

I predict future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them.— Thomas Jefferson

# INSIDE-BOOSTER



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NEWS OF LINCOLN PARK, LAKE VIEW, NORTH CENTER & LINCOLN SQUARE

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## CTA seeks to charge Lakeview homeowners to park in their backyards

Residents claim property rights acknowledged by predecessor to CTA

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BOB ZULEY

Fourteen years before Weeghman Field opened in April of 1914 and baseball fans saw the Chicago Whales defeat the Kansas City Packers handily by a score of 9-to-1, The Northwestern Elevated railroad built their train line through Lakeview connecting downtown Chicago to Wilson Ave. in Uptown with a stop at Addison St.

Today, the 3600 block of N. Wilton Ave. in Lakeview is immediately north of the Addison L station and is literally across the alley and one lot away from the right outfield wall of the friendly confines of Wrigley Field, home of the 2027 All Star Game.

Much closer to these homes lies the Chicago Transit Authority's [CTA] Red/Purple Line rapid transit elevated line. The CTA and their investor-partner now seek to monetize the backyards



The CTA seeks to monetize the 'backyards' along the 3600 block of N. Wilton Ave.

of property owners along Wilton Ave. abutting the CTA tracks by charging them \$150 monthly to literally park in their backyards.

That's because the buildings uniquely share their backyards with the elevated railroad's support posts and girders that hold up the tracks and have done so since the line was constructed in the late 1890s and opened on May 31, 1900. Elsewhere in the city, CTA tracks are separated from private property by a city alleyway.

So for over 100 years, residents of those Wilton Ave. single-family homes and three-flats have used their 'backyards' for family cookouts, children's playing, and stabling their horses – or more recently, parking their cars – with crowded train cars literally passing over their heads. The homeowners never charged the CTA rent for using their backyards. And no one raised a fuss – until

**CHARGE** see p. 16

## ComEd hosts community meeting on Lakeview/Lincoln Park substation plan

ComEd hosted a community meeting June 22 at Advocate Illinois Masonic Hosp., 836 W. Wellington Ave., on the proposed \$250 million substation at 1111 W. Diversey.

The meeting included an update on the project, and allowed the electric utility to address concerns raised at previous community meetings and provide details on the current capacity of the grid, and why the project is needed.

ComEd does not technically need city or community approval to build the substation on Diversey. The project is classified as a "minor utility," which is permitted by right under current Chicago zoning laws. Because of this classification, the utility is not legally required to hold public hearings or seek formal approval from the City Council.

Still, ComEd met the people and noted that Lakeview and Lincoln Park are thriving, and that new homes are going up, local businesses are expanding, com-



Rendering of the proposed ComEd substation in Lincoln Park at 1111 W. Diversey Pkwy. Courtesy ComEd

munity spaces are growing, and more residents are making the switch to electric vehicles. All of this means the demand for electricity in this area is rising fast.

They claim that the existing grid capacity for this community is at 95%, and without this substation, that growing demand could put reliable service at risk.

The community listened intently and peppered ComEd with questions and concerns.

Some area neighbors are concerned over the plans for a new

substation, expressing concerns about safety and giving up a spot that could bring housing instead of power.

Community activists asked ComEd why it hasn't explored other sites for the roughly one-acre substation, while others accused the utility of playing a "shell game" after learning ComEd considered powering what was then Lincoln Yards with the new substation.

**COMED** see p. 16

## Quigley launches his mayoral bid at Uptown Theater

Standing before a crowd of hundreds on Saturday June 27, U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley [5th] became the latest entrant into an increasingly crowded race for Chicago mayor, claiming he was the best positioned to tackle the city's seemingly intractable fiscal and public safety problems.

Quigley said he chose the lobby of the Uptown Theater to make his announcement as the faded glory of the legendary movie palace was an apt metaphor for the state of the city of Chicago.

A sampling of attendees revealed that as many were there to get a glimpse of the long-shuttered landmark as to cheer on their preferred choice in the looming mayoral donnybrook. However, attendees were barred from going any further into the theater than the lobby.

Noting that mayor would be the last political job he would seek, Quigley, 67, said that would free him to make the tough choices on cutting Chicago's bloated city government and balance the budget without raising taxes.

He pledged to grow Chicago's economy and pledged to unleash housing construction by reforming the permitting and zoning review processes. He said that it was incumbent that Chicago develop housing all over the city to help fill the nearly empty schools across the South and West sides of Chicago.

He also promised to restore safety to the public transit and

tackle Chicago's homeless crisis, though he cited no specific plans on any of these initiatives.

Quigley was joined on stage by his wife, Barb, and his two daughters and infant grandson. Others on hand for the announcement were the Uptown Theater's owner Jerry Mickelson, Ald. Bennett Lawson [44th] and former 46th Ward Ald. James Cappleman. Cook County Cmsr. Bridget Degan, who is not seeking another term, was also present and said she would be a candidate for Quigley's seat in Congress should he advance to the mayor's office.

A native of Carol Stream, Quigley has been active in North Side politics since the late 1980s when he helped lead a community effort to fight the installation of lights at Wrigley Field. He later became an aide to former 44th Ward Ald. Bernie Hansen, before getting elected to the Cook County Board in 1998. He was first elected to Congress in 2009 when Rahm Emanuel vacated the seat to serve as President Barack Obama's chief of staff.

Among his accomplishments in nearly 30 years in office, Quigley cited his work at the county to open the nation's first Domestic Violence Court to protect battered women. He also noted being the first member of Congress to call on President Joe Biden to drop his reelection bid in 2024 following his disastrous debate performance with Donald Trump.

## Man indicted in West Loop, Old Town mail theft burglaries that cost victims up to \$100K

BY CWB CHICAGO

A man accused of burglarizing apartment buildings in Chicago's West Loop and Old Town to steal residents' identities has been indicted in a case involving 13 victims, including three older than 60, prosecutors say.

A Cook County grand jury recently indicted Daniel Krichilsky, 45, on two counts of burglary, three counts of aggravated identity theft involving victims older than 60, and one count of identity theft. Prosecutors allege the scheme occurred between April 23, 2023, and Jan. 26, 2024, and left victims with losses ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000.

Among the burglaries detailed in the indictment, prosecutors say Krichilsky targeted an apartment building in the 700 block of W.

Randolph St. in the West Loop on May 18, 2023, and another building in the 1500 block of N. Orleans St. in Old Town on Aug. 17, 2023. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service said the burglaries involved mail theft.

If the allegations are true, the crime spree began while Krichilsky was on bail in another burglary case that stemmed from a July 2022 arrest in Lincoln Park. According to court records, a property manager called police after finding Krichilsky inside an apartment building in the 2000 block of N. Clybourn Ave., allegedly damaging furnaces, an internet server rack, and an office door. While officers were on the scene, Krichilsky reportedly told the cops he was "trying to fix their air conditioning."

Police arrested him, and a search allegedly revealed Krichilsky was carrying \$843 in cash, 14 credit, debit, and gift cards, a check, two driver's licenses bearing different names, a laptop, and



Daniel Krichilsky

**INDICTED** see p. 16

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# Wave that flag, wave it wide and high, Happy Birthday America!



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

It's amazing what liberty can do. The list unfolds in epic proportions with the products, inventions, historic accomplishments, geographic expansions and settlement of the American continent ocean to ocean.

Manifest Destiny we once called it. Coined in 1845 by journalist John O'Sullivan, it fueled westward expansion by pioneers, the Mexican-American War, and the displacement of Native American Indians.

The most critical component in the harnessing of liberty, democracy and our Republic these last 250 years has been held in our timing. Embracing the dynamic of liberty at just the right moment is everything. Seeing what

liberty can create among us is an astounding historical entity.

The freeing of the individual and the protection of private property from the tyrannical deeds of an aristocratic royal nobility and the collectivism of mob rule.

Everything must fit in its proper order and space. Many Founding Fathers believed our source was God himself.

As our fourth president, James Madison, wrote in Proclamation 20 when our national holiday was first being established - "No people ought to feel greater obligations to celebrate the goodness of the Great Disposer of Events and of the Destiny of Nations than the people of the United States. His kind providence originally conducted them to one of the best portions of the dwelling place allotted for the great family of the human race."

It is essential that our national landscape was first settled by fleeing European Protestant pilgrims. In their consciousness was the belief that we are created for more meaningful living than what they experienced in Europe. Their search was for a worthy life that counted everyone's dignity, rights, religious freedom and political independence as essential.

The time was ripe. The early embrace of basic human rights was a common imperative for all.

Among the kings and landlords there were too many despots. Too many creeps, crooks and absolute rulers from palaces, estates, churches, and military life.

Not enough room, food, or good health among ordinary folk. People needed wider space, more simple living, and better learning. They wanted self-sufficiency and self-determination.

This early potboil of essential rights might seem a long way from Fourth of July parades centuries in the future. But you have to establish the basic needs that brought about the longing for freedom and demand for human rights, that helped to create the greatest nation in world history.



Declaration of Independence, oil on canvas by John Trumbull, 1818; in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda, Washington, D.C.

Is this not the deep hunger that also gave us eventually the American hot dog?

From the first days of the Plymouth Rock settlement to the dumping of tea into Boston Harbor in protest to vengeful colonial taxation, time ripened. Simple folk saw what was hidden in the tannin-soaked sea water of fed up settlers searching for freedom and independence.

The settlers had been radically changed by the landscape that pointed to freedom and the value of the human and the motivated individual. That exposed the hard-working colonial farmers, and their embrace of more expansive living, to the shabby selfish cruelty of the old world economics. And the dead end failure of King George III.

All the freedom farmers needed then were the muskets and lead shot to hasten revolt. The expansive time for education and good judgement refined the brightness and reason that was the perfect push to great American ideals.

The richness of the land, the bounty of boundless landscape, the clever inventiveness of the colonial population was ripe for seeing life in a wild new order. That colonial freshness was enriching. People could thrive here like they never could back in the strictures and confines of Europe.

It is no wonder that bright ideas flourished in the fertile environment.

Inventive thoughts to produce new load-lifting farm implements all the way to fresh understand-

ings about limited government. It was helpful, of course, that leaders in the 13 colonies had erudite minds and weren't afraid of new thoughts and life-altering concepts.

Life in the American colonies was a rich home to expansive concepts of governance. Hardly a primitive landscape. The formation of a dynamic Republic was possible precisely because great thinkers abounded at just the right time. Robust thinking was not scarce. American colonists thrived in their motivation for a form of government unlike any other in the world. And they won the battle of revolution as much with brains and hearts as they did with Minutemen and muskets. Their plans were as large as the landscape itself.

The success of the Founding Fathers' strategies and hungers for fairness succeeded, though, because of their shared unity of purpose. Out of many, one: E pluribus unum, that's our motto. Diversity is not our strength, strength comes in the unity of us all seeking individual freedoms.

The Founding Fathers' willingness allow us to stand united against the thoughtless rule of England, and a distant monarch many believed to be mad. They disavowed parliamentary greed that could not grasp the liberty that breezed freely across the open American land.

From Abraham Lincoln to Franklin D. Roosevelt, through to the present day, these have been

centuries for inventing of great things. America is resourceful creating televisions, discovering flight, creating the McCormick reaper combine harvester, rocket ships, atomic bombs, bubble gum, baseball, the jitterbug, the cure for polio, modern art, tap dancing, bell bottoms, the automobile, the telephone, stand-up comics, computers, the Internet and smart phones, a Chicago Pope, Jazz, Rock, Country and Western, Rap, House and the Blues, and the patriotic Grateful Dead band who fused them all together, as Americans will do - mixing, matching and inventing. The Dead told us to "Wave that flag, wave it wide and high" and we did. For 250 years.

And at 250 years, liberty still fertilizes American hearts and minds. Maybe not always to our liking, but near enough to still make the nation feel worthy of our loyalty and patriotic allegiance.

No wonder we still feel what motivated our Founding Fathers, like George Washington as he crossed a freezing Delaware River in a small boat on Christmas night 1776, leading 2,400 troops and artillery through a severe winter storm. Or Thomas Jefferson inventing fresh forms of simple, mundane apparatus no one figured out before him. Or the almost crazed impetus of Benjamin Franklin to measure, dissect, and invent tools and procedures that advanced the modernity of everyday American life. He was more than kites.

The American Republic was, of course, all about invention, consumed with it first and foremost. From the elegant writings of James Madison on the effect and affect of American political life, to the stunning words of sacrifice and affection of patriots like Thomas Paine. As well as the

**BIRTHDAY** see p. 10

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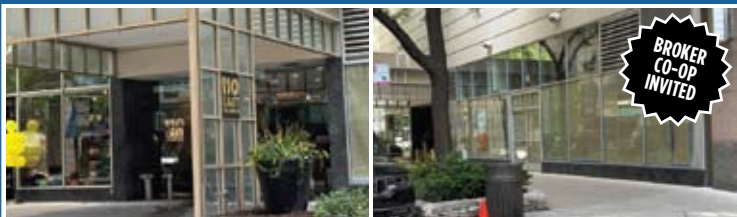
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# Ex-cop blasts Chicago mayor's new agency

**'Gigantic waste of taxpayer money'**

BY JIM TALAMONTI  
The Center Square

Mayor Brandon Johnson is not saying exactly how much taxpayers will pay for his new Office of Gun Violence Reduction, but he wants another \$20 million to fund jobs for young people.

The mayor signed an executive order June 25 to establish the new office, saying the agency would be tasked with coordinating violence prevention efforts, victim services and community safety investments.

A reporter asked Johnson if his current community safety office would be disbanded.

"The Mayor's Office of Community

Safety [OCS] will still function and exist," said the mayor.

Johnson said the OCS deals with the fire department, the Office of Emergency Management and other departments in addition to just police.

The mayor did not directly answer a question about how much the new department might cost.

"You mean to tell me that with 31,000 jobs that we've offered, 57,000 children applied, that as a city we cannot figure out how to come up with another \$20 million to make sure that every young person and young adult who wants a job can have a job?" Johnson asked.

The mayor said the ultra wealthy and big corporations should be held accountable.

Chicago Republican Party chairman Chuck Hernandez, a former Chicago Police

Dept. detective, said the new department is a scheme to siphon funds away from law enforcement.

"We already have a department for gun violence and reduction. It's called the Chicago Police Department," said Hernandez.

***"We already have a department for gun violence and reduction. It's called the Chicago Police Department," said Chuck Hernandez.***

Hernandez said he sees the mayor's executive order as futile.

"This is bad public policy, a gigantic waste of taxpayer money and it ultimately highlights Brandon Johnson's complete lack of courage and unwillingness to com-

bat violent crime in Chicago," Hernandez said.

Retired Riverside, Illinois police chief Thomas Weitzel said the new department is not just a scheme, but a scam.

"It creates bureaucracy instead of deploying officers, that's what this will do. That's not good, and nor are there any measurable outcomes that will come from that," Weitzel said.

The mayor promised that the new office would work with those on the front lines, including police officers and community violence intervention partners.

Johnson said it actually costs more when you disinvest.

"For decades, the people of Chicago have been demanding more from city government, and today, city government responds to those demands," the mayor said.

## 'Half-baked' social media tax poised to tee up court challenges

BY JONATHAN BILYK  
Cook County Record

Illinois is poised to be headed back into court to defend another constitutionally questionable law in their efforts to tax God-given free speech rights.

Tech companies and internet freedom advocates this time are taking aim at a new measure, jammed through with virtually no discussion by Democratic lawmakers, to impose steep "fees" on internet site operators that the state deems "social media" to create a new revenue source to fuel the state's ever-growing spending.

As part of Illinois' bloated new \$56 billion state budget, Democratic lawmakers, with the support of Gov. JB Pritzker, slipped in a new measure that Pritzker and other supporters will force "social media" operators to pay the state to make up for the alleged societal damage they say is caused by their platforms and free speech.

Styled as a "fee," the measure would impose a tax to extract potentially hundreds of millions of dollars, or more, every year from a host of companies engaged in the creation of platforms hosting interactive or user-generated content.

Fees that one way or another will be passed onto consumers.

Specifically, the new "fees" will be charged against any online platform operator that the state believes has more than 100,000 users in Illinois. It would scale up progressively based on how many "Illinois users" a platform may have.

The fees would be charged at rates of 100,000 to 499,999 users: 10¢ per user/month; 500,000 to 999,999 users: \$40,000 base fee per month, plus 25¢ per user, per month, for each user over 500,000; and over 1 million users: \$165,000 base fee per month, plus 50¢ per user, per month, for each user over 1 million.

The fee would be collected by the Illinois Secretary of State's office, rather than the Illinois Dept. of Revenue.

The law specifically forbids companies hit by the fees from attempting to raise prices or implement charges to make "Illinois users" pay the new "fees."

Supporters assert the measure will generate at least \$200 million annually for the Illinois state government. Supporters, including Pritzker, assert the money will be used to fund programs to deal with mental health issues, allegedly exacerbated by social media, as well as to fund schools and other state budget priorities.

However, the measure to tax free speech faces a very uncertain future.

A variety of groups, including lobbyists and legal advocates for tech companies and internet freedom, as well as free speech advocates, tax reform advocates, and others, have lined up to pillory what they call a deeply flawed and rushed measure that tramples not only principles of tax legislation, but constitutional protections.

Several groups, including NetChoice, a trade group representing social media companies and other big tech companies, have indicated they may quickly sue the state to challenge the measure.

NetChoice, for instance, is already in court against the City of Chicago over City Hall's attempt to impose a similar tax against social media platform operators. In that lawsuit, NetChoice has argued the city's taxes are unconstitutional because they illegally "single out" social media platforms for "disfavored tax treatment."

While those arguments would likely also be applied in challenges to the state's new "social media" tax, critics of the state measure note the new law is also highly confusing, contradictory at some points, and lacks key details normally essential to effective and constitutional tax laws.

In a recent analysis of the law, Jared Walczak, a senior fellow at the tax policy and economic research organization, the Tax Foundation, noted the law falls far short of defining the terms it supposedly will use to determine how much the state will demand from online platform operators.

To begin, he said, the law doesn't actually define what a "user" is.

"This isn't a philosophical question," Walczak wrote. "It's an eminently practical one."

He noted many users may have multiple accounts on a platform for various reasons, and they may have accounts across multiple platforms operated by one company - for instance, one person may likely have accounts on Facebook, Messenger, Instagram and WhatsApp, all of which are op-

erated by Meta.

"... Is each taxed separately, or is the person treated as a single user across multiple related services?" Walczak asked.

And, he noted, the law is further silent on whether the tax would be applied to only registered users, or if the state could somehow seek to tax the companies based on other determinations of what a "user" may be.

Further, the law doesn't define what an "Illinois user" is. For instance, Walczak asked, must a person live in Illinois to be counted? Are they still an "Illinois user" if they engage with social media while outside Illinois?

"Would it cover a non-resident who accessed their social media accounts from

TAX see p. 6



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# Did Mayor Lightfoot get snookered into a bad deal with Bally's?



The Home Front  
by Don DeBat

Critics sometimes refer to former Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot as “Mayor Lighththead.” Now, one example of that joke has washed ashore like a dead alewife at Bally’s casino on the banks of the Chicago River at Halsted St. and Chicago Ave.

Some five years ago, Chicago entered into a so-called “Host Community Agreement” [HCA] with the gaming company Bally’s, the city’s choice as the operator of the first Chicago casino.

In that 214-page agreement, brokered by the Lightfoot administration for better or worse, Soo Kim, chairman of Bally’s Corp., made a whole variety of commitments, including how many Chicagoans it would hire and their union status, the level and scope of the amenities in the casino and a bevy of other conditions—unprecedented for a private business in the city, gaming experts say.

The city also demanded payments: \$40 million on the signing of the agreement and then an additional \$4 million a year in “direct” and “indirect” impact fees.

In return, the city gave Bally’s a monopoly on slot machines, also known as video gaming terminals [VGTs], within city limits. The agreement explicitly specifies that if the city were later to allow VGTs, and Bally’s showed a negative impact on its operations, then the direct and indirect impact fees (that \$4 million) “shall be subject to good-faith renegotiation.”



(L) Video gaming terminals. (R) rendering of Bally’s new Casino, under construction in River North.

## Bally’s vs. Video Gaming Terminals

First legalized in 2009, video gambling terminals started operating in Illinois in 2012. The state is now home to the largest regulated video gaming network in the world, with a whopping 49,000 of the machines in operation, reports the Illinois Gaming Board.

However, Chicago opted out of VGTs for years until late last year when City Council members, trying to avoid Mayor Brandon Johnson’s proposed corporate head tax, assembled an alternative 2026 budget that legalized the machines to help fill a \$6.8 million budget gap.

Last week Bally’s representatives argued that the city’s legalizing video gambling terminals breaches an agreement the casino reached with Chicago. Bally’s said Chicago would lose a \$4 million community benefits payment from Bally’s if VGTs are allowed in the city.

Legalized VGTs “will hurt the city’s finances for years to come,” said Christopher Jewett, Bally’s vice president for Corporate Development. “Had we known that within just a few years, this body

would reverse course and allow an alternative form of gaming that breaches the agreement, we would never have agreed to the numerous commitments, all of which we’ve held up,” Jewett said.

Jewett warned that under the “worst-case scenario,” legalized terminals could result in the loss of more than a third of the 3,000 permanent jobs Bally’s plans on bringing to the city. He also said that since the machines first became operational in 2012, Illinois casinos have suffered a 37% reduction in gaming revenue.



Soo Kim, Bally’s chairman.

Now, Bally’s says it is considering taking legal action against the city. “We’ve made it very clear that we plan to use all legal weapons available,” Jewett said.

At last week’s City Council hearing, Steven Mahr, Mayor Brandon Johnson’s acting CFO, said the city’s contract with Bally’s will be “at risk” if VGTs are legalized citywide.

Regardless of Bally’s potential for lost revenue, Mahr said the city would earn 4.5 times as much per dollar on casino slot machines as on the terminals, which are set to proliferate in bars and restaurants throughout Chicago thanks to the budget-enhancement deal.

That’s because the revenue from the casino is taxed by the city at a much higher rate (23.2%) compared with the VGTs (5.15%). So, that means the city would need roughly four times the revenue from the non-Bally’s slots to break even, never mind the loss of the discretionary payments.

## Is Bally’s claim ‘hogwash’?

Pat Doerr, managing director at Hospitality Business Assns. of Chicago, called Bally’s claim that VGTs would hurt the casino’s bottom line “hogwash” during last week’s meeting. He said casinos across Illinois are surrounded by businesses with such machines yet still stay afloat.

VGTs don’t threaten “well-run” casinos, Doerr said. Chicago had a “stagnant-to-sinking hospitality industry” because it has had to compete with suburbs that allow the machines, he said.

To gain clarity on this confusing situation, the Home Front column reached out to our veteran gaming source—Mr. Zak, a professional gambler—who just happened to be sitting at a video poker machine and winning \$400 at Wind Creek Southland Casino in south suburban East Hazel Crest.

“Back in the early days of video gambling, the typical machine paid off 65% of the time,” Mr. Zak noted. “Today, at Wind Creek Casino, the payout is 98% on video poker and 90% on coin-slot machines.” At that rate, Mr. Zak estimates he still loses “only \$33 per hour” for “recreational” gaming.

“At its temporary Medina Temple Casino in River North, Bally’s also pays out 90%

on slots, but in my estimation, its video poker payouts are short,” Mr. Zak said.

“I think what will happen is the City of Chicago will still put the VGTs in local bars and restaurants, and Bally’s will eventually not pay the \$4 million impact fee,” predicted Mr. Zak. “A lot of money will be spent on litigation, and, of course, the lawyers will win.”

The city always does what it wants to do, Mr. Zak noted. “Allowing VGTs in local bars and restaurants will increase the attendance at casinos, when gamblers realize it is a better deal,” he predicted.

Mr. Zak explained that the casino payouts typically are 90% on slot machines, and 98% on video poker. “At bars and restaurants, the video-poker payout will be lower—say 65% to 80%. The bar owners and operators still will make profits. Casinos will make more profits simply because they will have more patrons than bars and restaurants,” Mr. Zak said.

Our gaming source has never been a fan of Bally’s, although Mr. Zak resides on the Near North Side, less than two miles from the Bally’s casino.

**“I think what will happen is the City of Chicago will still put the VGTs in local bars and restaurants, and Bally’s will eventually not pay the \$4 million impact fee,” predicted Mr. Zak. “A lot of money will be spent on litigation, and, of course, the lawyers will win.”**

The recently topped-out casino is replacing the former Chicago Tribune printing plant on 30 acres at 777 W. Chicago Ave. in the River West neighborhood. When open, the gambling facility is expected to further add to the traffic volume in the area.

This bustling intersection is boxed in by the Chicago River, vehicular bridges and Metra railroad tracks—not an ideal site for a mega development. Traffic congestion also includes a steady flow of trucks from a cement plant and other industries on Goose Island. Sadly, when it comes to managing transportation and traffic, Chicago is suddenly bad at this task. We used to be good at Transportation. Now, all the concrete barriers and roadway-blockers City Hall has erected on local streets is strangling the city’s ability to conduct commerce, not to mention the suicidal elimination of commercial street parking in favor of privileged bike paths.

In 2022, Bally’s predicted the casino would pump \$200 million annually into city pension coffers. However, Bally’s is not contractually required by the city to actually deliver that amount.

Experts say the choice of the Bally’s site at the nearly impassable corner of Chicago Ave. and Halsted St. is likely the worst possible location for a successful, money-making casino.

“Bally’s bought the deal with a \$40-million upfront bribe,” noted Mr. Zak. “The Chicago-and-Halsted site is the most hor-

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# Mayor's secret \$3.3B bid on a \$2.53B parking meter asset

*Johnson's bad math wouldn't have paid off*

BY BOB ZULEY

City Council members have long suspected that City Hall wasn't being completely forthcoming about the pending parking meter sale with 22 alders signing a letter on June 8 accusing the Mayor of withholding critical information.

During the June 25 Finance Committee hearing, Ald. Matt O'Shea [19th] asked the city's attorney, James McDonald, how much the Johnson administration bid was to regain control of the parking meter operation. McDonald said flatly that the bid information was subject to a confidentiality agreement that the city had signed, and refused to answer.

However, James Wyper, a senior managing director at Stonepeak Partners acknowledged the actual \$3.3 billion over-inflated bid from the city, and joined Council members to force Mayor Johnson "out of hiding" at the start of the Finance Committee meeting.

Stonepeak Partners is the New York investment firm seeking to acquire Chicago's parking meters from their current owners, Morgan Stanley, Allianz Capital Partners, and the Sovereign Wealth Fund of Abu Dhabi.

Johnson's over-inflated bid is triple the \$1.15 billion that the Daley administration received from the 75-year lease in 2008, and a whopping \$800 million more than Stonepeak's \$2.53 billion bid.

Somebody must have explained math to Johnson, who admitted that the bid offer "would have made a bad deal worse" and withdrew the offer earlier this year.

Wyper described the city's bid as "imprudent given what we know about" the city's precarious finances.

The city's bid would have been financed by "municipal bonds funded against the city's cash flow stream. We were very surprised. We assumed for some time that the city wasn't interested or capable of raising that quantity or magnitude of funds," Wyper told the Finance Committee, noted Fran Spielman of the Sun-Times.

While Chicago could technically issue municipal bonds to buy back the meters, the city's financial experts and the mayor's office determined it was financially unfeasible. The parking meters generate roughly \$160 million in gross annual revenue.

Financing a \$3.3 billion purchase at municipal bond rates would require debt



Mayor Johnson's bid to buy back Chicago parking meters doesn't add up.

***Mayor Brandon Johnson's over-inflated bid is triple the \$1.15 billion that the Daley administration received from the 75-year lease in 2008, and a whopping \$800 million more than Stonepeak's \$2.53 billion bid.***

service payments exceeding the annual revenue, creating an annual structural deficit. To cover the massive interest payments, future city councils would have been obligated to continuously increase parking rates for decades. Johnson's poor business skills could have caused Chicago financial strain for decades.

Ald. Matt Martin [47th] reported in his weekly newsletter Friday that while the mayor rescinded his offer at the 11th hour, the Council is still weighing whether Stonepeak may have invested in companies that defrauded U.S. service members, shipped liquified natural gas from Russia, and transported immigrants in aircraft with abhorrent conditions.

## Public comment opens on Peoples Gas' proposed price hikes

The Illinois Commerce Commission [ICC] is offering Peoples Gas customers an in-person opportunity to provide comments on the utility's proposed price hikes. The public are invited to attend the public comment forum 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, July 15 at Roosevelt Univ., 430 S. Michigan Ave., in the Ida B. Wells Lounge.

Peoples Gas controls effectively 100% of the natural gas utility delivery market (the actual pipeline infrastructure and distribution) on the North Side. They are the exclusive franchised provider for the entire city of Chicago.

Upon arrival attendees will be directed toward the second floor. A table with a sign-up sheet will be available to anyone interested in providing verbal comments during the forum. ICC Administrative Law Judges presiding over the case will be onsite to

accept the verbal comments.

Peoples Gas has just filed a rate increase request with the ICC seeking an additional \$202.3 million. Representatives from Peoples Gas will offer a brief presentation on their proposed general rate increase. Immediately following the public comment portion of the forum, the ICC staff will hold a question-and-answer session.

Since 2011, Peoples Gas has raised its base delivery rates by \$499 million, or 98%. This does not include the variable cost of the gas itself, which fluctuates based on the market, or additional rate hikes—such as the record \$303 million increase granted in 2023.

Those unable to attend the forum may submit comments via the ICC website or by calling 1-800-524-0795.

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## Independence Day at the Chicago History Museum

Starting at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, July 4, the Americana Concert Band returns to the Chicago History Museum for a free outdoor concert featuring patriotic favorites, an inspiring spoken-word performance, and a special appearance from an Abraham Lincoln Reenactor.

The Museum's North & Clark Café will be selling Chicago-style hot dogs, sodas, and ice cream on the Plaza from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

Seating will be provided in

the Plaza, 1601 N. Clark St., and guests are welcome to bring their own lawn chairs or blankets. A free RSVP is requested, visit <https://www.chicagohistory.org/event/americana-concert-band-performance/>. The museum will be open during the performance for bathroom access.

After the concert, visitors can head over to nearby North Avenue Beach to watch the Navy Pier fireworks.

## Lawmakers boost their salaries to over \$100,000

BY LILLY ROSSI  
*Illinois Policy Institute*

Lawmakers boosted their salaries to over \$100,000. Their base pay has risen almost 50% since J.B. Pritzker became governor, compared with just a 30% increase for Illinoisans.

Illinois lawmakers have now pushed their salaries to over six figures.

Their base pay will rise to \$101,450, fourth-highest in the country for state lawmakers, in the budget Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed June 16.

Add in meals and lodging and bonuses for leadership and committee positions and the average total compensation will be just under \$134,000.

Since Pritzker took office in early 2019, Illinois lawmakers have given themselves raises to-

taling nearly \$34,000 in base pay. That's a nearly 50% increase, far outpacing the 30% rise Illinoisans have seen in that time.

Pritzker argues that higher pay will help attract and retain talent in government. Others argue that well-paid lawmakers "are less susceptible to corruption and can devote more time to constituents."

Yet despite their high pay, Illinois was the second-most corrupt state in a late 2023 report as measured by federal corruption convictions since 1976.

The face of Illinois corruption is Michael Madigan, 84, who ruled the Illinois House for 36 years, longer than any legislative leader in U.S. history. Known as "The Velvet Hammer," he quietly used his power to build a political machine that controlled Springfield and converted that power into personal and political gain.

A federal jury found Madigan guilty on 10 counts of bribery, conspiracy and wire fraud, concluding that he used his office to reward allies with no-show jobs and contracts in exchange for favorable legislation. U.S. District Judge John Robert Blakey called it "abuse of power at the highest level."

On April 27, a federal appeals court upheld Madigan's conviction.

Paying lawmakers well cannot eliminate corruption. Illinois can combat corruption by tightening lax conflict-of-interest rules. Lawmakers should be barred from working as lobbyists and property tax attorneys.

Despite passing almost 400 bills this session, lawmakers boosted their own pay while fumbling any opportunities to lower taxes and increase the state's housing supply.

### TAX from p. 3

Illinois at some point during the month, perhaps during a layover at O'Hare or while in Chicago for a convention?" he asked.

Walczak and others have noted the law's potentially sweeping effect, threatening to loop in companies most people may not associate as being subject to the tax.

While supporters of such taxes have pointed to large social media companies, like Meta, Google and other operators of prominent social media sites, Walczak noted the measure could also impose a potentially crushing tax on lesser sites like AllTrails, a platform on which users can share route maps and other information about their favorite hiking trails.

"A social media platform is a website or internet medium that 'permits a person to become a registered user, establish an account, or create a profile,' permits sharing and viewing of user-generated content, and 'primarily serves as a medium for users to interact with content generated by other users of the medium,'" Walczak wrote. "This captures Facebook, X, LinkedIn, Instagram, YouTube, and Reddit, among others. But how about Yelp, Nextdoor, Substack, GitHub, WhatsApp, or Telegram? The language is unclear."

But beyond the problems with legal definitions, Walczak and others have noted the potentially unconstitutional nature of the law's proposed penalties.

The law would allow the state to impose penalties on companies that don't pay up what the state believes they owe. The penalties would be "an amount equal to 100% of the unpaid fee and any penalties each month until the fee is paid."

Walczak noted such compounding costs could be "astronomical" and subject to the determination of the Secretary of State's office.

"Bear in mind that at some point, fines become unconstitutionally excessive," said Walczak.

### The return of the Stamp Act?

But the measure could legally fail at other key points, as well. Free speech advocacy group, the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression [FIRE], has said it believes the social media tax

falls far short under the First Amendment.

"Pinpointing where exactly the problems that doom this proposal begin is a tall order," FIRE wrote in an analysis.

*The Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression and other observers have noted the measure's constitutional infirmities date back to the very foundation of the American republic, as they equated such "social media taxes" to the British 1765 Stamp Act that helped to trigger the American Revolution in the first place.*

FIRE asserted the measure amounts to an unconstitutional "regulation of speech."

They and other observers have noted the measure's constitutional infirmities date back to the very foundation of the American republic, as they equated such "social media taxes" to the British 1765 Stamp Act that helped to trigger the American Revolution in the first place.

The Stamp Act required publishers to pay a tax to obtain a stamp on all published works to show they had been approved by the government.

In the centuries since the Revolution and the establishment of the First Amendment, in large part in response to the excesses of the British Crown, courts in the U.S. have repeatedly struck down attempts by states and tyrants to impose taxes aimed at publishers.

FIRE predicted Illinois' tax on "social media" is also doomed. "We're not surprised to see a proposal like this filled with ambiguities and holes. As states have attempted to turn around the losing streak social media regulation has faced in court, we've seen a number of half-baked schemes to find some kind of creative workaround," FIRE wrote.

"States have tried to avoid scrutiny by casting their speech restriction as regulating 'design

choices,' by targeting platforms through the app store, and by labeling their target 'conduct' rather than 'speech.'

"Fortunately for free speech, the courts aren't impressed. An attempt to punish speech is an attempt to punish speech, any way it's structured," FIRE wrote.

Critics have also pointed out what Walczak called the "laughably incomplete" nature of the legislation, passed hurriedly as part of the state budget at 4 a.m. on June 1, the final day of the spring legislative session in Springfield.

Despite state constitutional provisions supposedly requiring all legislation to be read in each chamber on three separate days, the measure was rushed through by Democratic leadership using legislative maneuvers blessed by the Illinois Supreme Court under a legal doctrine, by which the House Speaker and State Senate President can simply sign a document affirming all constitutional rules were followed in passing the legislation.

"The concept of a social media platform tax had been in the governor's budget proposal for months, but language was only provided with the enactment of the budget early the morning of June 1," Walczak wrote. "Lawmakers and the public had no time to review the text before the vote."

"And while the governor's team had months to work on the idea, they seem not to have made good use of their time, because the new tax is silent on crucial points and contains a litany of errors and inconsistencies across a few short pages of text. It would be hard to take the new tax seriously, except that it's now Illinois law."

For its part, NetChoice had attempted to warn Pritzker of the perceived legal and constitutional infirmities baked into the "social media tax" proposal.

The organization laid out its case in a letter sent to the governor and also posted publicly on its website, calling on Pritzker to veto the tax, as well as a separate tax the state has now imposed on digital ads.

They warned the governor the tax, even if it were upheld, would

TAX see p. 12



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**Letters to the Editor**

**High-profile developments fail one fundamental test**

Several recent high-profile development deals fail one fundamental test: appropriateness. Before debates over density, financing, architecture, or economic benefits begin, every proposal should answer one simple question: Is it appropriate for its location? If a project fails that test, no amount of marketing, political support, or attractive renderings can overcome the mismatch.

Recent proposals illustrate the problem. Some would overwhelm neighborhoods by displacing businesses, public amenities, parking, and the everyday conveniences that make communities function. Others would replace long-established community assets with projects that are simply too large for their surroundings. Good planning should strengthen those assets, not diminish them, while respecting the character that residents and businesses have built over generations.

These proposals are part of a

**Difficult for anyone to imagine**

Thomas O’Gorman asks if we could “imagine” the current Chicago mayor helping John Kennedy become president? Indeed at the 1960 Democratic convention Richard M. Daley delivered Illinois delegates to Kennedy. Yet O’Gorman not surprisingly does not inform us of Daley’s performance at subsequent conventions.

At the 1968 convention held here in Chicago, Daley was roundly booed on national television on numerous occasions when his name was mentioned. The chairman of the Wisconsin delegation was applauded when he proposed from the convention floor that the convention adjourn and move to a safe city.

When Daley responded it was difficult to hear him as he was so loudly shouted down. Then at the next national Democratic convention in 1972 Daley and his hand-picked delegates were expelled from attending much less participating in the proceedings. He was not even allowed on the convention floor!

He was back in attendance at the following national convention in 1976 which would be his last. He had only a small role in helping Jimmy Carter win the nomination with almost no role at the convention. He also complained about his seating arrangement on the convention floor. Carter won the election but Daley was quite upset when he saw the plans for the presidential inauguration that he was to be seated behind a pole thereby keeping him essentially out of sight.

He died before suffering that humiliation.

It would be most difficult for anyone to “imagine” Mayor Johnson if he is still mayor being expelled at the next national Democratic convention and not even being allowed to be on the convention floor. That dubious and infamous distinction is unique to Old Man Daley.

*Fred Case, Lake View*

broader redevelopment strategy resulting from a series of zoning decisions. Planning determines what should be built. Design determines how it should be built. Before discussing architecture, building mass, height, density, or the number of units, cities must first determine whether additional development rights are appropriate for the site. When project design precedes sound planning, the process is turned upside down.

Successful cities grow by adding to what makes neighborhoods work rather than subtracting from it. Development should strengthen neighborhood character, respect scale, preserve essential services, improve the way a community functions, and leave future generations with places they value. Appropriateness should always be the first test. That is the role of planning, not design.

*Tim Carew, Old Town*

**Ald. Vasquez speaks with forked tongue**

Many Chicago aldermen have shown chutzpah. Ald. Andre Vasquez [40th] raises his hypocrisy to an art form. He seems to lie out of both sides of his mouth.

Vasquez stood up at a City Council meeting and decried the parking meter deal, trying to pander to the common man. Back in the neighborhood though, Vasquez panders to the billionaires.

By taking parking spots out of circulation on Catalpa Ave. in Andersonville, Chicago taxpayers have to reimburse the parking meter company for lost revenue. Not for actual lost revenue, not for projected revenue but for potential revenue. So that metered spot that is unused overnight, still generates the company revenue 24/7/365 if taken out of circulation temporarily for street festivals or for conversion to a plaza. For the next 58 years.

So explain again, why does Catalpa Ave., a critical roadway connecting Clark and Ashland, need to be converted to a pedestrian plaza?

To remember a trans activist? Why? Is Andersonville a hotbed of MAGA Country? Or to pay off the billionaires who control Ald. Vasquez?

And I thought dogs made the best pets, not aldermen.

Forty-eight parking spots at half a million dollars per spot comes out to \$24 million, just to buy out the parking meter contract for the plaza. Think of how many poor children that money could have helped instead.

It came out in a City Council hearing that the taxpayers, you, me, your parents, my parents, but probably not Andre Vasquez, have reimbursed the parking meter company \$246 million out of the \$1.15 billion we sold the meters for, in “lost revenue.”

That’s 21% in just 16 years. At that rate, we will give back all the money the City received up front.

We gave away the meters for nothing. Just what Andre Vasquez’ billionaire bosses wanted.

*Mike Sullivan, Avondale*

**Restoration ribbon cutting for Lincoln Statue**

There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the recently restored Able Lincoln Monument in Lincoln Park, 10 a.m. Saturday, July 4 at Dearborn St. and North Ave.

Neighbors will be celebrating the restoration of this artistic and historically significant statue of the 16th President.

The Lincoln Park Conservancy is partnering with the Chicago Park District and the Chicago History Museum for the ribbon-cutting ceremony. After the event ceremonies, guests are invited to enjoy the July 4 holiday festivities at the Chicago History Museum, which are free and open to the public.

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# Police Beat...

## Criminal damage to Lincoln Park store

Area Three Detectives are seeking to identify and offender for a Criminal Damage to Property that occurred on March 30, in the 2400 block of N. Lincoln Ave. at 3:50 a.m.

Police describe the offender as a male White with long hair wearing a surgical mask, carrying an orange bag.

Those who have any information, may contact Area 3 Detectives at 312-744-8263 or submit an anonymous tip at CPDTIP.com and use reference #JK199407.

## Random murder of Divvy bike rider in Grant Park is solved with license plate reader technology

Chicago police used license plate reader technology to quickly locate witnesses and then make an arrest in the completely random murder of a Divvy bike rider in Grant Park June 15, prosecutors said as they charged a 19-year-old man with the murder.

According to prosecutors, Eliel Argudo-Tenorio was part of a birthday



Eliel Argudo-Tenorio

gathering that began at a Chicago residence before a six-car caravan traveled to the 300 block of E. Jackson Dr. in Grant Park late on June 15. The group parked in a line along the curb, got out of their vehicles, and drank alcohol, prosecutors said. Surveillance footage reviewed by investigators captured the events that followed.

About 30 minutes after the group arrived, Malik Jones, 27, turned his Divvy bike off Lake Shore Dr. onto Jackson and headed toward the group. Prosecutors said Jones had no connection to anyone at the party. Video footage allegedly showed Argudo retrieving a handgun from the front passenger window of a vehicle in the caravan moments later. Prosecutors said he immediately pointed the weapon at Jones as the cyclist rode away and looked back toward the group.

Jones then disappeared from the camera's view, followed by Argudo, prosecutors said. A moment later, Argudo allegedly fired a single shot, striking Jones in the right thigh. Prosecutors said he then returned the handgun through the passenger-side window of the vehicle where he obtained it, ran back to a white Mazda in the caravan, and climbed into the rear seat.

The entire group quickly got back into their vehicles and drove away toward Michigan Ave., according to prosecutors, and they were gone before police arrived. CPD officers found Jones lying on the ground near where the caravan had been

parked. Investigators recovered a single .45-caliber shell casing from the scene. He was transported to a hospital, where he died from his injuries.

Investigators quickly developed leads after a license plate reader captured the registration of the white Mazda that Argudo used to flee the scene. Chicago police distributed the plate information to patrol units across the city, and officers located the vehicle less than three hours later in the 4200 block of N. Hamlin Ave. Three members of the birthday party were inside the Mazda when police found it. According to prosecutors, two immediately identified Argudo as the shooter. A third witness told detectives that Argudo had been armed but claimed not to have seen the shooting itself.

One witness also told investigators that after Argudo climbed back into the Mazda following the shooting, he repeatedly admitted what he had done.

"I blew, I blew, I blew," the witness recalled him saying, according to prosecutors. The witness said Argudo also stated that he had "messed up." Detectives subsequently located two additional witnesses who also identified Argudo as the gunman, prosecutors said.

Investigators arrested Argudo at his Oak Park home later the same day. He is charged with first-degree murder. Judge Antara Rivera ordered him detained pending trial.

According to prosecutors, Argudo's juvenile record includes adjudications for possession of a stolen motor vehicle in 2024 and burglary and unlawful weapon possession in 2023.

## He stabbed a Blue Line passenger because eye contact 'triggers' him



Aaron Hawkins, inset, and surveillance images of the suspect.

A 28-year-old man told Chicago police he randomly stabbed a stranger aboard a CTA Blue Line train in the Loop because eye contact "triggers" him, officials said during a court hearing June 24. The South Loop resident was identified as the assailant after Chicago police released surveillance images of the suspect to the public following the attack.

Aaron Hawkins faces three counts of aggravated battery in connection with the June 3 assault, in which he allegedly stabbed a 38-year-old man multiple times in the neck and underarm while the train was near the LaSalle St. station. Officials said the victim was seriously injured and required stitches after the attack, which was entirely random.

Hoping to drum up leads, CPD released a set of CTA surveillance images to the media on June 14, a decision that paid off, according to Hawkins' arrest report. On June 23, Hawkins walked into the Central (1st) District police station and surrendered to face charges. Officials said his mother had recognized him in the CPD bulletin, and Hawkins also identified himself

as the man seen on the Blue Line images.

At a court hearing June 24, Judge Antara Rivera ordered Hawkins detained, saying he is "a danger to the community should anyone look at him."

## Judge acquits ex-CTA worker of murder in downtown Blue Line beating death

A former CTA customer service agent who was charged with murder after a man he beat at a downtown Blue Line station died, has been sentenced to two years of probation, after a judge found him guilty of less-serious aggravated battery charges at a bench trial, court records show.

Emmett Richardson, who worked at the LaSalle Street Blue Line stop, was found guilty last month by Judge Carol Howard of aggravated battery of a transit passenger and aggravated battery in a public place. But Howard found him not guilty on two counts of first-degree murder. On June 22, the judge sentenced him to 24 months of probation and ordered him to complete 20 hours of community service, court records show.

The charges stemmed from the death of Kevin Powell, 54, on March 25, 2023. Prosecutors said Richardson found Powell asleep on the platform around 3:17 a.m., next to a wheelchair loaded with belongings, and attacked him for more than an hour without provocation. Richardson kicked the wheelchair out from under Powell, knocking him to the ground, then kicked Powell's property across the platform, prosecutors said.

From there, prosecutors alleged, Richardson shoved Powell onto an escalator and followed him to the mezzanine level, where he yanked him over a railing, causing Powell to fall on his back. Richardson allegedly dragged Powell across the mezzanine floor, struck him with a cardboard drink carrier, and hauled him to the top of a staircase, first by his hood, then by his feet. There, prosecutors said, Richardson flipped Powell down the stairs feet-over-head, treating him "like so much garbage," in the words of former Assistant State's Attorney Lorraine Scaduto.

## Chicago man convicted of running meth pipeline to Iowa on Greyhound buses

A Chicago man who allegedly hauled methamphetamine to Iowa on Greyhound buses, sold it to customers, then returned home to restock before making the trip again, has been convicted on federal drug trafficking charges. A jury in Cedar Rapids found Jonathan Quinn Carter, 37, guilty of eight counts of distributing methamphetamine and aiding and abetting the distribution of methamphetamine after a three-day trial and about five hours of deliberations.

The case offered jurors a glimpse into what prosecutors described as a simple but lucrative pipeline: Carter would travel from Chicago to eastern Iowa carrying pound quantities of ice methamphetamine, distribute the drugs, then head back to Chicago to replenish his supply before repeating the cycle.

Federal authorities first took notice of Carter in Nov. 2024 when Illinois State Police allegedly found four pounds of ice methamphetamine in a vehicle he occupied during a traffic stop in Grundy County while he was traveling toward Iowa, officials said. Investigators later enlisted a confidential informant in Iowa who made a series of controlled drug purchases from Carter while law enforcement tracked his movements between Chicago, Cedar Rapids, and Iowa City last summer.

According to evidence presented at trial, Carter frequently traveled between Chicago and Cedar Rapids, transporting multiple-pound quantities of methamphetamine from the city to customers in Iowa.

One of those trips occurred on Aug. 10, 2025, when Carter stepped off a Greyhound bus from Chicago carrying what prosecutors described as a large, black, heavy duffel bag. Later that day, a confidential informant completed a controlled purchase of methamphetamine from him.

Within two days, Carter had gone to Chicago and returned to Iowa carrying only a backpack, officials said. Prosecutors argued the timing and circumstances suggested he had traveled home to replenish his drug supply. Carter's attorneys countered that the trip was an innocent trip to Chicago, "a large city with a lot to offer in the summer besides drugs." In Carter's case, the government said, the large city kept offering methamphetamine.

Nine days later, Carter met his demise as investigators watched him return to Iowa City on a Greyhound bus from Chicago. He placed a duffel bag in the trunk of an Uber but kept a backpack with him as he climbed into the rideshare and headed toward Cedar Rapids, prosecutors said.

When officers stopped the Uber for a defective headlight, they found approximately two pounds of methamphetamine in the backpack, according to trial testimony. Prosecutors also presented evidence that law enforcement officers purchased half-pound quantities of ice methamphetamine from Carter five times and that he helped arrange three additional drug transactions involving similar amounts.

Carter remains detained while awaiting sentencing. He faces a mandatory minimum of 15 years to a maximum of life imprisonment, along with a fine of up to \$20 million.

## Assailant shoved 69-year-old down CTA Red Line staircase



Surveillance images of the person suspected of pushing a 69-year-old man down the stairs at the Chicago-State Red Line station.

Chicago police are asking for the public's help identifying a suspect who pushed a 69-year-old man down the stairs inside a CTA station near the Magnificent Mile on June 24.

Mass Transit Detectives say the suspect approached the victim from behind as he walked down the staircase inside the Chicago-State Red Line CTA Station at 800 N. State St. around 1:50 p.m. June 24. The assailant grabbed the man's shoulder and shoved him down the stairs before fleeing the station, leaving the victim with "minor" injuries, according to CPD.

Police described the suspect as a Black male between 16 and 18 years old, 5-foot-6 to 5-foot-8, weighing between 150 and 170 lbs, with a light complexion. He was last seen wearing a green and black camouflage balaclava on the lower part of his face, a black hoodie, black pants and grey gym shoes.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Mass Transit Detectives at 312-745-4447 or submit an anonymous tip at CPDTIP.com, referencing case number JK-307232.

## Paroled Boystown rapist with ankle monitor accused of groping 6-year-old, but her mom's photo cracked the case

A man on parole, house arrest, and electronic monitoring for raping a woman in a Boystown alley 19 years ago sexually abused a 6-year-old girl at a South Side bus stop last weekend, prosecutors say. But the girl's mother managed to take a picture of the man before he got away, and an anonymous



James Spencer, left, and an image of the suspect.

tipster recognized him when Chicago police released the image to the public earlier this week.

That tip led police to James Spencer, 41, a registered sex offender who is now back in the Cook County jail after Judge John Hock ordered him detained June 25 on a charge of aggravated criminal sexual abuse of a child younger than 13. The state is now reviewing Spencer's parole status.

According to a detention petition, the girl was waiting with her mother and 8-month-old brother at a bus stop on the corner of State and 87th around 7:40 p.m. June 20 when Spencer parked at a nearby store and walked directly toward the family, bending down several times to get close to the girl. Prosecutors said the girl's mother noticed Spencer walking up behind the child, so she pulled the girl away and told Spencer not to touch her.

The bus arrived moments later, and Spencer boarded behind the family. Prosecutors said he then pretended to fall, began yelling, abruptly got off the bus, and walked away. The girl, who was visibly shaken, told her mother Spencer had grabbed her "part" and demonstrated the squeezing motion with her hands, according to prosecutors.

Infuriated, the mother got off the bus with her children and searched for Spencer. She found him at a nearby grocery store, where she snapped a photo of his face, which she later turned over to Chicago police. Chicago police issued a community alert June 21 using the photograph taken by the girl's mother. On June 22, an anonymous caller identified the man as Spencer, prosecutors said.

When detectives questioned Spencer, he allegedly admitted he was the man seen in surveillance video of the incident and in the mother's photograph. Prosecutors said he also acknowledged being at the bus stop, but claimed any contact with the girl was unintentional and caused by "stumbling."

During his detention hearing on June 25, prosecutors detailed two violent crimes against women that Spencer committed in Boystown early on Sept. 14, 2007. Shortly after 4 a.m., Spencer approached a woman from behind in the 800 block of W. Cornelia Ave., grabbed her by the neck, slammed her to the ground, stole her phone, and fled down the 3400 block of N. Elaine Pl.

There, he encountered a 40-year-old woman walking home with snacks she had just purchased at the 7-Eleven at Halsted and Roscoe streets. Spencer attacked her from behind, threw her to the ground, grabbed her by the neck, and threatened to kill her, officials said. He dragged the woman into a nearby alley, removed her clothing, and sexually assaulted her. Neighbors heard the woman's screams and called 911. Officers arrived in time to see Spencer still on top of the woman with his pants down. As he tried to escape, he threw the phone he had just taken from the robbery victim.

Spencer was sentenced to 15 years in prison for criminal sexual assault with a concurrent seven years for the robbery. He later received a concurrent five-year term

**POLICE BEAT** see p. 12

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# Man charged with beating, robbing Bally's employee inside casino restroom

BY CWB CHICAGO

A 32-year-old man is facing robbery charges after prosecutors said he and three other assailants attacked and mugged a Bally's Chicago employee inside a restroom at the company's temporary River North casino late last year.

Abraham Pozo, of Beach Park, is accused of participating in the Dec. 29 robbery inside the casino at 600 N. Wabash Ave., where prosecutors said a 26-year-old employee was beaten and robbed of his watch after being confronted by a group of men who asked about his gang affiliation inside a

restroom.

According to the detention petition, the employee was washing his hands around 2 a.m. when several men approached him and asked what gang he belonged to. After he replied that he was not in a gang, one member of the group blocked the exit while two others began punching him. As the victim fell to the floor, two more men, including Pozo, entered the restroom and began kicking him, prosecutors said.

While the victim was on the ground, one of the attackers, allegedly Pozo, reached into his pockets, demanded his watch,

and removed it from his wrist, according to the filing. The group then fled the casino and was captured on surveillance video entering a silver Honda, with its license plate visible. Investigators determined the vehicle was registered to Pozo.

Casino security personnel also reviewed surveillance footage and found that Pozo and the other men had presented identification when entering the casino. Prosecutors said Pozo scanned his



Abraham Pozo

passport at the entrance, allowing detectives to confirm he had been inside the casino at the time of the robbery.

The case hit a roadblock when the victim was unable to identify Pozo in a photo lineup. But investigators caught a break last month after Pozo was arrested at Soldier Field on a misdemeanor battery charge. Detectives sent surveillance images from the casino to the cops, who arrested Pozo at the stadium and asked if they recognized him. Both identified the person in the photos as Pozo, according to prosecutors.

Judge Luciano Panici, Jr. de-

tained Pozo, who faces one count of felony robbery.

Shortly after the robbery, a Bally's spokesperson acknowledged the incident in a statement provided to this reporter.

"Bally's Chicago is aware of a security-related incident that occurred on our property late last evening," the spokesperson said. "The safety and well-being of our guests, team members, and community remain our top priority. We are working with local authorities and our regulatory body actively on this case. Bally's remains committed to maintaining a safe and secure environment."

## When judges release dangerous criminals, there are ways for prosecutors to fight back. In Cook County, that almost never happens

BY CWB CHICAGO

After Alphonso Talley allegedly killed Chicago Police Officer John Bartholomew and critically wounded another officer at Swedish Hospital April 25, Cook County State's Attorney Eileen O'Neill Burke blasted a judge for placing Talley on electronic monitoring [EM] months earlier. But court records show her office never asked the judge to reconsider his release order, never appealed it, and did not try to jail Talley when he violated EM rules.

Talley is also accused of beating and robbing a Family Dollar cashier before shooting the two officers with a gun prosecutors said he kept hidden on his body after being arrested. A seven-time convicted felon, he had absconded from electronic monitoring six weeks earlier while awaiting trial on armed carjacking and armed robbery charges.

"EM is not an alternative to detention. It does not keep people safe," O'Neill Burke said April 28, calling the county's monitoring program "broken."

But defense attorneys and former prosecutors who spoke with this reporter said that while Burke's office is quick to criticize judges when things go wrong, it rarely challenges questionable pretrial release decisions in court.

"If they're going to argue that [EM]

doesn't keep the community safe, this is the case to use," said a defense attorney who asked not to be identified, pointing to the fact that Talley was already on electronic monitoring in April 2025 when he allegedly carjacked a woman at gunpoint and then robbed a man at gunpoint minutes later.

On Dec. 11, 2025, Talley was placed on an ankle monitor by Judge John Lyke despite being jailed for eight months on the new charges, having two other felony cases pending, and carrying previous convictions for four robberies and a gun possession charge.

While Burke and other public officials are now criticizing Lyke's decision, records show the Cook County State's Attorney's Office never asked him to revisit it.

Not only that, but when Talley had a string of EM violations in February, including some during overnight hours, an assistant state's attorney only asked Lyke to give Talley a verbal warning, adding that Talley "seems to be complying now."

That was the last time Talley appeared in court before he disappeared.

Talley is not a one-off. Records show Burke's office also failed to ask a judge to reconsider the EM release of Lawrence Reed, the man accused of setting a woman on fire aboard a Blue Line train in the Loop last November.

In a statement, Burke's office said it has "limited options" to fight problematic release decisions and pointed to appeals and a filing called a Motion for Relief as tools it has used with some success.

"Using these approaches, we have successfully reversed rulings and secured detention for defendants charged with the following offenses: criminal sexual assault, kidnapping, attempted first-degree murder, and aggravated vehicular hijacking," the office said.

CWB Chicago found two cases in which Burke's office successfully used a Motion for Relief: a suburban case in Dec. 2024 involving a man accused of kidnapping and raping a 16-year-old girl, allegations prosecutors said were supported by DNA evidence, and a Chicago case last spring in which prosecutors said a judge released a woman accused of shooting someone during a bar fight based on "demonstrably inaccurate" claims made by a defense attorney.

Such motions are extremely rare in Cook County, and Burke's office declined to discuss any appeals or motions that may be pending.

If a Motion for Relief fails, prosecutors can take the matter to an appellate court under Supreme Court Rule 604. Legal researchers working for CWB Chicago found 35 appellate court orders related to pretrial release decisions filed by state's attorneys across Illinois during the cashless bail era. None came from Cook County.

"If the state thought Judge Lyke's decision was wrong and that the community was in danger because of Judge Lyke's decision, then Rule 604 allowed for an appeal of Judge Lyke's decision and allowed a request for continued detention during the appeal," said one attorney. "It's a failsafe valve that would have gotten at least three Illinois appellate judges involved."

A source within the Cook County State's Attorney's Office said the office is cautious about filing appeals because an unfavorable ruling "may establish binding precedent with a negative impact" on public safety.

That caution may be understandable in some respects. Illinois appellate courts have shown a strong tendency to defer to lower court judges when the question at hand is a defendant's "dangerousness." As the Fourth District Court of Appeals wrote in one opinion, "This court will not substitute our own judgment for the judgment of the circuit court simply because we would have analyzed the proper factors differently."

"That can create an environment where a circuit court judge making bad pretrial release decisions goes unchecked because the appellate courts are operating on the premise that lower courts are using sound judgment," a former prosecutor said.

Of the 35 cases researchers found from other counties, 16 directly challenged a judge's finding that a defendant could safely be released under set conditions. Appellate courts reversed and remanded in only four of them, or 25%.

That dynamic could be one of the challenges with the SAFE-T Act, which has

PROSECUTORS see p. 12

## Thou shalt not carjack a priest: Teen gets four years for Holy Name hijacking attempt

BY CWBCHICAGO

A man who was on parole for armed robbery when he tried to carjack a priest outside Holy Name Cathedral, sparking a struggle inside the priest's SUV in front of the seat of the Archdiocese of Chicago, has been sentenced to four years in prison. Judge Michael Hood handed down the sentence to Raleigh Ford, 18, on June 22.

Ford was on parole for an armed robbery conviction when he targeted the priest on May 21, 2025, outside the landmark church at 730 N. Wabash Ave. According to prosecutors, the priest had driven to the cathedral to check the mail and have lunch with a group of nuns. He parked his 2015 Toyota RAV4 in front of the church, leaving it unlocked with the keys in the ignition.

When he returned, the priest allegedly found Ford examining the SUV before climbing into the driver's seat. The priest entered through the passenger door, lead-



Raleigh Ford

ing to a brief struggle inside the vehicle. Prosecutors said Ford punched the priest and tried to force him from the SUV. But the priest managed to pull the keys from the ignition, preventing Ford from driving away. Ford then ran from the scene.

The entire encounter was captured by cathedral surveillance cameras and three Chicago police officers who had previously arrested Ford recognized him from the footage, prosecutors said.

Five days later, Ford was arrested again after allegedly being found inside a 2011 Porsche Cayenne in the 1000 block of N. Clark St. Prosecutors said the vehicle's owner spotted Ford in the SUV and confronted him. Ford fled on foot but was located by responding officers a short distance away.

Ford's juvenile record includes three adjudications: an armed robbery case from 2024, for which he had been paroled just two days before the cathedral incident, and two stolen motor vehicle cases.

Under Illinois law, Ford will be required to serve 50% of his prison sentence. He will also receive credit for 483 days already spent in custody, making him eligible for release in a little more than eight months.

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**BIRTHDAY** from p. 2

vision of the nation's essayists, poets and writers, like the Adams boys and James Monroe. They fought using the printing press as a power-weapon for encouraging republican values and national independence. America's intellects were polished and fine-tuned, and our God-given right to free speech meant we all could hear and learn from our best and brightest.

And we learned acceptance of allowing for speech, even that which we may detest or disagree with.

Reason refined the process making liberty real over the next two and a half centuries of the Republic's failures and successes. Expanding from 13 states to 50, America enhanced the liberty of the world in its experiment with democracy and our Democratic Republic. From the defense of old Europe, twice, to guarding its freedom and dignity in the present, to welcoming the people of the world to our shores, measures the success of the experiment to date.

Keeping open that door is vital for everyone's liberty, as the poet Emma Lazarus writes, for "huddled masses yearning to be free." It's Emma's last four words that are most important. The essential unbroken thread to our success. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA.**

**ARTISTIC LEGACY:** The late **Richard Hunt's** remarkable sculpture, "Book Bird," is now in place at the Obama Presidential Center. Be sure to see it.

**REQUIEM:** This column mourns the passing of **Betty Rhodes Kalber**, 101, of Burr Ridge, and formerly Hinsdale and New Canaan, CT, the widow of the distinguished late Chicago journalist and broadcast anchor **Floyd Kalber**, long of NBC TV before joining the Today show in New York, and who later returned to Chicago to WLS ABC TV.

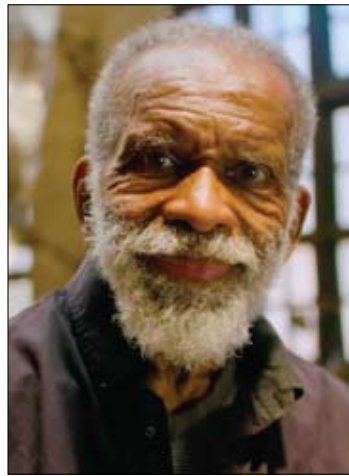
**ART THEFT:** The mayoral term of **Brandon Johnson** maybe remembered for its impact on art. Public art. Art owned by the City of Chicago. An investigation is revealing that public art appears to have been pinched from City Hall locations. Of course nobody appears to know whatever happened to these art works. A painting of some merit, hanging in the office of a top aide to former Mayor **Lori Lightfoot**, seems to have vanished. Like all the artwork it remains property belonging to the citizens of Chicago. It seems to have disappeared thanks to the sticky fingers of insiders who carted off the paintings. Never trust a commie. Of course no one knows



Chef Art Smith with his Chicago Hounds Rugby Champs.



Gordon Sinclair



Richard Hunt (left) and his sculpture, "Book Bird," at the Obama Presidential Center.



nuttin'.

**SUMMER BENEFIT:** Maestro **Rich Daniels** and team will host on July 16 at 5:30 pm, the first-ever event in support of the Scoring Stage / Postproduction / Music Campus project being created in Chicago. Your support will not only foster a new ecosystem of recording for Chicago - with a scoring stage and audio post-production studios - but it will also help bring the iconic Stock Yards Bank building back to life, transforming it into a learning center and performance space. At DePaul's University's Holtschneider Performance Center, 2330 N. Halsted.

**THE GREEN MILL:** Longtime owner **Dave Jemilo** has officially sold the iconic Uptown Jazz venue, the Green Mill Cocktail Lounge. Jemilo, who has operated the Prohibition-era club at 4802 N. Broadway since 1986, sold the business to longtime employees Jason Cole and Jill Skintges.

**PAPAL VISIT:** In Vatican City, President **José María Balcázar** held an official hearing with **Pope Leo XIV** to extend the formal invitation to visit Peru. The Holy Father confirmed his arrival there for the first fortnight of November. Is Chicago next?

**ICONS:** Former President **Barack Obama** brought a golden variety of Amer-

ican cultural icons to town for his center opening. Many, many men in khaki suits for the opening, including **Stephen Colbert** and **David Letterman** seen in the crowd, and **Stephen Spielberg**, **George Lukas**, former House Speaker **Nancy Pelosi**, **Mark Hamill**, **Isaiah Thomas**, **Angela Merkel**, former Canadian Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** were on a "Steakout" at Gibson's on Rush. Come back again soon!

**PONZI CROOK:** An Illinois investment advisor has been indicted on federal fraud charges for allegedly swindling clients in a Ponzi scheme. **Paris Kopsaftis** operated Illinois-based Blackwater Assets, Inc. From 2020 to 2025, Kopsaftis fraudulently solicited and obtained money from victims based on false representations about the intended use of the investments and the performance and value of the investments, according to the indictment. Kopsaftis falsely told the victims that he would invest the money for their benefit, when, in reality, he knew he intended to use some of their funds for personal use, including paying his own bills. Kopsaftis allegedly engaged in a Ponzi scheme by using some investor funds to repay prior investors. The indictment alleges that Kopsaftis concealed his fraud by creating and providing false documentation to his victims reflecting that their investments were worth more than they actually were. He was busted by **Andrew S. Boutros**, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and **Douglas S. DePodesta**, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago FBI.

**WHO'S WHERE:** **Sherrill Bodine** in a magic garden for Carrots & Cocktails - a benefit for Urban Autism, where students grow and sell their own food right here in Chicago... noted restaurateur **Gordon Sinclair**, a lifelong "New Yorker" reader, is puzzled who pays for his on-going subscription... Film producer **Joey Majumdar** with **Priscilla Presley** in Hollywood and Chicago for charity fundraising, book signings and those great moments at Oscar time... **Sherry Lea Fox** with **Todd Hatoff** and **Frank N. Jeffrey** at the Peninsula soiree celebrating 25 years of elegance, hospitality, and unforgettable memories... **Sean Eshaghy** in London with good friend **Caroline Sherman** on chairing a great

event, 'Arts and Minds', for Place2Be, a wonderful children's art charity based in the UK... **Steven Zick** in Ireland, a morning spent in magical Mullaghmore, County Sligo, with Classiebawn Castle (**Lord Mountbatten's** Irish home) still looming over its hill... **King Charles III** offering **Prince Harry** and **Meghan Markle** an olive branch before their upcoming UK arrival... Birthday best wishes, a tad late, to **Joey Majumdar**, **Charlie Gitto**, **Liz Teasley**, **Colin Hughes**, **Annie Friday**, **Bobbi Panter**, **Diane O'Connell**, **Jan Coulbourne**, **Michael Lerich**, **Peggy Martay**, **Rhonda Sanderson** and **Tim Dever**... Grand Beach's **Kaye Moriarty** spent a fun weekend walking with old friends from Butch McGuire's Tavern (on Division) to Mary Joe McGuire's Tavern (on Lincoln)... Ahoy on the river, where the U.S. Floorboard Team caught a boat tour, spotted was Chicago's floorboarder **Keene Addington**... The Chicago Hounds made Major League Rugby history with a perfect 10-0 regular season as co-owner Chef **Art Smith** added star power. Go Hounds... While storms raged outside and tornado warnings filled the air, the Arts Club of Chicago glowed with warmth, friendship, and bright smiles as **Linda Robin's** 80th birthday was celebrated in style with **Gale Fisher** as host... **Todd S. Davis** is restoring and coloring a series of rare images documenting the history of the Allerton Club Residences, one of Chicago's most ambitious residential hotel projects of the 1920s... **Grant DePorter** of Harry Caray's Restaurant Group—and former Illinois Restaurant Assoc. Board Chair—was honored at the Gilda's Club awards dinner... Peter Martino back from a great 10-day trip to Bologna - Emilia-Romagna, and the Bellagio in Lake Como... **Patricia Bidwill** at the U.S. Olympic training park... **Kathy Wolter Mondelli** at Chicago Prime Steakhouse with **Dee Carini-Calabrese** and **Jerry Jam** where they caught **Tony Ocean** performing better than ever... this columnist ran into **Betty Stoke** twirling pasta at Mart Anthony's on Hubbard, always a delight... Heard from former Chicago news reporter **Lilia Chicon**, now out in New Mexico, but keeps track of things back here by reading Skyline... Piccolo Sogno for Fathers Day dinner bubbled lively, especially at **Tony** and **Lynn McGuire's** table where they gathered with son, St. Ignatius Alum **Christopher** and wife, **Dina**... **Steve** and **Mary Regina Rigik** dining there as well.

**B-BALL CHAMPS:** Chicagoan, now a New Yorker, Archbishop **Ron Hicks**, brought his Knick's jersey into the pulpit on Sunday at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

**TOP DOG:** Steppenwolf Theatre Co. will launch its 51st Season with **Suzan-Lori Parks'** Pulitzer Prize-winning drama Topdog/Underdog, helmed by Tony Award-winning director **Kenny Leon**, who returns to Steppenwolf following his hit production of King James. Ensemble members **Glenn Davis** and **Namir Smallwood** go head-to-head in this highly-anticipated revival.

**CHI-TOWN FASHION:** **Contessa Bottega** attended the Hypocratic Research Foundation Gala given by **Eleni Bousis**, with a fashion show by Zazz Productions. The evening was fabulous, and the Theater on the Lake was magnificent. The evening was wonderful.

Where liberty dwells, there is my country. — Benjamin Franklin

tog515@gmail.com

## Cranes for Peace Project

A new project has been launched by the Japanese Culture Center and the Osaka Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International, and the Japanese American Service Committee that is seeking volunteer paper-folders.

They have established a goal to fold over 1,000 origami cranes to contribute to this collaborative art project—and they're calling on the community to help out.

Folders can participate by folding cranes at home (please leave wings up and unfolded for storage), by joining upcoming folding workshops at JASC, 5700 N. Clark St., where guests will be provide the origami paper and guidance.

Those who plan to drop off folded cranes should contact Ruby at rgrillier@jasc-chicago.org, and they'll make sure they are transported to the Japanese Culture Center.

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## BALLY'S from p. 4

rendous place they could put it."

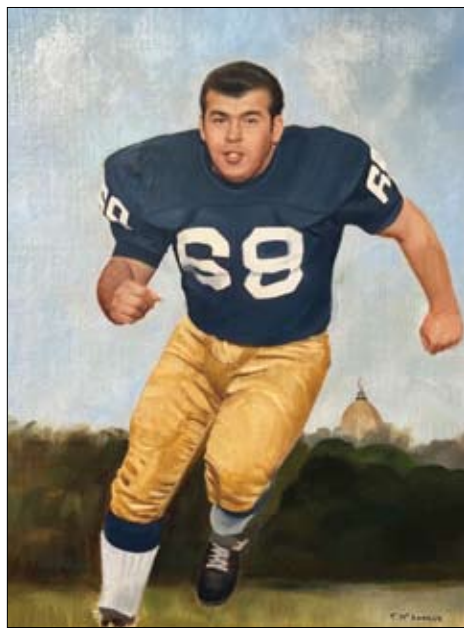
Mr. Zak—and this writer—agree that the most logical start-up casino site would have been at Lakeside Center—the original McCormick Place East—for what could have been an instant "pop-up" downtown casino that likely would have instantly raised millions in gaming tax dollars for the city.

The bottom line on the beef between Bally's and the city of Chicago is whether

or not legalizing VGTs citywide is worth blowing up the casino contract—sparking the litigation that surely would follow.

It's all crap shoot. Let's roll the dice! And, whatever happened to Bally's \$40-million payment?

For more housing news, visit [www.don-debat.biz](http://www.don-debat.biz). Don DeBat is co-author of "Escaping Condo Jail," the ultimate survival guide for condominium living. Visit [www.escapingcondojail.com](http://www.escapingcondojail.com).



(L) Peter Schivarelli at Notre Dame, and today (R). (Center) This summer, the band Chicago will return with a live performance in Rosemont.

## Chicago: The man behind the band is Peter Schivarelli

BY MELODY BROMMA

*In memory of  
Walter Parazaider 1945- 2026*

“Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is?” The answer, as it turns out, begins in 1959.

On a quiet Sunday morning, 10-year-old Peter Schivarelli was walking his grandmother to church bingo when he noticed another boy his age doing the same thing.

Who was the boy? Walter Parazaider.

Parazaider, founding saxophonist and woodwind player for the band Chicago, died at age 81 on June 17. He passed away in hospice care from complications of Alzheimer’s disease, which he had been battling for six years.

But back when he and Schivarelli were kids, neither youngster could have imagined that their chance meeting would blossom into a lifelong friendship and eventually help shape one of America’s most enduring rock bands.

Years later, Schivarelli watched as Parazaider and his new band lit up Chicago clubs such as Schuba’s and Barnaby’s with a sound unlike anything the city had heard before. A bold fusion of rock, jazz and a powerhouse three-piece horn section, the music was unmistakably Chicago.

Schivarelli was captivated—and before long, his own life would become intertwined with the band’s remarkable journey.

This reporter recently sat down with Schivarelli for a behind-the-scenes conversation about the group that has become one of the most successful touring bands in music history. With more than 100 million records sold, and Top 40 hits spanning six consecutive decades, Chicago has earned a permanent place in the soundtrack of American life.

Schivarelli’s own path was anything but conventional.

After high school, he was accepted by several colleges, but only one mattered. His dream was to attend the Univ. of Notre Dame and play football for the Fighting Irish. Rather than settle, he waited until he earned a scholarship, eventually arriving on the Notre Dame campus in his early 20s.

Later, he opened the iconic Demon Dogs restaurant under the ‘L’ tracks near DePaul Univ., a Chicago institution that became a favorite gathering place for students, politicians, celebrities and musicians alike. Tucked away in a small office behind the restaurant, Schivarelli balanced his business interests with public service. From 1971 through 2003, he served as Superintendent of Chicago’s 43rd Ward, devoting more than three decades to neighborhood improvement while quietly becoming one of the city’s most respected civic leaders.

Ironically, managing a rock band had never entered his plans.

“When I was a senior at Notre Dame,”



Schivarelli recalled with a laugh, “a counselor told me to make a list of every job I thought I’d ever want. I called it my ‘List of 1,000 Jobs.’ The only thing that wasn’t on the list was the music business.”

Life, however, had other ideas.

In its earliest days, Chicago was known simply as The Big Thing. First came Walter Parazaider, followed by keyboardist and songwriter Robert Lamm, and the pieces

***Former Mayor Daley is also part of the Chicago story, since he ordered the band to change its name from Chicago Transit Authority. A gift for the band, as the name and logo have become as recognizable as the skyline.***

gradually fell into place. The group relocated to Los Angeles, where legendary manager Howard Kaufman recognized their enormous potential.

Former Mayor Daley is also part of the Chicago story, since he ordered the band to change its name from Chicago Transit Authority. A gift for the band, as the name and logo have become as recognizable as the skyline.

Schivarelli remained close to the band as its career exploded.

He recalls Chicago opening for Jimi Hendrix during a summer tour before attracting the attention of Janis Joplin, who invited them to join her tour. Success came quickly, and before long Chicago needed an opening act of its own.

One of those opening acts happened to be an ambitious young rocker named Bruce Springsteen. After only a handful of performances, Springsteen decided he was ready to headline on his own and marched off into rock history.

Although Schivarelli studied piano for several years as a child, he insists those lessons did nothing to prepare him for the music business. Instead, his greatest contribution has been leadership built on trust.

He gives the musicians complete artistic freedom, allowing them to vote on major decisions while he focuses on protecting the band’s future.

Since 1967, there has never been a year when Chicago has not toured. Few American bands can claim such legendary longevity while maintaining the loyalty of generations of fans. Rock N Roll Hall of Famers and inductees in The Songwriters Hall of Fame are among their accolades.

More than six decades after two boys unknowingly crossed paths, Schivarelli remains the steady hand behind one of rock’s greatest success stories. For millions of fans around the world, he has truly been “You’re the Inspiration.”

For Chicago, it is still “Only the Beginning.” Their charitable efforts are off the charts (so to speak): The Shriner’s Chicago Hospital; I Heart Radio the largest network

in the world helping musicians with long-term care needs; and Chicago Paws. Never forgetting his Notre Dame roots, a charity called “Defeat DIPG Foundation” that battles brain cancer ranks high on the list of recipients. Five-year-old Chad Carr died from it and his big brother, C.J. Carr, (who is a Heisman Trophy contender this year) began the Foundation.

This summer, Chicago returns to Rosemont, once again inviting audiences to spend “Saturday in the Park” with one of America’s most beloved bands. For Schivarelli, whose journey began with a childhood friendship on a walk to church, it represents yet another chapter in a story that has become as much a part of Chicago’s history as the city itself.

To see the All-American band, Chicago, Saturday, Aug. 1 at Rosemont, go to Ticketmaster.com.

**POLICE BEAT** from p. 8

for a burglary case that was solved in 2009 after DNA testing of blood at the crime scene came back to him.

His criminal history also includes a 2006 arrest in Missouri for forcible rape, although prosecutors on Thursday said the disposition of that case was unknown. Before going to prison, Spencer had accumulated multiple retail theft and misdemeanor arrests. As a juvenile, he was detained four times, including for robbery and theft, according to court records.

**Grant Park cross-burner, charged with anti-Christian and anti-Black hate crimes, took time to smoke a cigarette at fire scene**

When Merlin Lu burned a cross in Grant Park in June, prosecutors charged him with two hate crimes. Now, court records reveal who, exactly, he is accused of targeting: Black people and Christians. The details emerged from court filings and police reports that became available after Lu's initial court appearance.

Lu, 21, faces two counts of hate crime, along with arson and other charges, for the June 9 incident near Columbus Dr. in Grant Park. While public discussion initially focused on the cross-burning's historical association with racial intimidation, court records show prosecutors are also treating the act as a religion-based hate

crime because it involved burning a cross, the central symbol of Christianity.

According to court filings, Lu told investigators he built the cross to protest what he described as "MAGA Christian nationalists" who support President Donald Trump. He said he bought blocks of wood, nails, a hammer, and kerosene at a Home Depot on two separate



Merlin Lu

trips over the course of a month, then hauled everything more than a mile from his Near West Side apartment to the park — a location he chose, he allegedly told police, because it was downtown and people would see it. That part of his plan worked flawlessly, as a passerby captured the burning cross on video, and it quickly spread online.

Once in the park, Lu allegedly told detectives, he assembled the cross, wrapped it in toilet paper, tied a red MAGA-style cap to the top, dumped a gallon of kerosene on it, and set it on fire. Although, he did take a break during the cross construction phase to smoke a cigarette. According to court filings, he told detectives he learned how to start the fire by watching YouTube.

Lu, who told detectives he studied chemistry, said he merged the cross and the red hat in his message because he associated them with MAGA Christian nationalism, officials said. He told investigators he held no grievances against Christians broadly, only those who want to impose Christianity on the entire country, detectives noted. But prosecutors argue that burning a cross in a public park with the mindset Lu described suggests an anti-Christian message was intended.

On the race-based count, Lu has been consistent: he says he had no idea cross burnings carried racial significance or were used by the Ku Klux Klan to terrorize Black people. He told NBC5's Chuck Goudie before his arrest that he later learned about the history by reading a Wikipedia page. After that interview aired, the Univ. of Illinois Chicago told a WGN reporter that Lu "has not been enrolled with the university since the fall of 2025" — undercutting his claim to be a UIC senior.

Police identified him through Illinois Secretary of State facial recognition software, which matched a photo of the man fleeing the scene to Lu's driver's license photo. Detectives traced a kerosene bottle cap recov-

INSIDE PUBLICATIONS

**TAX** from p. 6

also result in higher subscription fees or charges, or in social media platform operators essentially blacking out Illinois users from their products and services.

"The social media tax's flat per-user fee, disconnected from any platform's actual revenue or profit in Illinois, will be passed directly to consumers through higher subscription fees or charges for ser-

vices currently provided free," NetChoice wrote. "Platforms unable to absorb the cost may exit the Illinois market entirely, cutting residents off from vital communities, educational resources and business services."

"Auto dealers, restaurants promoting daily specials, community organizations coordinating volunteers and Chicago artists reaching audiences would all face higher costs or reduced access."

**PROSECUTORS** from p. 9

placed significant authority in the hands of judges.

"In most of the cases where Republicans have complained about the SAFE-T Act," Gov. JB Pritzker said last week, "it's actually been the bad decision by an elected judge in Illinois, or no hearing at all because the prosecutor didn't bring it to the judge, and that has been a reason why somebody gets let out."

ered near the cross to a specific Home Depot, where employees identified it by product number and confirmed Lu bought kerosene and a lighter there on May 31. Surveillance video and a receipt backed up the purchase. After being read his Miranda rights, Lu admitted to buying the materials, building the cross, and burning it. He also identified himself in store and park surveillance stills.

When detectives interviewed Lu after his arrest, he repeatedly directed them to his NBC5 interview, telling them it was "very clear about his reason and motivation." He also told investigators he reached out to NBC5 in the first place because people were misreading his message as anti-Black and he wanted to correct the record. He had tried posting clarifications to TikTok and YouTube first, then took those down and agreed to the on-camera interview instead.

The viral video scene, with flames climbing into a tree's upper branches, brought a swift response from officials. Gov. JB Pritzker condemned the burning on social media the day after it occurred, writing that the symbol "has one purpose: to stir up intimidation and terror." Mayor Brandon Johnson called the impact "devastating." But after Lu's stated motivations became public, state Rep. Chris Miller said Pritzker owed the public an updated response, arguing the governor

A spokesperson for Burke's office said her administration has been focusing detention efforts in First Appearance Court, where defendants are brought immediately after arrest.

Prosecutors there requested detention in 12,702 cases over the past calendar year, with judges granting 67% of those requests, the spokesperson said. That compares with 7,575 detention requests and a 63% success rate during the first 14 months of

had jumped ahead of the facts. "I look forward to J.B. Pritzker holding Merlin Lu accountable for MAGA hate because MAGA hate shouldn't have a home here in Illinois, right?" Miller said. Pritzker's office did not respond to questions about whether his position had changed.

At the June 18 detention hearing, prosecutors asked Judge D'Anthony Thedford to detain Lu pending trial. Thedford refused and also declined to impose electronic monitoring. He did order Lu, however, not to buy materials that could be used to start a fire, such as wood or kerosene.

Lu told investigators he built the cross to protest what he described as "MAGA Christian nationalist supporters" of President Donald Trump.

**Gunman shoots man in parked car in West Rogers Park, may have targeted others in the area**

A man was wounded in a shooting while sitting in his parked car in West Rogers Park June 28, and police are investigating whether the gunman also fired at another nearby vehicle moments later.

CPD said the 30-year-old victim was sitting in a parked vehicle in the 3000 block of W. North Shore Ave. around 1:24 a.m. when a man approached him. The two got into a "verbal altercation" before the offender pulled out a handgun and fired, striking the

NetChoice added: "We understand the difficult fiscal environment Illinois faces and respect the legislature's effort to address it. But these two provisions will not solve it. They will generate lawsuits, compliance costs, reduced services and reputational damage that far exceed any revenue gained."

Gov. Pritzker signed the measure into law.

cashless bail under former State's Attorney Kim Foxx.

A former prosecutor who reviewed those figures said the numbers raised more questions than they answered.

"There are more than 4,000 cases where a judge has denied a motion for detention," the former prosecutor notes. "And yet, they did not appeal a single one? That seems extraordinary to me."

victim twice in the arm, according to a CPD media statement. Paramedics took the man to St. Francis Hospital, where he was listed in fair condition.

The gunman fled westbound on foot. He was described as a clean-shaven Hispanic man, about 5 feet 8 inches tall, weighing about 180 lbs, and wearing a gray shirt.

Officers also responded to a couple of other gun-related incidents in the immediate area around the same time that may be connected. In one case, a 911 caller reported seeing a Hispanic man with curly hair carrying a gun while standing near a woman. When the caller asked what he was doing, the gunman allegedly warned the caller to leave before he started shooting.

In another incident, a man told officers he was sitting in his vehicle when a Hispanic man walked past, fired four shots at his car, and ran away. The driver was not injured, but bullets struck his vehicle, including one that shattered a window, according to a preliminary report.

CPD has not publicly linked the incidents or announced a motive. Detectives are continuing to investigate.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

**Rogers Park Township Real Estate For Sale**

**Real Estate For Sale**

010101

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION CITIBANK, N.A. Plaintiff

vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF JERRY MATTHEWS; DONNA J. MATTHEWS; 6500N. RIDGE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION; WILLIAM P. BUTCHER AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF JERRY MATTHEWS; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant

23 CH 2907 CALENDAR 60 NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on August 3, 2026, at the hour 11:00 a.m., Intercounty's office, 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, IL 60602, sell, in person, to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate: P.I.N. 11-31-401-091-1022. Commonly known as 6500 N. Ridge Blvd. Unit 4f, Chicago, IL 60626.

The real estate is: condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% (or 25% if so ordered in the Judgment of Foreclosure) down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property is sold AS IS subject to all liens or encumbrances. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the circuit court case record, property tax record and the title record to verify all information before bidding. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER THE ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(c) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Diaz Anselmo & Associates P.A., 1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120, Naperville, IL 60563. (630) 453-6960. 6710-191745

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Below is a link to a GoFundMe page that we established to help raise funds to fight this case in the Cook County Circuit Court. The page is titled "Your Friendly Neighborhood Newspapers."

"We would appreciate you sharing this link with anyone in your network who might like to help out their friendly neighborhood newspapers."

[www.gofundme.com/manage/your-friendly-neighborhood-newspapers](http://www.gofundme.com/manage/your-friendly-neighborhood-newspapers)



**North Township Real Estate For Sale**

**Real Estate For Sale**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION Planet Home Lending, LLC Plaintiff, -v-

Theresa M. Lucas; Citizens Bank, N.A.; The Midrise of Old Town Square Condominium Association; Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants Defendants.

2025CH08936 247 West Scott St #304, Chicago, IL 60610

NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 4/22/2026, an agent of Auction.com, LLC will conduct the Online Only auction at www.auction.com, with the bidding window opening on 7/27/2026 at 10:00 AM CDT and closing on July 29, 2026 at 10:00 AM subject to extension, and will sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate. Commonly known as 247 West Scott St #304, Chicago, IL 60610

Property Index No. 17-04-220-057-0000 (underlying); 17-04-220-059-1014; 17-04-220-059-1046; 17-04-220-059-1047

The real estate is improved with a Condominium. The judgment amount was \$127,592.02 Sale Terms: Full Sale Terms are available on the property page at www.auction.com by entering 247 West

**Real Estate For Sale**

Scott St #304 into the search bar. If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, the winning bidder must pay the full bid amount within twenty-four (24) hours of the auction's end. All payments must be certified funds. No third-party checks will be accepted. All bidders will need to register at www.auction.com prior to placing a bid. 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

**Real Estate For Sale**

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. For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: CODILIS & ASSOCIATES PC (630) 794-5300 please refer to file number 14-25-05452. Auction.com, LLC 100 N LaSalle St, Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60602 - 872-225-4985 You can also visit www.auction.com. Attorney File No. 14-25-05452 Case Number: 2025CH08936 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. 13289733

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS OF THE CWBMS, INC., CHL MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH TRUST 2005-04, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-04.

Plaintiff, -v-

REGINA VALUTYTE N/K/A REGINA PAVLICIC,

**Real Estate For Sale**

DEJAN J PAVLICIC A/K/A DEJAN PAVLICK A/K/A DEJEAN J PAVLICIC A/K/A DEJAN J PAULICIC A/K/A DEJAN PAVLICK, CITIZENS BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, SSI-PAVLICIC II, LLC, A SERIES OF SSI-SAM LORENZO, LLC, 535 N. MICHIGAN AVE. CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNKNOWN OWNERS GENERALLY, AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS.

Defendants. 2025CH02587 535 North Michigan Avenue, Unit 1410, Chicago, IL 60611

NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 12/15/2025, an agent of Auction.com, LLC will conduct the Online Only auction at www.auction.com, with the bidding window opening on 7/27/2026 at 10:00 AM CDT and closing on July 29, 2026 at 10:00 AM subject to extension, and will sell at public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate. Commonly known as 535 North Michigan Avenue, Unit 1410, Chicago, IL 60611 Property Index No. 17-10-122-025-1185

The real estate is improved with a Condominium. The judgment amount was \$196,853.76 Sale Terms: Full Sale Terms are available on the property page at www.auction.com by entering 535 North Michigan Avenue, Unit 1410 into the search bar. If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, the winning bidder must

**Real Estate For Sale**

pay the full bid amount within twenty-four (24) hours of the auction's end. All payments must be certified funds. No third-party checks will be accepted. All bidders will need to register at www.auction.com prior to placing a bid. 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,

**Real Estate For Sale**

IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: Kluever Law Group, LLC (312) 236-0077 please refer to file number SMS001416-25FC1. Auction.com, LLC 100 N LaSalle St., Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60602 - 872-225-4985 You can also visit www.auction.com. Attorney File No. SMS001416-25FC1 Case Number: 2025CH02587 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. 13289739

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**Notice of Public Sale**  
East Bank Storage, located at 429 W. Ohio St, Chicago IL (312-644-2000), is opening lockers 5613X (Libman, Rebecca), 3623X (Briseno, Annette and Jimmy), 4528X (Thorndill, Heath), 4558X (Delhar, Natalia), 3523X and 6619X (Lahoud, Edward), 2808F (Stephens, Anita V), and 2706X (Stubbs, Debra) for public sale on July 28, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. Cash only.

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**Real Estate For Sale**  
010101  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION NewRez LLC db/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing Plaintiff, -v- Bridget E. Stack; 3800 Lake Shore Drive Condominium Association; Defendants. 2025CH07134 3800 N LAKE SHORE DRIVE, 10D, 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 10/17/2025, AN AGENT OF AUCTION.COM, LLC WILL CONDUCT THE ONLINE ONLY AUCTION AT [www.auction.com](http://www.auction.com), WITH THE BIDDING WINDOW OPENING ON 7/20/2026 AT 10:00 AM CDT AND CLOSING ON JULY 22, 2026 AT 10:00 AM SUBJECT TO EXTENSION, AND WILL SELL AT PUBLIC SALE TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, AS SET FORTH BELOW, THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE. Commonly known as 3800 N LAKE SHORE DRIVE, 10D, CHICAGO, IL 60613 Property Index No. 14-21-103-030-1059 The real estate is improved with a Condominium. The judgment amount was \$160,569.52 Sale Terms: Full Sale Terms are available on the property page at [www.auction.com](http://www.auction.com) by entering 3800 N LAKE SHORE DRIVE, 10D into the search bar. If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, the winning bidder must pay the full bid amount within twenty-four (24) hours of the auction's end. All payments must be certified funds. No third-party checks will be accepted. All bidders will need to register at [www.auction.com](http://www.auction.com) prior to placing a bid. 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

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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. For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: CODILIS & ASSOCIATES PC (630) 794-5300 please refer to file number 14-25-04554. Auction.com, LLC 100 N LaSalle St., Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60602 - 872-225-4985 You can also visit [www.auction.com](http://www.auction.com). Attorney File No. 14-25-04554 Case Number: 2025CH07134 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. **13289375**  
242424  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC Plaintiff vs. RONALD FRANK BURTON; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; 5445 EDGEWATER PLAZA CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant 25 CH 12028 CALENDAR 63 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT PURSUANT TO A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE ENTERED IN THE ABOVE ENTITLED CAUSE INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION will on July 27, 2026, at the hour 11:00 a.m., Intercounty's office, 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, IL 60602, sell, in person, to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate: P.I.N. 14-08-203-015-1049. Commonly known as 5445 N. Sheridan Road, Unit 610, Chicago, IL 60640. The real estate is: condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% (or 25% if so ordered in the Judgment of Foreclosure) down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property is sold AS IS subject to all liens or encumbrances. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the circuit court case record,

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property tax record and the title record to verify all information before bidding. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER THE ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(c) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Diaz Anselmo & Associates P.A., 1771 West Diehl Road, Suite 120, Naperville, IL 60563. (630) 453-6960, 4890-225516 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION [intercountyjudicialsales.com](http://intercountyjudicialsales.com) **13289065**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION PARK HARBOR CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, AN ILLINOIS NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION Plaintiff, -v- GERALD P. NORDGREN, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR PAMELA E. FROST (DECEASED), ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF PAMELA E. FROST, ALL UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendants 2024 CH 10965 3620 N PINE GROVE AVENUE #207 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 April 13, 2026, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on July 15, 2026, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 3620 N PINE GROVE AVENUE #207, CHICAGO, IL 60613 Property Index No. 14-21-109-019-1012 The real estate is improved with a condominium. The judgment amount was \$54,906.27. Sale terms: If sold to anyone other than the Plaintiff, 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, in certified funds/ or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. 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 pur-

**Real Estate For Sale**  
chaser 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 Thomas M. Olson, KOVITZ SHIFRIN NESBITT Plaintiff's Attorneys, 640 N. LA-SALLE DR., SUITE 495, CHICAGO, IL, 60654 (312) 880-1224. 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](http://www.tjsc.com) for a 7 day status report of pending sales. Thomas M. Olson KOVITZ SHIFRIN NESBITT 640 N. LASALLE DR., SUITE 495 CHICAGO IL, 60654 312-880-1224 E-Mail: [tolson@ksnlaw.com](mailto:tolson@ksnlaw.com) Attorney Code: 38862 Case Number: 2024 CH 10965 TJSC#: 46-891 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 # 2024 CH 10965 **13288973**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION

**Real Estate For Sale**  
U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE OF THE TRUMAN 2021 SC9 TITLE TRUST Plaintiff vs. SUSAN TAKAKI; STEVEN K. TAKAKI; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant 25 CH 5620 CALENDAR 59 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT PURSUANT TO A Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on July 21, 2026, at the hour 11:00 a.m., Intercounty's office, 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, IL 60602, sell, in person, to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate: P.I.N. 14-17-301-016-0000. Commonly known as 1460 WEST PENSACOLA AVE., CHICAGO, IL 60613. The real estate is: single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subdivision (g-1) of Section 189.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% (or 25% if so ordered in the Judgment of Foreclosure) down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property is sold AS IS subject to all liens or encumbrances. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the circuit court case record, property tax record and the title record to verify all information before bidding. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER THE ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(c) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC, 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450, Alpharetta, Georgia 30004. (708) 668-4410 ext. 52109. 24-201230 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION [intercountyjudicialsales.com](http://intercountyjudicialsales.com) **13288818**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC Plaintiff vs. EDGEWATER FLATS CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION; WILLIAM BUTCHER, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR MARGARET TIERNEY, DE-

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CEASED; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF MARGARET TIERNEY, DECEASED; KATHLEEN TIERNEY AKA KATHY DEMASE; KEVIN TIERNEY; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant 24 CH 3826 CALENDAR NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT PURSUANT TO A Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on July 22, 2026, at the hour 11:00 a.m., Intercounty's office, 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, IL 60602, sell, in person, to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate: P.I.N. 14-05-119-034-1007. Commonly known as 1215 W. GRANVILLE AVE., 3B, CHICAGO, IL 60660. The real estate is: condominium residence. The purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 189.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% (or 25% if so ordered in the Judgment of Foreclosure) down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property is sold AS IS subject to all liens or encumbrances. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the circuit court case record, property tax record and the title record to verify all information before bidding. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER THE ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(c) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC, 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450, Alpharetta, Georgia 30004. (708) 668-4410 ext. 52109. 24-201230 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION [intercountyjudicialsales.com](http://intercountyjudicialsales.com) **13288779**  
171717  
Legal Ads DBA Public Notices. We'll Run Your Ad For 3 Consecutive Weeks For Only \$150.00. Call 773-465-9700

# LEGAL NOTICE

## COOK COUNTY REAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS FOR 2026

This publication constitutes official notice of the changes in assessment to all owners of real property in Rogers Park Township. The 2026 assessment changes as published herein are those determined by the Assessor of Cook County.

It is the duty of the Assessor to appraise all taxable real property in Cook County at its fair cash value as of January 1, 2026. Fair cash value is described as what the property would bring at a voluntary sale in the normal course of business or trade. The Assessor is required by law to assess said property in a fair and just manner.

The Assessor does not determine property taxes. Property taxes are determined by the spending needs and requests of municipalities, school boards, park districts and other local government agencies which provide public services to property owners. The Assessor's sole responsibility is to estimate the value of real estate property.

In Cook County, real property is classified according to its use. The classification system is used to determine the percentage of the fair cash value at which the real property is assessed for purposes of taxation. Accordingly, real property is assessed at only a fraction of its fair cash value, depending on its use and classification.

Changes in assessment for land and improvements are listed separately. The dimensions of the land are also listed:

- A - Acres
- B - Back Lot
- N - Irregular Lot
- S - Square Feet

Cook County uses a Permanent Index Number (P.I.N) system as a means to identify individual real estate parcels. The PIN consists of a 14-digit number. The first two digits identify the area or survey township; the second two digits identify the sub-area or section; the next three digits identify blocks.

Note:

Blocks are defined as follows:

- Blocks 100 to 199 are located in the N.W. Quarter
- Blocks 200 to 299 are located in the N.E. Quarter
- Blocks 300 to 399 are located in the S.W. Quarter
- Blocks 400 to 499 are located in the S.E. Quarter

The next three digits in the series identify the specific parcel or lot. The last four, (where applicable), identify individual condominium units, non-operating railroad parcels or leasehold's of exempt parcels.

Whenever possible, the assessment list will be listed by the street name and the street or house number of the parcel. However, the Cook County Assessor's Office official records rely on permanent Property Index Numbers (P.I.N.) only. No assessment of real property shall be considered invalid due to an incorrect listing.

If you have any questions regarding the assessment of real property you should visit the Office of the Assessor of Cook County, 118 N. Clark Street, Room 301, Chicago, Illinois 60602, or call (312) 443-7550.

## FRITZ KAEGI ASSESSOR OF COOK COUNTY TOWNSHIP OF ROGERS PARK

	NO.	SIZE	LAND	IMP
ALBANY AVE	N			
ABC CONSTRUCTION & HEA	6427	4331S	2458	13371
ABC CONSTRUCTION & HEA	6427	4331S	2685	14608
ABC CONSTRUCTION & HEA	6427	4331S	2794	15197
ABC CONSTRUCTION & HEA	6427	4331S	2891	15727
ALBANY AVE	N			
JOSEPH SCHWIMMER	7401	3720S	9300	49879
JOSEPH SCHWIMMER	7401	3720S	9300	49879
ALBION AVE	W			
DONALD WEHRLE	1038	7800S	21450	37147
Albion Hotel	1209	24000S	42900	2742933
ALBION HOTEL	1209	24000S	42900	2275762
FRANK J HOGAN	1414	2250S	5850	32150
ARTESIAN AVE	N			
FARHAN INC	6438	3750S	9375	35744
PRIDON S ESHOO	6758	4173S	10433	39706
TATIANA JARAMILLO	7450	3808S	9520	56080
ARTHUR AVE	W			
RICHARD SCRUGGS	1767	4440S	9990	36640
STEVE AUWESHA	2754	6026S	3786	9234
THEODORE CHARAK	2754	6026S	3786	9234
STEVE AUWESHA	2754	6026S	3786	9234
RASHAD CHOUDHARY	2754	6026S	3786	9234
ASHLAND AVE	N			
PETER GO	6649	3720S	8370	46517
MARIANNE BAGACINA	6651	3720S	8370	44570
R. MITCHELL & P. COLLYER	6743	5699S	14817	55183
HUY LE TRAN	6744	5575S	12544	34561
GOOD NEWS PARTNERS	7700	6726S	29	12594
BIRCHWOOD AVE	W			
MARK GROSS	1419	5958S	13406	66595
SILVER HAMMER HOLDINGS	2000		14927	178074
BOSWORTH AVE	N			
NATHAN ROTHSCHILD	6444	7750S	17438	122863
BUCK MARY A	6453	3875S	8719	67781
WINNEMAC PROPERTIES	7605	6400S	21600	59529
WINNEMAC PROPERTIES	7605	5238S	17678	79372
1514 W HOWARD LLC	7611	6400S	21600	79372
CALIFORNIA AVE	N			
CTLTC LB 10 2750	6420	18750S	84375	55825
NS CALI 6705 CALIFORNI	6705	3125S	7813	67536
NS CALI 6707 CALIFORNI	6707	3125S	7813	47259
NS CALI 6709 CALIFORNI	6709	3125S	7813	47638
NS CALI 6713 CALIFORNI	6713	3125S	7813	47638
NS CALI 6715 CALIFORNI	6715	3125S	7813	57165
NS CALI 6717 CALIFORNI	6717	3125S	7813	38110
NS CALI 6719 CALIFORNI	6719	3125S	7813	28582
NS CALI 6723 CALIFORNI	6723	3125S	7813	66693
NS CALI 6725 CALIFORNI	6725	3125S	7813	47638
NS CALI 6727 CALIFORNI	6727	3125S	7813	47638
NS CALI 6729 CALIFORNI	6729	3125S	7813	47638
NS CALI 6731 CALIFORNI	6731	3125S	7813	47638

	NO.	SIZE	LAND	IMP		NO.	SIZE	LAND	IMP
NS CALI 6735 CALIFORNI	6735	3125S	7813	47638	YITZCHAK SHKOP	6850	6693S	16733	78335
NS CALI 6737 CALIFORNI	6737	3125S	7813	47638	HARRY SCHAYER	6900	8253S	20633	124933
CAMPBELL AVE	N				GLENWOOD AVE	N			
JOSE ROBLEDO	6423	3750S	9375	41625	SONG THI NGUYEN	6966	1000S	2250	12498
KEITH M FEDORENKO	6500	4375S	10938	30029	GREENLEAF AVE	W			
SARAH YU	6552	3750S	9375	24088	JAMES HORSTKOTTE	1354	8750S	1065	6071
CRUX CAMPBELL LLC	6601	8512S	15960	47790	ANGELICA REGALADO	1354	8750S	1089	6206
CHASE AVE	W				R GONZALEZ UNIT 2B	1354	8750S	1089	6206
REBECCA MARIE BARNHART	1811	4000S	9000	33459	HUGH SCHARLAND	1354	8750S	1089	6206
E HAGUE & C BREITBACH	1830	4993S	11234	37909	CAROLYN WALLER	1356	8750S	1906	10863
DENICE CHILES	1935	4800S	10800	31671	MARINA HAYES	1356	8750S	1861	10605
VICTOR CABILTES	2717	3720S	9300	33848	ELIZABETH J HEMENWAY	1356	8750S	1815	10347
YISROEL NAOMI LOPIN	2823	3720S	9300	58888	MARINA & NORA GOMEZ	1536	4595S	10339	40714
YISROEL NAOMI LOPIN	2823	3720S	9300	57156	JEAN K CURRY	2021	8600S	19350	33150
DAVID & SHAINDY KOMPEN	2827	3720S	9300	57156	KATHLEEN M BURGOON	2087	8600S	19350	88150
MILLER & MILLUNCHICK	3012	3720S	9300	36006	SEPHARDIC COMMUNITY	2614	EX	0	0
CLAREMONT AVE	N				B & C KAGANOFF	2901	4386S	10965	55235
RONNY M HANG	7551	4125S	9281	50239	JOSHUA BERNSTEIN	2933	3936S	9840	60160
CLARK ST	N				J & P SILVERBERG	2936	5284S	13210	66790
MNM CLARK LLC	6542	9121S	102611	365415	GREENVIEW AVE	N			
J R BROTHERS INVEST	7110	4988S	56115	30560	JUAN CARLOS DIAZ	6733	6100S	15860	40181
NTJ HOLDINGS LLC	7417	13790S	62055	168145	ROBERT H MACKENZIE & M	6743	6100S	15860	69140
COLUMBIA AVE	W				BROWN CHARLEEN	7318	3000S	6750	25002
COLUMBIA I	1101	6650S	18288	228313	KHALDOUN FAKHOURY	7528	6345S	71381	30962
6740 N SHERIDAN LLC	1208	15000S	39000	59000	HAMILTON AVE	N			
MEARAH V QUINN BRAUNER	1746	4125S	9281	37409	WILLIAM F PETERSEN	6424	3750S	8438	51684
RUSSELL S GAYNE	1759	3993S	8984	68016	HERMITAGE AVE	N			
COYLE AVE	W				STORK BUILDERS INC	6753	7187S	1996	36990
JASON DRIVER	2449	4650S	11625	41590	STORK BUILDERS INC	6753	7187S	1996	37822
DAMEN AVE	N				STORK BUILDERS INC	6753	7187S	1996	37822
KOSTAS L CIOS	6503	7440S	16740	110028	STORK BUILDERS INC	6753	7187S	1996	37822
HUY XUAN NGO	6604	1967S	4426	23760	STORK BUILDERS INC	6753	7187S	1996	37822
NIKITA TURIK	7316	4500S	10125	27280	STORK BUILDERS INC	6753	7187S	1996	37822
INTEGRITY 6 LLC	7389	15495S	42611	372189	STORK BUILDERS INC	6753	7187S	1996	37822
FADILJ METOVIC	7403	7500S	20625	161699	STORK BUILDERS INC	6753	7187S	1996	37822
DEVON AVE	W				STORK BUILDERS INC	6753	7187S	1996	37822
ANGELA D AGOSTINO	1720	9376S	21096	84337	STORK BUILDERS INC	6753	7187S	1996	37822
ANGELA D AGOSTINO	1730	9375S	21094	84337	STORK BUILDERS INC	6753	7187S	1996	37822
REPUBLIC BANK	2702	7242S	75914	19459	STORK BUILDERS INC	6753	7187S	1996	37822
REPUBLIC BANK	2706	3125S	32758	16360	STORK BUILDERS INC	6753	7187S	1996	37822
REPUBLIC BANK	2708	6250S	65516	24502	STORK BUILDERS INC	6753	7187S	1996	37822
REPUBLIC BANK	2712	3125S	32758	14868	STORK BUILDERS INC	6753	7187S	1996	37822
REPUBLIC BANK	2716	7248S	75977	9398	STORK BUILDERS INC	6753	7187S	1996	37822
REPUBLIC BANK	2716	3125S	32758	4488	STORK BUILDERS INC	6753	7187S	1996	37822
REPUBLIC BANK	2716	3125S	32758	4488	STORK BUILDERS INC	6753	7187S	1996	37822
EASTLAKE TER	N				STORK BUILDERS INC	6753	7187S	1996	37822
BEOVIC RESIDENTIAL SE	7518	7663S	21073	75013	GOOD NEWS PARTNERS	7731	6125S	16844	127556
BEOVIC RESIDENTIAL SE	7634	14700S	40425	233004	HOWARD ST	W			
BEOVIC RESIDENTIAL SE	7640	10860S	29865	207835	IQBAL SULTAN	1438	4851S	21830	136771
CTLTC 3213210	7700	13703S	37683	123044	CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHOR	1649	EX	0	0
LUCILLE ROSSBERGER	7724	5850S	16088	101913	REBECCA J MATHEWS	3105	3100S	7750	22250
BEOVIC RESIDENTIAL SE	7737	8600S	23650	70703	CARMELLA BEGA	3205	7622S	15606	57285
BEOVIC RESIDENTIAL SE	7738	9840S	27060	215040	BEE Z BODY SHOP	3205	3233S	6620	17013
BEOVIC RESIDENTIAL SE	7739	8520S	23430	100270	JARLATH ST	W			
ESTES AVE	W				KOLLEL TIFERES YISRAEL	2800	EX	0	0
1404 WEST ESTES AVENUE	1404	11514S	25907	139894	MICHAEL W PERL	2909	4007S	10018	48983
ESTES AVE	W				MEIR ZALMAN BERNATH	3001	5893S	14733	0
ESTES I LLC	1329	27578S	62051	539650	JARVIS AVE	W			
JR BRTHRS INVESTRS LLC	1772	5199S	11698	23012	WALKER & MAGUIRE	1625	7500S	16875	53422
VINCENT P NALLY	2100	4050S	9113	32878	TIM J MIKESSELL	1630	7725S	17381	93224
CLARK C JOHNSON	2231	5425S	12206	37053	ROMAN & DELIA TORRES	2438	3968S	9920	26099
THOMAS TOMPKINS	2323	4650S	10463	24238	ANDREW COHEN	2917	3720S	9300	36808
SEPHARDIC COMMUNITY	2724	EX	0	0	KLEIN TRUSTS	2943	3720S	9300	55662
SEPHARDIC COMMUNITY	2728	EX	0	0	D & S KAMISH	3000	6198S	15495	102024
RAPHAEL GREENSPON	2852	3968S	9920	32987	JEROME ST	W			
ROBERT TRAUTVETTER	2915	3936S	9840	38296	ARRIGONI & CONCILLA	2541	1242S	3105	20362
GEOFFREY M GOTTESMAN	2921	3936S	9840	55160	JEANNINE STOFFS TRUST	2724	3720S	9300	36502
FAIRFIELD AVE	N				TUNG T LE	2821	3720S	9300	24415
ENVISION UNLIMITED	6529	EX	0	0	BETTY L WONG	3000	4323S	10808	25075
OLGA ESTERKIN	6640	4125S	10313	22588	JEAN TRAN	3145	5542S	13855	22685
OLGA ESTERKIN	6644	4125S	10313	22588	JONQUIL TER	W			
FARGO AVE	W				GOOD NEWS PARTNERS	1546	6250S	17188	239113
YEHUDA POLSTEIN	3010								

continued from previous page

NO.	SIZE	LAND	IMP	NO.	SIZE	LAND	IMP	NO.	SIZE	LAND	IMP			
EDWIN B ROBLES & MARIV	6933	357235S	2611	6781	RAGHU NAYAK	7613	7680S	86400	295925	WESTERN AVE	N			
VASILE TRIPLEA	6933	357235S	2910	7558	RAGHU MAYAK	7619	3840S	43200	388	IRVING BARR LIVING TRU	6410	14492S	65214	125829
CHICAGO TITLE & TRUST	6933	357235S	6197	16097	RAGHU NAYAK	7623	3840S	43200	388	IRVING BARR LIVING TRU	6418	5400S	55526	52725
CRISTINA P POLOAN	6933	357235S	4768	12385	GOOD NEWS PARTNERS	7632	5760S	10	1351	Bernard Grbavac	6951	1079S	2428	33572
FOLASHADE L LOCKWOOD	6933	357235S	4850	12596	PRATT AVE	W				ABRH	7123	2425S	27281	3234
ELIZABETH EMANUEL	6933	357235S	2665	6922	JOSHUA R BERNSTEIN	1430	1319S	2968	32789	AMERICAN BLUE RIBBON H	7127	2425S	27281	2582
KALMAN J KAPLAN	6933	357235S	4850	12596	BENARD A FADONOUGBO	1508	8750S	1969	14411	AMERICAN BLUE RIBBON H	7129	2425S	27281	2597
ROMAN MURIN	6933	357235S	4850	12596	MIHAIL ZHILEV	1508	8750S	1969	14411	AMERICAN BLUE RIBBON H	7133	2425S	10155	2627
MIGUEL ROIDFELD	6933	357235S	4850	12596	SUN PATCH MANAGEMENT CO	1508	8750S	1969	14411	AMERICAN BLUE RIBBON H	7137	2425S	10155	2627
ALYSE FABISOFF	6933	357235S	4850	12596	KAMORU D FOLORUNSHO	1508	8750S	1969	14411	AMERICAN BLUE RIBBON H	7139	2424S	10151	2150
ROBERT K HARRIS	6933	357235S	5439	14127	JAMES MCGRATH	1508	8750S	1969	14411	AMERICAN BLUE RIBBON H	7141	2764S	11574	2946
MARILYN E UNDERWOOD TR	6933	357235S	4850	12596	AFISU A MOIBI	1508	8750S	1969	14411	MAHDAVIA ISLAMIC CENTR	7419	3125S	3156	43529
VERONICA L CLARKE	6933	357235S	4850	12596	KARL COLBERT	1508	8750S	1969	14411	MAHDAVIA ISLAMIC CENTR	7419	3125S	4879	49121
DORA REZNIK	6933	357235S	4850	12596	GREENBLUFF LLC	1508	8750S	1969	14411	AUTISM HOMES ALLIANCE	7452	8374S	94208	117543
DOUG & IRENE VAUGHN	6933	357235S	2664	6920	OCCIRA GROUP OLIVE SER	1508	8750S	1969	14411	WHIPPLE ST	N			
TRUNAL SHAH	6933	357235S	2664	6920	FATIMA FERHAN TASDELEN	1508	8750S	1969	14411	MOINUDDIN S QUADRI	6435	4062S	10155	29783
THE SHARON ZITA SKIDEL	6933	357235S	2963	7697	PRATT BLVD	W				SIMCHA SMOLENSKY	6618	3660S	9150	40464
ADAM THAI	6933	357235S	4850	12596	TAXPAYER OF	1225	6950S	19070	60930	BRUCE M HANSON	6750	3687S	9218	27331
JASMIN MESIC & NADIJA	6933	357235S	4850	12596	CLARK CORPORATE MGMT	1420	8750S	19688	86113	WINCHESTER AVE	N			
FLORIN HORJUI	6933	357235S	3019	7941	IGNACIO GARZA JR	1559	4375S	11375	40625	WALTER JOHN	7357	6000S	10725	40365
NICHOLAS BENEDETTO	6933	357235S	2720	7066	LIVING WATER COMMUNITY CHURCH	1608	18067S	17094	1929	WOLCOTT AVE	N			
ELANA STEINBERG	6933	357235S	4932	12810	M WILDEBOER	1834	7120S	16020	33439	1900 WEST PRATT LLC	6800	24030S	54068	613321
FARUK DZAMBEGOVIC	6933	357235S	4932	12810	PAUL & RACHEL FEIT	2926	5280S	13200	37471	MARIO T MENDOZA	7120	3920S	8820	33395
RAMIZ & ZINATA HAMULIC	6933	357235S	4932	12810	RIDGE AVE	N				F & B DELGADO	7218	3900S	8775	36649
SHOSHANA SENDLIN REVOC	6933	357235S	4932	12810	ULYSSES TORRES	7028	7875S	1772	20162	CINDY & JOE HUANG	7522	3900S	10725	32065
HILLORIE S MORRISON	6933	357235S	5528	14359	HAROLD M BAILEY	7028	7875S	1772	20162					
AMINA CIMIC	6933	357235S	4932	12810	MILLER & CHEN	7028	7875S	1949	22178					
BORIS KHANOKH	6933	357235S	4932	12810	JAMES FRIEDRICHSEN	7028	7875S	1949	22178					
ZINOVII BILMAN	6933	357235S	4932	12810	CHRIS WHALEY	7028	7875S	2126	24194					
ENVER HABIBOVIC	6933	357235S	4932	12810	EDIS BECIC	7028	7875S	2126	24194					
CHARLENE MARCUS	6933	357235S	2720	7066	ANDREW BUSH	7028	7875S	2303	26210					
SUZANNE TAGUE	6933	357235S	3019	7941	MONIQUE DEBUSMANN	7028	7875S	177	2016					
BESIC NEDZJA	6933	357235S	4932	12810	ANDREW BUSH	7028	7875S	177	2016					
LARISA ALMA BEHARIC	6933	357235S	5012	13019	EDIS BECIC	7028	7875S	177	2016					
SEAD ANDRIC	6933	357235S	6403	16633	CHRIS WHALEY	7028	7875S	177	2016					
ANWAR A KHAN	6933	357235S	2774	7205	MILLER & CHEN	7028	7875S	177	2016					
PEARL HEART LLC	6933	357235S	5012	13019	MONIQUE DEBUSMANN	7028	7875S	177	2016					
WOJCIECH ORLOWSKI	6933	357235S	5012	13019	ANDREW BUSH	7028	7875S	177	2016					
ROSE MARIE LAROCCA	6933	357235S	5012	13019	EDIS BECIC	7028	7875S	177	2016					
ELLIOTT BARAL	6933	357235S	5012	13019	CHRIS WHALEY	7028	7875S	177	2016					
GILBERTO MARCHA	6933	357235S	5618	14591	MILLER & CHEN	7028	7875S	177	2016					
MICHELLE L DANJOU	6933	357235S	5012	13019	MONIQUE DEBUSMANN	7028	7875S	177	2016					
NORMA MISSNER BRAUDE	6933	357235S	5012	13019	HAROLD M BAILEY	7028	7875S	177	2016					
ALDO D CALDERON	6933	357235S	5012	13019	ULYSSES TORRES	7028	7875S	177	2016					
FLORENCE & D VUJANOVIC	6933	357235S	5012	13019	JAMES FRIEDRICHSEN	7028	7875S	177	2016					
NIZAM & NAUREEN FIDAI	6933	357235S	2774	7205	ROCKWELL ST	N								
INDMAN & PYRIKH	6933	357235S	6412	16654	SALIMA BINTI NOR ISLAM	6449	4687S	11718	27836					
LAURENCE APPLETON	6933	357235S	5012	13019	AN UNDIVIDED 50 INTERE	6735	4136S	10340	28280					
AZIZ YOUNAN	6933	357235S	5094	13232	GORDON CARLSON	7508	4375S	10938	31394					
DANIEL & DEBORAH YANG	6933	357235S	6454	16765	ROGERS AVE	N								
ISABELL KYRK	6933	357235S	3128	8124	"GT ALTERNATIVES, LLC "	7428	11001S	30253	64247					
YELENA VOLOVODOVSKAYA	6933	357235S	2828	7347	SACRAMENTO AVE	N								
SHAKHET ALEXANDER	6933	357235S	5094	13232	EMMA B ROSALES	6424	4062S	10155	144845					
MINH VAN VO	6933	357235S	5094	13232	CATHY NOJI ALI KHAIVI	6623	4059S	10148	30098					
AIDA HODZIC	6933	357235S	5094	13232	CARLOS L MITCHEM SR	6634	3911S	9778	25132					
YOEL LAVENDA	6933	357235S	5094	13232	SEELEY AVE	N								
ADAM BENNON	6933	357235S	5094	13232	HALIM SEELEY	7444	16330S	44908	187299					
SENADA HIDIC	6933	357235S	5094	13232	HUNTER PROPERTIES AGT	7516	20178S	55490	224311					
HUNAIN SADIQ	6933	357235S	5094	13232	SHERIDAN RD	N								
KATHY N HARITOS VIVILA	6933	357235S	5094	13232	6418 SHERIDAN LLC	6422	0A	0	483452					
JAN OVIDIU BALEA	6933	357235S	2828	7347	SHERIDAN RD	N								
AN NGUYEN	6933	357235S	3128	8124	CAROLINE HEDGER HOUSIN	6400	0A	0	250					
ROBERICK RELUCIO	6933	357235S	6454	16765	CAROLINE HEDGER HOUSIN	6404	0A	0	250					
MAXIMIANO JARA ENRIQUE	6933	357235S	5094	13232	6418 SHERIDAN LLC	6422	0A	0	513548					
STEVEN FRENCH REVOCABL	6933	357235S	5175	13443	CHICAGO HSING AUTHORTI	6422	EX	0	0					
SEAD ALIBASIC	6933	357235S	6468	16800	LOYOLA UNIV OF CHGO	6427	33880S	11015	135196					
CAT NGUYEN	6933	357235S	3182	8265	LOYOLA UNIV OF CHGO	6427	16380S	5326	452615					
GABRIEL G GARCIA	6933	357235S	2883	7488	CONCORD SHERIDAN LP	6438	0A	0	2148074					
CHESTER MORAN	6933	357235S	5175	13443	LOYOLA UNIV OF CHGO	6461	5223S	661	222					
GALINA ZHDANOVA	6933	357235S	5175	13443	TLC SHERIDAN LLC	6606	7500S	84375	82625					
ZAAL A ABDALLAH	6933	357235S	5175	13443	BETTY E GRISWOLD	6760	7500S	33750	232850					
CAMA BECIREVIC	6933	357235S	5175	13443	SHERIDAN FARWELL LLC	6832	3825S	8606	109130					
FLOARE MUSTEA	6933	357235S	5797	15058	CHASE PROPERTIES	7219	15291S	118382	608019					
JAMES M GINTER	6933	357235S	5175	13443	SHERIDAN CHASE 16579	7300	15291S	86012	679586					
ALNASIR MERCHANT	6933	357235S	5175	13443	B FLW LLC	7415	8832S	24288	23356					
HABIBOVIC & HABIBOVIC	6933	357235S	5175	13443	CATS CRADLE LLC	7421	8242S	22666	63667					
ROBERT HYC	6933	357235S	2911	7560	SARGON ISAAC	7662	10728S	29502	94489					
DODIET SUTARDJO	6933	357235S	3155	8196	7710 SHERIDAN LLC	7710	9951S	27365	360182					
XIAOMENG XU	6933	357235S	6468	16800	ROBERT J SCHICK	7731	4618S	4528	35880					
BETTI SHAHIN	6933	357235S	5175	13443	SHERWIN AVE	W								
RAFIQ TAIYOB & SALMA	6933	357235S	5175	13443	"INTEGRITY 8, LLC "	1327	20999S	47248	274452					
VERICA VLADIMIR ZELIN	6933	357235S	5282	13719	TALMAN AVE	N								
MIRSA ALIBASIC	6933	357235S	6524											

**INDICTED** from p. 1

two counterfeit U.S. Postal Service master keys, according to court filings.

But in May 2023, a month after the latest round of burglaries allegedly began, prosecutors allowed Krichilsky to plead the Lincoln Park case down to a misdemeanor trespassing charge. Judge Timothy Joyce sentenced him to two years' probation, but court records show a probation violation warrant has been out for Krichilsky's arrest since Oct. 2024. Krichilsky is once again free, awaiting trial.

Court records show Krichilsky's previous Cook County

**Judge Timothy Joyce sentenced him to two years' probation, but court records show a probation violation warrant has been out for Krichilsky's arrest since Oct. 2024.**

convictions include manufacture or delivery of heroin in 2017, for which he received probation; felony theft of between \$100,000 and \$500,000 in 2018, which also resulted in probation; and two burglary convictions in 2021 that resulted in a three-year prison sentence, most of which was satisfied through time spent on electronic monitoring.

**CHARGE** from p. 1

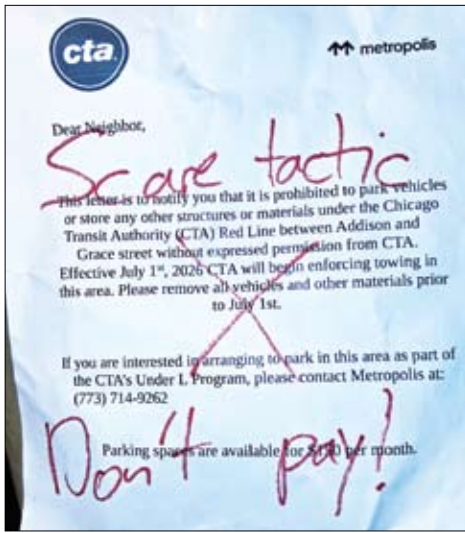
greed intervened.

Residents claim some legitimacy as an agreement from the 1890s between all lots on the 35, 36, and 3700 blocks of N. Wilton Ave. and the North-Western Elevated Railroad [a predecessor agency of the CTA] said, "the space between columns and beneath girders and braces shall be kept free from buildings and other obstructions, so as to permit access from adjacent property to the alley."

A recent notice posted along the Wilton Ave. alleyway on CTA/Metropolis [Parking] letterhead, warns "Dear Neighbor, This letter is to notify you that it is prohibited to park vehicles or store any other structures or materials under the [CTA] Red Line between Addison and Grace street [sic] without expressed permission from CTA."

The notice continues, "Effective July 1, 2026 CTA will begin enforcing towing in this area. Please remove all vehicles and other materials prior to July 1. If you are interested in arranging to park in this area as part of the CTA's Under L Program, please contact Metropolis at: 773-714-9262. Parking spaces are available for \$150 per month."

Metropolis has partnered with the CTA to transform the spaces directly underneath the "L" train tracks into regulated parking, in-



(L) A Graffiti-tagged CTA notice advises neighbors not to pay. (R) Looking northwards into the backyards behind the 3600 block of N. Wilton Ave.



cluding the lot under the Red Line tracks along Wilton Ave. immediately north of the CTA's Addison St. station.

in a written statement, "The CTA is expanding a program it already operates in neighborhoods throughout the 44th Ward and

**Metropolis also operates Chicago's lakefront parking lots on Chicago Park District land. The Santa Monica-based artificial intelligence company acquired Chicago-based ST-plus [Standard Parking] for \$1.8 billion in 2024.**

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There may be hope from Ald Bennett Lawson [44th], who said

across the city to clean up the space under the L tracks. I have expressed my support for allowing this space to remain available for residents parking, and the CTA is now working with neighbors on agreements going forward."

CTA spokesperson Maddie Kilgannon told this newspaper

that beginning Aug. 1, 2026, "... a small portion [north of the Addison station] will have regulated parking spaces that we own and that has not been regulated, so let the neighbors know that we will be regulating that space."

Andrew Gavrilos, CTA Senior Communications Representative for Infrastructure, told this newspaper Friday afternoon that except for an area near Argyle, he "learned that residents overwhelmingly did not want parking under the L tracks..." so no new parking will be incorporated between Lawrence and Ardmore avenues. Metropolis may have other ideas.

**COMED** from p. 1

ComEd said it has three substations that serve Lake View, North Center, Uptown and northern Lincoln Park, but claims that those substations are nearing capacity. The three substations reached 95% of their allowable capacity this year. It's forecasted that the substations will reach 98% capacity by 2031, with two exceeding their limits.

ComEd staff noted that without more capacity for power, some North Side neighborhoods could face brownouts and blackouts. So ComEd acted when the property became available to design and build the substation on Diversey.

The project will require new underground transmission lines and take about three years to complete.

During the meeting, ComEd staff engineer Dale Player told attendees they had explored alternatives to building a substation and considered other locations. But under its required least-cost, highest-value model, alternatives such as expanding an existing substation or shifting loads didn't make sense.

Lincoln Park Ald. Timmy Knudsen suggested two locations on the west side of the Chicago River, but ComEd estimated building at either of those parcels would cost between \$160 million

to \$270 million more than the Diversey location because of the cost to tunnel under the river to build new transmission lines.

And reportedly, four other proposed sites were also found to be too small or too expensive when factoring in additional infrastructure and transmission lines to accommodate for the further distance.

ComEd said that the unnecessary costs related to the alternate sites would have had to be borne by local ComEd customers, which they could not justify. Player said that the 1111 W. Diversey site was the most technically viable and the most cost-effective base cost option for the substation.

Still, dozens of neighbors voiced their disapproval at the proposal, including that the site will be used to power new developments on the Chicago River.

**The project will require new underground transmission lines and take about three years to complete.**

ComEd had said in a previous Illinois Commerce Commission [ICC] filing that Lincoln Yards - now Foundry Park - could utilize the added capacity at ~62% of the customer build out.

At the meeting, ComEd

officials denied that Foundry Park would be powered by the new substation. A June 17 filing with ICC said Foundry Park will likely be served by the Clybourn substation.

ComEd also claims a new substation is needed even without Foundry Park in the picture since that project's plans have not been submitted for a formal application for power.

Still, one meeting attendee described ComEd's change of plans over powering Foundry Park as a "shell game" and claimed that ComEd couldn't be trusted.

**It's Time to Beautify Your Outdoor Spaces!**

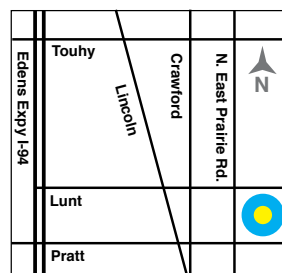


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