

SPECIAL SERVICE AREA #34  
(a taxing district authorized by the City of Chicago)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2017 and 2016

(TOGETHER WITH INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT)

SPECIAL SERVICE AREA #34  
(a taxing district authorized by the City of Chicago)

As of December 31, 2017 and 2016

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# THE A.C.T. GROUP Ltd

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To The Board of Directors of Uptown United  
Commissioners of Special Service Area #34  
Chicago, Illinois

### **Report on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Special Service Area #34 (a taxing district authorized by the City of Chicago) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Special Service Area #34 basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

### **Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

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

### **Auditor's Responsibility**

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

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

### **Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Special Service Area #34 as of December 31, 2017 and the changes in financial position and budgetary comparison for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### **Prior Period Financial Statements**

The financial statements of Special Service Area #34 as of December 31, 2016 were audited by other auditors whose report dated March 15, 2017 expressed an unmodified opinion on those statements.

### **Other Matter**

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.

*The A.C.T. Group, Ltd.*

The A.C.T. Group, Ltd.  
Certified Public Accountants  
March 27, 2018

SPECIAL SERVICE AREA #34  
(a taxing district authorized by the City of Chicago)  
Managed by Uptown United  
Statements of Net Position and Governmental Funds Balance Sheets  
December 31, 2017 and 2016

	2017			2016		
	Governmental Funds	Adjustments	Statement of Net Position	Governmental Funds	Adjustments	Statement of Net Position
<b>ASSETS</b>						
<u>Current Assets</u>						
Cash	\$ 152,658	\$ -	\$ 152,658	\$ 201,100	\$ -	\$ 201,100
Property Tax Receivable, net of allowance for uncollectable taxes of \$7,714 and \$5,000	763,685	-	763,685	735,874	-	735,874
Prepaid Expenses	-	-	-	3,043	-	3,043
Due from City of Chicago	-	-	-	29	-	29
TIF Rebate Receivable	175,476	-	175,476	29,207	-	29,207
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 1,091,819</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,091,819</b>	<b>\$ 969,253</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 969,253</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>						
<u>Current Liabilities</u>						
Accounts Payable	\$ 18,935	\$ -	\$ 18,935	\$ 89,971	\$ -	\$ 89,971
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>18,935</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,935</b>	<b>89,971</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>89,971</b>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS</b>						
Deferred Property Tax Revenue	763,685	(763,685)	-	735,874	(735,874)	-
<b>FUND BALANCES / NET POSITION</b>						
<u>Non-spendable:</u>						
<u>Committed:</u>						
Economic/business development	-	-	-	20,050	(20,050)	-
<u>Assigned:</u>						
<u>Unassigned</u>						
	309,199	(309,199)	-	123,358	(123,358)	-
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>309,199</b>	<b>(309,199)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>143,408</b>	<b>(143,408)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS AND FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 1,091,819</b>			<b>\$ 969,253</b>		
<u>Net Position</u>						
Restricted		\$ 1,072,884	\$ 1,072,884		\$ 879,282	\$ 879,282

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statements of net position are different because:

Total fund balance - governmental funds	\$ 309,199	\$ 143,408
Property tax revenue is recognized in the period for which levied rather than when "available." A portion of the property tax is deferred as it is not available in the governmental funds.	763,685	735,874
<b>Total net position - governmental activities</b>	<b>\$ 1,072,884</b>	<b>\$ 879,282</b>

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



SPECIAL SERVICE AREA #34  
(a taxing district authorized by the City of Chicago)  
Managed by Uptown United  
Statements of Activities and Governmental, Funds, Revenues,  
Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances  
For the Years Ended December 31, 2017 and 2016

	2017			2016		
	Governmental Funds	Adjustments	Statement of Activities	Governmental Funds	Adjustments	Statement of Activities
<b>REVENUES:</b>						
Property Taxes	\$ 755,529	\$ 27,811	\$ 783,340	\$ 650,982	\$ 66,232	\$ 717,214
Interest Income	43	-	43	20	-	20
TIF rebates	151,396	-	151,396	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<u>906,968</u>	<u>27,811</u>	<u>934,779</u>	<u>651,002</u>	<u>66,232</u>	<u>717,234</u>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>						
<b>Services:</b>						
Customer Attraction	136,705	-	136,705	52,404	-	52,404
Public Way Aesthetics	385,275	-	385,275	382,621	-	382,621
Economic/Business Development	17,578	-	17,578	68,870	-	68,870
Safety Programs	20,428	-	20,428	3,810	-	3,810
<b>Total Services Expense</b>	<u>559,986</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>559,986</u>	<u>507,705</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>507,705</u>
<b>Administration:</b>						
Personnel	147,885	-	147,885	135,958	-	135,958
Admin - nonpersonnel	33,306	-	33,306	29,755	-	29,755
<b>Total Administration Expense</b>	<u>181,191</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>181,191</u>	<u>165,713</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>165,713</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<u>741,177</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>741,177</u>	<u>673,418</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>673,418</u>
Excess of revenues over expenditures	165,791	(165,791)		(22,416)	22,416	
Change in Net Position		193,602	193,602		43,816	43,816
<b>FUND BALANCE/NET POSITION</b>						
Beginning of the Year	143,408	735,874	879,282	165,824	669,642	835,466
End of the Year	<u>\$ 309,199</u>	<u>\$ 763,685</u>	<u>\$ 1,072,884</u>	<u>\$ 143,408</u>	<u>\$ 735,874</u>	<u>\$ 879,282</u>

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

Net change in Fund balance - governmental funds	\$ 165,791	\$ (22,416)
Property tax revenue is recognized in the year it is levied rather than when it is available for governmental funds	<u>27,811</u>	<u>66,232</u>
Change in net position	<u>\$ 193,602</u>	<u>\$ 43,816</u>

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

SPECIAL SERVICE AREA #34  
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Statements of Revenues and Expenditures - Budget and Actual  
For the Years Ended December 31, 2017 and 2016

	2017			2016		
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE
<b>REVENUES:</b>						
Property Taxes	\$ 714,460	\$ 755,529	\$ 41,069	\$ 741,001	\$ 650,982	\$ (90,019)
TIF Rebate	5,127	151,396	146,269	12,321	-	(12,321)
Interest Income	-	43	43	-	20	20
Late Collection	48,641	-	(48,641)	20,000	-	(20,000)
Loss Collection	21,414	-	(21,414)	(13,000)	-	13,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>789,642</b>	<b>906,968</b>	<b>117,326</b>	<b>760,322</b>	<b>651,002</b>	<b>(109,320)</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>						
Customer Attraction	147,250	136,705	(10,545)	69,750	52,404	(17,346)
Public Way Aesthetics	473,429	385,275	(88,154)	446,437	382,621	(63,816)
Sustainability & Public Places	15,000	-	(15,000)	3,000	-	(3,000)
Economic & Business Development	75,476	17,578	(57,898)	76,250	68,870	(7,380)
Safety Programs	22,307	20,428	(1,879)	7,500	3,810	(3,690)
SSA Mgt./Admin. Non-Personnel	40,200	33,306	(6,894)	39,840	29,755	(10,085)
Personnel	150,202	147,885	(2,317)	148,482	135,958	(12,524)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>923,864</b>	<b>741,177</b>	<b>(182,687)</b>	<b>791,259</b>	<b>673,418</b>	<b>(117,841)</b>
<b>Excess of Revenues Over Expenses</b>	<b>\$ (134,222)</b>	<b>\$ 165,791</b>	<b>\$ 300,013</b>	<b>\$ (30,937)</b>	<b>\$ (22,416)</b>	<b>\$ 8,521</b>

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



SPECIAL SERVICE AREA #34  
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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017 and 2016

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

**Reporting Entity:** Special Service Area #34 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 commercial and mixed-use streets in Uptown. 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 #34 is governed by a Commission whose members are appointed by the Mayor of Chicago. The City of Chicago contracted with Uptown United (UU) to perform administrative duties as the service provider for this SSA during the reporting period. UU is an Illinois not-for-profit corporation that is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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

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

**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 the related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenues in the year they are levied.

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

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

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017 and 2016

**Assets, Liabilities, and Net Position:**

**Cash, Cash equivalents and investments:** The SSA's cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits, and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

**Receivables:** All property tax receivables are shown net of allowances. As of December 31, 2017 and 2016, the allowance is estimated to be 1% of the outstanding property taxes.

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

**Fund Equity/Net Position:** Government fund equity is classified as fund balance. Fund balance is further classified as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, or unassigned. Nonspendable fund balance cannot be spent because of its form. Restricted fund balance has limitations imposed by enabling legislation or an outside party. Committed fund balance is a limitation imposed by the SSA board through approval of resolutions. Assigned fund balance is a limitation imposed by a designee of the SSA board. Unassigned fund balance is a net resource 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 statement, 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.

2. Cash

The Organization maintains its cash in a bank deposit account, which, at times, may exceed federally insured limits. The Organization had not experienced any losses in such accounts. The Organization believes it is not exposed to any significant credit risk in cash.



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FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017 and 2016

3. Property Taxes

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 in March. The second installment is due on August 1, or 30 days from the mailing of the tax bills if issued later than July 1. The second installment is based on the remaining amount of the levy on file with the County. Bills are issued and collected by Cook County who remits the SSA's share to the City who then remits the monies to the SSA.

4. Related Party Transactions

The SSA is affiliated with Uptown United, which provides certain administrative services of the SSA. As of December 31, 2017 and 2016, \$18,485 and \$20,780, respectively, was payable for services provided. The balance resulted from the time lag that 1) goods and services are being provided or reimbursable expenditures occur, 2) transactions are recorded in the accounting system and 3) payments are being made.

5. Prior Year Reclassifications

For comparability, the prior year's financial statements reflect reclassifications where appropriate to conform to the financial statement presentation used this year.

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017 and 2016

SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS

As part of our audit and request by the Special Service Area Annual Audited Financial Statement Guidelines prepared by the City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development issued in 2017, we have read and understand the requirements contained in the Agreement for Special Service Area #34 between the City of Chicago and Uptown United.

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

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017 and 2016

