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Lincoln Yards deal speeds to a close

BY PATRICK BUTLER

Sterling Bay moved a step closer toward getting up to \$1.3 billion in public tax funds last week when the Chicago Community Development Commission unanimously OK'd TIF (Tax Increment Funding) that would include the 55-acre Lincoln Yards site running along both sides of the Chicago River between North and Webster avenues.

But the windfall won't be a done deal until the entire City Council gives its approval, which is expected sometime in the next month. If fully approved, the 168-acre Cortland/Chicago River TIF district would reimburse

developer Sterling Bay for \$490 million of infrastructure improvements including new roadways, bridges over the Chicago River, an extension of the 606 trail, 21 acres of river walk, along with a new Metra train station and a realignment of the Armitage-Ashland-Elston intersection that are all adjacent to the Lincoln Yard site.

The developer, Sterling Bay says it plans to spend \$6 billion to transform the now-mostly-vacant industrial riverside site into about 15 million square feet of office space, retail and restaurant space, and some 6,000 residential units.

The project is expected to generate about 10,000 temporary

construction jobs and 24,000 permanent jobs.

Acknowledging rising concerns raised by the size of the Lincoln Yards project, Ald. Brian Hopkins [2nd] nonetheless said he decided to support the job after Sterling Bay dropped plans to put a major entertainment venue on the site along with a 20,000-seat entertainment and soccer stadium.

But in an odd twist, the site that was proposed to hold that stadium - the City's former Fleet management site that Sterling Bay purchased for \$105 million - is right now still assessed at zero value. Therefore, if that valuation

DEAL see p. 16

Aldermen question tax breaks given to Sterling Bay by former assessor

**Call for review of 300
parcels at Lincoln Yards
for irregularities**

Two North Side aldermen whose wards are adjacent to the Lincoln Yards development are calling for a review of Developer Sterling Bay before the billion-dollar Tax Increment Financing district is created.

As expected, the proposal passed the 15-member Community Development Commission on Feb. 21. The commission's 10-0 vote sends the plans for the new 168-acre Cortland and Chicago River Redevelopment Area to the City Council's Finance Committee for consideration, perhaps as soon as in March.

The commission also approved an agreement with Sterling Bay that calls for them to pay \$490 million up front for the infrastructure projects including new bridges, a renovated Metra station, an eastern extension of the 606 trail and reconstructed street intersections. The city would then reimburse the developers with funds collected from the TIF district.

Aldermen Scott Waguespack [32nd] and Michele Smith [43rd] say that the 300 parcels in the Lincoln Yards development should

be reviewed for potential irregularities given to developers Sterling Bay from the Cook County Assessor's Office.

The two aldermen filed a Freedom of Information Act requests "to see if there is a pattern of unfair and out of line assessments on the properties within the TIF District," said Ald. Smith in an email sent out Friday.

"At the same time, our new Assessor Fritz Kaegi, is advocating for needed change in his office. He has stated that low assessments of downtown and other large commercial properties shift the burden to residents and small business owners."

Assessor Kaegi introduced legislation in Springfield seeking more information on larger commercial properties hoping to close the loophole allowing commercial property owners to get tax breaks on vacant storefronts.

The Lincoln Yards development stands to receive almost \$1 billion dollars in property tax funds for infrastructure for the \$6 billion dollar development adjacent to the North Branch of the Chicago River. But, according to the aldermen "serious questions still plague what may be the largest TIF in the history of Chicago," excluding the Super TIF on along

the Red Line on the North Side.

But Ald. Brian Hopkins [2nd], in whose ward the proposed development exists, said the new infrastructure being built for the Lincoln Yards development are urgently needed and he has continued to push for it's quick approval in the face of broad opposition from residents in his, and neighboring wards.

The aldermen point out that there is no public information "describing how these TIF funds would be generated or spent, what the public benefit is, and there are false choices claiming TIF is the only way to pay for this infrastructure. Most fundamentally we do not know whether this land has been fairly assessed."

They are demanding that the new assessor be allowed to review the assessments on all 300 Lincoln Yards properties before the TIF is pushed forward since these properties were assessed under Joe Berrios's authority and some of the properties were represented for years by the law firm of Klafter and Burke, which was only recently fired by Sterling Bay in the midst of the scandal at City Council.

According to a story in the Chi-

TAX BREAKS see p. 16

**Chicago does not have
enough lifeguards**
Story on page 11

Spire Site gets reprieve from deadline

The Chicago Plan Commission voted to give developer Related Midwest until May 2020 to start construction on the 2.2-acre site at 400 N. Lake Shore. The zoning for the site was set to expire on May 6. If a developer fails to start construction within six years of a planned development's approval, the zoning process must start all

over again.

The extension still must be formally approved by the City Council's zoning committee and the full City Council. Responding to the community's concerns about the original plan submitted by Related, Ald. Brendan Reilly [42nd] has asked the developer for a revised proposal.

Settlement allows striking hotel workers to protest loudly outside children's hospital

BY STEVEN DAHLMAN
Loop North News

Despite complaints from a children's hospital that their protests interfered with bereavement rooms, where parents of terminally ill children receive devastating news, striking union members at the hotel next door were allowed by the city to continue their noisy strike, in exchange for the union dropping its lawsuit against the city.

Members of Unite Here Local 1 started their strike on Sept. 7, 2018, at 25 Chicago hotels and expanded to 26 hotels on Sept. 11. There were settlements in the strike and by Oct. 11, they were down to one hotel, Cambria Chicago Magnificent Mile, located next to Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital on E. Superior St. in Streeterville.

More than three dozen workers are still on strike at Cambria, though their picketing schedule is abbreviated from last fall - 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., every day - and it is quieter. On Saturday afternoon, in the rain, seven striking hotel workers, wearing raincoats and carrying picket signs, walked in circles in front of the Cambria. They shouted as a woman pounded on a drum, but it was a whisper compared to last fall, when all day long, strikers chanted and used megaphones, whistles, drums, even pots and pans to communicate their demands to hotel managers, hotel guests, neighbors of the hotels, and neighboring businesses.

According to the union, strikers have been quieter since Oct. 17. Before then, at the peak of the

PROTEST see p. 16



The notorious Chicago aldermen “Hinkey Dink” Kenna and Bathhouse John Coughlin circa 1900.



Chaos in the City Council following the death of Mayor Harold Washington brought Ald. Richard Mell to his feet.



Mayor Rahm Emanuel and former Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy, one lame duck and candidate for office.

I’m thinkin’ past tomorrow



By Thomas J. O’Gorman

It’s only the second month of 2019 and I’m tired of it.

Don’t get me wrong, I’m not a naysayer or a cynic. Too much good happened to me in my childhood. That period is what makes me a positive person. A humorous individual. A quirky, but intact human being. Whatever scars there are in my psyche are all of my own making.

My dilemma about 2019 is all the repetitive insanity we appear to have. The stagnant atmosphere of thoughts that feels like we’ve run out of gas. Like that Markle half-sister, Stephanie, who keeps beating a dead, jealous horse. Or

that sad-sack Hollywood father of hers, Tom, squatting down in Mexico. The two conducting a bitter cold war with the young duchess, like they’re the Soviet Politburo, circa 1950.

Hey, Markles, give it a rest. No one wants to hear from you, or your trailer park family fight. End of story.

Also in the goings-on TV actor Jussie Smollett and his lie heard around the globe. Such a tearful melodrama followed by the “bombshell.” The Chicago Police doing it by the book. Still, tedium has set in between all of the lies and faux drama, and slow appearance of the truth.

Is this what post-modern life has brought us to? There’s no truth to trust.

On top of all that, the polls opened and closed yesterday and we all cast our ballots for mayor and aldermen. The mayor’s race is, indeed, a horse race. The odd election rules usually guarantee no candidate will garner enough votes for a win. We must now wait until the ensuing “run-off” to

determine who will be boss on the fifth floor of City Hall.

The campaign was tedious and slow moving. The most exciting spice being Ken Griffiths’ millions to Bill Daley’s dynastic campaign. Daley’s White House experience with the Obamas would, anywhere else, mean a certain victory. But Chicago voters are peculiar, everyone has an angle. Top candidates have connections that tie them to other toxic politicians. Take Madam Mendoza, a teachers pet cheerleader, the cunning Professor Preckwinkle and her Reverend Dinsdale persona and Gary Chico and the man, with his front row seat for many years in the Committee on Finance. Candidates all groomed by the same longest serving alderman. They all have the curse of the powerful stained on them. Each one is where they are because they have been dependent in their careers upon someone with an unusual political agenda and power. They are the creation of their master who they now betray. A comedic complex of disloyalties. They’ve made planning uncomfortable and rich with dissent. Each a candidate of uncertain alliances.

Paul Vallas should have run for mayor 20 years ago. He’s like the zombie back from the dead. Prosecutor Lori Lightfoot should have talked more about her career as a federal prosecutor, putting politicians in prison. She sounds good. In the beginning, like Ho Chi Minh, she just frightened people.

In truth, Bill Daley has the bag of goodies that all the candidates really want. A noble pedigree and a proven record of civil intelligence. Obama really zipped his lip for a veteran of his White House. He’s smart keeping his distance. Bill’s bright. A St. Ignatius grad. He took a pass on high school in Bridgeport. He’d be fresh air in City Hall where smart people are few. No one knows how to think there. Or conceptualize.

The mayor, whoever it is, needs to be a tough building superintendent. Being a humorous, well intentioned janitor is key. The current occupant never got that. He thought he was a Hapsburg Emperor. Or the secretary General of the United Nations. Among the 50 aldermen you can bet a contingent are there to pick your pocket. Intellectuals just don’t wind up there. Neither do patron saints.

Chicago’s colorful political history is the story of political enabling. That was the great discovery for immigrants, here in the heartland. Politics opens all doors. But the weight of that reality in 2019 is focused on the use of that intoxicating power in a long string of events detailing political corruption. The influence of such misused power now, sadly, can only distort and disrupt the status quo. That’s why it was so important for you to get out and vote.

Chicago’s political life has always spun on the small things. The mundane. Getting your garbage collected. Your street plowed. The lights in your alley burning bright. Your neighborhood safe from violence. Your libraries well stocked in everyone’s neighborhoods. The parks kept clean and well groomed, offering the kind of activities your family needs.

Back in the early 1920s, the girlfriend of a prominent alderman (really the mother of his child who thought they’d been legally married), stormed into the council chambers and shot her lying scoundrel of a fake husband. He survived. But, it was said, after that aldermen treated their girlfriends with more respect.

The City Council has been out of control for decades. No divergent views. No Republicans; only Democrats. It should have been rethought 30 years ago. A cumbersome, unmanageable embarrassment designed to always need a political potentate to manage it. So they assumed a role that they are not really elected for. Harmony is rarely a virtue there.

Reasoned intelligence is another victim of its regular workload. Look at the salaries and benefits they provide for themselves as they age. Their concerns will always be their own preservation. Long terms of office for aldermen are seen as a point of honor. But it is an unequal playing field. Those who stay long amass power they don’t deserve. And wield power they should not have. The real work of government takes place away from prying eyes. Just read the testimonies of the trials of all those aldermen convicted in federal court over the past 25 years.

In many ways the City Council is supposed to be a reflective expression of Chicago’s neighborhoods. But not like it used to be when ethnic and cultural values were high virtues and community leaders had stronger leverage over who represented them. The “quid pro quo” was always there in those days, but people got a fairer shake. I suspect because religious values were more tactile, and there were no mobile phones

TOMORROW see p. 8

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Election Coverage

Due to the hard rules on newspaper publishing deadlines, this newspaper had to go to press before any of the polls closed on Tuesday, and therefore we unfortunately will have no elections results or coverage in this edition.

We plan to do our election reporting in the March 6 newspapers. Thanks for your patience.

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Jamaica: Just what the doctor ordered

Nestled into the verdant hills of Jamaica's eastern coast, is Goblin Hill Villas San San, a beautiful hotel surrounded by lush rain forest and jungle-type plants, towering palm trees, and exquisite, exotic flowers. I'm sitting at the gorgeous pool, reflecting on a fabulous trip that sadly, has come to



Heart of the 'Hood By Felicia Dechter

an end. It's a vacation that did exactly what it was intended to do, heal and provide peace for two cancer survivors who are really still recovering mentally and physically, my hubby and me.

Two years ago almost to the day we left for Jamaica, we were supposed to leave for a different, therapeutic vacation to the Palm Springs, CA, area. However, we had to cancel that trip due to my breast cancer and subsequent immediate surgery. This time, even though I landed in the ER with the flu nine days before leaving for Jamaica, nothing was going to stop me.

We were headed to the island to celebrate my son's wedding, my husband and daughter's birthdays, and best of all, being alive. Last time we were there was almost a decade ago, for our 25th wedding anniversary and before that, we were there for our honeymoon. These days, we desperately needed some sunshine, good vibes, great reggae music, flavorful and strong Blue Mountain coffee, and some sweet ganja, which of course I didn't inhale.

Ok, maybe I did. After all, it has very potent healing powers. Let's say that I was just doing some research for Illinois' attempt to grow a recreational pot market. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

Our vacation had started in Negril, on the island's west coast, which is dotted with resorts and hotels and known for its sandy beaches and breathtaking turquoise water. Due to its beachside pool and abundance of beach umbrellas, I booked a very reasonably-priced hotel called the Negril Palms Resort. (Being a melanoma survivor too, I have to be careful with the sun, but even someone with a deadly skin cancer can still take a tropical vacation. I was armed with plenty of sunscreen and long-sleeved, rash guard shirts for swim protection).

If you're looking for action in Negril, the beach is the place to stay as it's filled with restaurants, shops, places with live music, and quaint spots. We spent our days lounging by the pool and the Caribbean Sea, swimming, people watching and checking out all the colorful hustlers that walk the



A glorious sunset on the beach in Negril.

seaside each day peddling whatever they have, whether it be ganja, handmade jewelry, lobsters, homemade cakes for all the folks with the munchies, or just singing with a guitar for tips. To me, Negril Beach displays the fabric of Jamaican natives. Although they are poor, Jamaicans are happy. They live off their land and they work hard to make a buck.

We watched sunsets and saw the reggae band Sea Breeze, which sang "Happy Birthday" to my daughter and hubby, at the world famous Rick's Café. From cages submerged in the water at a popular eatery on the beach called Fireman's Lobster Pit, we picked our own live lobsters and crabs to eat. We celebrated. We laughed. We enjoyed life. We spent time with our family, as besides my youngest daughter, my son and his wife and their two kids were with us also.

We did what we set out to do... Relax. Yeah mon!

We left the beach to spend two nights up on the cliffs of Negril, which are more exclusive, secluded and quieter. For the last 40 years my husband and I have wanted to stay at a place called Rockhouse, and that was our splurge. We discovered that there was construction right outside the room we had booked, thus a helluva lot of noise. I was ready to cry. I told the woman at the front desk that we were there for cancer healing and peace, and that was not going to work for me.

Woo-hoo! They upgraded us for free to a thatched roof villa right on the water, on the other side of the property, far away from the racket. It had a private deck and was

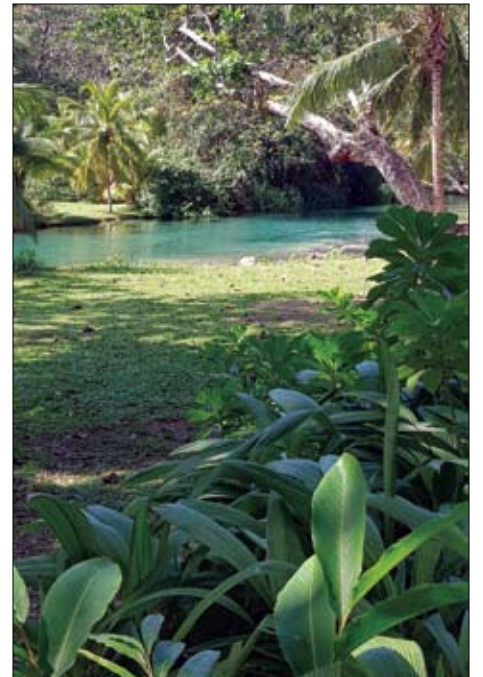


"Weed on Wheels," a Negril beach peddler.

Heaven on Earth, at night the ocean waves crashed against the cliffs and I've never stayed anywhere so beautiful in my life. Rockhouse also has a fabulous restaurant serving its special Blue Mountain coffee crème brulee, as well as an infinity pool overlooking the sea, lovely grounds, and a comfy, bright, and inviting "smoking" lounge.

Honestly, it was just what the doctor ordered.

After our brief stay, we drove to the east side of the island, to the Port Antonio area, where we headed to Goblin Hill San San.



Frenchman's Cove in Port Antonio, where the Robin Williams movie "Club Paradise" was filmed.

The island's east coast is more lush and jungle-like than the west, and we were surrounded by green and beauty everywhere. There's not as much to do as in Negril, but one place we all loved going and swimming was the amazingly stunning Frenchman's Cove beach, which is where Robin Williams filmed the movie "Club Paradise."

We drove into the Blue Mountains for coffee, saw the world-renowned Blue Lagoon, feasted on jerk chicken and steamed red snapper at Boston Beach. One of the

JAMAICA see p. 6

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- Crain's Chicago Business

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Home buying this Spring should be more affordable

With prices easing and mortgage interest rates on a downward slide, buying a home in Chicago this Spring may be more affordable than it has been for months, housing experts say.



The Home Front
By Don DeBat

The median price of an existing home in the city of Chicago in January was \$252,000, down 4.9% from \$265,000 in Jan. 2018, reported a new survey by Illinois Realtors. Chicago also saw year-over-year home sales decrease 19.4% with 1,164 units changing hands in January, compared with 1,444 units in the year-ago month.

While home prices slipped in Chicago, so did mortgage rates. On Feb. 21, Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey reported that benchmark 30-year fixed home loans averaged 4.35% down from 4.37% a week earlier. A year ago, the 30-year fixed loan average was 4.40%.

"Mortgage rates fell for the third consecutive week, continuing the general downward trend

that began late last year," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief economist.

Chicago-area lenders were charging a range of 4.256% to 4.444% on 30-year fixed-rate mortgages on Feb. 21, reported rateSeeker.com.

"Consumer confidence throughout the U.S. declined in December and January, due to the government shutdown, the slowing rate of job growth and overall uncertainty about the direction of the economy," said Tommy Choi, president of the Chicago Assoc. of Realtors.

"This resulted in declines in closed home sales for January. Sellers responded by lowering prices slightly to incentivize cautious buyers, who are regaining some power," Choi said. "The slower market is not a cause for concern, as market changes are a natural part of the real estate cycle."

In the nine-county Chicago Metro Area in January, single-family home and condominium sales totaled 4,526 units, down 22.9% from 5,867 units in Jan. 2018. The median price in January was \$224,000 in the Chicago Metro Area, a slight increase of 0.4% from \$223,000 in Jan.

2018.

"The year-over-year decline in sales continued in both Illinois and Chicago, but this decline was matched by a small drop in prices," said Geoffrey J.D. Hewings, an economist at the Univ. of Illinois.

"This slippage in both sales and prices may signal the impact of declining consumer confidence and the effects of the government shutdown. Research indicates this could set the state up for additional price decreases in February and March."

Statewide single-family home and condo sales in January totaled 6,761 units, down 19.4% from 8,385 units in Jan. 2018.

After years of gains, the statewide median price slipped 0.3% to \$182,000 in January, down from \$182,500 in Jan. 2018. (The median is a typical market price where half the homes sold for



Old Irving Park home.

more and half sold for less.)

"Buyers may finally be beginning to gain some advantage as we enter the run-up to the spring market," said Ed Neaves, president-elect of Illinois Realtors.

"As inventory declines level

off, buyers are likely to find more options to choose from, easing what has been a chronic market challenge in the past few years," Neaves said.

The time it took to sell a home in Illinois in January averaged 62 days, down from 64 days a year ago. Available inventory totaled 47,470 homes and condos for sale, a 1% decline from 47,949 units in Jan. 2018.

Sales and price information for the survey was generated by Multiple Listing Service closed sales reported by 27 participating Illinois Realtor local boards and associations including Midwest Real Estate Data LLC.

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

Guzzardi wants to enable cities to set limits on rents

Bill would repeal statewide prevention of rent controls

BY REBECCA ANZEL
Capitol News Illinois

A Chicago Democrat is calling for local governments to again have the authority to implement rent control measures.

Twenty-two years after the state passed the Rent Control Preemption Act, Rep. Will Guzzardi

[39th] wants to repeal it. His legislation, just seven words long, is a "very, very simple" means for municipalities to target housing affordability issues.

Families in neighborhoods throughout Chicago are being displaced, the representative said. Developers and "unscrupulous" landlords purchase buildings with existing tenants, raise the rent dramatically and price out residents.

This is happening in other ar-

eas, too, Guzzardi said — Peoria, Rockford and Urbana-Champaign, among others.

"This is a bill about turning powers back to municipalities, allowing them to step in and do what they believe is right, to weigh all the evidence — the pros and cons, the studies for and the studies against — and try to craft policy that allows landlords to continue to raise rents to keep up with market prices while also trying to curtail some of the egregious behavior that we've seen that has hurt so many families in my community and many others," Guzzardi said.

But during an informal hearing on the proposal Feb. 6, several members on the House Civil Judiciary Committee saw the issue as more complicated.

Rep. Margo McDermid, the committee's ranking Republican member from Mokena, said allowing local governments to implement rent control measures is only treating a "symptom" of Illinois' lack of affordable housing.

"By putting a little Band-Aid on the festering wound of the problems driving high costs, we're just making the patient sicker," she said. "I really think that if we're serious about affordable housing that there are a lot better directions to go in."

McDermid said some of those include addressing the state's high property taxes and the "outrageous segregation" in Chicago.

Guzzardi said his legislation was not a "silver bullet" to solve the entire housing cost issue, but addressing rent control was a good place to start.

Jawanza Malone, executive director of the Kenwood Oakland Community Organization, said Guzzardi was "300% accurate." The group is one of the founding members of the movement to lift the ban implemented by the Rent Control Preemption Act when it was signed into law by Gov. Jim Edgar in 1997.

RENT see p. 12

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Youth shelter moving to Bucktown, out of Lakeview

**Night Ministry
leaving Ravenswood**

BY CWBCHICAGO.COM

“The Crib,” a youth homeless shelter that has operated out of a Lakeview church basement since 2011, may be relocating this Summer to Bucktown, according to information distributed to Bucktown residents, applications filed with the city, and public notices posted at their desired new location.

The Night Ministry, parent organization of The Crib, did not respond to emails seeking confirmation of their plans.

Plans call for The Crib to open on the first floor of the Mural Building, 1735 N. Ashland Ave., near the Kennedy Expy. Administrative offices for the Night Ministry will move to the building’s second and third floors from its current location at 4711 N. Ravenswood, according to a flyer distributed to Bucktown residents by the parent organization.

A legal notice to Bucktown residents dated Jan. 10 said the Night Ministry is asking the Chicago Zoning Board of Appeals to issue a special use permit to use the new location as a temporary overnight shelter. Plans call for the building to be “gut renovated” with security cameras and improved lighting to be installed throughout, the flyer said.

The new location will provide shelter for “up to 25 young people between the ages of 18 and 24,” the letter said.

In June 2017, The Crib closed its Lakeview location inside Lakeview Lutheran Church, 835 W. Addison, for over a month to retrain its staff after “a couple incidents in the space,” Erin Ryan, vice president for the Night Ministry told The Windy City Times before the closing. “It’s a small space and tensions were high... We had a



The proposed new location of The Crib and the Night Ministry administrative offices.

couple incidents that made us concerned for the safety of the residents. We want to make sure the space is safe and that we review our policies and the way that we use it.”

A source who works with Boystown-area service agencies told this reporter at the time that The Crib had ongoing issues with staff retention and had difficulty finding quality workers for the shelter.

The temporary closure came just a day after police were called to the shelter to handle the latest in a series of security concerns: A Crib supervisor called 911 around 6 a.m. before the closure announcement after a suspicious man knocked aggressively on the shelter door and then covered a security camera lens.

In Feb. 2017, a 23-year-old man who was on parole for robbery was arrested at The Crib after staff members reported seeing him carrying a gun inside the shelter. Police say no weapon was recovered, but the man was charged with battery and resisting arrest.

In Oct. 2016, a different man who was on parole for robbery called 911 to report

that he had been robbed inside The Crib. That man, Keyruni Buford, was arrested in Boystown three weeks later after he punched a senior citizen in the face three

***“It’s a small space
and tensions were high...
We had a couple incidents that
made us concerned for the
safety of the residents. We want
to make sure the space is safe
and that we review our policies
and the way that we use it,”
said Erin Ryan.***

times, took the victim’s phone and reached into the man’s pants to steal his wallet, according to court records.

He was convicted of that attack and is serving a six-year prison sentence.

Buford posted a series of Facebook Live videos in the days leading up to his arrest, including one that showed him pouring liquid on a homeless man who was sleeping on a Loop sidewalk and another in which Buford wandered the streets of Boystown, eventually ending up seeking shelter at The Crib’s door.

Since re-opening on July 26, 2017, fewer problems have been reported at The Crib.

While none of the documentation distributed by the Night Ministry in connection with the Ashland location states explicitly that the Lakeview location will be closing, a volunteer with the social service agency said that The Crib hopes to be out of its Lakeview facility in August.

Letter to the Editor

Sheriff’s Office partners with 24th District police

My office and Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart agreed on a new partnership between the Sheriff’s Office and the 24th District Police. For the next month, the county will dedicate officers to the neighborhood with the goal of engaging the community and reducing violence.

The Sheriff’s Office has held multiple enforcement initiatives in the 50th Ward over the last several years, but this Community Response Plan will provide a much more visible presence than previous efforts. Look for county officers in cars, on bicycles, and visiting our local schools and

community organizations.

The 24th District Police is also stepping up activity in the neighborhood. The police department is directing a saturation team to the area, and the local district is increasing both uniformed and unmarked patrols. The Sheriff’s Office will be lending its resources to aid in district operations.

I would like to thank Sheriff Tom Dart and 24th District Commander Roberto Nieves for showing so much attention to our safety concerns.

Ald. Debra Silverstein

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More, better funding for mental health services proposed

Bills aim to provide \$50M boost over four years, with emphasis on results over flat fees

BY GRANT MORGAN
Capitol News Illinois

Due to dire financial constraints, the city of Chicago and state of Illinois have for years turned their back on the mentally ill, particularly those who are homeless, and letting the police and Cook County Sheriff's office deal with them as a police issue.

Now an Illinois advocacy group is pushing legislation it says would bring \$50 million in new money to state mental health services over the next four years.

According to the Illinois Coalition for Better Mental Health Care, more than 2.5 million Illinoisans have a mental health condition.

But the state ranks only 38th in the nation for mental health investment, while 82 of its 102 counties are designated as mental health professional shortage areas by the federal government.

Two lawmakers, Rep. Deb Conroy of Villa Park and Sen. Heather Steans of Chicago, are sponsoring legislation – House Bill 2486 and Senate Bill 1673 – that would ramp up state mental health funding and change the funding structure to incentivize good results over flat service fees.

"Thousands of Illinois families ... are victims of our mental health crisis," Conroy, who heads

the House Mental Health Committee, said Monday in a news release. "By creating a multiyear solution to reinvest and restructure our mental health programs with targeted, federally matched dollars, we can provide renewed hope to the millions affected."

Most of the services targeted by the bills are Medicaid services, for which the federal government matches funding.

"The phase-in of rates that would enable growth of [mental health services] would happen slowly over a four-year period," said Heather O'Donnell, who drafted the legislation and is vice president at Chicago-based mental health group Thresholds.

In year one, Illinois would provide \$3.4 million of new funding, to be matched by the federal government. In year two, \$5.7 million; in year three, \$10.7 million; and in year four, \$13 million.

After four years, O'Donnell said, the state would pay no more than \$13 million in additional mental health funding in any given year, while the total new funding for state mental health services would reach more than \$50

million with federal matching.

The state would also have to cover startup costs in years three and four, and bring additional funding to components of the bill that are not matched with federal funds.

known mental illnesses – drug and gambling addictions – to help cure others suffering from mental illness.

"I know there is a commitment that some of the revenue from cannabis will go to mental health and addiction services, so that's on the table," Conroy said without discussing specifics. "And I do believe the commitment [to mental health and addiction] is there from the governor. He's made it clear that's a priority for him."

Without specific funding plans, the bills more or less just lay groundwork for the new funding and changed payment methods.

Those changed payment methods deal with how mental health providers get money for the services they provide.

Currently, nearly all Medicaid contracts with mental health providers in Illinois are fee-for-service – the providers provide the service, and get reimbursed a specified fee.

Chicago has plenty of well-staffed private psychiatric practices, but their Dept. of Public Health has struggled trying to staff its five community mental

health clinics.

The lack of funding for psychiatric care grants is a key reason why 86% of the Community Behavioral Healthcare Assoc. of Illinois membership has either reduced or eliminated psychiatric services since the State budget impasse began nearly two years ago. Because of these cuts, clients may face waiting periods as long as two or three months to see a psychiatrist.

The bills claim that this structure "allows for no innovation" in providing better services, because there is no reward for better outcomes and efficiency.

If passed, the bills would create a working group of providers, managed care organizations and state health workers, to figure out a set of metrics to "bring the regulatory structure in line with modern health care," O'Donnell said.

These metrics would drive a new "pay-for-performance" structure, which providers could opt into each year, or opt out of after two years if they don't like it.

Both bills await further assignments to committee.



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Fresh live lobster and crab we picked to eat from submerged water cages on the beach at Fireman's Lobster Pit in Negril.

JAMAICA from p. 3

things I loved was all the colorfully-painted tiny homes in the small communities scattered among the Blue Mountains. We noted that run down shacks and multi-million dollar homes could exist right next door to each other on a mountainside, both with a million dollar view of the mountains or the ocean.

All in all it was a magnificent trip, with the only thing missing being my oldest daughter Tedi and her family, who did not make it. Jamaica is a place you can find what you're looking for, whether it be action or peace and quiet, or a little bit of both. For us, it was a long awaited respite from the stress of my husband and I having a life-threatening illness.

Cancer has invaded my family, but I refuse to let it destroy or dictate my life. I've got a lot of living to do, and Jamaica was the perfect place to be reminded of that.

Budget figures are staggering at all levels

BY PENNI LES

The budget news for Chicago, Cook County and the State of Illinois can be summed up in three words: “bad,” “worse” and “staggering.”

For every retiree taking money out of a public pension fund in Cook County, there is barely one current employee putting money in, a sign of growing demographic pressure on the severely-underfunded retirement plans, according to the Debt Disclosure Report issued last week by Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas.

According to the report, there are 135,757 local government employees, compared with 126,528 retirees, a ratio of just 1.07 to 1, according to an analysis of 384 governments in Cook County by the Office of Cook County Treasurer.

The City of Chicago reports 35,655 employees and 47,592 retirees.

Of Cook County’s 547 primary governments, 169 have fewer employees paying into pension funds than retirees receiving payments from the funds – up from 130 in late 2016.

Illinois says they have more than \$135 billion in unfunded pension liabilities that require more than \$9 billion in mandatory minimum payments from the state’s budget annually. The payment schedule shows that number grows continually and now accounts for about 25% of the state’s budget.

But is that state number even believable?

Moody’s Investors Service issued a warning back in 2016 about the growth in the state’s massive government pension debt. According to Moody’s calculations, in 2016 Illinois actually owed over \$250 billion in pension debt, far higher than the \$135 billion the state claims it owes.

These are ominous trends.

Increasingly, public pension funds are paying out more money than they bring in through investments, contributions by local governments, and payments by employees – their primary revenue streams. This is not a problem the city, county and state can simply tax their way out of. The dollar figures are staggering and point to one of the main reasons why so many people are now fleeing Chicagoland and Illinois. The state’s population declined for a fifth consecutive year for the 12-month period ended July 1, 2018.

Gov. J.B. Pritzker delivered his first budget address last week, laying out his spending plan for the upcoming fiscal year before a joint session of the General Assembly, addressing the state’s underfunded pension systems, paying down the state’s \$8 billion backlog of unpaid bills and making new investments in the state’s roads, bridges and other public infrastructure.

In his address he laid out a se-

ries of tax increases that he wants instituted on the state’s citizens to help balance the budget. He also wants more time to pay off the states own dire unfunded pension liability.

The Illinois Constitution requires that, “Proposed expenditures shall not exceed funds estimated to be available for the fiscal year as shown in the budget.” But in reality, the state’s budget has been anything but balanced for the past several years, as the backlog of unpaid bills demonstrates. The state has been financing their shortfalls on the backs of their venders.

Deputy Gov. Dan Hynes recently spoke at the City Club in Chicago about the state’s biggest budget obstacle: How to pay down the state’s pension debt. Hynes said the administration plans to pay more into the pen-

sion funds, sell state assets to the pension funds, take out loans, and extend the payment schedule for seven more years to give the state the ability to pay other obligations.

Illinois says they have more than \$135 billion in unfunded pension liabilities that require more than \$9 billion in mandatory minimum payments from the state’s budget annually.

Dan Mitchell, chairman for the Center for Freedom and Prosperity, is suspect about the plan. He said the governor’s proposals lack changes that would lower the cost of Illinois’ bloated government enough to stem the state’s continuing population losses.

Upcoming program offers strategies to prevent flooding, leaks in homes

Local resident Mary Edsey doesn’t enjoy rainy days anymore.

With heavy and more frequent downpours of late causing problems with flooding basements, streets and yards, Edsey says she now spends rainy days “running up and down the basement steps and dragging heavy sandbags to prevent water coming in under the back door from my flooding yard, with my ShopVac at the ready.”

“I did so at least 10 times last summer,” she said in an email to Inside.

She also checks on the street in front of her home, where rising water could crest over the curb and “turn the entire block into a river, as it did in 2007.”

“I have dubbed myself, ‘The Keeper of the Sewer,’ since I have had to spend many a rainy

day getting soaked while I reach under parked cars to unclog the sewer grates to prevent the street from flooding,” she wrote, adding, “My neighbors with deeper basements are experiencing even worse problems with disgusting backup through basement drains and even through toilets and tubs.”

Edsey, a volunteer with the Chicago Conservation Corps, has organized the upcoming program “An Evening With Your Leaky Basement” in order to help area homeowners address problems associated with rain.

The event, which will be held 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 13, at the Sulzer Regional Library, 4455 N. Lincoln Ave., will feature speakers from the Center for Neighborhood Technology – a nonprofit organization that pro-

“There’s no game-changer that we see in his budget or rumors surrounding it. The long-run problems that Illinois faces are enormous. A progressive tax will result in endless tax increases to try and prop up a failed pension system and bureaucratic bloat in Springfield.”

Meanwhile back in Cook County, total municipal and school debt has shot up to \$145 billion, an increase of more than 10% since late 2016, when it was \$131.6 billion.

Total debt, including pensions, has grown to an average of \$106,704 per household in Chicago, and to an average of \$36,875 in the suburbs.

Chicago gave \$1 billion to its pension funds in 2018. Cook County gave more than \$550 million to its pension fund in 2018.

notes more livable and sustainable urban communities. Edsey said one of the group’s experts, Bryan Nelson, will present strategies to help alleviate flooding, leakage and backup.

A representative from the Chicago Dept. of Water Management also will speak and answer questions, as will local plumbing professionals Rae Lynn Piccioli and Patrick Flaherty of Power Plumbing & Sewer Contractors Inc.

“Join (us) for an engaging discussion of pipes, sewers, seepage, backup and flooding and discover improvements in and around your home that can keep your basement dry and your rainy days worry-free,” Edsey said.

For more information call Edsey at 773-404-9402.

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TOMORROW from p. 2

for the feds to seize.

Hopefully we took some ownership of the election yesterday. Perhaps the new administration will work for term limits and a smaller City Council. I'd rather have a dozen aldermen picking our pockets, instead of 50.

Perhaps some lyrics from the hit show "Hamilton" can enthrall our participation in elections. Alexander Hamilton, a hip 'Founding Father,' fought for the right to vote. "I'm past patiently waitin.' I'm passionately smashin' every expectation. Every action's an act of creation! I'm laughin' in the face of casualties and sorrow. For the first time, I'm thinkin' past tomorrow."

(Now go back and read it again as rap).

PAY TO VIEW? The **Chicago Cubs** are announcing the end of free televised games on local TV. If really true, it is the "end" of the national pastime. Baseball will not be there for us. The team is partnering with Sinclair Broadcast Group to establish its own regional sports network in 2020. There goes over a century of Cubbie blue goodwill right down the drain.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY: The Irish government has announced that the Taoiseach (Prime Minister) of Ireland, **Leo Varadkar**, will be coming to Chicago for St. Patrick's Day. It is a great honor that he has chosen to be here for the special celebration. Varadkar and **Michael King**, TD, Minister for Rural and Community Development, will be the honored guests at the Irish Fellowship St. Patrick's Day Dinner on Friday, March 15 at the Hilton Chicago Hotel. He will march in the parade on Saturday, March 16.

THEATER ON THE LAKE: **Greg Koch**, **Josh Noel** and **Ina Pinkney** will headline the next several months of the Authors on the Lake series at Theater on



Art Institute's Nora Gainer Doherty and Cook County Commissioner Brigid Gainer.



Denise Tomsello and Shaun Rajah.

the Lake. **Greg Koch**, executive chairman and co-founder of Stone Brewing, will take the stage on Sunday, March 10.

SOPHIA'S ROOM: High Fashion Haul with over a thousand pieces of designer clothes, costume jewelry and shoes, many new with tags, sizes 2-10 on clothes, 6-8.5 shoes. Opening 10 a.m. March 1, at 6031 N. Christiana Ave., www.sophiadubul.com.

MUSIC INSTITUTE: May 20, **Wynton Marsalis**, **Caryn** and **King Harris** will be honored at Music Institute Gala in Chicago.

CLOSURES: Hop Cat, a quirky bar for craft beer in Lincoln Park, has closed. The bar's management made the announcement via Twitter. The Michigan chain opened its one and only Chicago location in Sept. 2016 at 2577 N. Clark St. Same fate for Lockdown Bar & Grill, the prison-themed dive in Ukrainian Village that specializes in burgers. Maybe prison food isn't that great? And what to make of once respected, now resented chef **Ian Davis** of Band of Bohemia? Women are coming forward with tales of piggy behavior and unauthorized filming in the employee bathroom... really? The lawyers have

been called and orders of protection granted. Next staring job will be as a dishwasher.

IRISH SPIRIT: At the Ireland Network Chicago Ball Feb. 16 at the Drake Hotel, organization president, Farmhouse restaurateur **Ferdia Doherty** bestowed the "Spirit" award on his father-in-law, **Bill Gainer** who has spent more than 20 years successfully establishing and strengthening the ties between Chicago and our Sister City, Galway, Ireland. Cook County Commissioner **Bridget Gainer** accepted for her dad with Irish Consul General **Brian O'Brien**.

CAROLINE LEE BOUVIER (Princess Radziwill) RIP: She was always the epitome of a brahmin debutante. Bony and fine. Elegant and naturally Parisienne. She occupied a world of high American pedigree and nonchalant aristocracy. **Lee Radziwill**, sister of **Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis**, died in New York last week at 85. A pal of **Truman Capote**, **Rudolf Nureyev**, **Andy Warhol** and the glittering social constellations of her times, her elegance walked before her in a bejeweled world of opulent refinement. I always thought she outshone her sister, on a smaller stage. My friend **Rose O'Neill** and I often ran into her in the Hotel Meurice on the rue de Rivoli in Paris where she loved to lunch. Once, on a warm rainy day in June while we cocktailed, she entered in a sleek and slender white **Valentino** pantsuit, hair pulled tight, carrying Valentino's long clutch bag. She stopped as she entered and gave Rose, who was wearing a very large **Chanel** hat, a gracious bow. I told Rose the sweet gesture was for the hat. She was a deep respecter of fashion. She sat near us and was friendly, chatty and sophisticated. A true American grandee, at home in Paris or London or wherever she found herself. Added beauty and intelligent awareness wherever she went. So much nicer than her mother, **Janet Auchincloss**. Lee and Jackie had the Bouvier charm. Her years with **Stash Radziwill**, a Polish Prince, provided her with the patina of a title which was superfluous. What a great friend she was to the Arts. Hard to imagine New York, now, without both she and **Leonard Bernstein**.

CABARET QUEEN: She opened to a packed house at the Drake Hotel and shook the musical imaginations of her audience. **Denise Tomasello**, once again, made Chicago a town that "tod-

dles." It felt great, especially on her birthday. Doubling the love. Bright, elegant and poetic, she created one of those magic Chicago nights that you talk about forever. She slit the air with power and drama, a songwriter's dream. A love song's most essential partner. The audience loved her. Got sentimental as they should and reaffirmed how valuable she is to Chicago romance and the Arts. Recording artist **Doug Allan Nash**, **Mark Olley** and **Mark Roscoe**, **Vonita Reescer**, **Kevin Sullivan**, **Barb Bailey**, **Kim Duda**, **Carla Inwood** and **Cookie Cohen** all in for the show. Nice to know so



Dinner at the Peninsula Hotel - Mark Olley, Frances Renk, Cindy Vazquez, Julie Barrish, Toni Di Meola and Sylvia Perez.

many hearts were love-filled on love's day. She owned the room.

OOOPS! Did the beloved manager of a popular Gold Coast eatery just get caught by his wife man-handling a Rush St. beauty? The wife's a new mom and female wait staff say they are out to get him for being a heel. And for the fingerprints he has left on them.

HEADS UP: Artist **Cindy Prokopp** reminds us not to miss **Salvador Dali**: In Search of Immortality on March 20 at the Landmark Theater, 2828 N. Clark St.

BIG, BIGGER, BIGGEST: Chicago writer **Sherrill Bodine** is launching her new Food, Fashion, Travel, Lifestyle and Book blog called "Bigbiggerbiggest." Most importantly she will share the stories of modern heroines. All around us. Read Sherrill. She tells their tales.

THE GOODMAN THEATER: This just in, Broadway star **Megan Hilty** set to headline May 18 at Goodman Theater Gala.

CHICAGO IRISH FILM FESTIVAL: Master storyteller and acclaimed film director **Jim Sheridan** is coming to town. He will discuss his powerful documentary about how a group of celebrities, homeless, activists and the public came together and took the law into their own hands to

address the homeless issue in Ireland. Chicago Irish Film Festival runs Feb 28 - Mar 3. filmsinfo@chicagoirishfilmfestival.com.

BIENVENUE: Restaurant Le Colonial will open on March 1 at a new address in the heart of the Gold Coast neighborhood, above the new Van Cleef store, at 57 E. Oak St. Bravo, **Mark Knaur**.

DISHWASHER SAFE: What tough, silk stocking attorney stayed home because the dishwasher repair man was coming? Love at first sight halfway through the rinse cycle.

AMSTERDAM ART: For the first time ever, the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam is showing all 400 of its **Rembrandts** at the same time. Take a look at this momentous exhibition if you are Europe bound. Now through June 10.

DRIEHAUS MUSEUM: A panel discussion exploring the provocative art of British-Nigerian artist **Yinka Shonibare** through the lens of social history. With Museum of Contemporary Art's **Naomi Beckwith**, independent art historian and curator, **Lowery Stokes Sims** and DrieHaus Museum Executive Director, **Richard P. Townsend**. March 2, 3-4:30p.m.

WHO'S WHERE?: Is the Drake Hotel's **Shaun Rajah** not Chicago's finest "Major Domo?"

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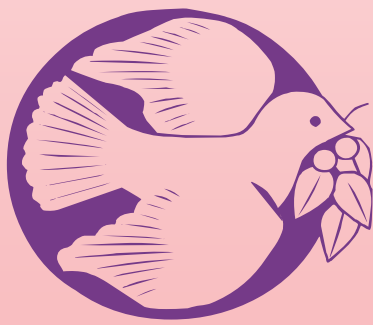
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From Stockholm to Chicago

An immigrant's journey performed in concert

BY BOB KITSOS

A veritable smorgasbord of classical music will be performed by the Bach and Beethoven Experience (BBE) next weekend in two locations. The first concert will be held 8 p.m. Saturday, March 2, at St. Clement of Rome Church, 624 W. Deming Place. The second concert will be performed at the Swedish American Museum, 5211 N. Clark St., 1 p.m. Sunday, March 3.

This is BBE's first foray into Sweden and its heritage of classical music. The program will feature selections of one of Sweden's most famous classical composers, Johan Roman, known as "Sweden's Handel." The selections will tell the stories of his travels and impact on the music scene at the Swedish Royal Court. The delightful program also will include music by Anders von Duben, a musician in the Swedish Royal Court Orchestra who became its chief conductor in 1698.

The program culminates with a performance of DePaul University's Dr. Kurt Westberg's "Swedes in Chicago," a musical biography of his immigrant grandfather's journey from Sweden to Chicago, where he eventually settled in the Andersonville/Edgewater neighborhoods.

"Swedes in Chicago" premiered in Oct. 2018 as part of Chicago's "Night Out in the Parks" series. The encore performance of this original musical piece is the result of that event. "Karin Abercrombie, executive director of the Swedish American Museum, attended one of our Chicago Stories performances that took place at Loyola Park last October," said Rogers Park resident Brandi Berry Benson, founder and artistic director of the BBE. "She was so moved by Kurt Westberg's piece that she asked us to consider performing 'Swedes in Chicago' for the museum."

The BBE has been around Chicago since 2009. The group feels music should serve a story and



Kurt Westberg, composer.



Brandi Berry Benson, artistic director, baroque violin.



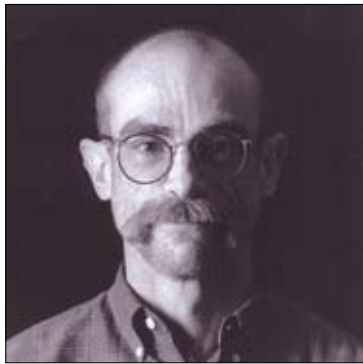
Patrick O'Malley, recorder.



Kate Shuldiner, viola da gamba.

be people-centric, so it attempts to build a personal connection between their audience and their artists through stories, music of all kinds (classical, folk, original music and beyond) and an interactive experience. As a bonus, they rock the house with some unique instruments, including a baroque violin, recorder, viola da gamba (an earlier model of the viola) and a harpsichord.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. The March 3 performance follows the herring breakfast; suggested donation at the Museum door is \$10.



David Schrader, harpsichord.

The BBE performers.

*Photos courtesy
Bach & Beethoven Experience*



Steve Kolinsky, the "Hungry Hound."

Hungry Hound to speak March 20

The Streeterville Organization of Active Resident's Speaker Series kicks off with pizza this year.

The SOAR Speaker Series will begin 2019 with a delicious start Wednesday, March 20 for a tasty event with Steve Kolinsky, the "Hungry Hound" at ABC 7 News, Co-Host/Producer of "The Feed Podcast" and travel writer for The Chicago Tribune.

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CPD Teen Opportunity Fair March 2

The Chicago Park District invites teens from across Chicago to attend its 4th annual Teen Opportunity Fair taking place 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 2 at Kennedy King College, 740 W. 63rd St.

The fair is meant to inform teens about career options while in high school and hopefully bring them one step closer to achieving their goals after they graduate.

The Fairs are free for all teens between 13-19 years old. All teens attending the opportunity fairs will have access to information about job readiness and connect with organizations in attendance to receive feedback and critique. Teens seeking volunteer opportunities and skill development offerings will find ample options during the fair. For more information call 312-742-7429.



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Police Beat....

Bizarre North Center robbery, kidnapping report investigated by cops

Police are investigating an unusual robbery and kidnapping report filed in North Center Feb. 21. No one is in custody.

Officers were called to the 3700 block of N. Bell at 9:10 p.m. after a group of people reported that they were standing around smoking when two armed men emerged from two vehicles, threatened the group with guns, and forced a 16-year-old boy in the group to leave with them at gunpoint.

During the confrontation, one of the offenders approached a 27-year-old man in the group, said something to him, and struck the man in the eye with the butt of a handgun, police said. The offender then stole the man's phone.

Further investigation revealed that the boy who was taken from the scene had been reported missing by his parents on Feb. 13. Now, investigators are trying to determine if the purported kidnapping was actually an effort to force the teen into rehab.

The two vehicles—a black Chrysler and a white four-door vehicle—fled northbound on Bell.

One offender was described as a bald white male wearing red flannel. He has a beard and stands about 5'-11" tall. The second suspect is the one who allegedly struck the 27-year-old and stole the man's phone. That offender is described as being a black male who stands about 6' tall.

As of Sunday evening, no arrests have been made in the case.

Judge sends local developer to 'debtors prison'

A North Side real estate developer has asked a state appeals court to step in after a Cook County judge sent him to veritable debtors' prison for not establishing a fund to pay legal fees for him and his wife in their divorce case.

In late January, Frank M. "Marty" Paris filed arguments with the Illinois First District Appellate Court, asking the state panel to declare Cook County Associate Judge Karen J. Bowes improperly ordered him to set aside the funds.

Paris, founder and president of Sedgwick Development, 1525 W. Homer St., had been cited for contempt of court, leading to five days in jail, after the judge determined he had not complied with her order. Paris, however, argued his estranged wife foiled his attempt to comply with the judge's order, and his attorneys never asked for such a fund to be created.

Marty Paris and his wife, Kerry, have been in Cook County divorce court since 2016, when Kerry filed for divorce. Marty Paris countered with his own divorce petition two weeks later.

Proceedings have been rancorous, according to court records.

Judge Bowes ordered in Aug. 2017 that Paris create a \$750,000 fund to pay his and Kerry's attorneys, as Kerry did not have adequate income, as well as to pay fees for financial experts and a court-appointed representative for the couple's children.

Of the required amount, \$200,000 was to come from a home equity loan against the Paris' house. Bowes told Paris to "go find" the remaining \$550,000, despite Paris' protest his

assets were "highly cross-collateralized," "highly leveraged" and "encumbered and controlled by the banks," preventing him from coming up with the money, according to Paris' filing.

"All we need is a dip in the stock market, a recession in building, and this house of cards will come tumbling down before anyone can see it. If your Honor orders that he violate the restrictions placed by the banks and the lending institutions, then we're enhancing the possibility of this house of cards coming down," Paris' then-attorney told the judge.

Paris eventually obtained a loan proposal for \$550,000, but the bank demanded Kerry co-sign the loan, which she purportedly refused to do. Paris asked Judge Bowes to order Kerry to sign, but Bowes refused.

In turn, Kerry asked in Sept. 2017 for Paris to be held in contempt for not obtaining the money, saying Paris annually cleared \$1 million in income. Paris said this income was "phantom income," which merely passed through him on its way to pay off bank obligations.

At a May 2018 hearing, Bowes expressed indignation.

"I'm offended on multiple levels that this case has gone on for two years, and that these attorneys have worked exceptionally hard and haven't been paid. How dare you take advantage of these lawyers like this? And that applies to everyone, the two parties sitting here. Mr. Paris, I am finding your action contemptuous without justification. I don't care where you get the money from. It's your problem. Figure it out," Bowes said.

Paris was jailed five days, before he was released on bond.

Paris appealed, arguing Bowes should have determined whether he could afford to furnish funds, instead of just telling him to "figure it out."

"While the circuit court was certainly vehement in the conclusion it wanted to reach, it ignored the fact that there are no means to that end," Paris' attorney contended.

Lakeview aldermanic candidate's campaign office targeted by brazen "flyer boy" thief on Sunday

The campaign office for a 44th Ward aldermanic candidate was targeted Sunday evening by one of Chicago's infamous "flyer boy" thieves.

"A man in his 30's came in asking for donations for his basketball team, and then cleared off a table [of valuables] and ran off," said Jay Malone, campaign manager for Austin Baidas, who - naturally - blames the sitting alderman for the crime.

"Increasingly brazen attacks like this are happening regularly throughout Lakeview, and our alderman has failed to even acknowledge the problem, let alone provide real solutions," Baidas said. "This was a reminder of how badly Lakeview and the 44th Ward need new leadership."

The offender fled from the campaign office at 3127 N. Broadway around 6:45 p.m. and hopped into a gray Pontiac Grand Am that drove away with over \$1,500 worth of property, Malone said.

Malone said the theft happened in front of at least 10 witnesses and it reminded him of recent burglaries from storefronts and homes throughout the area. A report has been filed with the Chicago Police Dept., Malone said.

No injuries after shots are fired near State and Chicago

No one was injured when shots were fired Sunday near the usually-bustling intersection of State and Chicago in River North. No one is in custody.

Multiple witnesses told police that they heard or saw shots fired between two vehicles in the area around 1:30 a.m.

"They sounded like they were right outside my window," an area resident named Jennifer said while asking that we not use her full name. "A white Dodge Charger and a black Impala sped off afterward."

The woman's recollections match details shared with police by other witnesses. Police said a white Dodge Charger with tinted windows was last seen southbound on Clark and then westbound on Ontario followed by a black four-door Impala that may have been shooting at it.

No one showed up with injuries at area hospitals, and no property damage was found.

CPS "student advocate" charged with battering student off-campus

A Chicago Public School employee battered a 12-year-old boy and sprained the student's wrist in an after-school, off-campus incident last week, according to Chicago police.

Marvin Allen, a student advocate at Jenner Campus, 1119 N. Cleveland, is charged with one felony count of aggravated battery of a child causing great bodily harm.

Police said the student and his mother told them that the boy was walking to a bus stop after school on Feb. 11 when Allen stopped him in the 500 block of W. Division. Allen grabbed the boy by the arm, removed the boy's coat, and began searching the student for a hat, they said. Allen "grabbed the arm and neck of [the victim and] spun him around by his arm," according to a police report.

When Allen failed to find what he was looking for, he took the boy's comb from the student's pocket and said he would return the comb when the boy surrendered the hat, according to allegations in court records.

That evening, the student's mother took the boy to a clinic near their home, and a doctor diagnosed the boy with a sprained wrist, police said. Allen was arrested at Jenner the next morning.

Judge John Lyke released Allen on a recognizance bond. CPS spokesperson Emily Bolton said, "we immediately removed the employee from his position upon learning of a deeply concerning altercation that took place off of school grounds. The district has launched a full investigation and will work with CPD as the investigation remains ongoing."

"Student safety," Bolt said, "is the district's top priority."

The 12-year-old and his family have been offered support by CPS and parents of Jenner students were notified of the incident.

Smash & grab burglars target another Bluemercury store

One day after burglars filled trash bins to steal high-end cosmetics from a Bluemercury store in the Southport Corridor last week, a burglary crew pulled off an identical heist at the shop's sister location in Lincoln Park. No one is in custody.

Police said two male burglars wearing all black clothing used a crowbar to force their way into the Bluemercury store, 2208 N. Halsted St., at 5:50 a.m. Feb. 21. Once inside, they loaded up on expensive products that retail for up to \$80 per half-ounce and fled, possibly in a white or silver pick-up truck.

At 5:34 a.m. Feb. 20, the crew forced its way through the front door of Bluemercury's location at 3512 N. Southport. A witness to that break-in reported seeing two men hauling large

city trash cans filled with cosmetics out of the store. The men loaded the goods into a pick-up truck that fled eastbound on Cornelia Ave., the witness said.

Police are asking residents to be on the lookout for suspicious activity near businesses and especially for any vehicles that appear to be loitering in the area.

Anyone with information about the burglaries may contact Area North investigators at 312-744-8263 regarding alert #P19CWP-007.

Woman robbed in Near North hotel elevator

A woman told Chicago police that she was robbed at knifepoint in an elevator at the Hotel Sofitel, 20 E. Chestnut, Sunday morning. No one is in custody.

The victim reported that she was riding the elevator to her seventh-floor room around 4 a.m. when a man on the elevator put a knife to her throat and took her phone and purse, police said. The woman exited on her floor and called 911 for help.

The offender is described as a black male wearing a black winter cap and tan boots. He carried a book bag and wore an orange or red jacket with gray sleeves and black shoulders, the woman said.

Far North Side man charged with attempted murder after extremely short police investigation

It may be the shortest and most successful shooting investigation that Chicago has seen in years.

Police responding to a call of a person shot in the 6200 block of N. Leavitt Feb. 19 arrived to find a man and his neighbor in the alley.

Per a police report, the entire investigation unfolded thusly:

Officers asked the men, "Who's shot?"

"Victim related... that he was shot."

"Arrestee then spontaneously uttered... 'I shot him.'"

With that, Leonard Dillard, 48, was placed into custody for shooting his 23-year-old neighbor during a dispute, police said. The victim was taken to St. Francis Hospital in Evanston where his condition was stabilized.

Dillard is charged with attempted first-degree murder and Class X felony aggravated battery by discharging a firearm. He was ordered held without bail by Judge John Lyke.

Red Line robbery

A Red Line CTA passenger told police that he was pepper-sprayed and robbed of his cellphone as his train approached the Addison station around 7:30 p.m. Feb. 21. The victim exited the train at the Addison stop, 940 W. Addison, to meet police.

Meanwhile, the offender continued northbound on the train and likely exited at the Sheridan station, police said, noting that the victim's phone began pinging in the area of Grace and Kenmore before it was turned off in the minutes after the incident.

The victim described the robber as a black male in his mid-20's who wore a black bubble jacket.

Man gets probation for robbing, beating "disabled" man with traffic cone

Tony Vann, 19, has received 24 months TASC probation and been fined \$489 after pleading guilty to beating a 56-year-old "severely mentally disabled" man with a traffic cone during a robbery last summer near the

Howard Red Line CTA terminal.

The victim was walking from the CTA station when he was attacked around 3:20 p.m. on July 25, 2018. When the victim dropped his phone, Vann picked it up and ran away, prosecutors said.

Vann reached a plea deal that saw the state drop four aggravated battery cases in exchange for pleading guilty to one count of robbing a disabled person. Judge Timothy Chambers approved the agreement.

Nordstrom guards tackle, help disarm gunman in Mag Mile store

Two Nordstrom loss prevention officers tackled and helped police disarm a man who was holding a gun inside the retailer's Magnificent Mile location Feb. 19, prosecutors said.

The store's agents were watching as a known scam artist tried to

purchase merchandise with a counterfeit \$100 bill just before 8 p.m., according to police. But when the guards moved in to detain Phillip Smith, Smith pulled away and began to grab for his waistband to pull out a gun, according to court records.

Police said Nordstrom officers tackled Smith. Another employee ran and found a cop who joined the struggle inside the store at 55 E. Grand. While the three men wrestled with Smith, the police officer pulled something from under Smith's body: an ammunition magazine loaded with 22 rounds of .40-caliber bullets, he would later report.

One of the security guards then succeeded in prying the rest of a Glock semi-automatic from Smith's left hand, police said. The cop was soon able to handcuff Smith and take him into custody.

Prosecutors charged the 34-year-old with felony unlawful use of a weapon by a felon and deceptive practice. Judge John Lyke ordered him held in lieu of \$100,000 bail.

Probation for robbing Divvy biker

An 18-year-old female has received 30 months probation after pleading guilty to robbing a woman of a Divvy bike near the United Center last October. Keshawna Davidson was also fined \$1349 and sentenced to 125 days in jail, which is equivalent to the time she served awaiting trial. Judge William Raines approved the plea deal.

Around 3 p.m. Oct. 14, 2018, the 31-year-old victim told police that she was pepper-sprayed, battered, and robbed of her Divvy bike as she rode it in the 400 block of N. Wood, about four blocks from her home. Cops searched the area, and one of them quickly noticed a Divvy bike sitting unattended in the vestibule of the McDonald's at 23 N. Western Ave. Inside the restaurant, officers saw Keshawna Davidson who matched the description of the Divvy robber.

Robber armed with pizza slicer cuts a deal

The man accused of robbing a Lincoln Park 7-Eleven while armed with a pizza cutter last summer has pleaded guilty and received a sentence of 2 years probation.

Shortly after midnight on Aug. 10, 2018, Fred Suane of Uptown walked into the 7-Eleven at 2619 N. Clark St. and asked for 10 packs of smokes. When the clerk asked for Suane to



Phillip Smith



Marvin Allen



Leonard Dillard

Water Safety Task Force issues preliminary recommendations



The CPD is building its lifeguard workforce by adding more lifeguard classes.

Chicago does not have enough lifeguards

In response to the July 6, 2018, drowning death of 13-year-old Darihanne Torres on Loyola Park Beach, Ald. Joe Moore [49th] called together a Lakefront Water Safety Task Force to develop a list of recommended actions and policy measures to minimize the risk of future drownings.

The Task Force has been meeting since then to develop a recommended Lakefront Safety Plan and is now seeking final comments as it fashions its final report.

The Task Force was charged with developing recommendations in three main areas that public agencies and stakeholders should undertake to enhance water safety:

- Increase public awareness.
- Immediate actions.
- Long-term policy goals.

This Spring the Task Force will hold a series of water safety events for Chicago Public Schools [CPS] students, with the goal of educating as many youth as possible on how to stay safe in the water and respond to emergency situations. Additionally, CPS and the Fire Dept. [CFD] are working to develop a water safety curriculum that students across the system will experience annually.

The Chicago Park District

[CPD] did not wait for the report to begin implementing a number of operations improvements to enhance water safety. They posted new signs and flags to better inform beachgoers that it is only safe to swim when lifeguards are present. New signs also advise the public of hazards that exist at our lakefront – especially around structures like piers and jetties.

Additionally, the CPD conducted a nationwide survey of lifeguard hours and staffing to determine how to best use limited resources in making our lakefront safe. They are considering a budget proposal to extend lifeguard hours at Chicago beaches.

The CFD has equipped all of its land and water vehicles with water rescue equipment and is developing a public education campaign to inform the public on how to report accurately the nature and location of a water emergency.

The CFD also completed a study documenting when and where drownings occur. This study complements research that Lurie Children's Hospital conducted on fatal and nonfatal drownings. "Armed with this research, the Task Force members are confident they are building a comprehensive understanding

of drowning in Chicago to help inform future policy decisions," said Ald. Moore.

Amidst calls to extend lifeguard hours, the Task Force discovered a deeper challenge beyond funding: Chicago does not have enough qualified lifeguards and needs to build its pipeline of candidates to staff all its beaches this coming summer and beyond.

The CPD is building its lifeguard workforce by adding more lifeguard classes (including within CPS facilities), expanding opportunities to take certification tests, and creating partnerships to recruit guards from throughout the city. The CPD claims it is stymied in these efforts by a lack of adequate facilities and programming to make water safety part of the culture for all Chicagoans.

CPS and the Park District are working to maximize swimming opportunities throughout Chicago.

Following several months of discussion and research, the Task Force developed more than a dozen preliminary policy suggestions to be submitted to various policy-making bodies, including the Chicago City Council, CPD Board and the Illinois General Assembly. These policy suggestions include standardizing beach signage across the entire Illinois coast of Lake Michigan, providing specialized life safety equipment at beaches, improving first-responder coordination and creating a citywide water safety plan to prevent drownings. They include:

1. CPD should expand lifeguarding capacity at Chicago beaches by extending the lifeguard hours and season and increasing the budget for lifeguard staffing, training and recruitment; lifeguard feeder programs, and water quality testing.

2. Municipalities and park districts throughout the Chicago area should use consistent language and visuals for water safety signs and educational materials.

3. Government entities with jurisdiction over lakefront access points should bar entry into the water at high-risk locations and post warnings with effective messages to deter risky behavior. High risk locations include areas where structural currents are present and areas inaccessible to patrol and response.

4. The CFD, Police and Office of Emergency Management and Communication [OEMC] should update rescue and response procedures, including call taker protocols, to collect and communicate information to first-responders enroute to the scene of an emergency.

5. The CFD should purchase, staff and license a second fast boat to enable the department to respond to multiple emergencies, and should include positioning systems on all equipment to aid dispatch and response.

6. Chicago area governments should streamline inter-agency communication for emergency response, the Chicago should equip all police and fire vehicles with water rescue equipment.

7. The OEMC, FDP and Police should train all first-responders to consistently manage the scene of drownings and near-drownings.

8. The City should train residents in water safety, with an emphasis on youth and communities most at risk of drowning. CPS should provide water safety training, on par with fire, tornado, and active shooter response and the CPD, Fire and Police departments should conduct annual water safety demonstrations and outreach events.

9. Chicago area water safety advocates and professionals

Lifeguard training

The New Lifeguard Training Academy will be held on five consecutive days, which includes a final testing date. Only those applicants who pass the qualifying lifeguard swim test will be admitted. Registration for the New Lifeguard Academy will be taken on the testing days starting April 30. Attendance of all five days within a session is highly recommended.

Candidates who successfully complete the Academy will be hired and assigned based on their ranking until all positions are filled. Completion of the Academy does not guarantee employment. For more information call 773-363-2225.

should create a Chicago region prevention-centered water safety plan to reduce the incidence of drownings and near-drownings.

The Task Force will take into account all comments as it fashions its final report, for more information call 773-338-5796.

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Chicago Fringe Fest calls it quits, will cease programming this year

Final celebration June 1

The Chicago Fringe Festival announces that after 10 years of celebrating the weird and unpredictable, Chicago Fringe Festival is closing its doors. The annual avant-garde performing arts festival will conclude with a 10-year celebration party Saturday, June 1 at The Windsor Tavern and Grill, 4530 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Over the course of the past 10 years, the festival has presented 367 shows and returned \$231,654 to the artists. During this decade, the Festival remained true to its

aims of returning 100% of ticket sales to artists and staging unjuried and uncensored shows.

The festival's policies allowed artists from all over the world to enter their selection lottery and win a slot in the festival, bringing established and emerging artists together to learn from each other and to produce work in a low-risk environment.

"Unfortunately, at this time we are unable to commit to the demands of an annual festival," said Executive Director Anne Cauley of the mostly volunteer-driven effort.

"It is bittersweet to see the Festival coming to an end," added Founder and Board Member Sarah Mikayla Brown. "Ultimately, the Fringe movement is much bigger than any one of us. This was only our version. There was one before us, and who knows? There may be another one someday."

The Chicago Fringe Festival will grant its assets to other non-profit institutions dedicated to making "Fringe-y" art in and for the city. A call for proposals and details about Fringe's send off celebration are available at www.chicagofringe.org.

POLICE BEAT *from p. 10*

present a method of payment before handing over the cigarettes, Suane allegedly became violent, threw a bottle of milk at the clerk, then went around the counter and tried to attack him with a pizza cutter, according to a criminal complaint.

Police officers found Suane, 64, nearby with 10 packs of Newport cigarettes and arrested him. The victim was treated for cuts to his hands and arms.

Judge Earl Hoffenberg approved the plea deal in which Suane pleaded guilty to aggravated battery while prosecutors dropped robbery charges. Suane was also sentenced to 120 days time served and fined \$357.

Turkish man missing from Boystown area



MISSING: Kazim Gurgut

A 70-year-old man who speaks only Turkish has gone missing from the Boystown area, police said.

Kazim Gurgut was last seen at 10 a.m. Feb. 19 in the 500 block of W. Cornelia, according to a missing person bulletin. He left his home carrying only cash. His wallet and passport were left behind, police said.

Gurgut was last seen wearing the navy blue coat seen here and a winter cap. He's 5'-6" tall, weighs 180 lbs, and has gray hair.

Anyone with information regarding Gurgut's whereabouts is asked to call the Area North Special Victims Unit 312-744-8266.

Hotel security foils robbery outside Palmer House

Security at the Palmer House Hotel came to the rescue after an Indiana man was beaten and robbed near the landmark hotel in the Loop, police said.

A hotel guard was watching as Dashaun Patrick, 26, of Chatham walked up to the tourist in the first block of S. Wabash around 10 p.m. Feb. 20, according to court records. After failing in an attempt to steal the 34-year-old victim's phone, Patrick began punching the man in the head and face, pulled the man's jacket off over the victim's head, and then ran away, according to police.

When police arrived, the security guard had already captured Patrick and had him waiting for cops in the hotel lobby. After the victim identified Patrick as the person who attacked him, officers returned the man's coat and took Patrick into custody.

Police said they found five credit cards, social security cards, and RTA free ride permits belonging to other people in Patrick's possession during a custodial search. Inside Patrick's fanny pack officers allegedly found 17 Xanax pills.

Patrick is charged with felony robbery, possession of a controlled sub-



Dashaun Patrick

stance and theft of lost or mislaid property. Judge John Lyke ordered him held in lieu of \$150,000 bail.

Shots fired at off-duty Amtrak officer near Union Station

A gunman opened fire on an off-duty Amtrak police officer who was driving to work in a road rage incident near Union Station Feb. 17, according to Chicago police and a department source. The officer was not injured.

Officially, Chicago police said only that a man was fired upon by an occupant of another vehicle as they traveled eastbound in the 600 block of W. Washington around 9:35 p.m.

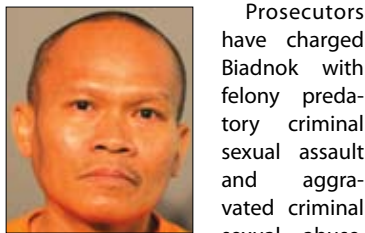
The Amtrak officer trailed the gunman's vehicle for several blocks before losing track of it near LaSalle St. A single bullet hole was found near the top of the driver's door on the Amtrak officer's vehicle, according to Chicago police on the scene.

Officers who reviewed POD camera footage said the offender's vehicle is a brown 2018 Hyundai SUV with an Uber decal on the lower-right side of its front windshield. The car's license plate begins with Z5092, according to the Amtrak cop.

Monk charged with sexual assault, abuse of children at Uptown temple in early 2000's

A Buddhist monk has been taken into custody on a warrant to face allegations that he sexually assaulted and fondled two children at an Uptown temple in 2001 and 2002, said Chicago police.

Sripai Biadnok, 48, victimized the children in a classroom area while they were attending Wat Phrasriratanamahatatu Chicago Buddhist Temple at 4735 N. Magnolia Ave., police said.



Sripai Biadnok Judge David Navarro ordered him held in lieu of \$20,000 bail.

Now, police are hoping to learn if other children were targeted by Biadnok during his years in Uptown.

Investigators issued a community alert Monday afternoon asking anyone with questions about the Biadnok cases or with information about other incidents involving him to call the CPD Special Investigations

Unit at 312-492-3810.

Biadnok taught Thai language and culture to young children at the Uptown temple between 2000 and 2002 while wearing customary monk attire, police said. He stands about 5'-1" tall and would have been in his early 30's with a slim build at the time, according to the alert.

Recently, Biadnok operated a Buddhist temple in the Las Vegas area. Nevada authorities recently took him into custody on a warrant and extradited Biadnok to Chicago.

On parole for shooting man, felon drops gun while running from Old Town traffic stop

A man who was recently paroled after serving 12 years in prison for shooting someone is back in jail, accused of dropping a handgun during a traffic stop in Old Town Feb. 17.

An officer who was working alone pulled Gaston Tucker, 32, over in the 1300 block of N. Sedgwick at Evergreen around 7 p.m. for a traffic infraction, according to police and dispatch records. During the stop, Tucker emerged from the car, dropped a loaded handgun, and then ran from the scene.

About four hours later, Tucker was arrested more than five miles away in the 2000 block of N. Kostner "after being identified as the offender that fled" from the stop, according to a CPD statement. Police did not say how they found him.

Tucker was paroled on Dec. 10, 2018, after serving nearly 12 years of a 13-year prison sentence for shooting a man in 2007.

Prosecutors charged him with one felony count of unlawful use of a weapon by a felon.

Prior to his latest prison sentence, Tucker was sent to prison for one year in 2004 for narcotics and was then sent to prison for another year in 2005 for narcotics.

Man charged with 2016 West Ridge teen death

An Austin man has been charged with the shooting death of 18-year-old Miguel Bahena in the West Ridge neighborhood on Aug. 6, 2016.

Chicago police developed information that Sheriff Polk, 24 of the first block of S. Waller was responsible for



Gaston Tucker

killing Bahena in the 2100 block of W. Devon nearly three years ago, according to court records. Town Hall 19th District tactical officers contacted Polk and arranged for him to turn himself in at the district station near Boystown last Monday evening, according to a police report.

Prosecutors said Bahena and Polk were members of rival gangs when Polk approached Bahena and another teenager, then opened fire. Bahena was struck four times in the chest and was pronounced dead at the scene. His companion was not injured.

Polk is charged with first-degree murder and aggravated assault by discharging a firearm. Judge Sophia Atcherson ordered him held without bail.

Limo drivers targeted in Old Town carjacking

A suspect is in custody after armed men carjacked one limo driver and then tried to carjack a second limo driver in the Old Town neighborhood on Monday morning. Other suspects remain at large, according to a police department source.

Around 5 a.m., a livery driver was carjacked of their Lincoln sedan in the 400 block of W. Wisconsin by three men, including one who displayed a handgun.

At about the same time, another livery driver told police that three men approached him as he sat in his vehicle in the 2000 block of N. Cleveland. One of the men knocked on the driver's window and displayed a handgun in a carjacking attempt that failed, the main said.

A silver Mercedes was seen in the area of both carjackings and is believed to be involved in the crimes.

Police tracked GPS signals from the stolen Lincoln and eventually found the vehicle crashed near the intersection of Cornell Dr. and Hayes Dr. in Jackson Park, according to police.

A gun was recovered from the Lincoln's driver's side door panel, and the driver was taken into custody at the crash scene, police said.

A suspected passenger of the stolen car managed to escape the wreckage and was seen getting into the silver Mercedes which sped from the area. Police are searching South Side hospitals for that individual because they expect that he or she was seriously injured in the crash.

— Compiled by

CWBChicago.com and Dan Churney

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RENT *from p. 4*

Of the households in Illinois that rent, about 30% have an income level at or below the poverty line, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition. Many of those households spend half of their income just on rent.

Malone said rent control is as much a part of the housing affordability problem as an engine is part of a car.

"Rent control is not a panacea — it's not going to solve all our problems, but it is a critical part of the solution, and leaving that out would be equivalent to a car without an engine," he said. "The idea that Springfield has all the answers when Springfield isn't doing anything to address the problem is a fallacy."

Rep. André Thapedi, the committee chair, also asked Guzzardi about what his proposal would mean for the health of the real estate market and property assessment values. The Chicago Democrat is an attorney and has a background as a real estate

broker.

The long-term effects of repealing the Preemption Act, Guzzardi said, would depend on what the local governments chose to do. He pointed out there were no rent control measures in places before the Act became law, so it is not a "foregone conclusion" municipalities will enact one if it is repealed.

He also said opponents of his legislation refer to rent control as a "boogeyman" and "anti-free market force," but the studies conducted in other cities that have such measures, including New York and San Francisco, are not conclusive.

Republican Rep. Deanne Mazzochi, from Elmhurst, said she was concerned rent control measures would effectively cap a school district's ability to raise revenue through property taxes.

Guzzardi — who began his answer to every question seeking specific plans with the preface that he wanted individual municipalities to make the decisions — said he hated to "be beating a

dead horse."

The point Mazzochi raised was a valid concern, he said, and one that a community and school board should discuss. If residents were not in favor of a rent control measure and the school district was "hostile" to it, the community would not approve the measure.

Malone said because rent control is an economic justice issue in many ways, and a racial and gender justice issue in others, that local governments should be given the chance to debate whether the tactic to combat housing affordability would work well in their community.

"If we trust that municipalities can run their school boards, can run their police departments, their emergency services, their schools, ... why don't we trust it can happen for this particular issue?" he said.

The legislation is House Bill 255. Two additional Chicago Democrats signed on as co-sponsors, Reps. Theresa Mah [2nd] and Delia Ramirez [4th].

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Lawsuit over distracted driving tickets to continue

City’s use of Administrative Hearings questioned

BY JONATHAN BILYK
Cook County Record

A Cook County judge, for now, has allowed a class action lawsuit to proceed against the city of Chicago, brought by a group of people who claimed the city wrongly prosecuted tens of thousands of distracted driving tickets.

However, lawyers for the city have asked the judge to reconsider that decision, arguing the tickets, while issued to people operating a mobile device while driving, should not be considered a so-called moving violation, under state law.

The lawsuit first pulled into Cook County court in 2017, when lawyers from the firm of Myron M. Cherry & Associates, of Chicago, filed suit on behalf of three named plaintiffs.

Only weeks earlier, the Cherry firm attorneys had already hauled in a settlement worth \$39 million, including \$11 million in fees, on behalf of a group of thousands of people who they argued had been wrongly made to pay fines under the city’s red-light camera enforcement program.

The lawyers argued the city for years had improperly prosecuted people ticketed by Chicago Police for texting or otherwise using a mobile phone or other device while driving, violating a city ordinance forbidding such use. The lawsuit did not directly challenge the tickets themselves or question whether the ordinance was unconstitutional.

Rather, the lawsuit bore down on a claim the city violated state law by funneling the citations through the city’s administrative

hearings system, depriving those accused of their rights to mount a defense to the charges in Cook County Circuit Court and steering the full amount of all fines collected into city coffers.

Typically, should a ticket be tried in court, the city must split any fines collected with other offices associated with the courts, keeping only 45% of the total paid. However, if the violation is tried through the city’s Dept. of Administrative Hearings, the city could pocket the full amount.

The lawsuit contends state law doesn’t allow the city to do that, because the violation should be considered a moving violation, and should be reported to the Illinois Secretary of State’s Office to be counted against a motorist’s driving record.

Further, the lawsuit asserts the language of the city’s ordinance effectively mirrors that of a state law forbidding similar behavior.

However, the lawsuit contends the city opted not to send the matter to the courts, nor report convictions to the Secretary of State.

The lawsuit also accuses the city of using its administrative hearing process to pressure those ticketed under the distracted driving ordinance to quickly pay \$100 fines, rather than risk going to a hearing and ultimately paying \$500.

Late last year, Cook County Circuit Judge Pamela McLean Meyerson rejected City Hall’s bid to dismiss the lawsuit, saying her plain reading of the city ordinance led her to conclude violations of the ordinance should be considered moving violations under state law.

She noted “the Ordinance ‘itself says it’s not a violation unless you are moving in a

vehicle,’” according to a brief filed by the city’s lawyers.

In the judge’s opinion, this meant the plaintiffs should be allowed to continue to press their case asserting the city sent traffic violations to its administrative hearing process which, under state law, rightly belonged in Cook County Circuit Court.

Typically, should a ticket be tried in court, the city must split any fines collected with other offices associated with the courts, keeping only 45% of the total paid. However, if the violation is tried through the city’s Dept. of Administrative Hearings, the city could pocket the full amount.

However, in that brief, filed Jan. 31, the city lawyers asked the judge to reconsider her decision, contending the judge misunderstood the law. They specifically said she misapprehended the phrase “traffic regulation governing the movement of vehicles” in state law. The city lawyers said the judge mistakenly assigned a “plain” meaning to that phrase, when the phrase should be considered a “legal term of art,” which has a particular meaning only under particular circumstances.

In this case, the city’s lawyers said the term should not be applied to the city ordinance, just as the term is not applied to other offenses, such as running a red light, which state law allows to be tried through administrative hearings, rather than in court.

“The Court’s Order rests on an incorrect

assumption that the operative phrase, ‘traffic regulation governing the movement of vehicles,’ is a simple description of ‘any’ regulation directed to conduct that occurs while driving or when a motor vehicle is in motion,” the city claims. “A review relevant Illinois Vehicle Code provisions, however, shows that the phrase is actually a legal term of art the (Illinois) General Assembly uses to categorize offenses.

“Specifically, the General Assembly often uses the phrase to except offenses from being considered moving violations even though the conduct proscribed involves the offender driving a motor vehicle.”

The city also asserted the judge wrongly sided with plaintiffs on the question of whether the city had improperly not reported distracted driving violations to the Secretary of State.

The city pointed to differences in the law’s reporting requirements. And further noted the state to this point has not treated a first violation of its distracted driving law as a moving violation subject to points under the Secretary of State’s conviction reporting system.

The city noted that will change on July 1, 2019, when any violation of the state’s distracted driving law will clearly be treated by the Secretary of State as a moving violation, moving a driver potentially closer to suspension or revocation of their driver’s license.

Nearly seven months earlier, plaintiffs had responded to this assertion in a brief filed in response to the city’s motion to dismiss. The judge has not yet ruled on the city’s request for reconsideration.

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Real Estate For Sale

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The judgment amount was \$224,019.08.

Improvements: Improved with a single family residence.

Sale terms: 10% down of certified funds; the balance, by certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, assessments, 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. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than the mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act.

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

The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information.

MOMKUS LLC, 1001 Warrenville Road, Suite 500, Lisle, IL 60532,(630) 434-0400, Attorney for Plaintiff, First American Bank. mtasch@momkus.com/boostello@momkus.com, Cook County Atty. Id. No. 41568.

13113207

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO WACHOVIA BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, (FORMERLY KNOWN AS FIRST UNION NATIONAL BANK) AS TRUSTEE FOR LONG BEACH MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2001-4 Plaintiff, -v.- JACQUELINE SMITH, YVONNE FINCH FKA YVONNE SMITH, AMERIQUEST MORTGAGE COMPANY, THE CITY OF CHICAGO, CAPITAL ONE, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO CAPITAL ONE, FSB, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA-DEPARTMENT OF THE

Real Estate For Sale

TREASURY-INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, CAPITAL ONE BANK (USA), N.A. FKA CAPITAL ONE BANK, 111 EAST CHESTNUT CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, DISCOVER BANK Defendants 10 CH 00492 111 E. CHESTNUT, UNIT 45G 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 December 7, 2017, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on April 12, 2019, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, CHICAGO, IL, 60606, sell at public auction to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 111 E. CHESTNUT, UNIT 45G, CHICAGO, IL 60611

Property Index No. 17-03-225-078-1333. The real estate is improved with a residential condominium.

The judgment amount was \$441,712.80.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale.

The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

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

Where a sale of real estate is made to satisfy a lien prior to that of the United States, the United States shall have one year from the date of sale within which to redeem, except that with respect to a lien arising under the internal revenue laws the period shall be 120 days or the period allowable for redemption under State law, whichever is longer, and in any case in which, under the provisions of section 505 of the Housing Act of 1950, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1701k), and subsection (d) of section 3720 of title 38 of the United States Code, the right to redeem does not arise, there shall be no right of redemption.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished

Real Estate For Sale

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 Plaintiff's attorney: HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC, 111 East Main Street, DECATUR, IL 62523, (217) 422-1719 Please refer to file number 53129.

If the sale is not confirmed for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the purchase price paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC 111 East Main Street DECATUR, IL 62523 (217) 422-1719 Fax #: (217) 422-1754 CookPleadings@hsbattys.com Attorney File No. 53129 Attorney Code. 40387 Case Number: 10 CH 00492 TJSC#: 39-1038

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.

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Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC D/B/A MR. COOPER Plaintiff, -v.- DONALD HOLMES, UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF GORDON C. HOLMES, THE BOARDWALK CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, CARSON ALEXANDER WHITE-HOLMES, IAN SEBASTIAN WHITE-HOLMES, KERRIGAN GABRIELLE WHITE-HOLMES, WILLIAM P. BUTCHER, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR GORDON C. HOLMES (DECEASED), CARY R. ROSENTHAL AS GUARDIAN AD LITEM Defendants 2018 CH 08134 4334 NORTH CLARENDON AVENUE UNIT #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 December 6, 2018, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on April 9, 2019, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, CHICAGO, IL, 60606, sell at public auction to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 4334 NORTH CLARENDON AVENUE UNIT #207, CHICAGO, IL 60613

Property Index No. 14-17-407-053-1017. The real estate is improved with a condo/townhouse.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction

Real Estate For Sale

thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale.

The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

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

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a

government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C., 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL 60527, (630) 794-9876 Please refer to file number 14-18-06278. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE, IL 60527 (630) 794-5300 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-18-06278 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Attorney Code. 21782 Case Number: 2018 CH 08134 TJSC#: 38-9626

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.

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DEAL from p. 1

holds, under a future TIF scenario, all 'incremental' growth in property taxes would be captured by the TIF district. In layman's terms, that means 100% of property taxes generated by that particular site would go to the TIF, and for the 23-year life of the TIF District, none of the other taxing bodies - like Chicago Public Schools and libraries, the Chicago Park District or Streets and Sanitation, would receive a cent in property taxes.

PROTEST from p. 1

strike, despite hundreds of complaints, the city agreed not to cite or arrest strikers for noise between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. if noise-making devices were not used between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

That deal was cut on Sept. 12 during a conference call between attorneys for Unite Here Local 1 and attorneys for Chicago Police Dept.

The truce between strikers and police had to be re-examined on Oct. 17, when staff at Lurie Children's Hospital asked police to enforce an ordinance prohibiting noise in Quiet Zones located specifically near hospitals.

City attorneys offered to work with the union to identify areas where protests could be relocated to, outside of the hospital's Quiet Zone, but Local 1, according to Dana Pesha-O'Malley, assistant general counsel to Chicago Police Dept., "refused to discuss any solution that involved relocating out of the Quiet Zone."

The union said the Quiet Zone did not apply to them because, among other reasons, Lurie Children's Hospital is not in any noise-sensitive zone "marked with

After promising a slow methodical path toward a decision, the alderman is suddenly now in a big hurry to get the deal closed. "We need traffic and transit improvements in the neighborhood I represent today. We need three new bridges over the Chicago River to accommodate the existing traffic conditions today. We can't afford another delay. We can't wait any longer. The time to act is now," Hopkins said during the Community Development meeting.

But many local residents are steadfast against moving so quickly, and frustrated

signs conspicuously indicating the zone's boundaries."

In its lawsuit against the city, filed on Oct. 22, Unite Here Local 1 insisted that its use of megaphones, drums, and other sound-producing devices is "peaceful picketing" and ordinances that prohibit them from making noise violate their First Amendment rights.

The fear of being arrested, said the union in the lawsuit, made picketing difficult for the strikers. "They have chanted so quietly that their chants cannot be heard over ambient noise levels."

Further aggravating the union was music Cambria played from loudspeakers under its front awning.

"Defendants' unconstitutional actions come at a crucial time," said the union, referring to CPD. "After more than a month of picketing in front of the Cambria with bullhorns, whistles, loud chanting, drums, and other instruments - all with defendants' express permission throughout that time - the Cambria and Local 1 will be engaged in collective-bargaining negotiations."

The union asked a U.S. District Court to prohibit the city from citing strikers "for exercising their protected speech rights on

by the sudden rush to slam the zoning and TIF plans through City Hall. During the Community Development Commission meeting, local activist Allan Mellis "implored" the CDC to either defer a vote or change the redevelopment plan to insure the TIF funds will benefit the community as well as Sterling Bay.

Two neighboring alderman in the 32nd and 43rd wards are also demanding that property tax assessment reductions on 300 of the properties located within Lincoln Yards that were negotiated by Ald. Ed

public property."

The lawsuit was settled on Dec. 17, 2018, when the city and the union agreed to abide by the original agreement. Strikers would not be cited or arrested for using amplified sound devices between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. if they did not use such devices between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

The settlement further clarified that no one would be cited or arrested for generating any sound "solely with the unamplified human voice." And if police are ever thinking about arresting a striker, attorneys for the city must contact attorneys for the union and give the striker "a reasonable opportunity" to cease and desist before any enforcement action.

According to the settlement agreement, sound produced with amplified devices now is quieter than it was before Oct. 17. The union says it will continue to keep the noise down to no louder than it was before then.

The strike started a week after contracts

Burke's law firm be re-examined. While Ald. James Cappleman (46th) and other city councilmen had earlier called on Sterling Bay to provide more affordable housing on the Sterling Bay site.

According to the City Planning Dept., funds would be allocated for affordable housing and job training in the Lincoln Yards area but not within the development itself.

with about 6,000 hotel workers expired. The union was demanding year-round health insurance for employees laid off during slower winter months.

Police Cmdr. Daniel O'Shea [18th], one of the defendants in the lawsuit, was in a "tough situation," said Ald. Brendan Reilly [42nd] at a Town Hall community meeting on Oct. 24, caught between complaints coming in by the hundreds and the city's law department, which urged restraint.

The strike, said Reilly, "created a tremendous disturbance" for downtown residents. In addition to the noise, Reilly says strikers blocked sidewalks and triggered car alarms.

"Obviously, people have a right to protest - it's their constitutional right," said Reilly, "but unfortunately we had a situation where the city's administration cut a deal and thought it was appropriate for folks to make this kind of noise from seven in the morning till past 10 p.m. at night."

TAX BREAKS from p. 1

cago Sun Times, Burke and Klafter convinced former Assessor Berrios and/or the Board of Review to lower the estimated value on at least seven Sterling Bay properties. That decision slashed taxes on those properties by a total of 28% and saved the developer \$328,272 in property taxes for one year.

Smith and Waguespack now want to review what tax cuts Berrios' office might have given the other hundreds of properties in the proposed TIF district.

"It's laughable to think that these properties, which are part of the biggest 'land rush' in the City, and which sold for millions of dollars an acre, deserved reductions in value," said Smith.

One example they point to is the former Fleet Management site that Sterling Bay purchased for \$105 million. "That site, even today, is still assessed - at zero. That

means that every single dollar of taxes generated from this property, which is worth at least \$105 million, will go to the developer - and none to schools, parks or the taxpayers' needs," said Waguespack.

The alderman also claim that the tax payers are being mislead by the city on the terms of the proposed new TIF. They say that the Mayor's office claims that the developer bears the risk of building infrastructure, "but, the fine print of the TIF reveals something else... [that] Chicago will actually reimburse the developer for building infrastructure-with interest and management fees. So there is no risk to this developer. But there is to taxpayers."

"Equally troubling, there is no clear legal obligation binding the developer to actually build specific infrastructure. This lack of transparency is more than disturbing, it is insulting to citizens," their joint statement said.

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