

Guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism.
— George Washington

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Campaign contributions to alderman show strong support from East Coast elite

STORY BY PETER VON BUOL

Many of the unanswered questions dogging Ald. Matt Martin [47th] these days surround a proposed high-density housing project he is arranging for The Community Builders [TCB], offering the developer an exclusive multi-million dollar gift in the form of the city-owned parking lot in Lincoln Square at 4715 N. Western Ave., and millions in tax credits.

Why, many wonder, is the Boston-based developer being offered this critical piece of commercial infrastructure when no request for proposal has ever been released, and no competitive bid was ever allowed on the project? Why does this deal require giving the city's taxpayer funded property away for only \$1,

and has the developer and or its affiliates made contributions to anyone in city government?

In early 2019, while running as an aldermanic candidate in the 47th Ward, Matt Martin used an appearance on WTTW-Channel

Why is the Boston-based developer being offered this critical piece of commercial infrastructure when no request for proposal has ever been released, and no competitive bid was ever allowed on the project?

11 to speak directly to the public. Speaking directly to 47th Ward voters, Martin pledged he would be an independent voice on the Chicago City Council and claimed he would not be swayed by outside influences.

"Far too often, our political process is derailed by elected officials beholden to the special interests that fund their campaigns, the City Council leadership, or the Mayor. In City Council, I will be an independent leader who knows how to build coalitions, put community concerns first, and stand up to the political machines and special interests," said Martin, who at the time was working as an attorney in the office of then-Attorney General Lisa Madigan.

Ironically, two years later, a search of his campaign records reveals a different story. His largest contributor is the political action committee of the government-employee union AF-SCME Illinois Council No. 31,

ALDERMAN see p. 8

How your alderman voted during Lightfoot's first two years

BY MARCO ROSAIRE ROSSI

Chicago has long been known for its deference to its mayors. For decades, this obedient attitude has led to a "Rubber Stamp" city council, where the majority of aldermen reflexively agree with the mayor's preferred legislation.

That was true under the 43 years dominated by Mayors Richard J. and Richard M. Daley. It was mostly true under Mayors Michael Bilandic, Jane Byrne, and Rahm Emanuel. The exceptions were the five-year period under Harold Washington and for Mayor Eugene Sawyer's abbreviated two-year term.

However, a recent report from the Univ. of Illinois-Chicago, titled Emanuel and Lightfoot City Councils, has shown that under Lightfoot this deferential attitude toward the mayor is changing.

These changing dynamics are especially noticeable on Chicago's North Side.

The report has two main findings. First, the Chicago City Council does not act as a mayoral "Rubber Stamp" as it did under Rahm Emanuel. An analysis of the divided roll call votes of Mayor Emanuel's last two years found that 19 aldermen voted with him 100% of the time and another 34 aldermen voted with him more than 90% of the time.

In contrast, Mayor Lightfoot has had considerably lower levels of agreement during her first two years. Only two aldermen

have voted with Lightfoot 100% of the time, and so far only 25 aldermen have voted with her more than 90% of the time. Second, since the 2019 election, the Chicago City Council has become far more liberal. Indeed, despite increased levels of disagreement with the mayor, Lightfoot has successfully passed nearly all her favored legislation by relying on a coalition of liberal aldermen. Lightfoot does not have the same

Only two aldermen have voted with Lightfoot 100% of the time, and so far only 25 aldermen have voted with her more than 90% of the time.

level of acquiescence as Emanuel, but she still has managed to get 40 aldermen to vote with her more than 80% of the time by favoring broadly popular liberal policies.

During the 2019 municipal elections, two North Side wards—47th and 49th—elected freshmen aldermen. Those two aldermen—Matthew Martin [47th] and Maria Hadden [49th]—are young progressives who have voted with Lightfoot 86% and 91% of the time, respectively. When they have voted against the mayor it is because they believe Lightfoot has not been supportive enough of Chicago's poor and working-class residents.

The movement from a more

conservative to a more liberal city council is also noticeable among many North Side incumbents. Fiscally conservative aldermen—such as Brian Hopkins [2nd], Thomas Tunney [44th], and Debra L. Silverstein [50th]—had a high level of agreement with Mayor Emmanuel. The three aldermen agreed with him 98% of the time. However, under Mayor Lightfoot, their percentage of agreement has dropped considerably, to 79%, 89%, and 87%, respectively.

In contrast, more liberal aldermen have felt more comfortable with Mayor Lightfoot's leadership. Michelle Smith [43rd] had a 77% agreement with the mayor under Emanuel. Her percentage of agreement jumped to 95% under Lightfoot. Similarly, Harry Osterman [48th] had an 80% agreement with Mayor Emanuel. Under Lightfoot, that percentage climbed to 94%. The most significant change in aldermanic support between the two mayors came from Scott Waguespack [32nd]. Ald. Waguespack was arguably Mayor Emanuel's fiercest critic. During Emanuel's last two years in office, Waguespack had the lowest percentage of agreement with him at 63%. However, under Mayor Lightfoot, Ald. Waguespack was promoted to the chair of the city council's powerful Finance Committee. Since taking that position, he has voted with her 100% of the time.

VOTING see p. 8



Northside Community Development now administering Illinois Rental Payment Program

A Rogers Park organization dedicated to fostering community development to preserve affordable and diverse housing opportunities in Chicago will be administering the states rental assistance program.

On May 17, the state of Illinois and their Housing Development Authority [IHDA], launched Gov. J.B. Pritzker's new help for state residents seeking housing and rental assistance, offering grants of up to \$25,000 thanks to federal funds set aside for the Illinois Rental Payment Program [ILRPP]. Northside Community Development Corp. will now be working with IHDA as a delegate agency partner in assisting eligible clients through this process.

Eligible households may receive

up to 15 months of assistance from June 2020 through Aug. 2021. Rental Payment Program households must have a member who is currently unemployed, and household income below 80% of the Area Median Income, adjusted for household size.

Priority will be given to households with a member who is currently unemployed and households below 50% of the Area Median Income, adjusted for household size.

For program information, visit IHDA.org. Housing providers and tenants can submit a joint application at ILRPP.IHDA.org or email Northside Community Development Corp. at ILRPP@northside-cr.org, or call 773-262-2290.

Four local chambers selected for Chicago Alfresco

Expanded outdoor dining

The City of Chicago announced that applications from four North Side community organizations have been approved to participate in the first round of the City's new Chicago Alfresco program, which is part of Choose Chicago's push for more neighborhood tourism.

The effort is part of an initiative to open streets and create places for dining, public life, community, arts, culture, walking, and biking.

Last year the City issued special permits that allowed bars and restaurants to operate outside in private parking lots, on the sidewalk or in closed streets through the Expanded Outdoor Dining program. While that program continues, the City encouraged chambers of commerce and other neighborhood community groups to think beyond emergency traffic barricades and construction cones to propose and build design-forward outdoor community spaces through Chicago Alfresco.

"For the next step, we will be working with these applicants to turn their plans into reality for

this coming summer season," said CDOT Commissioner Gia Biagi. "We are committed to working with our community partners and putting our streets in the service of what people and small businesses need in their neighborhoods to keep everybody safe and moving together."

Choose Chicago is providing \$2.3 million in grants to approved applicants of projects intended to help create more outdoor public space thanks to sponsor Diageo, owner of brands such as Guinness, Smirnoff, and Crown Royal.

"The Austin Chamber of Commerce is honored to be a recipient of the Chicago Alfresco fund which will aid the Chamber with economic development in the community," said Tina Augustus, Executive Director of the Austin Chamber of Commerce. "A spotlight will now be on the rich arts and cultural community that exist in this neighborhood while enhancing the curb appeal of restaurants and creating an enjoyable and relaxing atmosphere outside

ALFRESCO see p. 8

Change the name of LSD? Let's remove the Natarus quotient



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

Tourists often report they find themselves at a street corner while visiting Chicago and discover they are in total geographic confusion. Even on the most well-known of tourist routes.

That's because they might just find three or four street signs hanging on the same pole claiming to be the name of the street.

They have one man to thank, the late and colorful Ald. Burton Natarus of the 42nd Ward.

Over the decades of his long life in the City Council, 1971-2008, the 42nd Ward, the heart of tourist life, received more honorary street signs than any place in town. Natarus was an apparatchik of the late 42nd Ward boss, Cook County Board President George Dunne. He learned to do things the old-fashioned way.

So in a neighborhood of larger-than-life big-wigs, he provided

that most welcome of palliatives. The honorary "ego boosting" street sign. This meant that Washington Blvd., named for our first president, might also be Harvey LePlant St. A man known as a Chicago lawyer with deep pockets and resident voter of the 42nd Ward. Or State St., 'that great street,' might also be "Father Tim O'Toole St.," thanks to a tip of the hat to a Holy Name Cathedral pastor from the Jewish alderman.

Many Chicago street names offer great variety.

In both cases, we have well-intentioned politics, the Dunne-Natarus axis, adding a thoughtful layer of confusion to the city's already busy and tight urban traffic grid.

Most aldermen might introduce three or four such street signs a year. Natarus might do 40. There was no holding him back until the damage was done. He was a man of the people.

Changing the urban nomenclature is an enterprise that shouldn't be taken lightly. Historically the opposite is true. As Chicago expanded and grew in the last half of the 19th century, city leaders were always busy cleaning up the streetscapes and simplifying the names of streets. For example, after the death of President Lincoln, the city must have wound up with a dozen streets named in his honor. But that didn't help get the mail delivered.

After the fire and much modernization there was to be only one street per name in town. Simplifying streets is a modern wisdom of any metropolis.

Just ask any Chicagoan. The secret of surviving modern urban life is the conscious effort to simplify. Removing at the same time the additions of controversy and confusion. We never needed additional names for our neighbor-

hood streets no matter how generous to local politics someone has been. Or successful in our economy. Or heroic in battle in some past war.

The last people you want to entrust with that authority to rename anything is some elected local official. We have large expressways named for people in just this way.

But time often has a way of altering the impact of people's fame. Even the likes of President John F. Kennedy, Cook County Board President Dan Ryan or President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Yes, 22nd St. was renamed Cermak Rd. after the assignation of Chicago Mayor Anton Cermak in 1933. And 12th St. was long ago re-named Roosevelt Rd. in 1919, following the death of President Teddy Roosevelt.

(Mayor Jane Byrne couldn't get a driveway named after her for decades because of the grudges held by the Daley administration.)

Harold Washington did get a library. Perhaps this is the reason the late longtime Chicago First Lady, Eleanor "Sis" Daley, refused all talk of naming something after her. She was adamant.

We bring up such things because of all the controversy about renaming Lake Shore Dr. after early Chicago settler Jean Baptiste Point du Sable. I've listened to a lot of malarkey about DuSable. He was long gone from the region and his small farm, where the Wrigley Building stands today, by the time the government in Washington DC built Fort Dearborn.

There was nothing there before that.

Du Sable had left his agrarian life. There was no Chicago then. That didn't happen until 1833. DuSable couldn't be the "founder" of Chicago. Impossible. Be truthful. If you think he was, your history is out of whack.

There are scholars who believe that du Sable was in fact a British sympathizer and a British spy - with treason as a reason for his leaving. But this region of the

new world was largely unsettled of non-native people.

Du Sable would have been a long way from the action. I do not believe that the history of this period is trustworthy. At the very least fresh eyes and minds should examine the questions with reason and intelligence. Not emotion and bad analysis.

And an upcoming election. Finally.

In arriving at a position of more accurate and substantive historical accuracy, who should wield the power to change the name of the city's long-standing urban culture? Surely not the Chicago City Council who can't even seem to engage the mayor on issues of urban need and necessity. This is a sensitive and emotional issue that has never been done well by the City Council. Self-serving interests are littered about our streets for anyone who disagrees. Aldermen and the mayor should be forthright and honest in acknowledging they are ill-prepared for such decision making. Why not let the people of Chicago decide this after significant urban education?

There's no need to "quick-take" this issue. We should know its importance by how disciplined we are in establishing some real rules of democracy. Let Chicagoans vote on this one. Let's empower Chicago's citizens. Let's introduce procedures that do away with the shenanigans of past politics. Let's remove the Natarus quotient. Unless things are fair and free, renaming's never gonna work. We might as well return to hanging five signs with names on street pole.

FIRE NEWS: Mayor Lori Lightfoot nominated **Annette Nance-Holt** to lead the Chicago Fire Department. The first African-America and female to be so appointed. This is a heroic and historic moment for Chi-

cago firefighters. Let's hope that Nance-Holt will be permitted the opportunity to lead without the hindrance of familiar interference for which the mayor has become famous. Holt deserves the chance to make her own way. And lead the CFD free of second guesses politically.

AIC: The official Obama presidential portraits will be on view at the Art Institute of Chicago June 17 - Sept. 16. **President Barack Obama** and former **First Lady Michelle Obama** by **Ke-hinde Wiley** and **Amy Sherald**, respectively.

INCISIVE INQUISITOR: NBC5's **Dick Kay** was tough, tenacious, suspicious, relentless,



Annette Nance-Holt

cynical and stubborn. For 38 years there at Ch. 5. As a political reporter he was walking on strange and oftentimes dangerous ground. He followed troublesome clues and reputations. I remember him from my City Hall days. He was usually on

the right path. He had some deep insiders. Though having the truth wasn't everyone's goal. In addition to being a reporter, he was the union steward for the reporters. Defending their rights and liberties. Kay had people's attention. He could be a crusher, but always a gent. I'd want him on my side in any fight. He died of COVID-19 in Lake Forest at 84. We'll never see his like again.

DEBT HAMMER TIME: Is **Maria Pappas** about to bring the hammer down on the city and

CHANGE see p. 6

21
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Illinois Rental Payment Program

The Illinois Rental Payment Program (ILRPP) can provide up to \$25,000 in emergency rental assistance.



Eligibility Requirements

- Household must have experienced a financial hardship directly — or indirectly — due to the pandemic.
- The household is behind on rent and/ or is at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability.
- 2020 household income was below 80% of the Area Median Income, adjusted for household size.
- Proof of citizenship is not required. Rental assistance is not a “public-charge” benefit.



NORTHSIDE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

1530 W. Morse Avenue, Chicago, IL 60626
Ph. (773) 262-2290 Ext. 34
Email: ILRPP@northsidecr.org

Rental Payment Program

- Eligible households may receive up to 15 months of assistance from June 2020 through August 2021.
- Priority will be given to:
 - households with a member who is currently unemployed.
 - households below 50% of the Area Median Income, adjusted for household size.
- The grant is paid directly to housing provider.
- For program information, visit IHDA.org.
- Housing providers and tenants can submit a joint application starting on May 17th at ILRPP.IHDA.org

For questions, application assistance or even a blank paper application, please call, email or visit Northside Community Development Corporation.

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Police Beat...

Cabbie gets 10 years for trying to rape woman who fell asleep in his cab

A cab driver has been sentenced to 10 years in prison for trying to sexually assault a female passenger who fell asleep in the back of his cab three years ago near Belmont Harbor. Authorities later matched DNA samples collected after the attack to evidence taken in a similar attack of a taxi passenger in Kendall County, prosecutors said.



Mustafa Dikbas

Cook County prosecutors said Mustafa Dikbas, now 39, picked up a 26-year-old woman outside a River North bar early on Feb. 11, 2018, and began driving her toward her Lakeview home.

The woman fell asleep along the way and awoke more than three hours later to find the driver sexually abusing her in the back of the cab, which was parked on 3800 block of N. Recreation Dr.

According to a police report, she fought the man off, suffering injuries to her knees, and the driver fled the scene with her phone and wallet.

Police reviewed surveillance video to get the cab's number and contacted the taxi association, but the company told investigators that the vehicle's GPS had been turned off a few hours earlier. Later that night, the cab company contacted police when the vehicle's GPS began pinging again. Cops located the cab and arrested Dikbas, who was driving, according to police.

Dikbas has now pleaded guilty to one count of attempted criminal sexual assault. Prosecutors agreed to drop twelve additional felonies in their agreement with Dikbas, including aggravated kidnapping causing bodily harm, attempted criminal sexual assault, attempted criminal sexual abuse, and theft. Judge Steven Watkins sentenced Dikbas to 10-years in prison and ordered him to register as a sex offender for life, according to court records.

Almost 14 months after the Lakeview assault, Illinois State Police linked DNA evidence from the

crime to an old case from southwest suburban Oswego.

In July 2007, a woman told Kendall County authorities that a cab driver sexually assaulted her after she fell asleep in his taxi while riding from Chicago to Oswego. Police submitted DNA evidence to a law enforcement database, but it didn't generate a hit until authorities entered the Lakeview assault DNA results over a decade later.

11-year-old charged with Uptown carjacking

Less than four months after a West Town man refused to pursue charges against John Daniels for carjacking him at gunpoint while he shoveled snow out of a parking spot, Daniels took an 11-year-old boy to Uptown where they violently carjacked another man over the weekend, according to prosecutors.

"You brought along a young man, 11 years of age, to be involved," Judge Charles Beach recalled before ordering Daniels, 19, held without bail on May 17.

The 59-year-old alleged victim was taking items out of his trunk in the 600 block of W. Buena around 1:30 p.m. May 15 when someone punched him in the face repeatedly while demanding the keys to his car, according to police and prosecutors.

As the victim fell to the ground with a broken orbital bone, a nearby resident began recording the attack on their phone, according to prosecutors. The video shows Daniels standing over the fallen man and taking keys from his hand, prosecutors said.

All of the offenders piled into the victim's car, and Daniels allegedly drove it away. About two hours later, a police squad car's license plate reader recorded a hit on the stolen car's license plate. The stolen car sped away from the CPD unit and crashed nearby. Officers saw Daniels bail out of the driver's seat and run away, prosecutors said. Police arrested him and the 11-year-old moments later.

When cops detained Daniels, he was wearing the same clothes as one of the men in the video, according to prosecutors. He allegedly admitted to taking the man's keys and driving the stolen car. His public defender, Genevieve O'Toole, noted that Daniels is not accused of being the person who punched the victim.

Daniels has "a lot of mental health issues," O'Toole said. "He needs help. He doesn't need to be thrown in jail and throw away the key."

Prosecutors told Judge Beach about another carjacking that Daniels was allegedly linked to in February.

While police were processing Daniels at the station, the victim's driver's license, debit card, and medical marijuana card fell out of his pants, according to a CPD arrest report. But the victim reportedly told police that he "felt sorry for" the people who took his Lexus and said, "they probably need a car."

He then refused to file any complaints. Cops released the three people who were inside the Lexus with Daniels. Meanwhile, Daniels was hauled in front of a judge for failing to appear in court on a pending felony retail theft case. Judge Edward Maloney released him again.

The felony theft charge is still pending. In that case, Daniels is charged with participating in a group retail theft from the Jordan Store, 32 South State, on Aug. 5, 2020.

Last June, Daniels' own mother had him arrested for allegedly breaking out the front window of her home, according to police and court records. The case was dropped in Nov. 2020.

Daniels was also arrested on June 1 by officers who were trying to protect the area around 59th Street and Ashland from looters. Cops said he

was with a group of people who wandered in and out of traffic and refused to comply with orders to stay out of the street. The city dropped those charges on Nov. 5.

Prosecutors on May 17 charged Daniels with felony vehicular hijacking and misdemeanor reckless driving in connection with the Uptown carjacking. The 11-year-old is charged in juvenile court with vehicular hijacking and criminal trespass to vehicle. Police have not yet located the third suspect.

Man accused of sexually assaulting two Tinder dates gets probation

A North Side man charged with sexually assaulting a woman he met on Tinder while he was on bail for allegedly sexually assaulting another woman he met on Tinder has struck a deal with prosecutors that will have him serve just two years probation.

According to court, Christian Valcich, 29, pleaded guilty to one count of criminal sexual abuse with force, which was reduced from Class X felony criminal sexual assault, and one



Christian Valcich

count of aggravated battery by strangling records. Prosecutors dropped a host of felonies in the plea deal, including nine additional counts of criminal sexual assault. Cook County Judge Lawrence Flood oversaw the case and sentenced Valcich to two years probation in each case. Valcich will serve the sentences concurrently.

Valcich was initially charged with criminal sexual assault and aggravated battery by strangling after a woman accused him of raping and choking her during a Tinder meet-up in February 2019. He got out of jail by posting \$3,000 in that case.

While that case was still pending, a 27-year-old woman met Valcich on Tinder and went to his home for the first time about a week later, prosecutors alleged. Assistant State's Attorney James Murphy said the woman drove to Valcich's home, and the two drank a beer in his kitchen for about 45 minutes before they moved to the living room and talked for another half hour or so.

Valcich began aggressively kissing the woman and sexually assaulted her as she repeatedly told him, "no," according to Murphy. The prosecutor then provided explicit details of an extended assault that the woman said took place in Valcich's living room.

The woman repeatedly told Valcich that the attack was painful, but Valcich forced her to have sex two more times, Murphy said. Valcich called the woman derogatory names and applied force to the woman's neck, according to allegations that Murphy presented to Judge David Navarro in a bond court hearing last summer.

Valcich "joked that he had impregnated the victim," Murphy said.

After crying and cleaning herself in Valcich's bathroom, the woman left and called her ex-boyfriend to talk about what happened, according to Murphy. She reported the alleged incident to a rape hotline the next day and sought treatment at Swedish Covenant Hospital.

An attorney for Valcich disputed the state's allegations last year and said the victim was intoxicated.

Woman, 18, sexually assaulted in Ravenswood

A man sexually assaulted a woman after luring her into a Ravenswood construction site May 17, Area Three detectives said in a community alert.

The woman, an 18-year-old Uptown resident, was walking home on the 4800 block of N. Ravenswood

when the offender approached her and lured her into the construction area between 6:45 p.m. and 7 p.m., according to the alert and a CPD report. There, the man sexually assaulted her before escaping eastbound on Lawrence Ave.

The woman continued to her home, where her father called 911 after learning about the attack. Police summoned an ambulance to the family's home to treat the woman.

She described the attacker as a Black male with shoulder-length dreadlocks who's about 27-years-old, 6'-3" tall, and 190 lbs. According to the alert, he was wearing a red t-shirt, black pants, and a black paisley bandana as a facemask. He also carried a black duffel bag across his body, police said.

Anyone with information about the crime can contact detectives about case JE-233594 at 312-744-8261.

Rogers Park shooting is neighborhood's fourth of the week

A 19-year-old man was shot he stood on a Rogers Park sidewalk May 19, police said, making him the neighborhood's fourth shooting victim in five days and the fifth in a month.

The victim was in the 1400 block of W. Jonquil Terrace when shots were fired, and one bullet struck him in the lower left leg around 2:06 a.m., according to CPD records. He called police a short time later from his nearby apartment.

A witness reported seeing a man standing in front of the victim's apartment building firing shots around the time of the shooting, CPD records show. Police found a car with a bullet hole in it and a shell casing lying near the intersection of Sheridan and Jonquil Terrace. A blood trail linked those scenes with the victim's apartment, officers said. Paramedics transported the man to St. Francis Hospital in Evanston for treatment.

Worst Google Maps routing ever

A woman who said she was passing through Chicago on a road trip from Kansas to Memphis — possibly the worst Google Maps results ever — is facing multiple felony counts after she was allegedly found carrying a gun while opening packages and trying on stolen items in the back of a delivery truck downtown. Later, prosecutors say, the woman threatened to throw feces-covered toilet paper on cops unless they set her free. Her efforts failed.

"I didn't do anything wrong, your honor," Hannah Belshe told Judge Charles Beach after he ordered her to stay in Illinois if she can post a \$1,500 bail deposit.

"I can't do that, sir," the 35-year-old replied. "My father's on hospice."

"Ma'am, I understand that," Beach said. "But that begs a question: Why were you in Chicago and not in Kansas?"

"Because I was going to Memphis for a mini-vacation," Belshe replied.

"Oh," the judge answered skeptically. "That makes sense."

Belshe's suddenly extended stay in our fair city began around noon May 17 when a delivery driver flagged down cops and said a woman was in the back of his truck going through packages, according to prosecutors.

Officers who looked inside the truck allegedly saw Belshe opening boxes and wearing sunglasses that she took from one of the parcels. Cops detained Belshe and discovered she was carrying a handgun, too, prosecutors said.

At the police station, Belshe asked to use the bathroom. When she was done, she refused to come out and ordered cops to set her free — unless they wanted to be pelted with her soiled toilet paper, according to pros-

ecutors. Officers pepper-sprayed Belshe after she allegedly ignored repeated commands to drop the TP and come out of the bathroom.

Prosecutors charged her with felony unlawful use of a weapon, felony burglary, and three felony counts of aggravated assault of police officers. Belshe has an "extensive" criminal background in Kansas, prosecutors said, including two pending cases. Her defense attorney said she was traveling through Illinois and suffers from anxiety.

Man shot while driving on LSD in Streeterville

A 22-year-old man suffered three graze wounds to his head May 18 when someone from another vehicle opened fire on his car on Lake Shore Dr. in Streeterville, police said. It's the second time in two days that shots were fired in the same area, but no one was injured in the first incident.

Police said the man was stopped at a red light on southbound Lake Shore Dr. at Chicago when an SUV pulled up next to him, and its occupants began yelling gang slogans at him. Someone in the other car, a white Buick SUV with temporary Indiana plates, began shooting as the man drove away, according to police.

The victim pulled his car over near Ohio St. Police said three bullets grazed the man's head. His passenger was not injured. An ambulance transported the victim to Northwestern Memorial Hospital in fair condition.

On Monday, police found four shell casings and a live bullet after shots were fired near Lake Shore Park on the 200 block of E. Pearson around 1:43 a.m. That's about a block from where Tuesday's shooting occurred. No one was injured in the earlier incident.

Uptown robber tried to hit victim in the face with brick

Prosecutors filed felony charges against a man on May 17 who allegedly hit another man with a brick during a midday robbery in Uptown over the weekend.

Judge Charles Beach held Jacob Petty, 37, in lieu of \$40,000 bail and ordered Petty to go onto electronic monitoring if he posts a 10% deposit bond.

The alleged victim was walking through an alley near Sunnyside and Sheridan when Petty approached from the opposite direction and swung a brick at his face around 12:20 p.m. May 16. Prosecutors said the victim managed to block the brick with his hand, but the attacker took his computer bag and fled the scene.

The victim gave police a description of the offender, and cops detained Petty in the parking lot of Ross Dress For Less, 918 W. Montrose, a few minutes later. Prosecutors said the victim subsequently identified Petty as the attacker. Police never found the allegedly stolen computer bag.

Petty has two previous felony convictions, including one for robbery in 2010, according to prosecutors. He is charged with Class X felony armed robbery in the Uptown attack.

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(L) Holly and Bob Agra. (R) A docent shares his wealth of knowledge on the CAFC River Cruise.

Vote early and often for CAFC River Cruise



Heart of the 'Hood
by Felicia Dechter

I've been a Chicagoan all my life and finally, I can vote early and often!

That's because one of the city's coolest happenings is up for an extremely prestigious honor. Through June 7, every single day, I can cast a vote for the Chicago Architecture Foundation Center's (CAFC) River Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady, to win in the Best Boat Tour category of USA Today's 10Best Reader's Choice Awards.

Being a lifelong Chicagoan, just the thought of voting so often makes me feel dinghy. Oops, I mean dingy. (Ok, maybe that wasn't funny, but it made me laugh. And after the mayor's recent eye-opening revelation about not giving interviews to white journalists I need a good laugh).

National travel experts have nominated the popular cruise, which takes place on the architectural gem-laden Chicago River. It's the only Chicago boat tour selected and as of Monday, it was No. 1 out of 20 finalists.

If you've taken the tour, you know how awesome it is. If you've never taken the tour, don't miss it. It showcases some of the best of what this city has to offer architecturally. Besides that, it's great to kick back and enjoy the sights, sounds and hustle and bustle of the river downtown.

And it's narrated by very well-informed CAFC-certified volunteers who share their passion and knowledge on the 90-minute cruise. I'm told that each year, 15 people undergo nearly 100 hours of rigorous training to become a docent, plus an additional 12 weeks studying about Chicago's "canyon of architecture" along the river to become certified to lead the cruise. They join 115 other certified veteran docents who share the inspirational stories of the men and women who have designed more than 50 architecturally-significant buildings along the river and riverwalk, as well as the 13 bascule bridges on the cruise route.

A lot of work and care goes into the cruise, and what's also great is that a portion of proceeds from tickets support CAFC's nonprofit educational mission. Vote once a day at 10best.com/awards/travel until 11 a.m. on June 7. Winners will be announced June 18.

We congratulate the CAFC, and also Holly Agra, CEO and president of Chicago's First Lady Cruises and her husband, fourth generation owner Captain Bob Agra III, who is the company Veep. Here's wishing them all the best of luck. We caught up with Holly to find out a bit more about this esteemed nomination.

Q: How cool is it to be selected for such an honor?

A: It's really exciting to be nominated for Best Boat Tour and we're over the moon to be in the lead! Our team and the CAFC have been working really hard to give the best Chicago experience possible for over 25 years.

Q: What sets the CAFC River Cruise apart from others? Why do you think it's the best?

A: There are two things that make the CAFC River Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady so special. First, the Chicago River allows us to cut through our downtown and the amazing architecture, something very rare for a world-class city. Second is the partnership between our crew and the fantastic certified volunteer docents of the CAFC.

Q: What sort of changes have you made, if any, due to COVID?

A: In 2020, we operated a reduced schedule mostly focused around the weekends. We were extremely appreciative of the Chicagoans and visitors who came down for a tour, under challenging circumstances. While most of the experience takes place in the open air, we've increased ventilation in our interior areas and continue enhanced cleaning practices. Currently, the vessels fall under the federal transportation mask mandate.

Q: What would this win do for Chicago's tourism downtown? How many people usually take the cruises in a season?

A: Historically we welcome hundreds of thousands of guests onboard our River Cruise, however we only saw a small fraction of that in 2020. Our local tourism and hospitality community have been devastated by the pandemic. National accolades for Chicago's attractions can go a long way to promote in-bound travel and aid our recovery. A win for us or the other great local nominees would be a win for all Chicagoans.

Q: Who can vote and why should they vote for the CAFC River Cruise even if they've never taken it?

A: The 10Best awards nominees are selected by USA Today's travel experts and we need everyone's vote to get across the finish line. Each day we hear from locals who never expected to learn so much about their hometown on the tour, so please come down and see for yourself!

Q: Does CAFC receive anything for being selected or just bragging rights?

A: The CAFC River Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady will receive bragging rights and the honor of declaring it the Best Boat Tour in America.

Q: We are the best city in the country architecturally, can you name a few of our architectural gems that are pointed out on the tour?

A: The tour features exciting new buildings with cutting edge design elements up and down all three branches of the Chicago River, including the recently completed St.

RIVER CRUISE see p. 6



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Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale

262626
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 -v- BARBARA M ANDREWS A/K/A BARBARA ANDREWS, 4515-17 N. ASHLAND CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants
 18 CH 05506
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PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on September 24, 2019, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on June 29, 2021, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, CHICAGO, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

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Tourists and locals alike delight in the city's architecture on the Chicago Architectural Foundation Center's River Cruise aboard Chicago's First Lady. Be sure to vote!

CHANGE from p. 2

county's mounting piles of debt? Stay tuned for a June announcement and what it means for your home.

MISTER KELLY'S: jazz fans are thrilled to see the celebrated **Denise Tomasello** featured so prominently in the Mr. Kelly's saga. She's still a favorite, after many years, with her golden voice and gilded stylings.



Denise Tomasello

An exclusive public television viewing of "Live at Mister Kelly's," the made-in and made-about Chicago documentary film, will have its world premiere showing at 8 p.m., Thursday, May 27, on WTTW, Channel 11 with rebroadcasts at 6 a.m. Friday, May 28, on WTTW Prime; 12:30 a.m., May 29 and 10 p.m., May 30 on WTTW.

BACK ON AIR: **Rick Kogan**, after a health-troubled interlude, is back with After Hours, 5-7 p.m. Sun. WGN Radio.



Sheila Gainer

ART FAIR: The Old Town Art Fair and its sponsoring organization, the Old Town Triangle Assoc., plan to host an in-person

event next month after canceling last year due to COVID-19, the first time the fair had to miss a year in 70 years.

THE DRIEHAUS: The Richard H. Driehaus Museum announced two new leadership appointments after the death of its founder. **Anna Musci** is the museum's new executive director, and **Zachary Lazar** becomes board president.

LISAGOR LINGO: Long-overdue. Chicago's **Lee Bey** has won the journalists' **Peter Lisagor** Award for which he had been nominated and for which he labored so intensely for decades. Long years devoted to Chicago's architectural refinement and history, Bey is a home-grown wonder of skill and wise observation. Finally something to give thanks to the Sun-Times for, providing an outlet for his architectural observations.

SHAMROCK WEDDING BELLS: It's official, the question's been popped, the ring's on her finger and the groom's

RIVER CRUISE from p. 5

Regis Tower (now the city's third tallest structure,) and the refurbished riverfront Old Post Office, and the glass structures on Wolf Point. Our guests leave the cruise inspired by the city's wide variety of architectural styles, including art deco, neoclassicism, mid-century modernism, and postmodernism.

Q: Any additional thoughts about the contest?

A: After such a difficult experience, winning Best Boat Tour would be a big validation for our incredible staff and crew, who put safety first every day. All of us

feel tremendous pride showcasing our city's architectural beauty and we look forward to welcoming guests onboard the River Cruise long into the future.

Clarification... last week's column about the Chicago Parks Foundation failed to mention the idea of Bryan Traubert, who was president of the Board of Commissioners of the Chicago Park District for six years and said that every great city should have a foundation to support their parks. It was that board that supported the launch of the Chicago Parks Foundation in 2013. Thanks Bryan~

on oxygen. Entrepreneur/consultant **Mark O'Malley** is grooming himself to do an aisle-walk with Ireland's top violinist, the erudite Irish beauty **Patricia Treacy**, who played at **President Joe Biden's** inauguration, having said "yes," to O'Malley, in Irish. The native of Dromiskin, County Louth, and **Lee Bey**



Lee Bey

the Beverly-raised identical twin, have been working on a film feature about Irish culture soon to be released, necessitating much travel to and fro. Cheers on both sides of the Atlantic. And the White House.

WHO'S WHERE: Judicial candidate **Dan Balanoff** in Dobbs Ferry, the Hudson River Valley terrain in New York... Bravo to **Stephanie Leese Emrich** and husband, **Jeffrey**, and the Junior League of Chicago for all the recent efforts to respond to human trafficking... former **Ald. Joe Moore** and **Proco Joe Marino**, spotted at Via Carducci on Division St., better keep the car keys away from Proco Joe... **Will McNulty** graduating from Univ. of Illinois, Champaign ... **Isabella Lombardo** 2021 Valedictorian at Loyola Academy applauded by grandparents **Steve** and **Peggy Lombardo** of Gibson's Steakhouse... **Irene Michaels** and **Arny Granat**, having fun at Mancow's bash... **Dr. Dave**



Rick Kogan

and **Joanne Gorecki** with the family at Gibson's Steakhouse and getting ready for two family weddings.

THE IRISH TIMES: Chicago labor organizer and politic activist **Sheila Gainer** was featured last week in the Irish Times, in an article on Irish born **Mother Jones**, the

great center cog of American labor. Both Mother Jones and Ms. Gainer descend from the unstoppable Irish genes that energized all against tyrants. Mother Jones and a long line of significant immigrants gave great leadership to the growth and development of American labor. The Mother McAuley and Univ. of Illinois graduate, Gainer, is cut from the same cloth as the unstoppable Jones. She has spent her professional career shaping fresh approaches to positive achievements for members of

America's vast labor movement, particularly those in hotel labor jobs.

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ALDERMAN from p. 1

which donated \$21,000. His second biggest donor was Dover Strategy Group, a political consulting firm which donated more than \$20,500. Dover is led by a former Midwest/Northeast political director of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and had also advised Mayor Lori Lightfoot during her 2019 campaign.

Martin's next biggest donors included three PACS of the Service Employees International Union which combined donated nearly \$40,000.

While Martin wants to project an image of being from the community, a lot of his support is not very local. For example, he received more than \$5,500 from the ambiguously named One Peoples Campaign. While One Peoples on its website gives the impression it is an Illinois-based organization, it is an arm of Democratic Party-affiliated ActBlue Civics and based not in Illinois but in Massachusetts.

ActBlue Civics has been described as a pass-through political action committee and ActBlue Charities as its pass-through affiliate. Big money donors use these organizations to support candidates but without their names being made public.

Martin also received more than \$5,000 from Blue Sun Campaigns, another Democratic Party-affiliated political consultant based in Massachusetts.

Martin attended the Harvard Law

School, and some of his support may be related to his years in Cambridge, MA.

His largest campaign contributors from the 47th Ward are William and Julie Hobert. The couple gave Martin's campaign a total of \$6,500. Hobert is the chairperson of the Illinois Finance Authority, which provides low-cost funding to public and private institutions through issuance of tax-exempt and taxable bonds. The authority also makes and guarantees what are described as "non-conventional" loans. A longtime member of the board of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, Hobert was appointed to his state position by Gov. J.B. Pritzker. Hobert owns WH Trading, a derivatives trading firm, and Julie Hobert currently serves on the Northcenter Neighborhood Association's advisory board.

Among the 47th Ward business owners that have contributed to Martin's campaign is Bryan Zises, a co-owner of Dispensary 33, a marijuana store located at 5001 N. Clark St. Since July 2019, Zises has donated a total of \$1,000 over the course of four separate transactions.

Earlier, Zises and his brother Zachary founded LGRCI, a firm that aided small groups of wealthy foreign nationals to enter the USA, using the Fifth Employment-Based Visa [EB-5] that capitalized on the interest of financially successful foreign citizens in becoming permanent residents

of the U.S. The EB-5 program allows foreign investors to enter the U.S. as conditional residents as soon as they have made their investment [minimum of \$500,000],

ActBlue Civics has been described as a pass-through political action committee and ActBlue Charities as its pass-through affiliate. Big money donors use these organizations to support candidates but without their names being made public.

to have their visa restrictions removed, and to receive their Green Card just 18 months later.

In 2014, Bryan also served as chief operating officer for the state's Illinois Housing Development Authority. This state agency loans money for affordable housing projects.

One of the EB-5 projects LGRCI filed with the federal government was a for-profit venture to build affordable housing. This project would have applied for funding from a number of governmental agencies, including the Illinois Affordable Housing Trust Fund and Build Illinois Bonds.

Last year, Zises and his brother had filed an application with the City of Chicago to change the zoning at their shop from C1-2 to C2-2. Such a move would allow the

brothers to expand their operations into an adjacent store. With Martin's OK, the application was easily approved by the full city council on July 22, 2020.

While campaigning for office, Martin cited ties to the community, which included being a co-founder of the Heart of Lincoln Square Neighborhood Association. He also had served on the local school council of McPherson Elementary and on the zoning advisory council of former 47th Ward Ald. Ameya Pawar.

"I'm running for alderman because there are too many neighbors in our ward and our city who are struggling.

Housing is increasingly unaffordable, especially with property taxes on the rise. Every school in our ward is underfunded by at least \$1 million dollars. And our police department badly needs reform—especially regarding training, supervision, and accountability. We need our next Alderman to tackle these problems thoughtfully and aggressively," Martin said.

Without openly criticizing Pawar, Martin added he would not ignore the delivery of core city services, like garbage collection, tree trimming, and road repair.

Last November, Martin was one of the 22 alderpersons who voted against Lightfoot's \$93.9 property tax increase, but which passed by a six-vote margin.

ALFRESCO from p. 1

of those restaurants."

"We believe the Mercadito in the Manuel Perez Jr. Memorial Plaza will directly support local artisans and vendors," said Kim Close, Chief Operating Officer of Little Village Community Foundation. "Increased programming in the plaza will promote and preserve the cultural identity of Little Village."

"Commercial Avenue provides a rich blend of shopping, dining, cultural attractions and business services for South Chicago residents and visitors alike," said Dave Price, Program Manager for SSA 5 and South Chicago Parents & Friends. "This Chicago Alfresco grant will strengthen this historic main street by providing a welcoming and lively experience for shoppers and pedestrians."

Following are the four project proposals selected for the first round of Chicago Alfresco projects:

- Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce (N. Broadway): Dine Out program extending the outdoor space near restaurants for full service and pick up orders. The installations will include planters, lighting, signage, and decorative fencing, and will incorporate arts and music programming.

- Rogers Park Business Alliance (w. Jarvis Ave. & N. Glenwood Ave.): Expand-

ing on an existing EOD closure along Jarvis Ave. by providing landscape, furnishings and design elements to promote community activities, including daily alfresco dining, as well as special events like live performances, moonlight ice cream socials, festivals, movie nights, and a monthly artisan market from May to September. Closing vehicular traffic along a stretch of Glenwood Ave. and incorporating decorative lighting, seating, signage, performance space, bike parking, and ADA accessible platforms to make the space adaptable for daily alfresco dining use as well outdoor performances and special events.

- Uptown United (W. Argyle St.): Expanded dining and place-making using north and south curbside parking along Argyle between N. Broadway and Sheridan Rd.

- West Ridge Chamber of Commerce (W. Devon Ave.): Devon Potluck Plazas" will serve as pop-up public plazas on side streets with movable street furniture and temporary surface treatments to encourage carry-out dining and programming.



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VOTING from p. 1

Citywide, there were other factors that made comparisons difficult: many council members were new, some issues were new, the electorate had changed, and a Coronavirus swept into the city before Lightfoot completed her first year in office. Yet some clear patterns emerge.

Key Similarities

- Lightfoot, as did Emanuel, won City Council approval for all her recommendations for chairmen of Council Committees.
- Both Lightfoot and Emanuel successfully passed their budgets and spending plans.
- Neither Lightfoot nor Emanuel lost any City Council vote on issues they introduced or championed.
- Under Emanuel, 43 aldermen voted 80% or more of the time to support the Mayor's position on all divided roll call votes.
- For Lightfoot, 40 aldermen voted 80% or more for her positions.

Key Differences

- Mayor Rahm Emanuel presided over a "Rubber Stamp" City Council.
- 19 aldermen voted 100% of the time to support Emanuel's positions.
- 15 additional aldermen voted 90 to 99% of the time with Emanuel.
- Under Mayor Lori Lightfoot, change is

undeniably occurring.

- Only two aldermen voted 100% of the time to support Lightfoot's position.
- 23 additional aldermen voted 90 to 99% of the time with Lightfoot.

The City Council is, in fact, becoming more independent and more liberal than under Mayor Rahm Emanuel. Mayor Lightfoot's agenda is also considerably more progressive than Emanuel's. And that has given rise to more opposition from both long-serving aldermen and from some freshman aldermen who are pushing Lightfoot to be more liberal or progressive.

Chicago's politics are changing. Lightfoot is not above throwing her mayoral weight around. She has been known to bully votes to her position. Still, she is not a "boss" like Chicago's Ed Kelly, its Daleys, or even Rahm Emanuel. Instead, she is a forceful mayor who governs over a city council with a liberal majority. Unlike in previous eras, the Chicago City Council is behaving more like a genuine legislative body. However, the city still has a long way to go, and in two years voters will decide if the mayor and the city council have been on the right track.

The report can be accessed at tinyurl.com/CCCouncilR12. Its authors are Dick Simpson, Thomas J. Gradel, and Marco Rosaire Rossi.



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