



October 27, 2021

Dear Hyde Park Businesses,

The **Hyde Park Vitality Committee** (Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce, Nichols Park Advisory Council, South East Chicago Commission/Special Service Area SSA #61, the University of Chicago Commercial Real Estate Operations (CREO) Group/Office of Civic Engagement, and McCaffery, Inc.) send our best wishes for a **BOOtiful** and festive holiday season.

As we are all aware, Halloween 2021 is just around the corner on Sunday October 31st! The City of Chicago Mayor, Lori E. Lightfoot and the Chicago Department of Public Health encourage all to safely celebrate Halloween in Chicago that emphasizes social distancing and other safety precautions throughout the week.

As a reminder, as per the City of Chicago, effective August 20, 2021, masks are required in all indoor public settings for everyone 2 years of age and older, regardless of vaccination status. Please be mindful of this during the holiday weekend as you may see an uptick in foot traffic.

While most people who come to Hyde Park on Halloween are here to enjoy the holiday, over the past five years we have seen an influx of young adults who have created chaos and ruckus in the community on or around October 31, resulting in vandalism, property damage, unruly behavior and a few minor arrests. Although no major events or activations have been planned for Hyde Park this year, musicians will be setting up on the sidewalk along 53rd St. (at Kimbark Plaza, Nichols Park, Dorchester, Harper Court and Lake Park) similar to 2020.

We are reaching out to you as a member of the Hyde Park business community to help make this a safe and positive evening in Hyde Park:

- Due to COVID-19, we strongly recommend that your business does **NOT** pass out candy this year and continue to protect your staff, your customers and your community by limiting unnecessary interactions that may enhance transmission of the virus.
- Do not sell eggs
- Have additional staff/security on hand
- Create an emergency procedure plan
- Turn your security cameras facing the street and front door



- In the event of an emergency, please call 9-1-1.

City and University Police will be present in Hyde Park and have rapid response capability to deploy officers quickly to trouble spots.

For more information regarding local safety efforts, please contact Prentice Butler at the 4th Ward Alderman's Office at prentice.butler@cityofchicago.org or Lanita Ross at the 5th Ward Alderman's Office at Lanita.ross@cityofchicago.org.

About Special Service Area #61/Downtown Hyde Park Chicago:

The Special Service Area #61 aka Downtown Hyde Park is comprised of the 53rd and 55th Street corridors connected by Lake Park Avenue. Special Service Areas (SSA), known as Business Improvement Districts or BIDs in other cities, are local tax districts that fund expanded services and programs through a localized property tax levy within contiguous areas. The South East Chicago Commission (SECC) serves as the official Service Provider for SSA #61- Hyde Park. The SECC is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that works to facilitate and support economic development within the Southeast lakefront communities of Hyde Park, Kenwood, Oakland, Washington Park and Woodlawn and to foster collaboration and coordination among businesses, organizations and institutions to promote the creation of jobs, investment and economic vitality. For more information about SSA #61/ Downtown Hyde Park Chicago or the SECC please contact diane@secc-chicago.org.