
2003 Annual Report

Near West Redevelopment Project Area



Pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/11-74.4-5(d)

JUNE 30, 2004

June 30, 2004

Ms. Denise Casalino
Commissioner
Department of Planning and Development
121 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Commissioner:

Enclosed is the annual report for the Near West Redevelopment Project Area, which we compiled at the direction of the Department of Planning and Development pursuant to Section 5(d) of the Illinois Tax Increment Allocation Redevelopment Act (65 ILCS 5/11-74.4-1 et seq.), as amended. The contents are based on information provided to us by Chicago Departments of Planning and Development, Finance, and Law. We have not audited, verified, or applied agreed upon accounting and testing procedures to the data contained in this report. Therefore, we express no opinion on its accuracy or completeness.

It has been a pleasure to work with representatives from the Department of Planning and Development and other City Departments.

Very truly yours,



Ernst & Young LLP

Near West Redevelopment Project Area 2003 Annual Report

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City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Department of Planning
and Development

Denise M. Casalino, P.E.
Commissioner

City Hall, Room 1000
121 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602
(312) 744-4190
(312) 744-2271 (FAX)
<http://www.cityofchicago.org>

June 30, 2004

The Honorable Daniel Hynes
Comptroller
State of Illinois
Office of the Comptroller
201 Capitol
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Comptroller Hynes:

We have compiled the attached information for the Near West
Redevelopment Project Area (Report) pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/11-74.4-
5(d).

Sincerely,

Denise Casalino
Commissioner



Near West Redevelopment Project Area 2003 Annual Report

(1) DATE OF DESIGNATION OR TERMINATION - 65 ILCS 5/11-74.4-5(d)(1.5)

The Project Area was designated on March 23, 1989. The Project Area may be terminated no later than March 23, 2012.

Note: Incremental tax revenues levied in the 23rd tax year are collected in the 24th tax year. Although the Project Area will expire in Year 23 in accordance with 65 ILCS 5/11-74.4-3(n)(J)(3), the incremental taxes received in the 24th tax year will be deposited into the Special Tax Allocation Fund.

**Near West Redevelopment Project Area
2003 Annual Report**

(2) AUDITED FINANCIALS - 65 ILCS 5/11-74.4-5(d)(2)

Please see attached.

CITY OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
NEAR WEST
REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

FINANCIAL REPORT

DECEMBER 31, 2003

CITY OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
NEAR WEST REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

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BANSLEY AND KIENER, L.L.P.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

O'HARE PLAZA

8745 WEST HIGGINS ROAD, SUITE 200

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60631

AREA CODE 312 263-2700

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Honorable Richard M. Daley, Mayor
Members of the City Council
City of Chicago, Illinois

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Near West Redevelopment Project of the City of Chicago, Illinois, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2003, as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the City of Chicago's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion 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 of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As discussed in Note 1, the financial statements present only the Near West Redevelopment Project and do not purport to, and do not present fairly the financial position of the City of Chicago, Illinois, as of December 31, 2003, and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Near West Redevelopment Project of the City of Chicago, Illinois, as of December 31, 2003, and the changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The Management's Discussion and Analysis on pages 3 and 4 is not a required part of the basic financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

The Honorable Richard M. Daley, Mayor
Members of the City Council

- 2 -

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole. The schedule of expenditures by statutory code on page 10, which is also the responsibility of the City of Chicago's management, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements of Near West Redevelopment Project of the City of Chicago, Illinois. Such additional information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.


Certified Public Accountants

May 20, 2004

CITY OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
NEAR WEST REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
(UNAUDITED)

As management of the Near West Tax Increment Redevelopment Project Area (Project), we offer the readers of the Project's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the Project's financial performance for the year ended December 31, 2003. Please read it in conjunction with the Project's financial statements, which follow this section.

Overview of the Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the Project's basic financial statements. The Project's basic financial statements include three components: 1) government-wide financial statements, 2) governmental fund financial statements, and 3) notes to the financial statements. This report also contains other supplementary information concerning the Project's expenditures by statutory code.

Basic Financial Statements. The basic financial statements include two kinds of financial statements that present different views of the Project – the *Government-Wide Financial Statements* and the *Governmental Fund Financial Statements*. These financial statements also include the notes to the financial statements that explain some of the information in the financial statements and provide more detail.

Government-Wide Financial Statements provide both long-term and short-term information about the Project's financial status and use accounting methods similar to those used by private-sector companies. The statement of net assets includes all of the project's assets and liabilities. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are accounted for in the statement of activities regardless of when cash is received or paid. The two government-wide statements report the Project's net assets and how they have changed. Net assets – the difference between the Project's assets and liabilities – is one way to measure the Project's financial health, or position.

Governmental Fund Financial Statements provide more detailed information about the Project's significant funds – not the Project as a whole. Governmental funds focus on: 1) how cash and other financial assets can readily be converted to cash flows and 2) the year-end balances that are available for spending. Consequently, the governmental fund statements provide a detailed short-term view that helps determine whether there are more financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the Project. Because this information does not encompass the additional long-term focus of the government-wide statements, we provide additional information at the bottom of the statements to explain the relationship (or differences) between them.

Notes to the Financial Statements. The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and governmental fund financial statements. The notes to the financial statements follow the basic financial statements.

Other Supplementary Information. In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents a schedule of expenditures by statutory code. This supplementary information follows the notes to the financial statements.

Condensed Comparative Financial Statements

	<u>Government-Wide</u>			
	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Total assets	\$24,997,182	\$27,450,266	\$(2,453,084)	(9)%
Total liabilities	<u>9,695,247</u>	<u>10,622,716</u>	<u>(927,469)</u>	(9)%
Total net assets	<u>\$15,301,935</u>	<u>\$16,827,550</u>	<u>\$(1,525,615)</u>	(9)%
Total revenues	\$ 6,614,691	\$ 5,696,824	\$ 917,867	16%
Total expenses	<u>3,140,306</u>	<u>716,229</u>	<u>2,424,077</u>	338%
Operating transfers out	<u>(5,000,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(5,000,000)</u>	-%
Change in net assets	<u>(1,525,615)</u>	<u>4,980,595</u>	<u>(6,506,210)</u>	(131)%
Ending net assets	<u>\$15,301,935</u>	<u>\$16,827,550</u>	<u>\$(1,525,615)</u>	(9)%

Analysis of Overall Financial Position and Results of Operations

Property tax revenue for the Project was \$6,447,462 for the year. This was an increase of 20 percent over the prior year. The change in net assets produced a decrease in net assets of \$1,525,615. The Project's net assets decreased by 9 percent (including operating transfers out) from the prior year making available \$15,301,935 of funding to be provided for purposes of future redevelopment in the Project's designated area. Revenues increased this year due to the Project's economic growth and accordingly increasing the total equalized assessed value of parcels and subsequent tax increment and related collections. Expenses increased this year due to the Project's formulation of a redevelopment plan or necessary funding was substantially complete and available.

Debt Administration

Tax Increment Allocation Bonds outstanding at December 31, 2003 amounted to \$9,340,000. More detailed information about the Project's long-term liabilities is presented in Note 2 of the financial statements.

CITY OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
NEAR WEST REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS AND
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET
DECEMBER 31, 2003

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>Governmental Funds</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Statement of Net Assets</u>
Cash and investments	\$ 18,988,571	\$ -	\$ 18,988,571
Property taxes receivable	6,000,000	-	6,000,000
Accrued interest receivable	8,611	-	8,611
Total assets	<u>\$ 24,997,182</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 24,997,182</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>			
Vouchers payable	\$ 1,413	\$ -	\$ 1,413
Due to other City funds	89,209	-	89,209
Accrued interest payable	264,625	-	264,625
Deferred revenue	5,216,482	(5,216,482)	-
Bonds payable (Note 2):			
Due within one year	825,000	-	825,000
Due after one year	-	8,515,000	8,515,000
Total liabilities	<u>6,396,729</u>	<u>3,298,518</u>	<u>9,695,247</u>
<u>FUND BALANCE/NET ASSETS</u>			
Fund balance:			
Reserved for debt service	2,339,857	(2,339,857)	-
Designated for future redevelopment project costs	16,260,596	(16,260,596)	-
Total fund balance	<u>18,600,453</u>	<u>(18,600,453)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total liabilities and fund balance	<u>\$ 24,997,182</u>		
Net assets:			
Restricted for capital projects		3,288	3,288
Restricted for debt service		7,556,339	7,556,339
Restricted for future redevelopment project costs		7,742,308	7,742,308
Total net assets		<u>\$ 15,301,935</u>	<u>\$ 15,301,935</u>

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net assets are different because:

Total fund balance - governmental funds	\$ 18,600,453
Property tax revenue is recognized in the period for which levied rather than when "available". A portion of the deferred property tax revenue is not available.	5,216,482
Long-term liabilities applicable to the Project's governmental activities are not due and payable in the current period and accordingly are not reported as fund liabilities. All long-term liabilities are reported in the statement of net assets.	<u>(8,515,000)</u>
Total net assets - governmental activities	<u>\$ 15,301,935</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

CITY OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
NEAR WEST REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS REVENUES, EXPENDITURES
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003

	<u>Governmental Funds</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Statement of Activities</u>
Revenues:			
Property tax	\$ 5,782,733	\$ 664,729	\$ 6,447,462
Interest	167,229	-	167,229
Total revenues	<u>5,949,962</u>	<u>664,729</u>	<u>6,614,691</u>
Expenditures/expenses:			
Capital projects	2,611,056	-	2,611,056
Debt service:			
Principal retirement	825,000	(825,000)	-
Interest	529,250	-	529,250
Total expenditures/expenses	<u>3,965,306</u>	<u>(825,000)</u>	<u>3,140,306</u>
Excess of revenues over expenditures	1,984,656	1,489,729	3,474,385
Other financing uses:			
Operating transfers out (Note 3)	<u>(5,000,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(5,000,000)</u>
Excess of expenditures and other financing uses over revenues	(3,015,344)	3,015,344	-
Change in net assets	-	(1,525,615)	(1,525,615)
Fund balance/net assets:			
Beginning of year	<u>21,615,797</u>	<u>(4,788,247)</u>	<u>16,827,550</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 18,600,453</u>	<u>\$ (3,298,518)</u>	<u>\$ 15,301,935</u>

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:

Net change in fund balance - governmental funds	\$ (3,015,344)
Property tax revenue is recognized in the period for which levied rather than when "available". A portion of the deferred property tax revenue is not available.	664,729
Repayment of bond principal is reported as an expenditure in governmental funds and, thus, has the effect of reducing fund balance because current financial resources have been used. For governmental activities, however, the principal payments reduce the liabilities in the statement of net assets and do not result in an expense in the statement of activities.	<u>825,000</u>
Change in net assets - governmental activities	<u>\$ (1,525,615)</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

CITY OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
NEAR WEST REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) *Reporting Entity*

In March 1989, the City of Chicago (City) established the Near West Tax Increment Redevelopment Project Area (Project). The area has been established to finance improvements, leverage private investment and create and retain jobs. The Project is accounted for within the capital projects, debt service and special revenue funds of the City.

(b) *Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements*

The accompanying financial statements of the Project have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles as prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). In June 1999, the GASB unanimously approved Statement No. 34 (as amended by Statement No. 37), *Basic Financial Statements - Management's Discussion and Analysis - for State and Local Governments* and at a later date, Statement No. 38 *Certain Financial Statements Disclosures*, and include the following:

- A Management Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) section providing an analysis of the Project's overall financial position and results of operations.
- Government-wide financial statements prepared using the economic resources measurement focus and the *accrual basis of accounting* for all the Project's activities.
- Fund financial statements, which focus on the Project's governmental funds *current financial resources measurement focus*.

(c) *Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting, and Financial Statements Presentation*

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the *accrual 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 for 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 collectible 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.

Private-sector standards of accounting and financial reporting issued prior to December 1, 1989, generally are followed in government-wide financial statements to the extent that those standards do not conflict with or contradict guidance of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. The City has elected not to follow subsequent private-sector guidance.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the City's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources, as they are needed.

CITY OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
NEAR WEST REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Continued)

Note 1 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (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 expenses during the reporting period. Accordingly, actual results could differ from these estimates.

(d) *Assets, Liabilities and Net Assets*

Cash and Investments

Cash belonging to the City is generally deposited with the City Treasurer as required by the Municipal Code of Chicago. The City Comptroller issues warrants for authorized City expenditures which represent a claim for payment when presented to the City Treasurer. Payment for all City warrants clearing is made by checks drawn on the City's various operating bank accounts.

The City Treasurer and City Comptroller share responsibility for investing in authorized investments. Interest earned on pooled investments is allocated to participating funds based upon their average combined cash and investment balances.

The City values its investments at fair value or amortized cost. U.S. Government securities purchased at a price other than par with a maturity of less than one year are reported at amortized cost.

Capital Assets

Fixed assets are not capitalized in the governmental funds but, instead, are charged as current expenditures when purchased. The Government-wide financial statements (i.e., the statement of net assets and the statement of changes in net assets) of the City includes the capital assets and related depreciation, if any, of the Project in which ownership of the capital asset will remain with the City (i.e. infrastructure, or municipal building). All other construction will be expensed in both the government-wide financial statements and the governmental funds as the City nor Project will retain the right of ownership.

(e) *Stewardship, Compliance, and Accountability*

Illinois Tax Increment Redevelopment Allocation Act Compliance

The Project's expenditures include reimbursements for various eligible costs as described in subsection (q) of Section 11-74.4-3 of the Illinois Tax Increment Redevelopment Allocation Act and the Redevelopment Agreement relating specifically to the Project. Eligible costs include but are not limited to survey, property assembly, rehabilitation, public infrastructure, financing and relocation costs.

Reimbursements

Reimbursements, if any, are made to the developer for project costs, as public improvements are completed and pass City inspection. The semi-annual principal and interest payments are made solely from incremental real property taxes, which are paid in the redevelopment district.

CITY OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
NEAR WEST REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Continued)

Note 2 – Bonds Payable

In July 2000, the City issued \$11,560,000 of Near West Tax Increment Allocation Bonds with interest rates ranging from 4.625 percent to 6.0 percent. The bonds have maturity dates ranging from January 1, 2001, to January 1, 2012. Net proceeds of \$11,560,000 were used to finance certain project costs in the Near West Redevelopment Project Area (\$10,404,000) and to fund the debt service and related reserve accounts (\$1,156,000).

Long-term liability activity for the year ended December 31, 2003 was as follows:

Beginning balance	\$10,120,000
Additions	-
Reductions	<u>(780,000)</u>
Ending balance	<u>\$ 9,340,000</u>
Amounts due within one year	<u>\$ 825,000</u>

The aggregate maturities of the bonds are as follows:

<u>Year Ending</u> <u>December 31,</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>
2004	\$ 825,000	\$ 483,875
2005	870,000	436,025
2006	920,000	385,425
2007	970,000	332,075
2008	1,025,000	275,700
2009-2012	<u>4,730,000</u>	<u>446,700</u>
Total	<u>\$9,340,000</u>	<u>\$2,359,800</u>

Note 3 – Operating Transfers Out

During 2003, in accordance with state statutes, the Project transferred \$5,000,000 to the contiguous Central West Redevelopment Project for the purpose of funding an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Chicago Park District.

Note 4 – Commitments

As of December 31, 2003 the Project has entered into contracts for approximately \$44,000 for services and construction projects.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

CITY OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
NEAR WEST REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES BY STATUTORY CODE

Code Description

Costs of studies, surveys, development of plans and specifications, implementation and administration of the redevelopment plan including but not limited to staff and professional service costs for architectural, engineering, legal, marketing	\$ 109,716
Costs of property assembly, including, but not limited to acquisition of land and other property, real or personal, or rights or interests therein, demolition of buildings, and the clearing and grading of land	2,500,000
Costs of the construction of public works or improvements	560
Costs of job training and retraining projects	780
Costs of financing, including but not limited to all necessary and incidental expenses related to the issuance of obligations and which may include payment of interest on any obligations issued hereunder accruing during the estimated period of construction of any redevelopment project for which such obligations are issued and for not exceeding 36 months thereafter and including reasonable reserves related thereto	<u>1,354,250</u>
	<u><u>\$ 3,965,306</u></u>

**Near West Redevelopment Project Area
2003 Annual Report**

(3) MAYOR'S CERTIFICATION - 65 ILCS 5/11-74.4-5(d)(3)

Please see attached.

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
)
COUNTY OF COOK)

CERTIFICATION

TO:

Daniel W. Hynes
Comptroller of the State of Illinois
James R. Thompson Center
100 West Randolph Street, Suite 15-500
Chicago, Illinois 60601
Attention: Carol Reckamp, Director of Local
Government

Dolores Javier, Treasurer
City Colleges of Chicago
226 West Jackson Boulevard, Room 1125
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Gwendolyn Clemons, Director
Cook County Department of Planning &
Development
69 West Washington Street, Room 2900
Chicago, Illinois 60602
Attn: Jackie Harder

Dan Donovan, Comptroller
Forest Preserve District of Cook County
536 North Harlem Avenue
River Forest, Illinois 60305
Att: Kim Feeney

Martin J. Koldyke, Chairman
Chicago School Finance Authority
135 South LaSalle Street, Suite 3800
Chicago, Illinois 60603

Tim Mitchell, General Superintendent & CEO
Chicago Park District
541 North Fairbanks Court, 7th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Arne Duncan, Chief Executive Officer
Chicago Board of Education
125 South Clark Street, 5th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60603
Attn: Linda Wrightsell

Jacqueline Torres, Director of Finance
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of
Greater Chicago
100 East Erie Street, Room 2429
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Attn: Joe Rose

Wallace Young
South Cook County Mosquito Abatement
District
155th & Dixie Highway
P.O. Box 1030
Harvey, Illinois 60426
Attn: Dr. Khian K. Liem

I, RICHARD M. DALEY, in connection with the annual report (the “Report”) of information required by Section 11-74.4-5(d) of the Tax Increment Allocation Redevelopment Act, 65 ILCS5/11-74.4-1 et seq., (the “Act”) with regard to the Near West Redevelopment Project Area (the “Redevelopment Project Area”), do hereby certify as follows:

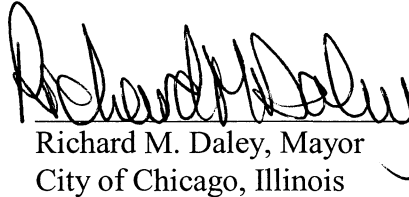
1. I am the duly qualified and acting Mayor of the City of Chicago, Illinois (the "City") and, as such, I am the City's Chief Executive Officer. This Certification is being given by me in such capacity.

2. During the preceding fiscal year of the City, being January 1 through December 31, 2003, the City complied, in all material respects, with the requirements of the Act, as applicable from time to time, regarding the Redevelopment Project Area.

3. In giving this Certification, I have relied on the opinion of the Corporation Counsel of the City furnished in connection with the Report.

4. This Certification may be relied upon only by the addressees hereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my official signature as of this 30th day of June, 2004.


Richard M. Daley, Mayor
City of Chicago, Illinois

**Near West Redevelopment Project Area
2003 Annual Report**

(4) OPINION OF LEGAL COUNSEL - 65 ILCS 5/11-74.4-5(d)(4)

Please see attached.



June 30, 2004

City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Department of Law

Mara S. Georges
Corporation Counsel

City Hall, Room 600
121 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602

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(312) 744-2963 (TTY)

<http://www.ci.chi.il.us>

Daniel W. Hynes
Comptroller of the State of Illinois
James R. Thompson Center
100 West Randolph Street, Suite 15-500
Chicago, Illinois 60601
Attention: Carol Reckamp, Director of Local
Government

Dolores Javier, Treasurer
City Colleges of Chicago
226 West Jackson Boulevard, Room 1125
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Gwendolyn Clemons, Director
Cook County Department of Planning &
Development
69 West Washington Street, Room 2900
Chicago, Illinois 60602
Attn: Jackie Harder

Dan Donovan, Comptroller
Forest Preserve District of Cook County
536 North Harlem Avenue
River Forest, Illinois 60305
Att: Kim Feeney

Martin J. Koldyke, Chairman
Chicago School Finance Authority
135 South LaSalle Street, Suite 3800
Chicago, Illinois 60603

Tim Mitchell, General Superintendent &
CEO
Chicago Park District
541 North Fairbanks Court, 7th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Arne Duncan, Chief Executive Officer
Chicago Board of Education
125 South Clark Street, 5th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60603
Attn: Linda Wrightsell

Jacqueline Torres, Director of Finance
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
of Greater Chicago
100 East Erie Street, Room 2429
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Attn: Joe Rose

Wallace Young
South Cook County Mosquito Abatement
District
155th & Dixie Highway
P.O. Box 1030
Harvey, Illinois 60426
Attn: Dr. Khian K. Liem

Re: Near West
Redevelopment Project Area (the "Redevelopment Project
Area")

Dear Addressees:

I am Corporation Counsel of the City of Chicago, Illinois (the "City"). In such capacity, I am providing the opinion required by Section 11-74.4-5(d)(4) of the Tax Increment Allocation Redevelopment Act, 65 ILCS 5/11-74.4-1 et seq. (the "Act"), in connection with the submission of the report (the "Report") in accordance with, and containing the information required by, Section 11-74.4-5(d) of the Act for the Redevelopment Project Area.



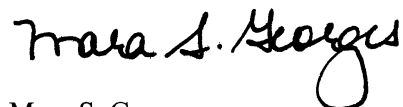
Attorneys, past and present, in the Law Department of the City familiar with the requirements of the Act have had general involvement in the proceedings affecting the Redevelopment Project Area, including the preparation of ordinances adopted by the City Council of the City with respect to the following matters: approval of the redevelopment plan and project for the Redevelopment Project Area, designation of the Redevelopment Project Area as a redevelopment project area and adoption of tax increment allocation financing for the Redevelopment Project Area, all in accordance with the then applicable provisions of the Act. Various departments of the City, including, if applicable, the Law Department, Department of Planning and Development, Department of Housing, Department of Finance and Office of Budget and Management, have personnel responsible for and familiar with the activities in the Redevelopment Project Area affecting such Department(s) and with the requirements of the Act in connection therewith. Such personnel are encouraged to seek and obtain, and do seek and obtain, the legal guidance of the Law Department with respect to issues that may arise from time to time regarding the requirements of, and compliance with, the Act.

In my capacity as Corporation Counsel, I have relied on the general knowledge and actions of the appropriately designated and trained staff of the Law Department and other applicable City Departments involved with the activities affecting the Redevelopment Project Area. In addition, I have caused to be examined or reviewed by members of the Law Department of the City the certified audit report, to the extent required to be obtained by Section 11-74.4-5(d)(9) of the Act and submitted as part of the Report, which is required to review compliance with the Act in certain respects, to determine if such audit report contains information that might affect my opinion. I have also caused to be examined or reviewed such other documents and records as were deemed necessary to enable me to render this opinion. Nothing has come to my attention that would result in my need to qualify the opinion hereinafter expressed, subject to the limitations hereinafter set forth, unless and except to the extent set forth in an Exception Schedule attached hereto as Schedule 1.

Based on the foregoing, I am of the opinion that, in all material respects, the City is in compliance with the provisions and requirements of the Act in effect and then applicable at the time actions were taken from time to time with respect to the Redevelopment Project Area.

This opinion is given in an official capacity and not personally and no personal liability shall derive herefrom. Furthermore, the only opinion that is expressed is the opinion specifically set forth herein, and no opinion is implied or should be inferred as to any other matter. Further, this opinion may be relied upon only by the addressees hereof and the Mayor of the City in providing his required certification in connection with the Report, and not by any other party.

Very truly yours,



Mara S. Georges
Corporation Counsel

SCHEDULE 1

(Exception Schedule)

No Exceptions

Note the following Exceptions:

Near West Redevelopment Project Area 2003 Annual Report

(5) ANALYSIS OF SPECIAL TAX ALLOCATION FUND - 65 ILCS 5/11-74.4-5(d)(5)

COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003		2003
Revenues		
Property tax	\$	5,782,733
Sales tax		-
Interest		167,229
Total revenues		5,949,962
Expenditures		
Costs of studies, admin., and professional services. (q)(1)		109,716
Marketing costs. (q)(1.6)		-
Property assembly, demolition, site preparation and environmental site improvement costs. (q)(2)		2,500,000
Costs of rehabilitation, reconstruction, repair or remodeling and of existing buildings. (q)(3)		-
Costs of construction of public works and improvements. (q)(4)		560
Cost of job training and retraining. (q)(5)		780
Financing costs. (q)(6)		1,354,250
Approved capital costs of overlapping taxing districts. (q)(7)		-
Cost of reimbursing school district for their increase costs caused by TIF assisted housing projects (q)(7.5)		-
Relocation costs. (q)(8)		-
Payments in lieu of taxes. (q)(9)		-
Costs of job training, retraining advanced vocational or career education provided by other taxing bodies. (q)(10)		-
Costs of reimbursing private developers for interest expenses incurred on approved redevelopment projects. (q)(11)(A-E)		-
Costs of construction of new housing units for low income and very low income households. (q)(11)(F)		-
Cost of day care services and operational costs of day care centers. (q)(11.5)		-
Total expenditures		3,965,306
Revenues over expenditures		1,984,656
Other financing uses		
Operating transfers out		(5,000,000)
Expenditures and other financing uses over revenues		(3,015,344)
Fund balance, beginning of year		21,615,797
Fund balance, end of year	\$	18,600,453
Fund balance		
Reserved for debt service		2,339,857
Reserved for encumbrances		-
Designated for future redevelopment project costs	\$	16,260,596
Total fund balance	\$	<u>18,600,453</u>

Near West Redevelopment Project Area 2003 Annual Report

(5) ANALYSIS OF SPECIAL TAX ALLOCATION FUND - 65 ILCS 5/11-74.4-5(d)(5) cont.

Below is listed all vendors, including other municipal funds, that were paid in excess of \$5,000 during the current reporting year.		
Name	Service	Amount
Administrative Costs ¹	Administration	\$89,044
S.B. Friedman & Co.	Consultant	\$14,992
United Hellenic American Congress	Development	\$2,500,000
Cole Taylor Bank	Financing	\$1,354,250

¹ Costs relate directly to the salaries and fringe benefits of employees working solely on tax increment financing districts.

**Near West Redevelopment Project Area
2003 Annual Report**

(6) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY - 65 ILCS 5/11-74.4-5(d)(6)

During 2003, the City did not purchase any property in the Project Area.

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(7) STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES - 65 ILCS 5/11-74.4-5(d)(7)

- (A)** Projects implemented in the preceding fiscal year.
- (B)** A description of the redevelopment activities undertaken.
- (C)** Agreements entered into by the City with regard to disposition or redevelopment of any property within the Project Area.
- (D)** Additional information on the use of all Funds received by the Project Area and steps taken by the City to achieve the objectives of the Redevelopment Plan.
- (E)** Information on contracts that the City's consultants have entered into with parties that have received, or are receiving, payments financed by tax increment revenues produced by the Project Area.
- (F)** Joint Review Board reports submitted to the City.
- (G)** Project-by-project review of public and private investment undertaken from 11/1/99 to 12/31/03, and of such investments expected to be undertaken in year 2004; also, a project-by-project ratio of private investment to public investment from 11/1/99 to 12/31/03, and an estimated ratio of such investments as of the completion of each project and as estimated to the completion of the redevelopment project.

SEE TABLES AND/OR DISCUSSIONS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES.

**Near West Redevelopment Project Area
2003 Annual Report**

(7)(A) - 65 ILCS 5/11-74.4-5(d)(7)(A)

TABLE 7(A)
PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN THE PROCEEDING FISCAL YEAR

NAME
OF PROJECT

United Hellenic American Congress of Illinois; and Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center
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(7)(B) - 65 ILCS 5/11-74.4-5(d)(7)(B)

Redevelopment activities undertaken within this Project Area during the year 2003, if any, have been made pursuant to i) the Redevelopment Plan for the Project Area, and ii) any Redevelopment Agreements affecting the Project Area, and are set forth on Table 5 herein by TIF-eligible expenditure category.

(7)(C) - 65 ILCS 5/11-74.4-5(d)(7)(C)

**TABLE 7 (C)
AGREEMENTS ENTERED INTO WITH REGARD TO THE DISPOSITION & REDEVELOPMENT
OF PROPERTY WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA**

PARTIES TO AGREEMENT WITH CITY	NATURE OF AGREEMENT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ADDRESS	JOBS CREATED/ RETAINED
United Hellenic American Congress of Illinois; and Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center	Redevelopment Agreements	Ethnic Museum	333 S. Halsted	0

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(7)(D) - 65 ILCS 5/11-74.4-5(d)(7)(D)

The Project Area has received \$26,435,713 of property tax and sales tax (if applicable) increment since the creation of the Project Area. These amounts have been used to pay for project costs within the Project Area and for debt service (if applicable). The Project Area's fund balance as shown on Table 5 represents (on a modified accrual basis) financial resources (including increment) that have not been expended.

(7)(E) - 65 ILCS 5/11-74.4-5(d)(7)(E)

During 2003, no contracts were entered into by the City's tax increment advisors or consultants with entities or persons that have received, or are receiving, payments financed by tax increment revenues produced by the Project Area.

(7)(F) - 65 ILCS 5/11-74.4-5(d)(7)(F)

During 2003, no reports were submitted to the City by the Joint Review Board.

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(7)(G) - 65 ILCS 5/11-74.4-5(d)(7)(G)

TABLE 7(G)
PROJECT BY PROJECT REVIEW OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT
AND RATIO OF PRIVATE TO PUBLIC INVESTMENT *

Projects Undertaken in This Redevelopment Project Area	Private Investment Undertaken		Public Investment Undertaken		Ratio Of Private/Public Investment	
	11/1/1999 to End of Reporting FY 2003	Amount Estimated to Complete the Project	11/1/1999 to End of Reporting FY 2003	Amount Estimated to Complete the Project	11/1/1999 to End of Reporting FY 2003	Ratio Estimated as of Project Completion
Project 1: United Hellenic American Congress of Illinois; and Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center	n/a	\$11,766,333	\$2,500,000	\$3,500,000	n/a	3:1
Project 2: Greek Town Ornamentation (amendment)	n/a	\$168,519	\$0	\$400,000	n/a	1:2
Total:	n/a	\$11,934,852	\$2,500,000	\$3,900,000	n/a	n/a

* Each actual or estimated Public Investment reported here is, to the extent possible, comprised only of payments financed by tax increment revenues. In contrast, each actual or estimated Private Investment reported here is, to the extent possible, comprised of payments financed by revenues that are not tax increment revenues and, therefore, may include private equity, private lender financing, private grants, or other local, state or federal grants or loans.

Each amount reported here under Public Investment Undertaken, Amount Estimated to Complete the Project, is the maximum amount of payments financed by tax increment revenues that could be made pursuant to the corresponding Project's operating documents and may not necessarily reflect actual expenditures, if any, as reported in Sections 2 or 5 herein. The total public investment amount ultimately made under each Project will depend upon the future occurrence of various conditions set forth in the Project's operating documents.

Each amount reported here under Public Investment Undertaken, 11/1/1999 to End of Reporting FY, is cumulative from the date of execution of the corresponding Project to the end of the reporting year. Projects for which the last Public Investment made was prior to 11/1/1999 are not reported on this table.

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**(8) DOCUMENTS RELATING TO OBLIGATIONS ISSUED BY THE
MUNICIPALITY - 65 ILCS 5/11-74.4-5(d)(8)(A)**

During 2003, there were no obligations issued for the Project Area.

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(9) ANALYSIS OF DEBT SERVICE - 65 ILCS 5/11-74.4-5(d)(8)(B)

During 2003, there were no obligations issued for the Project Area.

**Near West Redevelopment Project Area
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(10) CERTIFIED AUDIT REPORTS - 65 ILCS 5/11-74.4-5(d)(9)

Please see attached.

Bansley and Kiener, L.L.P.
Certified Public Accountants

Established 1922

BERNARD J. SULLIVAN, C.P.A.
RICHARD J. QUINN, C.P.A.
PAUL A. MERKEL, C.P.A.
JOHN W. SANEW III, C.P.A.
THOMAS A. CERWIN, C.P.A.
STEPHEN R. PANFIL, C.P.A.
MICHAEL D. HUELS, C.P.A.
ROBERT J. MARSCHALK, C.P.A.
THOMAS J. CAPLICE, C.P.A.
ROBERT J. HANNIGAN, C.P.A.
GERARD J. PATER, C.P.A.
VINCENT M. GUZALDO, C.P.A.
TIMOTHY J. QUINN, C.P.A.
MAUREEN B. SHANAHAN, C.P.A.

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Honorable Richard M. Daley, Mayor
Members of the City Council
City of Chicago, Illinois

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the statement of net assets and governmental fund balance sheet of Near West Redevelopment Project of the City of Chicago, Illinois as of December 31, 2003, and the related statement of activities and governmental fund revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balance for the year then ended, and have issued our report thereon dated May 20, 2004.

In connection with our audit, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that the Project failed to comply with the regulatory provisions in Subsection (q) of Section 11-74.4-3 of the Illinois Tax Increment Allocation Redevelopment Act and Subsection (o) of Section 11-74.6-10 of the Illinois Industrial Jobs Recovery Law as they relate to the eligibility for costs incurred incidental to the implementation of the Near West Redevelopment Project of the City of Chicago, Illinois.

This report is intended for the information of the City of Chicago's management. However, this report is a matter of public record, and its distribution is not limited.


Certified Public Accountants

May 20, 2004

Near West Redevelopment Project Area 2003 Annual Report

(11) GENERAL DESCRIPTION AND MAP

The Near West Redevelopment Project Area, is generally bounded by Lake Street on the north, Van Buren and the Circle Interchange of the Dan Ryan, Eisenhower, and Kennedy Expressways on the south, the Kennedy Expressway on the east, and May Street on the west. The map below illustrates the location and general boundaries of the Project Area. For precise boundaries, please consult the legal description in the Redevelopment Plan.

