



PRESS RELEASE

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Chamber Suspends Edgebrook SSA Initiative

March 26, 2019 –The Edgebrook~Sauganash Chamber of Commerce has discontinued its effort to create a special service area (SSA) in Edgebrook. SSA's, which are self imposed taxing bodies, consist of community improvement funds used for items like business district beautification, snow removal services, landscaping and special events.

Dennis Hammer, ESCC board president stated, "Although an SSA is the only economic development tool available to Edgebrook, the timing just hasn't been right. Other tax increases and economic conditions are having an impact on businesses and commercial property owners."

Special service areas are an economic development tool used in many Chicago neighborhoods like Andersonville, Lakeview, Lincoln Square and Sauganash. The tax fund is managed by a commission of local business people and property owners who oversee large-scale district management to provide the areas with services not provided by the city. The roofline lighting, community identifiers and landscaping of 36 concrete sidewalk planters and hanging baskets in the Cicero/Peterson corridor are provided and maintained by Sauganash SSA #62.

"While the Chamber would have loved to provide Edgebrook business and property owners services like snow removal and sidewalk power washing, the negative influence of last year's Devon sewer reconstruction makes another tax increase unfeasible at this time," said Barbara Eastman, chamber vice president and owner of Happy Foods.

The Chicago Department of Planning and Development last year granted the Chamber a one-year extension of its feasibility study in recognition of the hardship caused to businesses by the sewer construction project which was prolonged due to complications caused by the unknown presence of an underground fiber-optic cable belonging to a Canadian communications company.

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