2,500	2,500	-
Bookkeeping	2,500	2,500	-
Office rent	5,000	5,000	-
Office utilities	2,050	2,050	-
Office supplies	1,900	1,900	-
Office equipment lease/maintenance	2,000	2,000	-
Office printing	850	850	-
Postage	400	-	(400)
Meeting Expense	3,500	793	(2,707)
Subscriptions/dues	600	600	-
Bank fees	425	-	(425)
Other: training and development	3,000	2,358	(642)
Total Admin Non-Personnel	24,725	20,551	(4,174)
Loss collection	10,669		(10,669)
Total Loss Collection	10,669		(10,669)
Total Expenditures	264,508	180,566	(83,942)
Excess of Revenues Over Expenses	<u>\$</u>	\$ 91,129	\$ 91,129

SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

We have read the requirements of the Service Provider Agreement between South East Chicago Commission, Contractor, and the City of Chicago.

Based on our understanding of the agreement and the facts surrounding the performance under the agreement, we noted no exceptions. Many contractual items were included in the agreement which dealt with non-accounting and non-financial matters of which we had no knowledge.

The total revenues used during the year ended December 31, 2015, were made available from the budgeted sources in amounts specified in the budget.

FINDINGS:

1. <u>Deficit in the Fund Balance</u>

As of December 31, 2015, the fund balance had a deficit balance of (\$9,746). This was cause due to SSA overspending of the prior year surplus of \$91,129 by \$100,875 The SSA was approved per the City Ordinance to expend \$47,250 of the prior year fund balance surplus.

Recommendation

We strongly recommend that the SSA adhered to the City Ordinance for fiscal year commencing January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2015 and 2015 Budget and Services Summary noting only \$47,250 of the carryover funds currently available from prior tax years was approved to be expended in 2015. The SSA must review the **Financial and Accounting Guide -Special Service (SSA) Program -Financial Statements, Annual Reporting and Filing Sec. 5: Budget pages 32 to 48** to follow guidelines on SSA Budgeting policies and procedures. We also, recommend that the SSA reduce the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2016 and ending December 31, 2016 by eliminating the expenditures pertaining to \$57,160 carryover fund currently available from prior years from the SSA 2016 Budget.

Responses

A 2016 modified budget has been approved by the SSA Commissioners and submitted to the City of Chicago and it reflects the recommendations. SSA No. 61 will further adhere to the recommendation to review the Financial and Accounting Guide in reference to these matters. The management has also implemented a new reporting matrix to better track spending by month.

SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS (Continued) YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

2. Excess Actual Expenditures Over Budgeted Expenditures

For the year ending December 31, 2015, excess of actual expenditures over budgeted expenditures was (\$40,893.) The SSA was approved per the City Ordinance to expend \$47,250 of the prior year fund balance surplus. However, the SSA overspend the prior year surplus by \$40,893. The excess expenditures are noted in Customer Attraction, Economic/Business Development, and Personnel.

Recommendation

We strongly recommend that the SSA adhered to the City Ordinance for fiscal year commencing January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2015 and 2015 Budget and Services Summary noting only \$47,250 of the carryover funds currently available from prior tax years was approved to be expended in 2015. The SSA must review the **Financial and Accounting Guide -Special Service (SSA) Program -Financial Statements, Annual Reporting and Filing Sec. 5: Budget pages 32 to 48** to follow guidelines on SSA Budgeting policies and procedures. We also, recommend that the SSA reduce the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2016 and ending December 31, 2016 by eliminating the expenditures pertaining to \$57,160 carryover fund currently available from prior years from the SSA 2016 Budget.

Response

A 2016 modified budget has been approved by the SSA Commissioners and submitted to the City of Chicago and it reflects the recommendations. SSA No. 61 will further adhere to the recommendation to review the Financial and Accounting Guide in reference to these matters. The management has also implemented a new reporting matrix to better track spending by month.

3. Liabilities Exceed Cash Balance

As of December 31, 2015, liabilities exceed cash balance by \$18,256. This is due to SSA overspending prior year fund balance.

Recommendation

We recommend that the SSA reduce the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2016 and ending December 31, 2016 SSA Budget by eliminating the expenditures of \$57,160 carryover fund currently available from prior years from the SSA 2016 Budget.

Response

SSA No. 61 eliminated in carryover expenditures in a modified budget submitted to the City of Chicago.

SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS (Continued) YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

4. Outstanding Checks Over 90 days

Per our audit of the bank reconciliation, we noted that outstanding checks totaling of \$2,400 were outstanding over 90 days.

Recommendation

We recommend that these outstanding checks should be investigated and payment stopped at bank, as necessary.

Response

SSA No. 61 has investigated all outstanding checks over 90 days and have taken the proper steps necessary so they are not reflected as such in the bank reconciliation.