

Everyone has a story to tell.
All you have to do is write it.
But it's not that easy.

— Frank McCourt

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AN INSIDE PUBLICATIONS NEWSPAPER

FREE



VOL. 118, NO. 11

NEWS OF ROGERS PARK, EDGEWATER, UPTOWN & ANDERSONVILLE

insideonline.com

Commissioners tell Ald. Martin his redevelopment plan for Lincoln Square parking lot has stalled

BY PETER VON BUOL

A Boston-based company's plan to redevelop the city-owned parking lot at 4715 N. Western Ave. seems to have stalled according to two city of Chicago commissioners who were speaking at a hastily arranged March 8 'emergency' meeting hosted by Ald. Matt Martin [47th].

This newspaper received a leaked copy of the March 4 memo - written by Laura Reimers, Ald. Martin's Chief of Staff - which called for the March 8 meeting.

There were in fact two meetings that night. The first, with about 30 invited guests, and the second in private. One can assume it included the alderman and two commissioners, but we are unaware if anyone else was invited to attend the second meeting.

While no media was invited to the public meeting, held in the back room of Mi Fogata res-

taurant, 4322 N. Western Ave., numerous sources have communicated with this newspaper and have corroborated what occurred.

Chicago Housing Dept. Cmsr. Marisa Novara said emphatically that if an affordable housing project replaces what today is officially known as City Parking Lot #70, the new development will not replace those surface lot parking spaces.

The city's Commissioner of Planning and Development, Maurice Cox, also participated in the meeting.

One attendee told this reporter that despite what Ald. Martin and the developer had been saying for over two years now, Cmsr. Novara told the attendees that public parking was never going to be a part of this project.

It was the commissioner's statement about 'no parking' that triggered angry blowback from

several of the area's better-known local, independent retailers, who were invited to the emergency meeting. They later told this newspaper they had felt misled,

One attendee told this reporter that despite what Ald. Martin and the developer had been saying for over two years now, Cmsr. Novara told the attendees that public parking was never going to be a part of this project.

believing that there would be a loss of only three metered spaces in the future building.

The developer, TCB Inc., had planned to build a 51-unit mixed-used building on the site of the parking lot. Since 2019, TCB officials have consistently said their

PARKING LOT see p. 16



Life ring advocate wins national Lifesaver Award, see page 3

Weiss Memorial Hospital sold to Michigan-based Resilience Healthcare, see page 4

Sarpino's Pizza hit by feds for wage theft

Second violation costs owner \$188,628 for back pay and penalty

BY BOB ZULEY

The U.S. Dept. of Labor [USDOL] issued a substantial order of recompense to three locations of a well-known Chicago pizza chain on March 5. The USDOL issued a press release announcing that the department's Wage and Hour Division [WHD] determined the owner of three Sarpino's Pizzeria locations, Julius Jokimas, owed a total of \$188,628 - representing \$94,314 in overtime back pay and an equal amount in liquidated damages - to 104 employees at the three sites.

USDOL "investigators found the three Sarpino's locations misclassified delivery drivers as independent contractors and, by doing so, failed to pay them overtime at time-and-one-half their average hourly pay when they worked more than 40 hours per week. The pizzerias also shortchanged some managers and cooks by denying them overtime wages they had earned. In addition, investigators found the employer failed to maintain accurate payroll records."



Sarpinos Pizza, 158 W. Division St, Chicago.

WHD investigators required a subpoena to obtain employee's pay records and it soon became clear why the owner refused to cooperate. The three sites are owned by Julius Jokimas who is listed as the president of J.J. Gold Coast Inc. and MJK South Loop, Inc. which operates the three stores located at 158 W. Division St, 627 W. Lake St., and 1923 S. Archer Ave.

Multiple requests for comment to Jokimas went unanswered. The three locations are franchises of Sarpino's Pizza, a Canadian fast food restaurant chain founded in 2001 and headquartered in China with U.S. operations headquartered in Lincolnshire. They operate some 21 Sarpino outlets in the metro-Chicago area.

Sarpino's main offices are not

implicated in the investigation and they too declined to comment.

In addition to the back wages recovered, the WHD assessed Jokimas \$75,504 in penalties for violating the Fair Labor Standards Act [FLSA] for the second time in six years after finding similar FLSA violations in 2015.

"While the employer in this case may have tried to stymie an investigation, they learned that failing to comply with Wage and Hour investigators is not an option," said Thomas Gauza, WHD Director in Chicago.

"The operator of these Sarpino's locations learned - on the wrong end of a subpoena - that the USDOL will use the tools at its disposal to protect the workers' rights and to ensure they are being paid as the law requires."

"It denies wages for workers who earned overtime, cheats taxpayers out of payroll taxes, and allows the employer to undercut competitors who operate as the law requires," Gauza said.

Scott Allen, USDOL Regional Director for Public Affairs and Media Relations, explained, "The Chicago area restaurant industry has a history of substantive wage violations. For the calendar year 2020 to the present date, the Chicago WHD office has conducted 273 investigations or cases into the restaurant industry resulting in the recovery of \$3,376,180 in back wages for 2,198 employees or an average of \$1,536 per worker. In addition, WHD also assessed \$594,586 in liquidated damages."

These federal protections against unscrupulous employers aren't limited to the food and beverage sector and immigration status is immaterial. Any employee who feels they have been deprived with unfair wages, overtime or tips may call the WHD office at 312-789-2950. Allen added, "The WHD protects the confidentiality of a complainant and does not inform the employer whether the case was initiated by a complaint

or as part of a regular inspection program."

Sam Toia, president and CEO of the Illinois Restaurant Assoc. informed this newspaper that they "do not support bad actors, and we regularly inform employers about how to comply with local, state, and federal regulations in the workplace. In any instance where businesses are not compensating their employees properly, the Chicago Office of Labor Standards, Illinois Attorney General's Worker Protection Unit, and Internal Revenue Service, and other agencies may investigate and take action against the employer."

The action is directed at Jokimas who is solely responsible for his business operations.

A statement on their employment page includes, "Each Sarpino's location is independently owned and operated... [and the] ... franchises are the exclusive employer for their employees and as such are solely responsible for all employment-related matters in their business..."

The USDOL determination included 'liquidated damages' as-

SARPINO'S see p. 16



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Have you ever been a bragger? No one likes a smarty-pants



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

Bragging was an almost unforgivable crime in my family growing up, it was considered a flawed, disreputable personal undertaking. Indefensible. Tightly bound to the sin of pride, and an inexcusable character disorder.

Didn't take much to get bush-whacked for bragging.

It may have been because we were Irish, with no patience for people loaded with self-praise.

Or because we were Catholic and surrounded by clergy every step we took helping us assess our flaws, failures and sins.

Looking back, bragging was probably denounced and debunked by both our culture and religion. It was always a spectacular shared effort of faith and tribal identity.

I can still remember the instant discomfort unleashed when some family member might take too much credit for some enterprise. Or announce some special achievement in life that was quick to be dismissed as "bragging."

Success in a spelling bee. Triumphant in a basketball game. Getting high marks on a report card. Singing like an angel in the choir.

The great thing about the Irish was that it took about three seconds for someone to call out a bragger for unbecoming behavior, like a Mother Superior in a convent. There was no delayed criticism should you be caught bragging. It was instantaneous.

At the smallest sign of braggadocio, someone was sure to shout their disappointment. "Well," someone might say, "who do they think they are?"

Or "Someone seems to be getting too big for their britches." Or cutting to the quick with "No one likes a smarty-pants."

No shame in this corrective brutality for the Irish. Keeping us on the straight and narrow. The pathway to heaven.

These days I'm not too sure that puts us in the express lanes. I believe we're all in the same traffic jam and the only way out is to give those around you a break. Pull over so they can get by and make some progress



St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen Kelley Leyden.

for themselves.

Aren't we all in this together? No one can really rush the line. And of course bragging never helps.

Strange, but Chicago has always seemed a bragging city to me. Maybe it's our late start in the competition for greatest American city, with some cities having almost a two century head start on us.

Maybe its our extraordinary good luck in being geographically located in the heartland of the nation, at the intersection of the continent's great network of waterways that just makes us want to thump our chest. And brag.

You know, in that contest for biggest or the best.

Whether that is about the size and beauty of our skyscrapers or the elegance of our lakefront paradise. The miracle of the American network of railroads that put us on the map or the wonder of our stockyards and our ability to lasso the market for meatpacking and change the eating habits of the world.

Chicago does have a lot to be proud of. But we must be careful and not brag too much.

It's still true that nobody likes a smarty-pants.

We don't have to look very long around the city to have our ears boxed. Just look at the long line of federal indictments that stand as a clear warning to those braggers who would take advantage of public office.

The contagious sin of hubris makes bragging pale in comparison. Imagine having all the political power possible and still not being satisfied with your achievements.

Instead always being on the make to fatten your own pockets. To get you a larger piece of the pie. More business for your law firm. All those secret deals meant to enrich just a few of the political elite, rather than lifting the burdens of the everyday citizens of the City. You know, the poor souls who continue to elect the panders and pillagers of the common good.

We are not naive. Of course, there's always been "the Chicago way," since the stockade walls of Fort Dearborn first went up.

The landscape here has always been thick with deal-makers and short-cut takers from the days of Mayor Long John Wentworth.



St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen's Court (Clockwise from top left: Casey, Eileen, Grace and Mary Clare.

In 1860 he helped fellow Republican Abraham Lincoln win the nomination for president by issuing counterfeit credentials to fake convention goers so they could cheer and shout for Honest Abe. And sway the vote his way.

The same went for the way Mayor Ed Kelly shut off everyone's microphones at the Democratic National Convention in 1940. That's when he had the head of the city's sewer department hidden in the basement of the Chicago Stadium with the single working microphone. His job was to work up the crowd. Make them insane for President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. So FDR could get the unheard of third presidential nomination and accept the call to a third term.

Strange, but even though those things were wrong and illegal, it makes you want to brag. Especially with the "Voice from the Sewer," as he was known.

We could also brag about the way in which the 1960 presidential election votes in Chicago were held until the wee hours of the morning so the mayor could release an avalanche of enough votes in favor of John Fitzgerald Kennedy at just the right time. Ending a Nixon victory.

That certainly seems worth bragging about.

So is it any wonder that 37 Chicago aldermen have been convicted of corruption since 1973? Now there's a brag for you. One that's still better than the latest brag by Chicago's present mayor in describing, allegedly, her 'manlyhood' and giant male physical anatomy during a Zoom meeting.

Well, it's taken a long time, but some progress is being made in Chicago in regard to our Chicago passion for bragging. Nothing takes the steam out of bragging like a trial. A guilty verdict. And a prison sentence.

Especially at St. Patrick's Day when dyeing the Chicago River green might be mistaken for the grin of business as usual. Or open season for fresh shenanigans and

the usual blarney that makes the need for constant bragging all too sad.

In Chi-town it's still an unforgivable crime.

ALL HAIL THE QUEEN: Chicago Police Officer **Kelley Leyden** was the 2022 St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen. The new Queen and her court, **Eileen, Grace, Casey and Mary Clare**, have been exceptional. First Chicago Cop chosen Queen. All figured prominently in America's grandest march, the 67th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, High Noon last Saturday.

TIS THE SEASON: **Mark Howard**, famed Trinity Dance

BRAGGER see p. 12

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INSIDE is published every Wednesday by Inside Publications
6221 N. Clark St., rear
Chicago, IL 60660
(773) 465-9700
E: insidepublicationschicago@gmail.com

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Life ring advocate wins national Lifesaver Award

Plus,
lakefront safety equipment
Bill passes Illinois House



Heart of the 'Hood

by Felicia Dechter

In July of 2018, West Ridge resident Halle Quezada's life was forever changed.

It was a sunny, gorgeous beach day, and Quezada headed to the lakefront to enjoy an afternoon of sun and fun with her children.

But the picturesque scene at the beach quickly changed from tranquility to utter chaos, and Quezada watched in helpless horror as beachgoers and rescuers frantically searched Lake Michigan for 13-year-old Darihanne Torres, who drowned that day.

Since then, Quezada -- who after that incident co-founded the Chicago Alliance for Waterfront Safety -- has been a passionate and tireless advocate promoting water safety and the need for safety equipment at the lakefront. And last year's Pratt Pier drowning death of 19-year-old Miguel Cisneros propelled Quezada and Rogers Parkers into even more action. It was the final straw for a lakefront community that it seems sees at least one drowning every beach season.

Last week, the National Drowning Prevention Alliance (NDPA) announced that it will honor Quezada with its Lifesaver of the Year Award. The honor will be presented to her on April 11 at the alliance's annual conference in Fort Worth, Texas.

I am so proud to congratulate Quezada on this well-deserved award.

"I am grateful, but I am also fully-conscious of all the lives we were too late to save and still chasing down that big reward of seeing the drowning numbers on our lakefront drop dramatically," said Quezada, who is also a highly-regarded Chicago Public Schools teacher.

She was quick to point out that she had a little help from her friends. New friends, ones that she has made along the way in the last four years including Miguel's

mother, Maria Diaz. And then, among others also, there's Jessica Leon, whose father, Horacio drowned in Lake Michigan a few years ago.

"There's really nothing I've done as far as advocacy that I've done alone," said Quezada. "So I would like to extend this award to the Rogers Park community, Maria Diaz-Cisneros and Miguel Cisneros, Jessica Leon, Maria Hadden, Jim Ginderske, and every other neighbor who has made a point to improve lakefront safety, of which there are so many."

Quezada was one of seven nominees in an open nomination/open voting system. She was chosen by the public and "By far received the most votes," said Adam Katchmarchi, executive director of the NDPA.

"She's done such incredible work in the Chicago area--what she has been able to achieve is incredible," said Katchmarchi. "All of her advocacy work and hard work put in for water safety...I wish we had someone like Halle in every city."

"We're so happy and proud... I hope this sparks others," said Katchmarchi. "We are so honored to award this to Halle."

Another fellow lifesaver who's proud of Quezada is Dave Benjamin, founder of the Great Lakes Surf Rescue Project. Benjamin wrote the Lifesaver Award nomination for Quezada.

She has done "awesome work," said Benjamin.

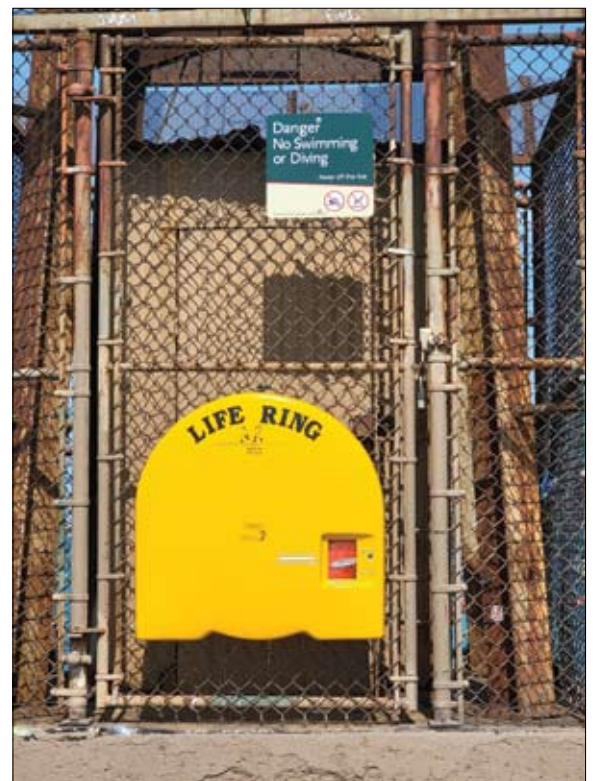
"The most successful water safety advancements come from grassroots efforts," said Benjamin. "The demand for change has to come from within a community and Halle embodied that with all of her efforts since Darihanne's drowning in July 2018."

If you read this column on a regular basis, you'll know that this newspaper too has been pushing for safety at the lakefront since 15-year-old Lexi Adu drowned in 2012. I was heartbroken as I watched the divers search for Lexi's body. I saw what I assumed was Lexi's mother, on the sand down on her knees wailing at the death of the daughter she adored. I was on the beach that unforgettable morning as they searched for Miguel's body.

I've loved living on the lakefront for the last four-plus decades. But its inviting beauty can be very deceptive. Hopefully the following will curtail some of the drownings.



(L) West Ridge resident Halle Quezada has been named 2022 Lifesaver of the Year by the National Drowning Prevention Alliance. (R) The life ring installed on Pratt Pier.



Earlier this month, a new Bill co-drafted by Quezada and Rep. Kelly Cassidy, HB 4165, passed the Illinois House of Representatives. It still has to pass the Senate and receive Gov. J.B. Pritzker's sign-off before it becomes a law, but I'm guessing that's going to happen.

HB 4165 will make it a law that public rescue equipment at piers and drop-offs along Lake Michigan will be required. There's a good chance that Miguel Cisneros would be alive today if there had been such gear at Pratt Pier the day he died.

The Lake Michigan Rescue Equipment Act was proposed following the community outcry over Miguel's death. He had jumped in to the lake from the pier, where swimming was not allowed but unfortunately there was no signage stating so. Miguel, who was a week or two away from starting his sophomore year at Columbia Univ. in NY, was less than six feet from the pier, frantically screaming for help. A simple life ring more than likely would have saved his life.

As far as HB 4165 goes, Quezada said she's "grateful it had the backing of such a well-respected legislator."

"The unanimous passing out of the House is a reminder that we were never asking for too much when we asked for safety on our beaches," said Quezada.

Of course, I had to check in

with the Chicago Park District [CPD] to see where things currently stand with them as far as life rings go. I sent them some questions, and was pleasantly surprised they actually got back to me with some answers.

According to a statement provided last Friday by CPD director of communications Michele Lemons, the CPD currently has 220 life rings in possession and ready for installation. As part of a pilot program announced last fall, the District will install a total of 115 life rings along the lakefront.

The CPD thus far has installed a "properly authorized life ring" at Pratt Pier and another at Margaret Burroughs Beach, 3100 S. Lake Shore Dr. Both remain in place, the statement said. CPD will begin installing the remaining 113 rings in early April and have them in place by the first day of the 2022 beach season, which begins May 27, the statement said.

"The safety of beachgoers and everyone who uses the lake is of

the utmost priority to the CPD," said the info sent to me. "As part of the District's beach safety roll-out, we will launch a campaign to raise awareness about water safety and instruct patrons on how to properly use a life ring in the event of an emergency."

In addition, the statement said that the CPD will continue current safety measures that have been in place for years, which include:

- Employing one of the largest lifeguard services in the nation, hiring up to 525 lifeguards each year. "CPD lifeguards receive among the highest levels of life-safety and water training in the country."
- Implementing an aggressive annual water safety program which includes a minimum of 15 Water Safety Trainings held annually at the lakefront for families to learn how to keep everyone safe at the beach. Ap-

LIFESAVER see p. 8



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City of Chicago stops taking new rent relief applications



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

“Rent Relief,” an emergency federal rental-assistance program administered by Chicago’s Family & Support Services and the city Dept. of Housing, has been so successful that new applications are no longer being accepted.

However, if you are a renter and/or landlord who already applied and provided all the necessary documentation, you still have a shot at obtaining rent relief funds in the coming weeks.

“The City of Chicago still has money,” said Sabrina, one of the 100 Rent Relief administrators, who answered questions about the program (Call 833-543-0931).

“There is no time frame on receiving Rent Relief funds,” Sabrina said. “Our caseworkers are reviewing documents and are trying to process applications as fast as possible. Each caseworker has 150 to 200 applications to audit.”

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program [ERAP] provides

funds to assist households unable to pay rent and/or utilities due to the on-going pandemic.

The federal American Rescue Plan Act, passed in Dec. 2020, allocated \$25 billion to emergency rental assistance [ERAP1]. Then, the \$1.9 trillion stimulus package approved in March of 2021 set aside \$21.55 billion [ERAP2], resulting in a total of more than \$46 billion available to apartment tenants nationwide who have been negatively impacted by COVID-19.

An eligible household may receive up to 12 months of assistance, plus an additional three months if needed, depending on the availability of funds. In general, the money will be paid directly to landlords and utility providers. If an owner doesn’t want to participate, funds may be paid to the renter.

As of late 2021, the city of Chicago has assisted more than 8,600 households with rent and utility payments through ERAP funds. The average rental assistance payment is \$8,900, and the average utility assistance is \$800 per applicant.

However, landlords have complained to The Home Front column that the Rent Relief program is bogged down in bureaucratic red tape and delays.

One “landlady” who owns a



As of late 2021, the city of Chicago has assisted more than 8,600 households with rent and utility payments through ERAP funds.

3-flat in West Ridge on the Far North Side complained that her tenant, a mother of three children, applied for Rent Relief in December of 2021, and still hasn’t received a dime. (Yes, her letter appeared in last week’s newspaper.)

“Her past-due rent totals nearly \$8,000, which would have been a big help to me when I paid my property taxes on March 1,” said the landlady. “We have been following up on her claim to no avail. It simply indicates that it is ‘pending.’”

The landlady contacted 40th Ward Ald. Andres Vazquez’s office and was referred to a helpful, knowledgeable woman who promptly found her tenant’s Rent Relief case number.

“The Rent Relief administrator said the application information was in order. Unfortunately, they

have been backlogged since April of 2021, processing more than 30,000 applicants,” the landlady said.

“She had no idea when they would catch up, but she said eventually I will receive an e-mail advising me to reply within 48-hours to continue with the claim. They certainly are not making it convenient,” the landlady complained.

“So, advise your readers, particularly ‘Ma and Pa’ owners of smaller properties, that it is the landlord’s responsibility and necessity to have deep pockets in order to pay their expenses until this government aid comes through. If it ever does.”

The Home Front’s spies at City Hall and the County Building report that since December these buildings appear to be virtually empty. Perhaps city employees

are working remotely from home during the pandemic.

“Every department—except the Cook County Treasurer’s office and the city’s Dept. of Streets and Sanitation—is easily eight months

“So, advise your readers, particularly ‘Ma and Pa’ owners of smaller properties, that it is the landlord’s responsibility and necessity to have deep pockets in order to pay their expenses until this government aid comes through. If it ever does,” the landlady said.

behind in their work,” said one veteran newspaper editor. “Productivity has fallen off the table. It must be nice to have job security.”

For answers to questions about Rent Relief, call 833-543-0931, or visit: www.RentRelief.com or allchicago.com.

For more housing news, visit www.dondebat.biz. Don DeBat is co-author of “Escaping Condo Jail,” the ultimate survival guide for condominium living. Visit www.escapingcondojail.com.

Weiss Memorial Hospital sold to Michigan-based Resilience Healthcare

Take over planned if sale is approved

California-based Pipeline Health has executed a letter of intent to sell Weiss Memorial Hospital, 4646 N. Marine Dr., in Uptown for \$92 million. West Suburban Medical Center in Oak Park would also be a part of that sale.

The buyer is Michigan-based Resilience Healthcare, a group with “decades of experience turning around challenged community hospitals through innovation and collaboration with local communities, clinicians and front-line staff,” according to a statement released by Pipeline Health on March 10.

The effort will be led by Manoj Prasad, an “executive with over two decades of experience in healthcare turnarounds,” according to Pipeline. Resilience Healthcare will be acquiring the two hospitals and the campus properties, pending approval from the Illinois Health Facilities

and Services Review Board.

If the sale is approved, Pipeline said they plan to refund \$12 million of the \$92 million purchase price for reinvestment into the hospitals to ensure that proceeds from the pending sale of a parking lot at Weiss Memorial Hospital benefit that hospital along with additional investment in West Suburban.

Prasad says he will be moving to the Chicago area and plans on “working full-time to shore-up the financial position of both hospitals to make them sustainable and continue in their mission of providing critical healthcare services to both communities.”

“My career turning around hospitals and health care organizations has been based on collaborations with and alignment of the medical staff, nurses, support staff and staff on the front lines at hospitals,” he said. “I listen to them and to our patients and community partners and they see I am willing to roll up my sleeves and work side-by-side with them. We

get aligned on the common goals of providing our patients high quality and affordable care and turning around a treasured community asset.”

“This is a wonderful opportunity to serve the patients and communities,” said Prasad. “We’re excited to secure state approval and get to work.”

“Both parties are interested in a smooth and seamless transition,” said Pipeline CEO Andrei Soran, of the two parties submitting a change of ownership application with the state. “All hospital operations will continue as usual with quality, compassionate care delivered to all patients served.”

Since taking ownership of the two hospitals in 2019, Pipeline has made significant investment in both facilities -- \$60 million total -- especially under new corporate leadership in place since Jan. 2021.

“Investments have improved facilities, added technology, expanded clinical programs -- all to improve patient care and service to the community,” Soran said. “The two hospitals are in better shape now than when the previous Pipeline leadership team took ownership in 2019.”

“We want to [let] the community know that the applications for a change of ownership are in development, and we look forward to engaging the community about the promising future for the continued operation of the hospitals,” said Nick Orzano, Pipeline founder and board member. “We have

been struggling to make these hospitals successful. Manoj approached us to [take over], and we believe he is an excellent fit, with a proven track record of success, for the communities we serve.”

Orzano thinks the hospitals’ future success is closely tied to the ongoing support of the State of Illinois, the elected officials and community leaders with whom the hospital leadership has engaged over the last year.

Prasad claims to have been a hospital transformation leader since 1998 after successfully turning around hospital and health systems operations in Michigan, Texas and Florida. He also built a healthcare technology practice for major healthcare technology companies. New Jersey-based businessman Rathnakar R. Patlola is a financial partner in Resilience and will be investing in the acquisition and operations if the change of ownership is approved. Both Prasad and Patlola claim to have a long-term commitment to providing critical health services to [their] communities.

“Rathnakar is a successful entrepreneur in the hospitality and energy industry. We have known each other for years and have been looking for the right opportunity to collaborate. Now we are aligned at the right moment in our lives and we are partnering to create a vibrant, self-sustaining, service-oriented healthcare provider system for the community,” Prasad said.

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CTA shootings are up 64%, sexual assaults up 300%, robberies up 9%

But Chicago's police superintendent says transit crime is down

BY CWBCHICAGO

One year after we reported that violent crime was increasing dramatically on the CTA Red Line despite a sharp decline in ridership during COVID, last week city officials called the current level of crime on the city's transit system "unacceptable."

Mayor Lori Lightfoot, CTA President Dorval Carter, and CPD Supt. David Brown announced new security measures during a March 9 press conference at the Chicago Red Line station.

In reality, the measures aren't new. They're essentially the same shuffling of police resources and private security contractors that the city has done time after time in the past when crime on the transit lines grabs media attention. Inevitably, the efforts wane, and crime returns, only to be addressed by the same "new" tactics after another press conference.

The city's "plan" is so old and has been rolled out and rolled back so many times, we had no plans to write about it. That is, until 32 minutes into the press conference when Brown, the police superintendent, boasted that there was an 11% decrease in crime on the CTA last year.

That's right. After the mayor and CTA president and Brown himself talked about the unacceptable level of crime on Chicago's public transit for a half-hour, Brown fired up CPD's tried-and-true talking point for all occasions: Crime is down!

In fact, the number of criminal reports generated on CTA property did decline last year when compared to 2020 — but the "crimes" that declined have nothing to do with the safety of passengers.

Between 2020 and 2021 on the CTA:

- Murders increased 33% from 3 to 4
- Shootings increased 64% from



Chicago police SWAT officers and UIC police officers ride a Blue Line train during the city's last public transit safety "crackdown" in Feb. 2020.

- 4 to 11
- Sexual assaults increased 300% from 4 to 16
- Robberies increased 9% from 453 to 492
- Stabbings increased 24% from 41 to 51

So, how did crime go "down?" According to the city's data, most of the decrease came through a reduction in the reporting of crimes by CTA itself and a decline in CPD enforcement. There were:

- 172 fewer criminal damage (graffiti) reports taken
- 88 fewer trespassing arrests
- 62 fewer narcotics arrests
- 31 fewer deceptive practice cases (mostly turnstile jumpers)

There were also 273 fewer theft cases on CTA last year compared to 2020. That's because the first 80 days or so of 2020 had relatively normal levels of CTA ridership and relatively normal levels of theft, which drove up the 2020 totals.

Before the state's stay-at-home order went into effect on March 20, 2020, there were 414 theft cases reported on CTA. By comparison, with ridership depressed due to COVID last year, only 89 theft cases were reported during the same period.

According to CTA, overall rid-

ership on CTA buses and trains was down about 3.5% in 2021 compared to 2020 through November.

So, yes. "Crime" reports were down on the CTA in 2021 when compared to 2020, which will be reassuring to anyone concerned about trespassing, taggers, and turnstile jumpers.

"Top 10" transit crime suspects announced

Perps include convicted murderer, juvenile with 12 felony arrests, and guy who's been in jail since September

CTA crime is once again the topic of the day. There is an election coming up after all.

Murders on the city's transit system were up 33% last year. Shootings up 64%. Sexual assaults up 300%. Robberies up 9%. Stabbings up 24%. All while ridership was down over 3%.

On March 9, the city promised to get it all fixed. Again.

So, let's say "hello" to the Chicago Police Department's "Top 10 Persons Of Interest" for public transportation crimes.

There's a 16-year-old boy who already has 12 felony arrests on his record.

There's the 59-year-old man

with 50 arrests and a murder conviction.

Inexplicably, there's a guy who has been sitting in Cook County jail without bail since September.

And, on a positive note, the first guy on the list was arrested and charged with robbery last week.

After the mayor and CTA president and Brown himself talked about the unacceptable level of crime on Chicago's public transit for a half-hour, Brown fired up CPD's tried-and-true talking point for all occasions: Crime is down!

Top Ten

CPD's "Top Ten" transit suspects are profiled on a department flier provided to this reporter by a source. They are all linked to robberies. Four of them are juveniles.

The first person profiled on the bulletin is Miguel Hecavaria. Prosecutors charged him last week with robbing a man at gunpoint on the Red Line near Chicago Ave. after escaping from elec-

tronic monitoring. Prosecutors said they also expect to charge him with at least one other robbery on the Green Line.

CPD's flyer said he was suspected of committing "several" robberies with a chrome-plated revolver on Red and Green Line trains

We are not publishing the names or photographs of other "honorees" because they are listed only as persons of interest but here is what the bulletin says about some of them:

- A 16-year-old boy "has been linked to several robberies including while being with a knife" on the Purple and Red Lines. He was charged with a Red Line robbery on Oct. 29, 2021, the bulletin said.

- An 18-year-old woman who has been arrested for robberies on the Blue and Red Lines in the past is "known to have used force to snatch passengers' belongings."

- A 17-year-old boy who has 13 arrests for crimes like aggravated robbery, assault, and battery, is suspected of committing several robberies on CTA trains while armed with a knife, the bulletin said. He was arrested last April for an aggravated robbery on the Blue Line.

- Another 17-year-old boy who has two felony arrests, including one for armed robbery with a firearm on the Blue Line and one for armed carjacking, is "known to frequent the CTA" and was most recently arrested at the Jackson Red Line, according to the list.

- A 16-year-old boy with 26 arrests, 12 of which are for felonies, "has been linked to multiple robbery patterns" on the CTA train system, the bulletin said. Some of his felony arrests have been robbery, aggravated battery, and theft.

- A 19-year-old man who "was on the scene of a homicide that occurred on the Red Line" has been linked to several robberies on the train system and an auto theft at the 95th Street station, according to the bulletin.

CTA see p. 6



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Weed dealers hope to open in Lincoln Square, Lincoln Park

With empty storefronts and retail vacancies plaguing most neighborhoods these days, drug dealing seems to be the only growth industry left in retail these days.

There are new dispensaries opening up all over the city, including one in a strip mall at Lawrence and Oakley avenues; and another at Lincoln and Sheffield avenues.

In Lincoln Park, Akele Parnell, CEO of 11th Level, Inc., has a proposal to open a cannabis dispensary at the site of the former Salt and Pepper restaurant, 2576 N. Lincoln Ave.

Parnell began working as a business attorney after college, focusing mainly on health care matters. When an opportunity arose to be in-house counsel at a cannabis startup in Chicago, where he lived, Parnell jumped at the chance to get his first taste of the industry.

Today, he's the head of equity partnerships for Lantern, the cannabis e-commerce marketplace and home delivery platform.

But the location he's chosen on the triangular lot across the street from Jonquil Park, and in close proximity to a number of elementary schools (Mayer, Alcott, Tubman, Lincoln Elementary), DePaul Univ., and Lincoln Park High School may present some problems.

Another recreational pot dispensary is trying to open near the Lincoln Square Mall, at the site of a former Core Power Yoga store-

front, 2301 W. Lawrence Ave. On Jan. 1 Botavi Wellness submitted a zoning change application to City Hall.

Since then, company officials have been meeting with nearby neighbors trying to sell them on the idea. This would be Botavi's first dispensary; its owners are partnering with Justice Cannabis. Justice first started selling retail recreational pot in 2014, and is in eight states and has opened more than 10 dispensaries.

The pot dispensary would also need to get final approval from state licensing officials before Botavi could sign a 10-year lease and move into the store.

The dispensary could open six or seven months after getting City approved.

If the city gives the dispensary the OK, Botavi may still have to wait to get final state approval, as Illinois officials are in the process of settling several lawsuits related to its lottery system for cannabis licensing.

The partners pitched their proposal to area neighbors during a Feb. 24 community meeting, where neighbors raised concerns about the proposed dispensary being a few blocks away from Montessori Gifted Prep, at Lawrence and Leavitt St., and St. Matthias Catholic School, just north on Claremont Ave., and whether drug users would be consuming cannabis products near the dispensary or during some of the neighborhood's popular street festivals.

Lawyer for Chicago city workers: Courts must address overreach in Lightfoot, Pritzker job or jab vax mandates

BY JONATHAN BILYK
Cook County Record

As evidence mounts that vaccines do little to prevent transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19, a group of Chicago firefighters and other city employees at risk of losing their jobs say federal judges would be well within their power to step in and require Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot and Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker to offer some proof that their vaccine mandates actually accomplish their stated public health goals, before continuing to trample workers' rights to privacy and bodily autonomy.

On March 7, attorney Jonathan Lubin filed a brief in the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago, asking the judges to overturn a lower court's decision that the response to the COVID pandemic provides sufficient constitutional cover to Lightfoot and others to fire workers who refuse to receive a COVID vaccine.

"There is a point, even during the pandemic, when the Constitution's protections of liberty once again overcome mitigation measures aimed at addressing COVID-19," Lubin wrote.

"That time has long since come and passed. It is time for the two weeks to flatten the curve to finally end."

Last fall, Lubin filed suit in federal court on behalf of the group of workers from Chicago's city fire, water and transportation departments, asking a federal judge to block Pritzker and Lightfoot from ordering them to take a COVID jab or risk losing their jobs.

In their lawsuit, the workers

assert the mandates violate their constitutional rights to privacy and bodily autonomy, as well as their rights to due process by not being given the opportunity to demonstrate prior COVID infection had provided them with natural immunity, at least as good as the protection purported to be offered by any of the approved COVID vaccines.

As evidence mounts that vaccines do little to prevent transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19, a group of Chicago firefighters and other city employees at risk of losing their jobs say federal judges would be well within their power to step in and require Chicago Mayor Lightfoot and Illinois Gov. Pritzker to offer some proof that their vaccine mandates actually accomplish their stated public health goals.

In November, U.S. district Judge John Z. Lee refused their request for an injunction against the COVID vaccine employment mandate.

He said the workers' arguments are undone by a "core flaw:" That workers' rights to refuse a COVID vaccine is not a "fundamental right" that supersedes the city's and state's interests in attempting to protect the "health and welfare of others in the community."

The workers appealed Lee's decision to the Seventh Circuit Appeals Court, as they continue to pursue a court order that would allow them to keep their jobs.

In their latest filing, Lubin and the workers assert their rights to privacy and bodily and autonomy should be considered as fundamental as other privacy rights, such as those recognized by the U.S. Supreme Court in determining the Constitution affords women a right to abortion.

They pointed to the Supreme Court's reasoning in *Casey v Planned Parenthood*, in which they said the high court determined that even an unborn hu-

man being's right to life is "subordinate to the right to privacy and bodily autonomy" of the mother.

Further, Lubin argued, the city cannot demonstrate the vaccines it is mandating actually help the city achieve its goals of reducing the spread of COVID-19, particularly given the dominance of the omicron variant of the COVID virus, which has demonstrated

sustained abilities to evade vaccines and natural immunity, alike.

"To suggest that the theoretical (and, at this point, extremely dubious) impact that forcing COVID-19 vaccination may have on public health is somehow more intertwined public health than the question of whether to terminate a potential life in the womb is a mistake," Lubin wrote. "That right is fundamental."

Further, Lubin urged the court to step in and stop Pritzker, Lightfoot and others from continuing to impose mandates by executive orders, pointing to the state's Emergency Management law, sidestepping lawmakers and legislative bodies altogether.

Lubin argued, after two years, COVID can no longer legally be considered an emergency requiring such executive rule.

"Only emergencies implicate the Illinois Emergency Management Act," Lubin wrote. "COVID-19 may present a serious issue for residents if the State of Illinois (sic), even now... But it is no longer an emergency."

"At some point in the last two years, the legislature could have been prevailed upon to offer specific legislation about COVID-19, vaccines, and any other issue of importance. For the Governor to still be exercising emergency powers two years after the beginning of the pandemic is an affront to the democratic process."

The same reasoning should apply to Lightfoot's so-called emergency rules, Lubin said.

Lubin asked the appeals panel to overturn Lee's decision, and order an injunction be granted.

CTA from p. 5

• A 59-year-old convicted murderer with 50 previous arrests frequents the Jackson Red Line platform and is suspected of robbery and battery, the bulletin said.

The 10th person on the list may be familiar to many people. He's Mekiel Hampton, who has been held without bail in Cook County jail since prosecutors charged him with violently beating and robbing two men in the middle of State St. last summer. The attack was captured on CPD surveillance video that went viral after this reporter published the footage.

Hampton is charged with robbery and two counts of aggravated battery causing great bodily harm in the State St. attacks. The CTA bulletin said he "has been a suspect in several robberies and aggravated batteries that have occurred on the CTA Red Line." But he has not been charged with any such crime.

City Hall will now try to reverse the CTA's entrenched crime problem by deploying around-the-clock unarmed security contractors and increasing police patrols. At least until after the upcoming elections, that is.



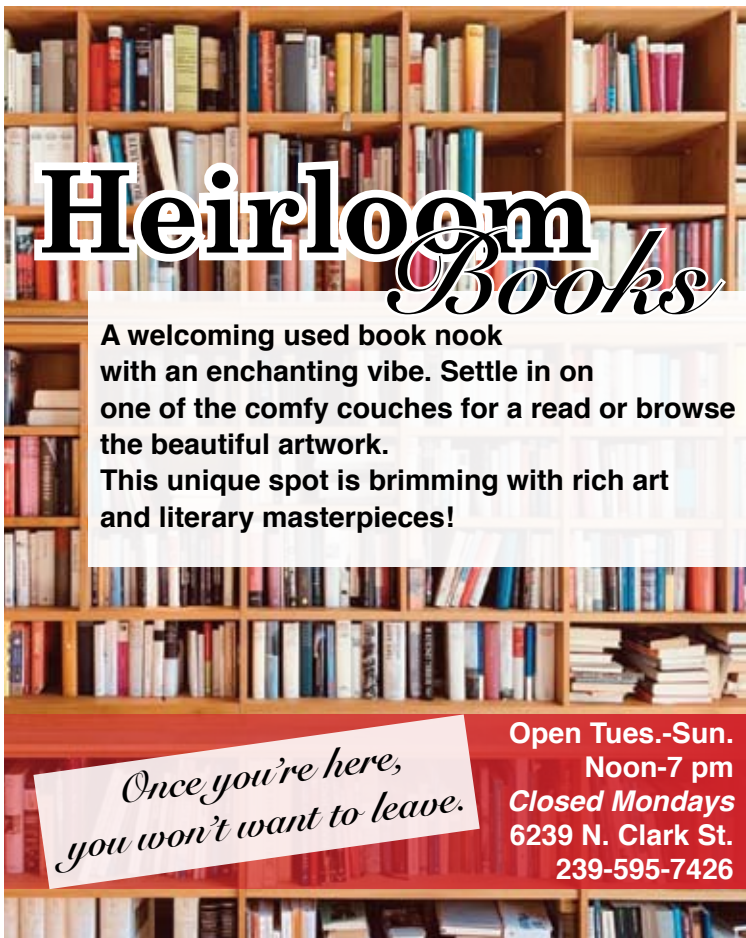
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Foxx decries “a kangaroo prosecution” of Smollett as one of her staff members begs co-workers to “please stay and fight”

BY CWBCHICAGO

More than three years after Jussie Smollett's phony hate crime saga began on a frigid Streeterville street corner, Cook County Judge James Linn sentenced the fallen star to 150 days in jail and 30 months probation on March 10. Smollett was also ordered to pay a \$25,000 fine and reimburse the city for \$120,106 of police overtime dedicated to investigating his bogus claims.

Before sentencing, Linn said Smollett “committed hour upon hour upon hour of pure perjury” on the witness stand.

Writing in the March 10 Sun-Times, Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx, whose bungling of the case cast such a dark shadow that a judge found only a special prosecutor could restore the public's faith in the county's justice system, called Smollett's trial “a kangaroo prosecution.”

She also said it was “costly,” even though the special prosecutor's investigation and the prosecution itself were handled pro bono by the Winston & Strawn law firm.

Lately, Foxx seems almost as deep in denial as Smollett himself. In anticipation of the verdict, Foxx last week told reporters that the special prosecutor investigation “started with the proposition that perhaps I had done something, and the summation was that I hadn't.”

In fact, the investigation found, among other things, Foxx and her top aides treated Smollett favorably like no other defendant, they lied to the public about it, and Foxx herself lied about cutting off communications with Smollett's family when, in fact, she had not. That was just the beginning.

The transgressions were so serious, special prosecutor Dan Webb referred his findings about Foxx and her aides to state regulators.

Officially, on March 10, Foxx's office said it will “continue to prioritize violent crime.”

That will be small consolation to the dozens of people it has charged with filing false reports over the past three years who have not received a “Smollett Deal.”

People like Jim Van Buskirk, who lost his job, his reputation, and his life savings when prosecutors accused him of falsely claiming that he had been tied up and robbed by a gunman at a Union Station restaurant he managed.

Foxx's office prosecuted him to the fullest — no sweetheart deal. They took the case to trial. And they lost. Jim Van Bus-

kirk is an innocent man.

It's notable that Foxx's office, the one that says it prioritizes violent crime, is still pursuing felony charges against a man almost three years after he allegedly spray-painted graffiti on The Bean sculpture. Another man who reportedly did it with him finally pleaded guilty in September after fighting felony charges for 2½ years. He received a one-year prison sentence in a plea deal with the office that “prioritizes violent crime.”

‘There are still some real prosecutors in Cook County’

After Foxx's letter appeared in the Sun-Times, we received a letter, too. It came from an assistant state's attorney in Foxx's office who has been in touch with us from time to time over the years. They asked if we would share their thoughts of the day. We will:

There are still some real prosecutors in Cook County. It is true that every day more resign. It is true that every night there are more text chains of depressed, hopeless and angry prosecutors who seem to be more embarrassed by the day at the state of this office. But some of us are still here.

It's lazy and cliché to blame the state of things on COVID or outside influence. The reason why the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, once held in high regard nationwide as the most fierce, dedicated and hell-bent-on-justice prosecutor's office in the country, now is a laughing stock is because of how terribly off the rails the train of reform has gone.

There is not a single real prosecutor that would argue small time retail theft is a big deal. There is not a single one that would argue drug possession should result in penitentiary time. There is not a single one that would argue that the efforts of the rehabilitation and diversion courts are not both successful, money saving and life changing for those that can get enrolled. There are still some real prosecutors in Cook County, and we agree with rehabilitation.

But the premise this office has put forth of shifting resources from those minor cases to focus on violent crime and public safety is nothing short of a lie and fraud perpetrated on the citizens of Cook County.

While relaxed prosecutions of minor offenses has increased, there have been zero efforts to direct that to violent crime.

The complex homicide unit which by title would be the foremost unit going after violent crime, has decreased in size since Kim Foxx took office. It hasn't doubled, tripled or quadrupled utilizing all the resources saved from ignoring petty crime. It has decreased.

It's lazy and cliché to blame the state of things on COVID or outside influence. The reason why the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, once held in high regard nationwide as the most fierce, dedicated and hell-bent-on-justice prosecutor's office in the country, now is a laughing stock is because of how terribly off the rails the train of reform has gone.

The much publicized “gun strategies unit” is a minuscule unit generally regarded as a unit staffed with ASA's who are not the best, brightest and hard-working and a unit that does little to actually help the cause. Why?

There are still some real prosecutors in Cook County, but they are not being de-

ployed to fight violent crime as the administration wants you to believe.

With the hurricane of resignations in the past year the office is now staffed by inexperienced supervisors, first chairs (responsible for murder prosecutions) who have never even handled a murder case, and endless numbers of ASA's promoted without knowledge or experience to do the job, but nonetheless thrust into the position because of attrition. Some will be great. Many will not.

In the past few years being a Cook County prosecutor has gone from being a source of pride to being one of embarrassment. A repetitive depressing cycle of doing the job, keeping your job and all the while trying to let everyone who is truly invested in prosecuting crime know that you aren't “one of them.” There are still some real prosecutors in Cook County, but we are embarrassed.

The administration cannot find a single person to accept the job of the Chief of Criminal Prosecutions. The reason is because every single real prosecutor watched as one of us, Natosha Toller, an African-American woman who was a real prosecutor fighting for justice, was beaten down to the point she could take it no longer.

FOXX see p. 8



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Alex Diamond learns from Chicago P.D. work for filmmaking future

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Assistant Director Alex Diamond jokes that his professional abbreviation, “A.D.,” should really stand for “Anxious Director.”

“We always have to think of what could go wrong, and what could be an issue,” explained Diamond, a graduate of Columbia College and a veteran of several local independent productions. A resident of Chicago’s West Side, he is currently working as an assistant director on the longtime NBC drama Chicago P.D.

“Let’s say we’re filming outside a neighborhood house,” he added. “I have to make sure that all the houses are clear and that no one pops out [their door]. I have to think of everything that happens in there. I like to think that my vivid imagination helps me think of all the possibilities that can happen.”

Diamond describes himself as a “people person.” “That’s one of my favorite things and is a big part of film. You meet so many different types of personalities and you have to find a way to work together as a huge team.”

Diamond is a native of suburban Northbrook and jumped at the chance to work on a studio production.

“I thought that I’d really like

to see what the studio life is all about,” Diamond recalled. “I’d really only been working on low-budget indie things, and a Lifetime movie and a BET movie. I wanted to see how a big television show ran.”

His first day working as a production assistant on Chicago P.D. was a “stunt day,” he added. “So I couldn’t say no.”

After working on the program for two seasons, he was asked to come on board full-time. Diamond said it helped that he was well-acclimated for the pace of a major production even before he left Columbia.

“I had a pretty good understanding and a pretty good feel for how a set ran,” he explained. “Then, after about three years [working on Chicago P.D.], my vision just sharpened and my focus got more clear. Now I really understand what 15 minutes on a film set means.”

Diamond is confident that his experience will help him when he is running his own productions one day.

“I’m seeing this flow throughout the day, and I think that is what is going to help me be a creative director—the one behind the monitors giving the actors direction,” he explained.

When not working on Chicago



On his first stunt day on the job, Alex Diamond, a graduate of Columbia College and a veteran of several local independent productions, was working as a production assistant on Chicago P.D. After working on the program for two seasons, he was hired full-time.

P.D., Diamond has been developing a “proof of concept” short film called Dopamine Dreams he hopes can be expanded into a feature or a television series.

The film is about “a naive drug dealer who meets a dark stranger at a party. We later find out this stranger is a drug kingpin for the underground music scene.”

Diamond has been working on Dopamine Dreams “since before college. It is ready to be greenlit and [begin] pre-production. This project...is actually what I have been pursuing my whole career and what ultimately made me change my life path and go to film school.”

He encouraged anyone seeking to break into film and television production locally to network and talk to people. “There’s a lot of social-network pages and communities that will allow you to volunteer on a film set. I [once] volunteered as a second A.D. on a short film, and a script supervisor suggested me to another company. For that, I made \$800 in one day. At 24 years old, that was amazing at the time. It goes to show that there is no bridge you should ever burn [and you must] make sure you’re working the hardest you can.”

Launched in late 2021— with a second round of applications

opening this summer— the Chicago Made workforce development program offers job training and placement to Chicago residents ages 24-50, primarily from underserved areas, to help meet the industry’s increasing demand for skilled workers. The program is an initiative by the Chicago Film Office at the Department of Current Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) and the XD-TECH consultancy.

NBC Universal, Netflix, The Walt Disney Company, and Warner Media provide on-set training for the program. A number of local firms and organizations, as well as unions IATSE Local 476 and Local 600, have provided support as well.

A record 15 productions filmed in Chicago in summer 2021, bringing with them nearly \$700 million in economic impact. The Chicago Made program links projects such as those with workers from across the city.

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This series, from the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE), asks Chicagoans in the film industry to share their experiences. Learn more at ChicagoMade.us and join the conversation on social media using #ChicagoMade.

LIFESAVER from p. 3

proximately 200 families participate in these trainings each year.

- As it has throughout CPD history, the District continues to offer swim lessons, as a life skill, for all ages for free or a minimal cost. Currently, Learn to Swim is available for ages six and older, at a low cost, with free programming available for families who may not be able to afford the cost and for seniors and Special Recreation participants. Annually, more than 20,000 patrons enroll for Learn to Swim including more than 16,000 children ages six

to 12.

- CPD utilizes the Safety Flag System on all sanctioned swim beaches alerting the public of safe water swimming conditions; current alerts are updated daily on its website and amplified on CPD social media platforms.
- To ensure proper communications at beaches and pools, CPD also refreshes hundreds of signs and safety stencils indicating unauthorized swim locations annually and as needed. (This one definitely needs to be addressed. At the pier at Pratt, painted signs and any stenciled warnings went un-refreshed and therefore became invisible.

Thus, Miguel never knew not to swim there).

“The CPD urges patrons to enjoy the beaches safely and responsibly and look for No Swimming Allowed signage that indicates that swimming is not sanctioned in that area,” the statement read. “Visitors should consult the Dis-

trict’s website or social media platforms to ensure water conditions are safe for swimming before heading out to the beach and only enter the water when a life-guard is on duty. Swim hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

And yep, I know I’m starting

my beach safety preaching early. But if you’d seen what I’ve seen for the last four-plus decades of living on this beach, you’d start sooner than later too.

Again, we send our heartiest congrats to Quezada for making huge waves on the lakefront. You go girl!

FOXX from p. 7

ger and had to leave. There is not a single real prosecutor who saw Natosha go and now would ever consider taking that position. In fact, to this day everyone who has been approached to consider taking that spot has declined.

There are still some real prosecutors in Cook County...but it’s not easy. To the police officers that risk their lives every shift for a thankless job where nothing you ever do will be seen as right

by some...we respect you and you know who the real prosecutors are.

To the victims of crime in Cook County...we know that when your case is the one of 400 cases pending in a courtroom at 26th Street that at some times it may feel like no one cares. But when there are real prosecutors in that room you know it. And they will be fighting for you.

But most of all to the real prosecutors of Cook County...we will get through this. There have been

dark times in past administrations. While this dark period may be different in its execution, it’s not the first time and won’t be the last time when the front lines despise the administration.

I know that every one of you is looking at jobs in DuPage, Lake, Will, the Attorney General, etc. While these are dark days please remember that we don’t work for the name on the front of the office at 69 W. Washington. We work for a bigger purpose of justice.

The administration tries to tell us we are racist. We are insensitive. We are not empathetic. They do that from their 32nd floor downtown office while we are at 26th Street in the trenches giving the drug offender his 5th chance at probation, the 18-year-old kid from a rough neighborhood who has never been in trouble First Gun Offender Probation so he can stay in college, and while we work endless hours so that the indigent minority mother who lost her son to gun violence can hug us and cry on our shoulder thanking us after getting justice for her child. That is why we are still here.

There are still some real prosecutors in Cook County. And there are victims and hard-working police officers that need us to be there for them now more than ever. We will get through this. Please stay and fight until you can fight no more.

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For *Chicago Fire* stylist Steykine Wills, the main job is about helping to build characters

By Matt Simonette

Chicagoan Steykine Wills, a hair stylist who works full-time for the locally-produced television drama *Chicago Fire*, sees helping to create characters as a central part of her job.

“Depending on if a character appears disheveled, for example, we have to make them appear that way,” Wills explained. “We have to read the script and make sure that the hair coincides with what the character has going on.”

Wills grew up on Chicago’s South Side, and is a graduate of Myra Bradwell School of Excellence, Simeon Vocational High School and McCoy Barber College. She had long wanted to use her skills in the film and television industry.

“I had always been interested in doing it—I just didn’t know how to do it,” Wills said. “There were no programs to show you how to get in.”

But a coworker began working in local film and television productions and, in 2018, referred Wills to a department head for the HBO series *Lovecraft Country*.

“From there, I just started building relationships and just started getting callbacks and people asking me to work for them,” she said.

Wills worked steadily on a number of local productions, among them *Chicago P.D.* and season 4 of *Fargo*. But then the COVID-19 pandemic hit Chicago, and her work ceased on March 12, 2020.

“Two weeks ended up being six months,” she said. “I was off for those six months, just sitting around. But then I started doing online classes, trying to keep up with work, learning different things and doing classes to occupy my time. It was okay, but a little depressing.”

She was brought back to finish up the filming for *Fargo*, which halted mid-production, and then, in March 2021, landed a full-time position with *Chicago Fire*.

Most days, Wills is now assigned a different actor to work with. She’ll prepare their hair ahead of shooting, then later go with them to the set and help look after them to keep up with the continuity of their scene over the course of shooting.

“So for example, if we have someone with long hair, we have to make sure it’s in the same position,” she said. “So we watch the monitor via our iPads and make sure that everything looks the same.”

She said that she was “ecstatic” when she was voted into International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) Local 476.

“I hear a lot of stories about people who were trying to get into their union for years, but it only took me a year,” Wills said. “I remember the day. I was riding my bike by the lake and I got a call, and they said, ‘We want to vote you in.’ I was so excited.”

For those looking for a path forward doing hair styling for film and television production, she advises, “Make sure this is something you really want to do. It’s different from being in a salon. You have to dedicate yourself to learning all you can learn... Try to get all of the knowledge that you can before you even get into the business. It’s about a lot more than doing hair—it’s about learning what goes on a set and learning the set lingo. The most important thing is to do your research.”

Launched in late 2021—with a second round of applications opening this summer—the Chicago Made workforce development program offers job training and placement to Chicago residents ages 24–50, primarily from underserved areas, to help meet the industry’s increasing demand for skilled workers. The program is an initiative by the Chicago Film Office at the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) and the XD-TECH consultancy.

NBC Universal, Netflix, The Walt Disney Company and Warner Media provide on-set training for the program. A number of local firms and organizations, as well as unions IATSE Local 476 and Local 600, have provided support as well.

A record 15 productions filmed in Chicago in summer 2021, bringing with them nearly \$700 million in economic impact. The Chicago Made program links projects such as those with workers from across the city.

SPONSORED ADVERTISEMENT

This series, from the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE), asks Chicagoans in the film industry to share their experiences. Learn more at [ChicagoMade.us](https://chicagomade.us) and join the conversation on social media using #ChicagoMade.



DCASE

CHICAGO
FILM OFFICE

Police Beat...

Armed carjacking, 7-Eleven robbery reported hours apart in Boystown

An Amazon delivery driver was carjacked at gunpoint in Boystown on March 8. A few hours later, armed men robbed a convenience store on the corner of Roscoe and Halsted streets in the heart of the city’s LG-BTQ nightlife district. Police have not announced any arrests.

The 26-year-old delivery driver was in his white Nissan Rogue on the 700 block of W. Aldine when a gunman emerged from a black SUV and forced him from his car around 7:30 p.m., police said.

Both vehicles then fled east on Aldine. CPD did not release any suspect descriptions.

Then, around 12:32 a.m., three men entered the 7-Eleven store at 3407 N. Halsted and confronted the clerk with two handguns, according to a CPD report.

Police said the men collected cash, cigarettes, and liquor, then fled in a maroon SUV. A second vehicle, believed to be a silver or white Nissan SUV, was also seen leaving the scene.

The store robbers were described as Black males between 20- and 26-years-old. One suspect wore an orange and black sweater, another wore a black sweater with gray pants, and the third wore all black clothing, according to initial information from the scene.

Area Three detectives are investigating both crimes.

Man escaped from electronic monitoring on his second day, then started robbing people on CTA trains

Just two days after Miguel Hechavarria went home on electronic monitoring to await trial for a felony gun charge in August, he cut off his ankle monitor and walked out the door, prosecutors said March 8.



Miguel Hechavarria

Until police arrested him on a Loop ‘L’ platform March 6, authorities hadn’t seen or heard from him since. But he’s been keeping himself busy by allegedly robbing people at gunpoint on the city’s train system.

“It was the [electronic monitoring] that never really existed,” Judge Susana Ortiz said. “The band was cut off. He simply walked away and abandoned it, and while on his frolic ... he allegedly committed a crime of violence.”

Prosecutors charged Hechavarria with felony unlawful use of a weapon on July 28. With two other misdemeanor cases also pending, he went home on electronic monitoring Aug. 7.

At 5:19 a.m. on August 8, the sheriff’s office received a “strap tamper” alert and lost communication with Hechavarria’s ankle monitor, Assistant State’s Attorney James Murphy said.

They went to Hechavarria’s home and spoke with his cousin, who said they saw Hechavarria remove the ankle monitor and walk out the door, according to Murphy. Sheriff’s investigators found the broken bracelet in the house.

Murphy said that Chicago police

have been looking for Hechavarria since October in connection with CTA train robberies. Prosecutors charged him with one case yesterday, and Murphy suggested that another charge is imminent.

Around 12:45 a.m. on Oct. 20, 2021, Hechavarria ordered a man to give up his phone on a Red Line CTA train near Chicago Ave. When the victim refused, Hechavarria allegedly pulled out a silver revolver, pointed it at the man, and demanded the phone again. He got it that time.

Murphy said CTA surveillance cameras recorded the robbery, and an investigator recognized Hechavarria from the footage.

CTA cameras also recorded Hechavarria robbing a Green Line passenger one day later. That charge is pending.

Police recognized Hechavarria while patrolling Loop CTA stations over the weekend and took him into custody. Murphy said he gave investigators a “detailed statement.”

Among other things, Hechavarria told police that he cut off his electronic monitoring band because “he cannot be with his parents. Because he feels he is failing them,” Murphy said.

He allegedly claimed that he was forced to steal the Red Line passenger’s phone because two men told them that they would hurt him and take his gun if he didn’t do it. But he agreed that 12 jurors won’t believe that story, Murphy continued.

Hechavarria has previous felony convictions for two burglaries and theft.

Judge Ortiz ordered Hechavarria held without bail on the gun charge that put him on electronic monitoring in July. She set bail at \$250,000 for the robbery case and \$150,000 on an escape charge.

Burglary, robbery charges filed after delivery driver foils Loop restaurant break-in

A man charged with robbery and burglary following a break-in at a Loop restaurant on March 5 is on parole for a 2018 armed robbery near the Belmont CTA station in Lakeview.

Xavier Lyons, 21, and two other people broke into The Gage, 24 S. Michigan, around 5:55 a.m. and made their way behind the bar, prosecutors said. The group started loading liquor into a trash can.

They all claimed to work at the restaurant when a delivery driver who frequently services the establishment confronted them, prosecutors said. The driver went outside and called 911.

He watched as Lyons and the others left the restaurant while pulling a trash can full of liquor bottles behind them, according to the allegations. Police arrested Lyons nearby, but the other two got away.



Xavier Lyons

He must post a 10% deposit to get out of jail.

Lyons was released from prison on Dec. 10 after serving about half of a six-year sentence that he received for robbing a woman in Lakeview on Dec. 27, 2018.

Just before 3 p.m., Lyons approached a 27-year-old woman on the 3100 block of N. Kenmore and demanded her phone at gunpoint. The woman did not turn over her phone, police said, but Lyons did get the victim’s debit card.

Responding officers searched the

Belmont Red Line CTA station and found Lyons matching the suspect’s description on a southbound train. The victim’s property was still in his hand as officers pulled him from the train, according to police. A pellet gun was allegedly recovered from his waistband.

One of the arresting officers was later recognized for his efforts in apprehending Lyons.

Four armed robberies reported in an hour at Loop, West Loop

Chicago police issued a community alert about robberies in the Loop and West Loop, which means detectives believe they were committed by the same offender. The alert describes the robber as a White male between 18- and 25-years-old who stands 5’-6” to 5’-8” tall and weighs 150 to 180 lbs. It says he was wearing a dark-colored hat, dark coat, and blue jeans. Anyone with information about the man can contact Area Three detectives at 312-744-8263 about crime pattern #22-3-016.

Police are investigating four armed robbery attempts that unfolded in about an hour at downtown businesses on March 7. While CPD has not publicly linked the crimes, they all involve a similarly-described man armed with a knife.

He threatened employees with a small knife at each location, but most of the hold-ups failed, according to CPD reports reviewed by this reporter.

The robberies and attempted robberies were reported at Starbucks, 171 W. Randolph, around 6:40 p.m.; CVS, 208 W. Washington, around 6:50 p.m.; McDonald’s, 1035 W. Randolph, around 7:30 p.m., and CVS, 1034 W. Lake, around 7:36 p.m.

Witnesses at all of the locations described the offender as a White male armed with a knife who wore a leather jacket and bandana across his face.

Man stabbed, critically wounded by shoplifter at River North Walgreens

A shoplifter repeatedly stabbed a man who saw him stealing merchandise from a Walgreens store in River North on March 6, according to a CPD report. The 51-year-old victim is in critical condition.

Police said the victim “made a verbal attempt to intervene” when he saw the shoplifter concealing merchandise from a shelf at the store, 641 N. Clark, around 10:38 p.m.

The shoplifter became irate, pulled out a sharp object, and stabbed the victim repeatedly, police said. He then left the store.

Police said the victim suffered multiple lacerations to his face and neck and stab wounds to his legs. EMS took him to Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

CPD did not release any suspect description information. A police spokesperson said they were unable to confirm if the victim was a customer or employee of the store.

Ex-boyfriend killed Albany Park woman who was found in car last month

An Albany Park woman who was found shot to death in her car last month was killed by her ex-boyfriend after a recent break-up, prosecutors said March 6. Umar Ayuba, 32, is charged with first-degree murder in the death of Azucena Vargas, 42, on the 3300 block of W. Cuyler late on Feb. 25.

Vargas and Ayuba met while working at the same Domino’s pizza restaurant, Assistant State’s Attorney Kevin Meehan said, but she ended the relationship in January.

Meehan said Vargas drove home and parked near her home after working at the restaurant on Feb. 25.

Accused CTA Red Line robber goes from “Give up your sh*t” to “Can I get an I-Bond” in record time

A man accused of attacking and robbing a CTA Red Line passenger in the Loop may have gone from “Give up your sh*t!” to “Can I get an I-Bond?” in record time.

It happened in felony bond court after prosecutors charged Nygel Goodman, 20, with attacking and trying to rob a man on the train at Jackson March 4. Goodman’s efforts to be given a recognizance bond on violent attempted robbery charges weren’t successful.



Nygel Goodman

The victim was sitting on the train when Goodman and two juveniles started arguing with him, and Goodman punched him in the face, according to the allegations. One of the juveniles began punching the victim’s face, too.

“Give up your sh*t!” Goodman allegedly yelled. “Give me your f**king headphones!”

Prosecutors said he then tried to snatch the victim’s headphones from his hands.

CTA surveillance cameras allegedly recorded the entire incident. Police arrested Goodman at the scene.

He is charged with attempted robbery and aggravated battery of a transit passenger.

His public defender said he recently graduated high school and works as a convenience store cashier. He has no criminal convictions in his background, prosecutors said.

Judge Charles Beach set his bail at \$50,000 with electronic monitor-

ing, meaning Goodman must post a \$5,000 deposit to go home on house arrest.

ing, meaning Goodman must post a \$5,000 deposit to go home on house arrest.

That’s when Goodman, against the advice of Assistant Public Defender Carolyn Howard, tried to negotiate.

“I cannot post that, sir,” Goodman began. “Can I get an I-Bond w/ electronic monitoring, please?”

An I-Bond, or individual recognizance bond, would require no monetary payment for release.

“You cannot get an I-Bond, sir,” Beach replied. “You committed an act of violence, and it’s contained on video.”

“Allegedly,” Howard countered.

“But we did not, but....” Goodman stammered.

“Sir! Sir! Stop talking,” advised Howard. “He’s not going to change the bond. Okay? You have another court date.”

“Ms. Howard’s absolutely correct. Once I’ve made up my mind, I very rarely change it, so....”

“Can you try to change it?” Goodman begged. “Please, sir. I’m in school and everything.”

“I appreciate you’re in school. Perhaps that should have been the focus that night rather than what else you were doing that night,” Beach offered.

“But I did not strike him multiple times,” Goodman continued, as a court reporter diligently recorded every word that he was warned prosecutors might use against him.

“Sir! Sir! Sir! Sir!” Howard interrupted. “Don’t talk about your case ... You’re done at this point.”

With that, Goodman apparently accepted his fate — at least until another judge reviews his bail conditions on Friday. CPD did not immediately respond to an inquiry about what charges, if any, were filed against juveniles in the case.

Before she got out of the car, Ayuba walked up, shot her one time in the head, took her phone, and drove away in a van, according to Meehan. One of Vargas’ relatives later found her body in the car.

Investigators collected “extensive” surveillance video evidence that tracks Ayuba’s van before and after the murder.

The vehicle, registered to Ayuba’s mother, is seen arriving at the Domino’s and waiting until Vargas’ shift ends. It then traveled to the area of Vargas’ home before returning to Ayuba’s residence, Meehan alleged.

Police executed a search warrant at Ayuba’s home and allegedly found Vargas’ stolen phone in his sock drawer. Meehan said Ayuba admitted that he went to Vargas’ home to talk about their relationship but shot her and took her phone.

Ayuba was hospitalized Sunday and did not attend his bail hearing. He has no known criminal background.

Judge Kelly McCarthy ordered Ayuba held in lieu of \$1 million cash bail. That means he must post a full \$1 million in cash to get out of jail. State law generally bars judges from holding defendants without bail if they are not physically present for the hearing.

Prospective buyer carjacked an Avondale couple during a test drive, prosecutors say

An Avondale couple that offered their car for sale on Facebook was carjacked at gunpoint by a man who showed up for a test drive, prosecutors said March 10.

The hijacker showed up for an appointment at the couple’s home

around 1 p.m. March 6 with a woman, and they agreed to go for a test drive. The husband sat in the back seat while his pregnant wife sat in the front passenger seat and the future carjacker took the wheel, Assistant State’s Attorney Sean Kelly said.

After driving a short distance, the hijacker asked to see the car’s title and then snatched it from the wife’s hands while displaying a handgun. The hijacker took the couple’s phones and ordered the couple out of the car on the 3700 block of W. George. He drove away with their car, followed by the other woman in a separate vehicle.

Police initially tracked the stolen phones to a home where Malik Shears lives, Kelly said.

The next day, Shears had the hijacked car’s title registered in his girlfriend’s name shortly before police pulled the vehicle over with the girlfriend driving and Shears in the passenger seat, said Kelly.

Prosecutors charged Shears, 21, with aggravated vehicular hijacking and armed robbery with a firearm. No charges were announced against his girlfriend.

Kelly said the husband could not identify Shears in a photo line-up, but his wife identified Shears as the hijacker. He said Shears, who has no criminal convictions, told police he paid \$3,200 for the car.

Shears’ defense attorney said the case will be a “credibility question.”

Judge Kelly McCarthy denied a prosecution request to hold Shears

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City folks can do their part for local democracy and earn some cash in the process by registering to serve as an Election Judge for the Cook County Clerk's Office in the June 28, for this year's gubernatorial Primary Election.

Clerk Karen A. Yarbrough is encouraging all residents to consider serving as an Election Judge or Polling Place Technician to work on Election Day. The Clerk's Office administers elections in all Cook County suburbs and has 1,430 precincts that will require staffing with multiple Election Judges.

Election Judges are paid \$200 and Polling Place Technicians \$365 and the Clerk's Office provides training for both positions.

The Clerk's Office is also putting out a call to encourage high

school and college students to consider serving as judges as well as residents who are bilingual.

"Our Judges are the gatekeepers for election operations and their work is critically important to keeping election day operations running smoothly," said Yarbrough. "They are also the unsung heroes of our democratic process who provide a vital public service to voters on Election Day."

The two judge positions available include:

- Election Judge: These judges greet voters, sign them in and work together to ensure the polling place is running smoothly and voters are properly served. This position pays \$200.
- Polling Place Technician: Technicians work with election judges to check supplies and equipment and assist with the setup, maintenance, and breakdown of election equipment. Due to the additional equipment responsibilities, Polling Place Technicians receive additional training and earn \$365.

Election Judges must be a registered Cook County voter or an eligible college or high school student (16 or older). The Clerk's

"Our Judges are the gatekeepers for election operations and their work is critically important to keeping election day operations running smoothly," said Karen Yarbrough.

office is also in need of bilingual Election Judges in many precincts with high concentrations of Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Tagalog, Polish, Russian, Ukrainian, Gujarati, Urdu, and Arabic-speaking voters who are not proficient in English and may need special assistance at the polls.

Anyone who wishes to serve on Election Day is encouraged to apply as soon as possible, so they will have time to take a required training class that best fits their schedule. Prospective Election Day workers can apply online at: cookcountyclerk.com/work.

Man accused of stealing 14-year-old's phone disagrees with judge's bail decision

'You must think I'm f*cking made out of money or something!'

BY CWBCHICAGO

When we last told you about Kendale Chavez, it was almost Christmas and he had just told a bond court judge that the burglary charges prosecutors filed against him were "bullsh*t."

Chavez was just as colorful when he appeared in bond court again March 9 to face new charges after allegedly stealing a 14-year-old's phone in Rogers Park.

The judge ordered him held in lieu of \$20,000 bail.

"You must think I'm f*cking made out of money or something!" Chavez popped off in response to Judge Susana Ortiz's order. She also ordered him held without bail for violating the bond terms in those burglary still-pending burglary cases.

The 14-year-old boy was on the 1500 block of W. Albion when Chavez, 25, rode up to him on a bike around 5:30 p.m. Monday, according to police and Assistant State's Attorney Sean Kelly.

Chavez ordered the teen to hand over his stuff and then rode away with the boy's iPhone and iPod, Kelly said.

Police tracked the phone's signal and arrested Chavez March 8. He was allegedly carrying the phone when they found him. At the police station, Chavez flaunted his arms and pretended to head butt officers before they got him under control.

Prosecutors charged him with theft, assault, and three narcotics counts.

Assistant Public Defender Suzin Farber said Chavez has been working for DoorDash and is the

father of two.

In December, Assistant State's Attorney Loukas Kalliantasis said Chavez was caught carrying a bag containing a pry bar, screwdriver, black gloves, a key fob duplicator, and a set of keys that were allegedly taken from inside a man's West Rogers Park apartment.



Kendale Chavez

"T h a t ' s bullsh*t, bro," Chavez interjected as Kalliantasis ran down the list of things police allegedly found in his bag.

"As much as you might find that an eloquent argument," Judge David Navarro replied, "It's not gonna work on your behalf."

It was the third burglary-related prosecutors filed against Chavez since May 2021.

All things considered, Chavez has historically enjoyed spectacular success in criminal cases ranging from home invasion to assault with a machete to burglary,

according to court records.

In Nov. 2018, he was charged with aggravated battery causing great bodily harm for beating a senior citizen in an Uptown alley, according to court records. He received three years for that case, which is the most serious punishment he ever received.

One month before that incident, he was charged with theft and possession of a controlled substance on the North Side. He went AWOL until police arrested him in the Uptown attack, records show. Prosecutors dropped the theft and possession charges ten days later.

And two months before that, he was charged with two misdemeanor counts of aggravated assault with a machete in Cicero. Prosecutors dropped the charges at his next court appearance.

One year earlier, in 2017, he was charged with Class X felony home invasion. Prosecutors allowed him to plead guilty to a reduced charge of misdemeanor criminal trespass to a residence. He received probation.

Man gets probation for robbing 62-year-old blind man at Roosevelt CTA station

BY CWBCHICAGO

A man has received three years of mental health probation for battering and robbing a blind man at the Roosevelt Red Line CTA station on Oct. 19, 2020.

Denzel Mukes, 31, was on bail for aggravated battery of a CTA employee when he jumped the 62-year-old victim in the station's pedestrian tunnel around 7:20 a.m.

Prosecutors said CTA video showed Mukes walking up behind the victim as the man walked with a cane inside the station. He allegedly reached into the man's pockets, but the victim realized what was happening, and the two began to struggle until the victim fell to the floor.

Mukes then pulled on the victim's tote bag, dragging him across

the floor until Mukes gained control of the bag, prosecutors said.

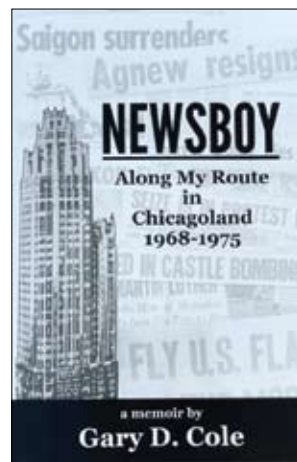
A witness followed Mukes onto a CTA bus and helped police locate him after the robbery. Officers said Mukes had the victim's bag when they arrested him, and he admitted to the crime.

Mukes pleaded guilty to aggravated robbery of a handicapped person and received his sentence from Judge Joseph Claps, according to court records. He was on bail for battering a CTA bus driver at the time of the robbery. The status of that case was not immediately available.



Denzel Mukes

Sales of this book at the Book Cellar support THIS newspaper!



"Newsboy" is a childhood memoir that revolves around author Gary D. Cole's Chicagoland newspaper route during the 1960s and '70s.

The book is both a portrayal of the young narrator's community, paper route, and customers, as well as a chronicle of his efforts as a boy to process the dizzying news events that he tracked in the newspaper during this turbulent period,

including the 1968 Democratic National Convention, the collapse of the 1969 Cubs, and the Chicago 7 trial. Due to "Newsboy's" focus on neighborhood and news coverage, all net proceeds (\$10 for every copy sold) from sales at The Book Cellar through July 1, 2022 will be donated to Inside Publications - this newspaper you're reading.

"Independent, community-based journalism is facing an existential crisis," said Cole. "A collaboration among a local bookstore, a publisher of neighborhood newspapers, and an author of a community-grounded memoir struck me as an ideal way to support this critical media source."

Chicago Tribune columnist and WGN Radio host Rick Kogan called "Newsboy" a "terrific book."

Acclaimed television producer Mike Kelley described "Newsboy" as "something truly special - a wholly compelling story that everyone can relate to but only one person could ever tell."

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Sister Jean Schmidt, BVM



Eamonn Cummins at Paul O'Reilly's new saloon The Embassy Public House.



Ken Norgan and Sebastian Krug.

BRAGGER from p. 2

founder, celebrating Trinity Outreach Day, opening up the dance group for interested children. Begorah.

NEW PUB: Paul O'Reilly just opened his new Irish saloon in Little Italy, The Embassy Public House at 1435 W. Taylor, welcoming fellow publicans **Eamonn Vaughan, Conor O'Keefe, Eamonn Cummins** along with **Clancy, Bobby, and Brian**.

BUENA UNDERPASS: The

Uptown pedestrian tunnel under N. Lake Shore Dr. reopened after closure due to crumbling concrete. The Buena Ave. underpass was determined to be structurally sound after city officials closed it for repairs late last month. Now if we could just do something about the Hooverville that's set up in Lincoln Park east of Uptown.

COVID OVER: The COVID-19 scare must be over, because the Gay Pride Parade is back on for 2022. Nowhere are there more tightly-packed people than those standing street-side at this Boystown affair.

THE CHICAGO SYMPHONY: This March at Symphony Center are dazzling masterpieces including **Hector Berlioz's** Symphonie Fantastique, plus the return of the brilliant Ax, Kavakos and Ma trio, jazz heavyweights The Bad Plus and **Greg Ward's** Rogue Parade, and Jurassic Park in Concert plus much more. Get tickets today.

CONCERTS **AMID ANTIQUES:** Golden Triangle's **Doug Van Tress** overseeing Installation day at a true dream house and dream project, celebrating the Golden Triangle's first concert at 2035 W. Grand, making it a regular thing. Check out goldentriangle.biz to join the mailing list for upcoming events. Have an idea for a performer? DM him.



Thad Wong and Luis Zurias.



Richard Robin



Shaun Rajah

GOLF NEWS: Congratulations to **Richard Robin** for winning the club championship in his flight by 3 strokes and scoring a 79 on the second day of the tournament at Tamarisk country club in Palm Springs, CA.

BALLET: In Dublin Chicago's **Christopher Clinton Conway** showcasing Ballet Ireland, the National Ballet of Ireland, returning to the American stage this April with a triple-bill of exhilarating and dynamic choreography in "Bold Moves 2022."

FRESH COFFEE: **Thad Wong** introducing his guy, **Luis Zurias**, who just opened Olor Coffee at 1013 W. Webster. Coffee made with pure love and it's our new favorite "go to." Stop by and check it out.

PARIS JOURNAL: **Shaun Rajah** at the Yves St. Laurent Museum in Paris, dining at Restaurant Le Train Bleu Paris, 8th arrondissement, later noshing on a baguette. The French don't snack, he says, but tear off the end of a fresh baguette (which, if it's warm, it's practically impossible to resist) to eat as they leave the boulangerie.

TO UKRAINE: Pope Francis has sent Polish **Cardinal Konrad Karjewski**, the Papal Almoner who cares for the homeless at the Vatican, to Ukraine.

REQUIEM: **Cardinal Agostino Cacciavillan**, apostolic nuncio to the United States from 1990 to 1998, recently died in his Vatican apartment, at 95 years old. A polished diplomat and a kindly man.

ALL AROUND THE WORLD: Service Club Tea with beautiful Tina Gravel, birthday girl **Melinsa Jakovich-Lagrange** and lovely **Elyse Kennard, Lauren Lein Cavanaugh** and **Bethany Florek** too.

WHO'S WHERE: Loyola U coach **Drew Valentine** was pumped to have **Sister Jean BVM** back for March Madness... **Maria Pappas** partying and singing with **Carol** at Himmel's on Lawrence... **Ken Norgan** dined

at Milos in South Beach, Miami with longtime friend from Wiesbaden, Germany, **Sebastian Krug**... **Candace** and **Chuck Jordan** dining at Elisabetta's, West Palm Beach -- working and playing... **Heather Farley** at Table 26 in West Palm Beach with Nancy Kempf... **Dr. Rose Gomez** very alpine in Grindelwald, Switzerland... Film producer **Ferdia Doherty** in the Hollywood Hills toasting @hillssixteenfeatures for a stellar opening of the Chicago Irish Film Festival where it all began... **Edward Galvin** at Theater on the Lake for the Irish Film Festival... Retired **Judge Rhoda Sweeney** with daughters and U of Miami grandchildren delighted with surprise family dinner at Swan in Miami, FL...

Delores McBain, WMAQ station relations chief, has died at 74... **Adam Zebelian** of Schiller DuCanto & Fleck shared insights on his legal career successes as a featured panelist of the The Chicago Bar Association's MCLE program "Chicago's Top Attorneys Under 40"... **Catherine O'Connell** having just a little get-together with a tribe of **O'Connells, McGovern**s and many of the outlaws, aged from 11 mos. to 85 yrs... **Julia Regan** was Confirmation sponsor at St. Barnabas in Beverly for **Jack Smith**, son of **Jim** and **Margaret Houlihan Smith**, while **Bebhinn Doherty** was also Confirmed with Aunt **Maureen Gainer Reilly** as sponsor... WGN radio lawyer **Karen Conti** saying "hi" to her favorite officer, **Danny Brown**, at Tavern on Rush, his beat... Kudos to broker **Toni De Meola** for her recognized success with Berkshire-Hathaway Home-services... **Linda** and **Richard Robin** overjoyed at visit of son, **Neal Robin** and wife, **Ashley**, to Palm Springs... **Antroinette Cahill** and **Kathleen Fitzgerald** at The Europe Hotel and Resort in Killarney, Ireland... **Brian Rody** enjoying Siesta Key Beach in Florida, voted #1 beach in the country... "Slainte," documentarist **Mark O'Malley** and violinist **Patricia Treacy**, joined restaurateur **Ferdia Doherty** and the Art Institute's **Nora Gainer Doherty** at **Rose O'Neill's** table for the Irish Fellowship Club's St.

Patrick's Dinner... **Kathy Wolter Mondelli** whose sweet little pooch, **Bella**, is finally home from surgery.

RIP TOM JUSTIC: Father **Jerry Boland**, on sabbatical in Rome and doing spring break in Zagreb, Croatia, offering a memorial Mass for dear friend, **Tom Justic** at an historic church. Tom was a wonderful parishioner at Holy Family when Boland was pastor. Tom was very proud of his Croatian heritage, traveling there a few years ago with the whole family. Prayers sent to his awesome wife, **Jane Justic**, and their beautiful family at this time of loss.

SPRUNG SPRING: Honorary Mayor of Old Town, **Shelley Howard**, encourages us to look to Spring, it's time for "Me, Martin and Mr. Leather." His honor making his Spring debut at Sushi Saturday at Kamehachi on Wells St.

BIRTHDAY ROAD TRIP: **Jim Kinney** off to the gracious Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs, WVA, for American designer **Dorothy Draper's** Weekend, and seeing friend, famed designer **Carlton Varney**. But first staying in Charleston - named after Jim's 8th great grandfather. And treasuring a birthday present of a first edition of **Ward McAllister's** "Society as I Have Found It"—the character featured in "The Gilded Age" by **Julian Fellowes**. Jim, you are Ward McAllister.

LOVE TRIUMPHS: **Katherine FitzGerald**, the Doyen of Glin Castle, and daughter of our late Irish Georgian pal, **Desmond FitzGerald**, the Knight of Glin, has let it be known that she and her well-known actor husband, **Dominic West**, of "The Wire," and "The Crown," are reconciling their marriage full steam ahead after his alleged dalliance with actress, **Lily James** in 2020. The couple were spotted shopping together recently at London's Jubilee Market.

The accomplice to the crime of corruption is frequently our own indifference.

-- Bess Myerson

tog515@gmail.com

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Tales of the world famous Chicago Common Bricks

The ubiquitous Chicago Common Brick may be taken for granted here in its hometown, but is quite special to the outside world.

The Edgewater Historical Society [EHS] will host a program during their annual meeting 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 19, on the Brick of Chicago with Will Quam, architectural photographer and brick historian.

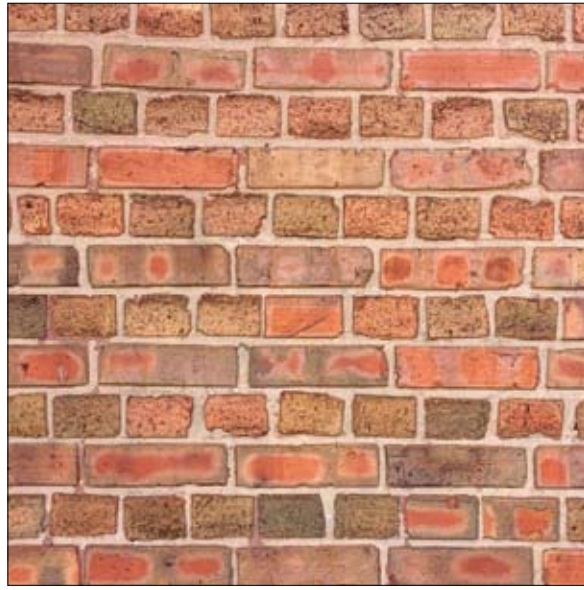
The program will take place at the Edgewater Branch Library, 6000 N. Broadway, in the Betty A. Barclay Community Room. The program is free to the public.

Bricks have been around for a very long time. In fact, they were made in nearly the same way for thousands of years, using clay, fire and water. Fired bricks have been used since circa 5000 BC.

Quam found a space in his life to study his passion for Chicago's most plentiful building material – the brick. Through his Brick of Chicago Instagram, website, and walking tours, Quam works tirelessly to explore and celebrate the



(L) Will Quam, architectural photographer and brick historian. (R) English Bond brick at Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave.



glories of the baked clay that is all around us.

During the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, hundreds of people died and over four square miles of the city were destroyed. After the fire, the city was rebuilt, much of it with what we now know as Chi-

cago Common Brick.

Today, antique bricks have become popular building material. They give a building charm, character and time-tested style. Salvaged from old buildings, reclaimed bricks age beautifully. The rough edges, pockmarks, and

old stains lend texture and integrity to buildings, qualities that you just cannot get from newer materials.

Identifying authentic Chicago bricks is easy when you know what to look for. These bricks looked different primarily

because they were made with the grayish blue clay deposited by the last glacier. When fired, the high temperatures turned the blue clay salmon or buff colors. The resulting bricks were very durable, as well as breathable. These common bricks were cheap and abundant, in part because at that time people preferred the more uniform look of factory made bricks. Today, those bricks are highly prized for their irregularities.

On Saturday Quam will chronicle the history of brick architecture in Chicago, and feature his photographs of some of his favorite “piles of bricks” in Edgewater and neighborhoods across Chicago.

He will also preview some of his walking tours for the 2022 season.

At 10:30 a.m. EHS will host their annual meeting, recap their past year, present candidates for the Board, and announce plans for 2022-23.

Weiss donates medical supplies, facilitates connections during the Ukrainian crisis

On March 2, Weiss Memorial Hosp. CEO Irene Dumanis received an email from a “friend of a friend.” The sender asked if the hospital could donate medical supplies to aid Ukraine hospitals and civilian freedom fighters in desperate need of basic health resources.

Dumanis responded quickly, aware of the dire situation Ukrainians are facing.

“I am very concerned for the welfare of the Ukrainian citizens,” she said. “I follow the news stories. My husband and I are from the former Soviet Union. We have many friends in Russia and Ukraine. We also fear for the safety of our Russian friends, as they speak out against the war,” said Dumanis.

Val Syganevich, a Ukrainian entrepreneur with many personal and business contacts throughout the United States and Ukraine, is the “friend of a friend” who reached out to Dumanis to secure the donation of medical supplies.

“Starting on day one, I sent thousands of emails to every contact I have, and they sent thousands more,” said Syganevich. “I use [social media] to spread the word about the suffering people in Ukraine and through direct messaging I connect people who



Weiss CEO Irene Dumanis and Associate Chief Medical Officer Dr. Suzanne Pham secured a donation of medical supplies for Ukraine.

want to donate money and medical supplies to organizations and leaders on the ground who can distribute these resources directly to the people who need them.”

Dumanis worked with the pharmacy departments of Weiss

and sister hospital West Suburban Medical Center in Oak Park to gather medical provisions.

The donation includes a wide range of drugs, first aid supplies and surgical instruments.

While supplies were being

gathered, Dumanis had an idea about how to make a much bigger impact. After learning how connected Syganevich is to leaders on the ground in Ukraine, she connected Syganevich to International Medical Corps [IMC], a humanitarian aid organization delivering emergency relief and medical related services to those affected by the Ukrainian crisis. Enlisting the help of Suzanne Pham, MD, associate chief medical officer at Weiss, Pham arranged a meeting.

According to IMC, there is an urgent need for basic medical supplies because humanitarian organizations are faced with significant challenges in delivering aid to Ukrainian refugees.

“My role is to ‘connect the dots’ – and my connection with Irene is one example. Through her, I connected with IMC, and then con-

nected the organization to Ukrainian leaders who can help with the logistics of delivering supplies to the people of Ukraine,” said Syganevich.

And IMC says you can help, too, by donating to one of the many organizations that is helping during the Ukrainian crisis, such as IMC, American Red Cross, Americares, Care, Direct Relief and Project Hope.

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POLICE BEAT *from p. 10*

without bail. Instead, she set bail at \$150,000 and ordered him to go onto electronic monitoring upon posting a 10% deposit bond.

Hijackings during test drives are rare but not unheard of. Data compiled by the Cook County Sheriff's Office shows slightly less than 1% of all hijackings in the county last year involved social media ruses.

Armed carjackings reported in North Center and Rogers Park

A couple was robbed and carjacked while unloading their SUV in North Center on March 12, police said. Then

on the morning of March 13, a woman was robbed and carjacked at gunpoint in Rogers Park.

Saturday's hijacking unfolded on the 3900 block of N. Damen at 6:54 p.m. A 31-year-old man and a 26-year-old woman were unloading their Audi Q5 when two men stepped out of a dark-colored sedan with two guns, according to a CPD spokesperson.

The offenders pointed the guns at the victims and went through their pockets. Both men entered the couple's car and drove away, followed by the sedan, police said.

Cops found the stolen car abandoned on the 3300 block of W. Carroll in Garfield Park a short time later, the

INSIDE PUBLICATIONS

spokesperson said.

Officers at the hijacking scene said the suspects were two Black men between 20- and 30-years-old who wore all black clothing.

In Rogers Park, four men robbed a woman at gunpoint on the 7000 block of N. Sheridan and took her silver Nissan Altima around 5:50 a.m. The victim flagged down a passing Uber driver for help after the hijacking.

No description of the Rogers Park suspects was available.

While hijacking reports are down compared to this time in 2021, the year-over-year decline has narrowed from 23% at the end of January to 11% at the end of February to about 6%

today, according to the city's "violence reduction dashboard."

Seven-time felon on electronic monitoring for burglary and auto theft, is charged with burglary and auto theft in Streeterville

A seven-time convicted felon who was supposed to be on electronic monitoring (EM) for burglary and possessing a stolen motor vehicle was arrested in Streeterville last week with a stolen motor vehicle while possessing burglary tools, prosecutors said. And he escaped from electronic monitoring.

Anthony Moore, 63, walked out of

his house on Sept. 30 and left his cut-off ankle monitor behind, Assistant State's Attorney Loukas Kalliantasis said. The judge overseeing Moore's pending burglary and stolen vehicle cases issued a warrant for his arrest, but he remained in the wind until shortly after 9 p.m. March 9.

That's when a maintenance worker at the 400 N. McClurg building called 911 about a theft in progress. Police arrived to find Moore sitting on a motorcycle with its lights on, but the ignition off, Kalliantasis said. Moore allegedly struggled with police. Officers tazed him and took him

POLICE BEAT *see p. 15*

North Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE
SERVICING
Plaintiff,
-v.-
MIGUEL DE LA MORA, YOLANDA DE LA MORA,
2020 LINCOLN PARK WEST CONDOMINIUM AS-
SOCIATION
Defendants
2021 CH 05158
2020 N. LINCOLN PARK W #6M
CHICAGO, IL 60614

NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 19, 2022, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on April 21, 2022, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
Commonly known as 2020 N. LINCOLN PARK W #6M, CHICAGO, IL 60614
Property Index No. 14-33-208-028-1063 (Vol. 494)
The real estate is improved with a condominium.
The judgment amount was \$447,516.09.
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor

Real Estate For Sale

acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.
The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.
For information, contact JOHNSON, BLUMBERG & ASSOCIATES, LLC Plaintiffs Attorneys, 230 W.

Real Estate For Sale

Monroe Street, Suite #1125, Chicago, IL, 60606 (312) 541-9710. Please refer to file number 21 8980.
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE
You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.
JOHNSON, BLUMBERG & ASSOCIATES, LLC
230 W. Monroe Street, Suite #1125
Chicago IL, 60606
312-541-9710
E-Mail: ilpleadings@johnsonblumberg.com
Attorney File No. 21 8980
Attorney Code. 40342
Case Number: 2021 CH 05158
TJSC#: 42-728
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Case # 2021 CH 05158
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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
SHERWIN ON THE LAKE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, BOARD OF MANAGERS
Plaintiff,
-v.-
KENNETH L. FOX III, VIRGINIA M. FOX
Defendants
2021CH01752
1205 W. SHERWIN AVE UNIT 603 (A/K/A UNIT 604) CHICAGO, IL 60626
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 3, 2022, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on April 5, 2022, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
Commonly known as 1205 W. SHERWIN AVE UNIT 603 (A/K/A UNIT 604), CHICAGO, IL 60626
Property Index No. 11-29-318-014-1128
The real estate is improved with a residence.
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential

Real Estate For Sale

real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.
The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts

Real Estate For Sale

foreclosure sales.
For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiffs Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE
You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.
CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100
BURR RIDGE IL, 60527
630-794-5300
E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com
Attorney File No. 14-21-00574
Attorney ARDC No. 00468002
Attorney Code. 21762
Case Number: 2021CH01752
TJSC#: 42-684
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Case # 2021CH01752
1318241

020202-----

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Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
GRANVILLE TOWER CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION
Plaintiff,
-v.-
HILDA ESCOBAR, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS
Defendants
21 CH 01698
6166 N. SHERIDAN ROAD, UNIT 20G
CHICAGO, IL 60660

NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 14, 2022, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on April 15, 2022, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
Commonly known as 6166 N. SHERIDAN ROAD, UNIT 20G, CHICAGO, IL 60660
Property Index No. 14-05-210-024-1106
The real estate is improved with a residential condominium.
The judgment amount was \$155,764.19.
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues

Real Estate For Sale

where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.
For information, contact EGAN & ALAILY LLC Plaintiffs Attorneys, 20 South Clark Street, Suite 2120, Chicago, IL, 60603 (312) 253-8640. Please refer to file number 21-107697.
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE
You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.
EGAN & ALAILY LLC
20 South Clark Street, Suite 2120
Chicago IL, 60603
312-253-8640
E-Mail: clerk@ea-atty.com
Attorney File No. 21-107697
Attorney ARDC No. 59515
Attorney Code. 59515
Case Number: 21 CH 01698
TJSC#: 42-363
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Case # 21 CH 01698

161616 -----

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSBNOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR CASCADE FUNDING MORTGAGE TRUST HB5
Plaintiff,
-v.-

JOSEPH M. MALHAM, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF HOWELL J. MALHAM, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MALIBU EAST CONDOMINIUM, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, WILLIAM P. BUTCHER, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR HOWELL J. MALHAM (DECEASED)
Defendants
2021CH04122
6033 N. SHERIDAN ROAD #6K
CHICAGO, IL 60660
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on December 17, 2021, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on April 11, 2022, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
Commonly known as 6033 N. SHERIDAN ROAD #6K, CHICAGO, IL 60660
Property Index No. 14-05-215-017-1029
The real estate is improved with a condo/townhouse.
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor

acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.
Where a sale of real estate is made to satisfy a lien prior to that of the United States, the United States shall have one year from the date of sale within which to redeem, except that with respect to a lien arising under the internal revenue laws the period shall be 120 days or the period allowable for redemption under State law, whichever is longer, and in any case in which, under the provisions of section 505 of the Housing Act of 1950, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1701k), and subsection (d) of section 3720 of title 38 of the United States Code, the right to redeem does not arise, there shall be no right of redemption.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiffs Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876
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630-794-5300
E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com
Attorney File No. 14-20-06242
Attorney ARDC No. 00468002
Attorney Code. 21762
Case Number: 2021CH04122
TJSC#: 41-3367
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Case # 2021CH04122
13189211

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
PARK PLACE TOWER I CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION
Plaintiff,
-v.-

SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE ESTATE OF SANDEE GILLIGAN, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF SANDEE GILLIGAN, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS
Defendants
2020 CH 695
655 WEST IRVING PARK ROAD, UNIT CO-07 A/K/A C2-07
CHICAGO, IL 60613
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on February 23, 2022, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on April 5, 2022, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
Commonly known as 655 WEST IRVING PARK ROAD, UNIT CO-07 A/K/A C2-07, CHICAGO, IL 60613
Property Index No. 14-21-101-054-2128 (previously building PIN 14-21-101-047-2128)
The real estate is improved with a poolside cabana. The judgment amount was \$25,485.04.
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
You will need a photo identification issued by a

government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.
For information, contact Sandra A. Aguilera, ARONBERG GOLDBEHN DAVIS & GARMISA Plaintiffs Attorneys, 330 N. WABASH AVE., SUITE 1700, Chicago, IL, 60611 (312) 755-3165.
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE
You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.
Sandra A. Aguilera
ARONBERG GOLDBEHN DAVIS & GARMISA
330 N. WABASH AVE., SUITE 1700
Chicago IL, 60611
312-755-3165
E-Mail: saguilera@agdgdlaw.com
Attorney Code. 30375
Case Number: 2020 CH 695
TJSC#: 42-909
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Case # 2020 CH 695
13189034

090909 -----

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.
Plaintiff,
-v.-

UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF ESTELLE TERESE CHANDLER, 4240 NORTH CLARENDON CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK OF CHICAGO, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, THOMAS P. QUINN, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR ESTELLE TERESE CHANDLER (DECEASED)
Defendants
2020CH02572
4240 NORTH CLARENDON AVENUE, UNIT 408-S
CHICAGO, IL 60613
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on December 7, 2021, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on March 28, 2022, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
Commonly known as 4240 NORTH CLARENDON AVENUE, UNIT 408-S, CHICAGO, IL 60613
Property Index No. 14-17-410-028-1029
The real estate is improved with a residence.
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in

and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.
For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiffs Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE
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15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100
BURR RIDGE IL, 60527
630-794-5300
E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com
Attorney File No. 14-20-01871
Attorney ARDC No. 00468002
Attorney Code. 21762
Case Number: 2020CH02572
TJSC#: 41-3308
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Case # 2020CH02572
13187906

020202-----

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POLICE BEAT *from p. 14*

into custody.

Police determined that the motorcycle's ignition was completely missing and reported stolen. Moore's backpack contained seven screwdrivers, an electric multi-tool, two pairs of pliers, and a set of needlenose pliers.

Prosecutors charged Moore with possessing a stolen motor vehicle, possession of burglary tools, aggravated battery of police, criminal trespass, and resisting.

Kalliantasis said he was convicted of possessing stolen motor vehicles three times in 2012. He was also convicted of burglary that year. Moore has previous stolen motor vehicle convictions in 2006 and 2001.

Judge David Navarro set bail at \$50,000 on charges stemming from the Streeterville incident. Navarro also ordered Moore held without bail on an escape warrant and for the already-pending felony charges.

—Compiled by CWBChicago.com

Chicago Gay Pride Parade to return for 2022

She's back!

One of the most popular weeks and weekends in Chicago will be returning in 2022, Chicago Pride Parade on June 26.

Gay Pride events return to America's first recognized LG-BTQ community the weekend before the 2022 Chicago Pride Parade, during the Chicago Pride Fest June 17-19.

The parade was canceled in the summers of 2020 and 2021 due to the government-imposed pandemic lockdown. Last year's Pride Fest was delayed until early October.

The festival features live music by headline artists and local favorites, three stages, food and drink, 100+ arts/crafts vendors, DJ's and dancing, drag shows, pet parade, sponsored presence, games, giveaways and more.

While the parade itself is a ma-



This year's Pride Parade will be the first solely organized by Tim Frye, of PRIDEChicago, after his husband, Richard Pfeiffer, died in Oct. 2019 at age 70. Pfeiffer had coordinated the event since 1974. The 2022 parade will be dedicated in his honor.

jor national draw, at times putting well over 500,000 people on the streets of Uptown and Lakeview.

The popular Pride Parade will

begin at noon at the corner of Montrose Ave. and Broadway, and will follow its usual route and end at the corner of Diversey

Pkwy. and Sheridan Rd. in Lincoln Park.

Pride Parade organizer Tim Frye said the parade will be a welcome relief after being canceled the past two years. He said forms for those interested in participating in the parade will be available this week. For more information visit nortalsted.com/pridefest.

This year's parade will be the first solely organized by Tim Frye, of PRIDEChicago, after his husband, Richard Pfeiffer, died in October 2019 at age 70. Pfeiffer had coordinated the event since 1974. The 2022 parade will be dedicated in his honor.

Organizers say the events are dependent on COVID-19 conditions in Illinois, as well as state and local protocols.

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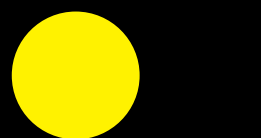
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PARKING LOT from p. 1

company's plan to acquire the parking lot would preserve most of the public parking spaces now contained on the surface lot. But according to Cmsr. Novara, that was never the case.

The surface lot's spaces today are managed by LAZ Parking, the company which manages the city's parking meters. TCB had hoped to take over management of the parking spaces, planning to use the parking revenue to help fund the construction of their new building.

Had that been the case, somebody would have had to buy out LAZ's contract to gift that parking lot to TCB, and it now seems that perhaps the city - from the start of the whole process - said they would not do that.

At the meeting, the commissioners also said they were against the addition of retail stores or restaurants on the first floor of the new building. Since it was first revealed that TCB expected to be

gifted the City of Chicago parking lot, all their plans included commercial spaces on the first floor.

While this reporter has heard from several attendees of the March 8 meeting, Ald. Martin did not respond to written questions submitted to him regarding what occurred at the meeting. Throughout the two-year-struggle over the controversial proposal, Ald. Martin and his staff have refused to take media questions on the project. And while his office hosted several virtual meetings on the project, to this newspaper's knowledge, he held only one in-person public meeting in his ward to defend his proposal. That meeting was held in Oct. 2019 before a local political organization he had helped to co-found, The Heart of Lincoln Square.

Neither he, nor even the Lincoln Square Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce, ever hosted a public meeting with any of the area businesses who count on that parking lot as a critical piece of commercial infrastructure.

In fact, the local chamber of commerce was an early endorser of the project, sending a letter of support to City Hall before even notifying its own membership that the parking lot was in jeopardy of being gifted to an out-of-town developer.

This newspaper has filed Freedom of Information requests to get the March 8 meeting notes, emails and/or documents, but have not yet received a reply from the City.

On March 14, the spokesperson for the city's Dept. of Housing provided an explanation for Novara's position. A few months earlier, Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot had sent out a written statement touting a \$1 billion investment in affordable housing projects throughout the city. These projects would be funded through federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits [LIHTC].

"December's announcement of a historic \$1B in affordable housing investments included the selection of 24 proposed developments to Stage I. No LIHTCs

are awarded or allocated, and no funding commitments are made in Stage I. A Stage I award is the first step toward a funding commitment, which is made in Stage II after all requirements have been met. Not every development makes it from Stage I to Stage II for a variety of reasons," said Eugenia Orr, Director of Public Affairs at the Chicago Dept. of Housing.

So it appears the project may now be dead, or just stalled, at least until Summer of 2023, well after the next municipal election, when 47th Ward residents may have their first chance to speak out on the matter.

In addition to the LIHTCs and parking lot revenue, TCB has also been expecting to receive money from the Western Ave. North Tax Financing District (which expires in 2024).

When an area is declared a TIF district, the amount of property tax the area generates is set as a base Equalized Assessed Valuation [EAV] amount. As the area's property values increase, all

property tax growth above that amount is used to fund redevelopment projects. The increase, or increment, is often used to pay back the bonds that had been issued to pay the upfront costs. Alternately the increase can be used on a pay-as-you-go basis.

When the project was first announced, TCB officials and Ald. Martin's office tried to ameliorate the public's concerns about losing a parking lot considered essential for the neighborhood's businesses by saying the spaces would eventually be replaced. But according to Cmsr. Novara, that may never have been the City's official position.

At a virtual public meeting hosted last year by the 47th Ward, Will Woodley, a TCB vice president, claimed only a few public parking spaces would be lost when the parking lot was replaced by the apartment building.

"[Our proposal] provides 40 public parking spaces to be preserved in the long run," Woodley said. "The new building will include only nine parking spaces for residents as it is being categorized as an "equitable transit-oriented development (ETOD)."

Last year, Woodley recognized these parking spaces for the public would draw the ire of some within Mayor Lightfoot's administration.

"I'd be happy to explain our inclusion of business parking in this ETOD to anyone," wrote Woodley in an email to Deputy Mayor Samir Mayekar.

If anyone who was at the meeting would like to speak with this newspaper, they are welcome to call. Please be assured your identity will be protected, call 773-465-9700.

SARPINO'S from p. 1

essed against Jokima, the owner. Under the FLSA, employers who violate minimum wage, overtime and protections for employees who receive tips are liable for the unpaid wages or unlawfully kept tips and for an additional amount in liquidated damages. This tool was suspended during the Trump administration however in April,

The FLSA was suspended during the Trump administration however in April, 2021, the WHD returned to pursuing pre-litigation liquidated damages and leveraging this enforcement tool where appropriate.

2021, the WHD returned to pursuing pre-litigation liquidated damages and leveraging this enforcement tool where appropriate.

According to their blog site, "the USDOL recognizes that back wages alone provide insufficient compensation for employers to comply with the law, to level the playing field for those that play by the rules, and to help alleviate the inequities exacerbated when low-wage, essential workers face the additional and too common burden of wage theft."

Employers and workers are encouraged to call the WHD for FLSA compliance assistance at their toll-free helpline at 866-487-9243.



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