City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development Special Service Area (SSA) Program

Audit Report Package Transmittal Checklist

This checklist must be completed and submitted with audit report package to City's Department of Planning and Development (DPD) via DPD's SharePoint platform. Note: Effective with 2019 audit report package submissions e-mail submissions are not an acceptable form of transmittal and report packages will be deemed "not submitted" unless they are uploaded into CPD's SharePoint platform. For each SSA submission enter the starting page number for each of the PDF audit report package components listed below. Each required component on the checklist must have a numeric page number, unless otherwise noted.

SSA Name and number: Northcenter SSA38 2022 AUDIT							
SSA Provider Name: Northcenter Chamber of Commerce							
Submission Date: May 3, 2023							
Starting PDF Page Number	Audit Report Package Components						
	Comparative Financial Statements						
6	Statement of Net Position and Governmental Fund Balance Sheet – Current Year						
6	Statement of Net Position and Governmental Fund Balance Sheet – Prior Year						
7	3. Statement of Activities and Governmental Fund Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance – Current Year						
7	Statement of Activities and Governmental Fund Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance – Prior Year						
15 - 16	5. Statement of Revenues and Expenditures – Budget and Actual						
4-5	Auditor's Opinion on Financial Statements						
17	Schedule of Findings – Current and Prior Year, if applicable						
17	Corrective Action Plan – Current and Prior Year, if applicable (if findings)*						
18	Audit Firm CPA License						
19	SSA Budget Summary page for the latest modified/amended budget approved by your SSA commission (for current audit period)						
Separate PDF file attached – Yes/No	SSA Detailed SSA Commission Approved Budget						
	Note: SSA Service Provider must submit detailed budget corresponding to Summary page, noted above, with audit report package.						

^{*}required if findings exist

Special Service Area 38 (a taxing district authorized by the City of Chicago) Managed by Northcenter Chamber of Commerce

Financial Statements
December 31, 2022 and 2021

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Joy L. Coombes, CPA MST

Certified Public Accountant

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Commissioners of Special Service Area 38 Managed by Northcenter Chamber of Commerce

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Special Service Area 38, (SSA38) (a taxing district authorized by the City of Chicago) which comprise the SSA 38 basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements. In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of SSA 38 as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the changes in its fund balance/net position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of SSA 38 and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation 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. In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about SSA38's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements, including omissions, are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud
 or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include
 examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial
 statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 SSA38's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that
 raise substantial doubt about SSA38's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period
 of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Management has omitted the management's discussion and analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, although not a 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. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The schedules of revenues and expenditures - budget and actual on page 11 and 12, are presented for comparison and analysis purposes only. The supplementary information is not a required part of the basic financial statements. We have not performed any auditing procedures on the budget amounts and therefore express no opinion on them.

Joy L Coombes, CPA MST

Joy L Coombes

Chicago, Illinois April 28, 2023

Special Service Area 38 Managed by Northcenter Chamber of Commerce Statements of Net Position and Governmental Fund Balance Sheets December 31, 2022 and 2021

	2022			2021								
	Governmental			Statement of		Governmental					atement of	
ACCETC		Fund	Ad	ljustments	Ne	t Position		Fund	Ad	ljustments	Ne	t Position
ASSETS												
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	4,204	\$	-	\$	4,204	\$	50,691	\$	-	\$	50,691
Property tax receivable, net of allowance		339,514		-		339,514		277,765		-		277,765
TIF rebate receivable		413,083		-		413,083		479,989		-		479,989
Due from City of Chicago		1,611		-		1,611		-		-		-
Due from related party Northcenter Chamber	-	38,827				38,827		-				
Total Assets	\$	797,239	\$		\$	797,239	\$	808,445	\$		\$	808,445
LIABILITIES												
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$	4,891	\$	-	\$	4,891	\$	120	\$	-	\$	120
Due to City of Chicago		-		-				1,423		-		1,423
Total Liabilities		4,891		-		4,891		1,543		-		1,543
DEFERRED INFLOWS												
Deferred property tax revenue		278,994		(278,994)				277,765		(277,765)		
Total Deferred Inflows		278,994		(278,994)		-		277,765		(277,765)		-
FUND BALANCE / NET POSITION												
Unassigned		513,354		(513,354)				529,137		(529,137)		
Total Fund Balance		513,354	-	(513,354)	-			529,137	-	(529,137)		
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows												
and Fund Balance	\$	797,239					\$	808,445				
Net Position - Unrestricted			\$	(792,348)	\$	792,348			\$	(806,902)	\$	806,902
Amounts reported for government activities in the statement of net position are different because:												
Total fund balance - governmental funds	3				\$	513,354					\$	529,137
Property tax revenue is recognized in the "available." A portion of the property tax					ien							
government funds.	.5 461	5.10d do 11 15	. Iot av			278,994						277,765
					\$	792,348					\$	806,902

Special Service Area 38 Managed by Northcenter Chamber of Commerce Statements of Activities and Governmental Fund, Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances

For the Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2021

	2022				2021							
	Go	vernmental Fund	Ad	justments		atement of Activities	Go	vernmental Fund	Adj	ustments		atement of Activities
REVENUES												
Property taxes and interest TIF rebates	\$	263,523	\$	1,229	\$	264,752 <u>-</u>	\$	239,560 215,709	\$	10,765	\$	250,325 215,709
Total Revenues		263,523		1,229		264,752		455,269		10,765		466,034
EXPENDITURES												
Customer attraction Public way aesthetics Sustainability and public places SSA management Personnel		26,448 191,797 - 14,894 46,167		- - - -		26,448 191,797 - 14,894 46,167		16,105 178,375 313 13,333 41,145		- - - -		16,105 178,375 313 13,333 41,145
Total Expenditures		279,306				279,306		249,271				249,271
Excess (deficit) of revenues over expenditures		(15,783)		1,229		(14,554)		205,998		10,765		216,763
Change in Net Position		(15,783)		1,229		(14,554)		205,998		10,765		216,763
Fund Balance/Net Position												
Beginning of the Year		529,137		277,765		806,902		323,139		267,000		590,139
End of the Year	\$	513,354	\$	278,994	\$	792,348	\$	529,137	\$	277,765	\$	806,902
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities is different because:												
Net change in Fund balance - government	al fund	ds			\$	(15,783)					\$	205,998
Property tax is recognized in the year it is for governmental funds	evied	rather than v	vhen i	t is available		1,229						10,765
Change in Net Position					\$	(14,554)					\$	216,763

NOTE 1 – Nature of Activities and Reporting Entity

Special Service Area 38 ("SSA 38") is a taxing district authorized by the City of Chicago located in Chicago, Illinois. Its scope of services is to fund various activities to improve and enhance the Northcenter commercial district. The SSA is funded by property taxes levied on properties within the SSA boundaries, which are collected by the Cook County Treasurer, and then distributed by the City of Chicago to the SSA.

Special Service Area 38 is governed by a Commission whose members are appointed by the Mayor of Chicago. The City of Chicago contracted with Northcenter Chamber of Commerce to perform administrative duties as the service provider for this SSA during the reporting period. Northcenter Chamber of Commerce is an Illinois not-for-profit corporation that is exempt from federal taxes under Section 501(c)6 of the Internal Revenue Code.

NOTE 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

a. Governmental-Wide and Fund Financial Statements

The financial statements of the SSA have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in 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).

Governmental-Wide financial statements (statement of net position and statement of activities) are prepared using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual 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.

NOTE 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies – (Continued)

b. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement 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 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, 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.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles 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 reported period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

c. Assets, Liabilities, and Net Position

Cash and cash equivalents

The SSA's cash and cash equivalents are considered to be short term liquid investments such as cash in banks, money markets, and other financial instruments that can be reduced to cash in thirty days or less.

NOTE 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies – (Continued)

Receivables

All property tax receivables are shown net of allowances. As of December 31, 2022, and 2021, the allowance is estimated to be less than 1% of the outstanding property taxes.

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 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.

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.

d. Subsequent Events

Subsequent events have been evaluated through April 28, 2023, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

NOTE 3 – Cash and Cash Equivalents

The SSA defines cash and cash equivalents as short-term liquid investments such as cash in banks, money markets, and other financial instruments that can be reduced to cash in thirty days or less. The SSA maintains its cash balance in a financial institution located in Chicago, IL. The balance is insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation up to \$250,000. The SSA's cash balance did not exceed the insurance level as of December 31, 2022 and 2021.

NOTE 4 - Property Taxes

The SSA's principal source of revenue is from real estate taxes levied on certain property located in its boundaries. Property taxes become an enforceable lien on 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 March. The second installment is due in August 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.

NOTE 5 – TIF Rebate Receivable

As of December 31, 2022, and 2021, a TIF rebate receivable of \$413,083 and \$479,989, respectively, was identified and reported to the SSA by the Cook County Treasurer. TIF rebates will be received by the SSA over the term of the SSA.

NOTE 6 – Fund Equity/Net Position

The SSA is required to present information regarding its financial position and activities according to the agreement for Special Service Area 38 between the City of Chicago and Northcenter Chamber of Commerce. As of December 31, 2022, and 2021, the SSA had total fund balance of \$513,354 and \$529,137 respectively. These funds will be utilized in this special service area during future years.

NOTE 7 – Deferred Inflows of Revenue

A deferred inflow of resources/property tax revenue represents an acquisition of fund balance that applies to a future period and therefore will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that future time.

NOTE 8 – Related Party Transactions

The SSA is affiliated with Northcenter Chamber of Commerce which acts as its service provider. Special service area 38 shares office space, equipment, and employees through this affiliation. Special Service Area 38 has no employees of their own, but reimburses Northcenter Chamber of Commerce for allocation of shared costs such as payroll and related operating costs. Northcenter Chamber of Commerce received TIF rebate payment of \$38,827, in error in 2022 and deposited these funds into SSA 38 in April 2023. These funds are reflected in the Due from related party Northcenter Chamber account on the 2022 Statement of Net Position on Page 3.

NOTE 9 – Accounts Payable and Due to/from City of Chicago

Accounts payable balance at December 31, 2022 and 2021, is \$4,891 and \$120, respectively. This balance consists of expenses incurred during the respective year related to administrative costs. Amounts due to City of Chicago \$0 and \$1,423, this represent property tax refunds determined/reported but not yet refunded as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively. Amount due from City of Chicago / other receivable for tax payments issued but not yet received until early 2023 of \$1611 and \$0, for the year ending December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively.

NOTE 10 - Risks and Uncertainties

COVID-19, a worldwide pandemic, has continued to present significant effects on global markets, supply chains, businesses, and communities. Specific to the SSA, COVID-19 may continue to impact various parts of 2023 operations and financial results, including potential cancellations of future events and programing, and potential delays in receiving their respective property tax levies. Management believes the SSA is taking appropriate actions to mitigate the negative impact. The full impact of COVID-19 outbreak continues as of the date these financial statements

NOTE 10 – Risks and Uncertainties – (continued)

were issued. Given the uncertainty related to this pandemic, the SSA is not able to estimate the effects of this outbreak on its operations, financial condition and liquidity for the year ended December 31, 2023.

NOTE 11 - Subsequent Events

SSA 38 received its second installment of 2022 tax deposits late, a majority of the second installment was received in December 2022, and January and February 2023. The 2022 tax deposits received in January and February 2023, were included in Property tax receivables and in Property tax revenue at December 31, 2022. The amount of 2022 tax late deposits reported included in Property tax receivable at December 31, 2022 was \$60,520. Total Property Tax Receivable \$339,514, includes gross 2022 levy of \$278,994, less allowance for uncollectible of \$0, plus late collections of 2021 levy received in 2023 of \$60,520.



Special Service Area 38 Managed by Northcenter Chamber of Commerce Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures - Budget and Actual December 31, 2022

	Budget	Actual	Variance	
REVENUE				
Property revenues and interest TIF rebates	\$ 280,566 38,827	\$ 263,523	\$	17,043 38,827
Total revenues	319,393	263,523		55,870
EXPENDITURES				
Customer attraction Public way aesthetics Sustainability and public places Economic/business development Public health and safety programs SSA management Personnel	26,500 203,801 11,827 17,500 13,500 29,265 52,000	26,448 191,797 - - - 14,894 46,167		52 12,004 11,827 17,500 13,500 14,371 5,833
Total expenditures	 354,393	 279,306		75,087
Excess/(deficit) of revenues over expenditures	\$ (35,000)	\$ (15,783)		(19,217)
CARRYOVER	 35,000	 		35,000
Net revenues in excess of expenses	\$ 	\$ (15,783)	\$	15,783

Special Service Area 38 Managed by Northcenter Chamber of Commerce Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures - Budget and Actual December 31, 2021

	Budget	Actual	Variance		
REVENUE					
Property revenues and interest TIF rebates	\$ 271,276 28,079	\$ 239,560 215,709	\$	31,716 (187,630)	
Total revenues	299,355	455,269		(155,914)	
EXPENDITURES					
Customer attraction Public way aesthetics Sustainability and public places Economic/business development Public health and safety programs SSA management Personnel	 22,605 207,305 3,000 11,635 13,500 29,310 47,000	16,105 178,375 313 - - 13,333 41,145		6,500 28,930 2,687 11,635 13,500 15,977 5,855	
Total expenditures	 334,355	 249,271		85,084	
Excess/(deficit) of revenues over expenditures	\$ (35,000)	\$ 205,998		(240,998)	
CARRYOVER	 35,000	-		35,000	
Net revenues in excess of expenses	\$ _	\$ 205,998	\$	(205,998)	

Special Service Area 38 (a taxing district authorized by the City of Chicago) Managed by Northcenter Chamber of Commerce Summary Schedule of Findings For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

As part of our audit and request by the Special Service Area Annual Audited Financial and Accounting Guide, prepared by the City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development, we have read and understand the requirements contained in the Agreement for Special Service Area 38, between the City of Chicago and Northcenter Chamber of Commerce.

The auditor's report expresses an unmodified opinion on the financial statements of Special Service Area 38 for the year ended December 31, 2022. No significant deficiencies or material weaknesses were disclosed during the audit of the financial statements.

CURRENT YEAR FINDINGS:

- We noted that the carryover of unspent funds from 2022 to 2023 are in excess of 25% of the 2022 budget.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE:

 Excess carryover of unspent funds continued in 2022 due to collecting of the second installment very late in 2022 and into early 2023, making it difficult to plan for their expenditures.
 SSA38 and Northcenter Chamber of Commerce will develop a plan to expend the excess carryover in future years.

PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS:

- We noted that the carryover of unspent funds from 2021 to 2022 are in excess of 25% of the 2021 budget.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE:

- SSA38 and Northcenter Chamber of Commerce will develop a plan to expend the excess carryover in future years.

Special Service Area 38 Managed by Northcenter Chamber of Commerce State of Illinois Professional CPA License December 31, 2022



Special Service Area 38 (a taxing district authorized by the City of Chicago) Managed by Northcenter Chamber of Commerce Budget

December 31, 2022

Special Service Area # 38

2022 BUDGET SUMMARY

SSA Name:

Northcenter

Budget and Services Period: January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022

		2021	Levy				
(Funded	EGORY Categories ope of Services)	Collectable Levy	Estimated Loss Collection	Carryover Funds	TIF Rebate Fund #	Estimated Late Collections and Interest	Total All Sources
1.00 Custor Attraction	mer	\$15,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$8,500	\$0	\$26,500
2.00 Public Aesthetics	Way	\$158,500	\$2,801	\$13,000	\$29,500	\$0	\$203,801
3.00 Sustai Public Plac	nability and es	\$11,000	\$0	\$0	\$827	\$0	\$11,827
4.00 Econo Business D	mic/ evelopment	\$7,500	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$17,500
5.00 Public Safety Prog		\$4,500	\$0	\$9,000	\$0	\$0	\$13,500
6.00 SSA M	anagement	\$29,265	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$29,265
7.00 Persor	nnel	\$52,000	\$0		\$0	\$0	\$52,000
	Sub-total	\$277,765	\$2,801				
GRAND TOTALS	Levy Total	\$280	,566	\$35,000	\$38,827	\$0	\$354,393

LEVY ANALYSIS	
Estimated 2021 EAV:	\$119,066,246
Authorized Tax Rate Cap:	0.333%
Maximum Potential Levy limited by Rate Cap:	\$396,491
Requested 2021 Levy Amount:	\$280,566
Estimated Tax Rate to Generate 2020 Levy:	0.2356%

LEVY CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR						
2020 Levy Total (in 2021 budget)	\$271,276					
2021 Levy Total (in 2022 budget)	\$280,566					
Percentage Change 3.42%						
Community meeting required if levy amount increases greater than 5% from previous levy.						

CARRYOVER CALCULATION						
2021 Budget Total	\$334,355					
Carryover request for 2022	\$35,000					
Percentage	10.468%					
Must be less than 25%						