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# **2007 Annual Report**

## **Western Avenue North Redevelopment Project Area**



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

*JUNE 30, 2008*

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June 30, 2008

Mr. Arnold L. Randall  
Commissioner  
Department of Planning and Development  
121 North LaSalle Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Commissioner:

Enclosed is the annual report for the Western Avenue North 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 5/11-74.6-1 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

# Western Avenue North Redevelopment Project Area 2007 Annual Report

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City of Chicago  
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

**Department of Planning and  
Development**

Arnold L. Randall  
Commissioner

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

June 30, 2008

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 Western Avenue North Redevelopment Project Area (Report) pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/11-74.4-5(d).

Sincerely,

Arnold L. Randall  
Commissioner



## **Western Avenue North Redevelopment Project Area 2007 Annual Report**

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

The Project Area was designated on January 12, 2000. The Project Area may be terminated no later than December 31, 2024.

**Western Avenue North Redevelopment Project Area  
2007 Annual Report**

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

Please see attached.

CITY OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
WESTERN AVENUE NORTH  
REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

FINANCIAL REPORT

DECEMBER 31, 2007

CITY OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
WESTERN AVENUE NORTH 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 Western Avenue North Redevelopment Project of the City of Chicago, Illinois, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2007, 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 Western Avenue North 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, 2007, 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 Western Avenue North Redevelopment Project of the City of Chicago, Illinois, as of December 31, 2007, 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 through 5 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.

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 11, 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 Western Avenue North 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.

*Bansley and Kiener, L.L.P.*

Certified Public Accountants

June 16, 2008

CITY OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
WESTERN AVENUE NORTH REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
(UNAUDITED)

As management of the Western Avenue North 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, 2007. 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*

The 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*

The 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.

CITY OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
WESTERN AVENUE NORTH REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
(UNAUDITED)  
(Continued)

*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*

The condensed comparative financial statements are presented on the following page.

*Analysis of Overall Financial Position and Results of Operations*

Property tax revenue for the Project was \$4,540,374 for the year. This was an increase of 23 percent over the prior year. The change in net assets (including operating transfers out) produced an increase in net assets of \$1,523,020. The Project's net assets increased by 13 percent from the prior year making available \$13,541,664 of funding to be provided for purposes of future redevelopment in the Project's designated area. Expenses increased this year due to the Project's formulation of a redevelopment plan or necessary funding was substantially complete and available.

CITY OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
WESTERN AVENUE NORTH REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
(UNAUDITED)  
(Concluded)

Government-Wide

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Total assets	\$ 13,789,665	\$ 12,882,126	\$ 907,539	7%
Total liabilities	<u>248,001</u>	<u>863,482</u>	<u>(615,481)</u>	-71%
Total net assets	<u>\$ 13,541,664</u>	<u>\$ 12,018,644</u>	<u>\$ 1,523,020</u>	13%
Total revenues	\$ 4,664,267	\$ 3,847,614	\$ 816,653	21%
Total expenses	<u>821,126</u>	<u>548,661</u>	<u>272,465</u>	50%
Operating transfers out	<u>2,320,121</u>	<u>250,000</u>	<u>2,070,121</u>	828%
Changes in net assets	<u>1,523,020</u>	<u>3,048,953</u>	<u>(1,525,933)</u>	-50%
Ending net assets	<u>\$ 13,541,664</u>	<u>\$ 12,018,644</u>	<u>\$ 1,523,020</u>	13%

CITY OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
WESTERN AVENUE NORTH REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS AND  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET  
DECEMBER 31, 2007

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>Governmental Funds</u>	<u>Adjustments</u>	<u>Statement of Net Assets</u>
Cash and investments	\$ 9,476,743	\$ -	\$ 9,476,743
Property taxes receivable	4,200,000	-	4,200,000
Accrued interest receivable	112,922	-	112,922
Total assets	<u>\$13,789,665</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>\$13,789,665</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>			
Vouchers payable	\$ 181,544	\$ -	\$ 181,544
Due to other City funds	66,457	-	66,457
Deferred revenue	3,420,772	(3,420,772)	-
Total liabilities	3,668,773	(3,420,772)	<u>248,001</u>
<u>FUND BALANCE/NET ASSETS</u>			
Fund balance:			
Designated for future redevelopment project costs	10,120,892	(10,120,892)	-
Total liabilities and fund balance	<u>\$13,789,665</u>		
Net assets:			
Restricted for future redevelopment project costs		13,541,664	<u>13,541,664</u>
Total net assets		<u>\$13,541,664</u>	<u>\$13,541,664</u>

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

Total fund balance - governmental funds	\$10,120,892
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.	<u>3,420,772</u>
Total net assets - governmental activities	<u>\$13,541,664</u>

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

CITY OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
WESTERN AVENUE NORTH REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS REVENUES, EXPENDITURES  
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

	Governmental Funds	Adjustments	Statement of Activities
Revenues:			
Property tax	\$ 3,992,417	\$ 547,957	\$ 4,540,374
Interest	123,893	-	123,893
Total revenues	<u>4,116,310</u>	<u>547,957</u>	<u>4,664,267</u>
Expenditures/expenses:			
Economic development projects	762,510	-	762,510
Debt service:			
Principal retirement	689,236	(689,236)	-
Interest	58,616	-	58,616
Total expenditures/expenses	<u>1,510,362</u>	<u>(689,236)</u>	<u>821,126</u>
Excess of revenues over expenditures	2,605,948	1,237,193	3,843,141
Other financing uses:			
Operating transfers out (Note 3)	<u>2,320,121</u>	-	<u>2,320,121</u>
Excess of revenues over expenditures and other financing uses	285,827	(285,827)	-
Change in net assets	-	1,523,020	1,523,020
Fund balance/net assets:			
Beginning of year	<u>9,835,065</u>	<u>2,183,579</u>	<u>12,018,644</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 10,120,892</u>	<u>\$ 3,420,772</u>	<u>\$ 13,541,664</u>

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

Net change in fund balance - governmental funds	\$ 285,827
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.	547,957
Repayment of note 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>689,236</u>
Change in net assets - governmental activities	<u>\$ 1,523,020</u>

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

CITY OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
WESTERN AVENUE NORTH REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) *Reporting Entity*

In January 2000, the City of Chicago (City) established the Western Avenue North 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  
WESTERN AVENUE NORTH REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Continued)

Note 1 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Concluded)

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*

Capital 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.

CITY OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
WESTERN AVENUE NORTH REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Concluded)

Note 2 – Notes Payable

In December 2002, the City issued Western Avenue North Redevelopment Project Tax Increment Notes, Series 2002. The notes are for \$1,000,000 and have an interest rate of 8.0 percent and maturity dates ranging from January 1, 2004 to January 1, 2012. Net proceeds of \$1,000,000 were used to finance certain project costs in the Western Avenue North Redevelopment Project Area.

Long-term liability activity for the year ended December 31, 2007 was as follows:

Beginning balance	\$ 689,236
Additions	-
Reductions	<u>(689,236)</u>
Ending balance	<u>\$ -</u>
Amounts due within one year	<u>\$ -</u>

Under the terms of the notes, when revenues available exceed the amounts on the debt service schedule, the excess amounts shall be used to make mandatory prepayment on the notes. Any prepayments may be made without penalty or premium. The remaining \$689,236 of principal was repaid December 20, 2007.

Note 3 – Operating Transfers Out

During 2007, in accordance with State statutes, the Project transferred \$2,320,121 to the contiguous Lincoln Avenue Redevelopment Project to fund debt service and economic development projects.

Note 4 – Commitments

As of December 31, 2007 the Project has entered into contracts for approximately \$250,000 for services and construction projects.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

CITY OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
WESTERN AVENUE NORTH 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	\$ 129,087
Costs of rehabilitation, reconstruction or repair or remodeling of existing public or private buildings and fixtures	214,499
Costs of the construction of public works or improvements	418,924
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>747,852</u>
	<u><u>\$ 1,510,362</u></u>

**Western Avenue North Redevelopment Project Area  
2007 Annual Report**

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

Please see attached.

STATE OF ILLINOIS        )  
                                      ) SS  
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: June Tallamantez, Director of Local  
Government

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

Peter C. Nicholson, Director  
Cook County Department of Planning &  
Development  
69 West Washington Street, Room 2900  
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dan Donovan, Comptroller  
Forest Preserve District of Cook County  
69 W. Washington Street, Suite 2060  
Chicago, IL 60602

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

Timothy Mitchell, General Superintendent &  
CEO  
Chicago Park District  
541 North Fairbanks  
Chicago, Illinois 60611

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

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

Douglas Wright  
South Cook County Mosquito Abatement  
District  
155th & Dixie Highway  
P.O. Box 1030  
Harvey, Illinois 60426

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 Western Avenue North Redevelopment Project Area (the "Redevelopment Project Area"), do hereby certify as follows:

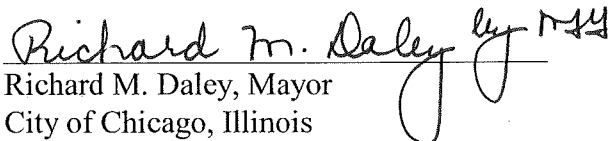
1. I am the duly qualified and acting Mayor of the City of Chicago, Illinois (the "City") and, as such, I am the City's Chief Executive Officer. This Certification is being given by me in such capacity.

2. During the preceding fiscal year of the City, being January 1 through December 31, 2007, 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, 2008.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard M. Daley" followed by a flourish and the initials "RMD".  
Richard M. Daley, Mayor  
City of Chicago, Illinois

**Western Avenue North Redevelopment Project Area  
2007 Annual Report**

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

Please see attached.





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  
(312) 744-0200  
(312) 744-8538 (FAX)  
(312) 744-2963 (TTY)  
<http://www.cityofchicago.org>

June 30, 2008

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

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

Peter C. Nicholson, Director  
Cook County Department of Planning &  
Development  
69 West Washington Street, Room 2900  
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dan Donovan, Comptroller  
Forest Preserve District of Cook County  
69 W. Washington Street, Suite 2060  
Chicago, IL 60602

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

Timothy Mitchell, General Superintendent  
& CEO  
Chicago Park District  
541 North Fairbanks  
Chicago, Illinois 60611

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

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

Douglas Wright  
South Cook County Mosquito Abatement  
District  
155th & Dixie Highway  
P.O. Box 1030  
Harvey, Illinois 60426

Re: Western Avenue North  
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.



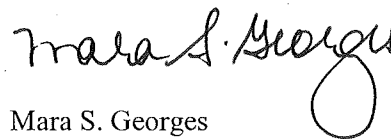
Attorneys, past and present, in the Law Department of the City familiar with the requirements of the Act have had general involvement in the proceedings affecting the Redevelopment Project Area, including the preparation of ordinances adopted by the City Council of the City with respect to the following 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:

**Western Avenue North Redevelopment Project Area  
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**(5) ANALYSIS OF SPECIAL TAX ALLOCATION FUND - 65 ILCS 5/11-74.4-5(d)(5)**

Please see attached.

WESTERN AVENUE NORTH REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT AREA  
 COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES  
 AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
 YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

	2007
<b>Revenues</b>	
Property tax	\$ 3,992,417
Sales tax	-
Interest	123,893
	4,116,310
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Costs of studies, admin., and professional services. (q)(1)	129,087
Marketing costs. (q)(1.6)	-
Property assembly, demolition, site preparation and environmental site improvement costs. (q)(2)	-
Costs of rehabilitation, reconstruction, repair or remodeling and of existing buildings. (q)(3)	214,499
Costs of construction of public works and improvements. (q)(4)	418,924
Cost of job training and retraining. (q)(5)	-
Financing costs. (q)(6)	747,852
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)	-
	1,510,362
Total expenditures	1,510,362
Revenues over expenditures	2,605,948
<b>Other financing uses</b>	
Operating transfers out	(2,320,121)
	285,827
Revenues over expenditures and other financing uses	285,827
Fund balance, beginning of year	9,835,065
	9,835,065
Fund balance, end of year	\$ 10,120,892
<b>Fund balance</b>	
Reserved for debt service	\$ -
Reserved for encumbrances	-
Designated for future redevelopment projects costs	10,120,892
	10,120,892
Total fund balance	\$ 10,120,892

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**(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.\*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Amount</b>
City Staff Costs <sup>1</sup>	Administration	\$64,585
S.B. Friedman & Co.	Professional Service	\$58,966
SomerCor 504, Inc.	Rehabilitation	\$214,499
Knight E/A, Inc.	Public Improvement	\$24,683
Urban Works, Ltd.	Public Improvement	\$49,986
D.B. Sterlin Consultants, Inc.	Public Improvement	\$31,752
Gordian Group	Public Improvement	\$6,602
Pacific Construction Services	Public Improvement	\$304,852
Ravenswood Bank	Financing	\$747,852

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

\* This table may include payments for Projects that were undertaken prior to 11/1/1999.

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

During 2007, 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 12/31/07, and of such investments expected to be undertaken in year 2008; also, a project-by-project ratio of private investment to public investment from 11/1/99 to 12/31/07, 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.



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

During 2007, no projects were implemented.

### **(7)(B) - 65 ILCS 5/11-74.4-5(d)(7)(B)**

Redevelopment activities undertaken within this Project Area during the year 2007, 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)**

During 2007, no agreements were entered into with regard to the disposition or redevelopment of any property within the Project Area.

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

The Project Area has received \$13,476,507 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 2007, 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 2007, 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	Amount Estimated to Complete the Project	11/1/1999 to End of Reporting FY	Amount Estimated to Complete the Project	11/1/1999 to End of Reporting FY	Ratio Estimated as of Project Completion
Project 1: Small Business Improvement Fund (SBIF) Program **	Program is Ongoing	\$2,000,000	\$515,122	\$1,000,000	Program is Ongoing	2.0 : 1

\* 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, other public monies, 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, but not including interest that may later be payable on developer notes, 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 including interest that may be payable on developer notes 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, and may include interest amounts paid to finance the Public Investment amount. Projects undertaken prior to 11/1/1999 are not reported on this table.

\*\* Depending on the particular goals of this type of program, the City may: i) make an advance disbursement of the entire public investment amount to the City's program administrator, ii) disburse the amounts through an escrow account, or iii) pay the funds out piecemeal to the program administrator as each ultimate grantee's rehabilitation work is approved under the program.

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\*\*\* As of the End of the Reporting FY, the construction of this Project was ongoing; the Private Investment Undertaken and Ratio figures for this Project will be reported on the Annual Report for the FY in which the construction of the Project is completed and the total Private Investment figure is available.

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

During 2007, 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 2007, there were no obligations issued for the 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

O'HARE PLAZA 8745 WEST HIGGINS ROAD SUITE 200 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60631 312.263.2700 FAX 312.263.6935 WWW.BK-CPA.COM

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 funds balance sheet of Western Avenue North Redevelopment Project of the City of Chicago, Illinois as of December 31, 2007, and the related statement of activities and governmental funds revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balance for the year then ended, and have issued our report thereon dated June 16, 2008.

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 Western Avenue North 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.

*Bansley and Kiener, L.L.P.*

Certified Public Accountants

June 16, 2008



# Western Avenue North Redevelopment Project Area 2007 Annual Report

## (11) GENERAL DESCRIPTION AND MAP

The Western Avenue North Redevelopment Project Area is located on the north side of the City of Chicago, approximately seven (7) miles northwest of the City's central business district. The Project Area is generally described as Western Avenue from Foster to Montrose, Lawrence from Ashland to Virginia, Lincoln from Foster to Lawrence and Damen from Foster to Eastwood. The map below illustrates the location and general boundaries of the Project Area. For precise boundaries, please consult the legal opinion in the Redevelopment Plan.

