

Feds reviewing scores of local gun cases for “Operation Legend”



Chicago police and ATF agents work a crime scene in 2017.

Photo courtesy ATF

BY CWBCHICAGO

Federal agents and prosecutors this week will begin reviewing the criminal histories of scores of people who've been recently charged with gun crimes in Chicago, according to a source.

The case review is part of the feds' recently-announced “Op-

eration Legend” program that is bringing more than 100 federal agents to Chicago to combat violent crime.

Federal authorities expect to find dozens of pending local cases that they can take over with minimal effort. The tactic will allow feds to quickly rack up Operation Legend case totals to supplement

a smaller number of cases that the agents might initiate and complete from scratch, the source said.

A top prosecutor within the Cook County State's Attorney's Office has been assigned to collect rap sheets and county case information for federal consideration, according to the source.

Federal prosecutors announced charges Friday against the first three Operation Legend defendants. But, in a sign of things to come, those three arrests were all made before the Legend program was introduced:

- Darryl Collins, 30, is charged with illegal possession of ammunition by a convicted felon. Chicago police allegedly saw Collins with a gun in his waistband on the South Side at 2:43 p.m. July 22. Collins carried the weapon in his hand as he ran from officers, and one round was fired as he climbed a fence, according to a federal complaint. Collins is on parole for home invasion. He was arrested 14 minutes before President Donald Trump announced that additional federal agents will

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Do C-19 closures invalidate store leases at Water Tower Place?



Water Tower Place.

Photo by David Wilson

BY JONATHAN BILYK
Cook County Record

A collection of some of the country's most recognizable retail brands have taken to court the company that owns and operates Water Tower Place, as well as a host of other shopping malls and retail centers throughout the country, accusing Brookfield Properties Retail Inc. [BPR] of improperly refusing to give the retailers a break on their rent amid government-ordered closures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The retailers are asking for repayment of their rent, and a court order either rewriting or canceling their leases outright due to the rapid changes in the retail landscape wrought by COVID-19.

On July 16, The Gap Inc., Ath-

leta LLC, Banana Republic LLC, Janie & Jack LLC and Old Navy LLC filed suit in Cook County Circuit Court against BPR, a company that operates and manages the malls and other retail properties held by affiliates of Brookfield Property Partners.

According to its website, BPR operates more than 170 retail locations in 43 states. In all, the website says Brookfield holds more than 150 million square feet of retail space.

On the North Side, the holdings include Water Tower Place along the Magnificent Mile, as well as other retail properties on Michigan Ave.

The complaint centers on leases held by the retailer plaintiffs at 84 properties operated by Brookfield.

The lawsuit takes aim at what

the retailers said is the unwillingness of BPR to consider the retailers' requests for leniency in the face of the spread of the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19, and the heavy-handed state and local government response to the illness.

“In a world of unforeseeable events, the circumstances the subject stores have faced are at the extreme end of unforeseeability,” the complaint said.

In their complaint, the retailers assert the “extreme” and “unforeseeable” responses to COVID-19, which included store closures across the country for months, left the retailers with empty pockets.

“State and local governments' reactions have been profound, varied, and constantly evolving, and prevented Tenants from opening their doors for months,” the retailers wrote in their complaint. “To protect the health and safety of their employees, customers, and the surrounding communities, and comply with applicable law, Tenants have been required to close their stores and keep them closed for extended periods of time.

“And like innumerable other companies, they were required to make the difficult decision to fur-

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(Top) Overlooking the Chicago Riverwalk, a motif of The Radiance of Being mural by Chicago artist Kate Lynn Lewis. (Bottom) A portion of The Radiance of Being in the Community Marketplace. Photos by Patrick Pyszka

New Riverwalk artworks salute Art Deco

BY STEVEN DAHLMAN
Loop North News

New artwork on the Chicago Riverwalk includes an 18'-long mural that celebrates 100 years of Art Deco.

The mural, The Radiance of Being by Chicago artist Kate Lynn Lewis, is located west of Michigan Ave. at the Riverwalk's Community Marketplace. It is composed of motifs from Art Deco buildings such as Adler Planetarium, Chicago Motor Club, Palmer House, and Palmolive Building.

The Riverwalk is surrounded on all angles by art deco architecture, so it felt like a great opportunity to expound on the immersive experience of painting a deco collage inspired by motifs found in the area,” said Lewis.

At the west end of the River-

walk, a series of 55 portraits of Chicagoans by street artist Dont Fret is being installed, according to the Dept. of Cultural Affairs and Special Events.

“There are certain character traits that I think define a true Chicagoan,” said the artist. “Tough, full-browed with a sense of ingenuity and midwestern humbleness, but always toiling, working, moving forward with an almost absurd laugh and grin about this crazy, wonderful city.”

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Mayor Lightfoot, the time to be politically correct has passed



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

One of the best foods of the summer has been the corn. On the cob. Variegated white and yellow kernels. Sweet. Juicy. We roast it in the Cuisinart in Irish unsalted butter with just a touch of cayenne pepper.

It's been the heart of summer eating for me along with red leaf lettuce and goat cheese salads. Religiously. Small batch large raisins, sultanas, are always a welcome part of the salad. So are red onions and the best balsamic vinegars available. Good olive oil too.

We've also come to delight in preparing skinless, boneless chicken breasts that are the perfect 'supreme,' as the French call them. Just hammer each breast in a folded sheet of foil with a very heavy French copper pot. In no time they are paper thin, ready for dredging in beaten egg and toasted bread crumb with some cayenne pepper mixed in. They cook very quickly in a cast iron skillet with unsalted Irish butter and a touch of olive oil. Add stalks of rosemary and sage to the hot butter before adding the

chicken. That quick sauté gets all the essential oils out of the herbs. Of course, we are still in quarantine. Since March 14 I've been very faithful to the structure of my lockdown. High point of the week is when the Instacart driver delivers my groceries from the nearby Mariano's. They're always masked. Me too. They just drop off supplies and I watch the delivery. Some quick small talk in the doorway and they're gone. I put the groceries away and then return to painting or writing.

But now, like most of you, the heartache of watching Chicago disintegrate interrupts the calm. The peace and harmony of reason and intelligence explodes watching a bitter, witless mayor attempting to secure her urban responsibilities. All the while permitting the forces of a new Bolshevism to destroy public monuments and loot businesses on Michigan Ave.

The constrictions placed on law enforcement by her suspicions and personal ineptitudes has not only made a shambles of Chicago's safety, but also shown the world we are on the decline.

A brilliant American urban showcase metropolis vanquished by new age socialism and left wing Univ. of Chicago cancel-culture, the mayor's alma mater. Mean-spirited anti-intellectuals trying to pass themselves off as the vanguard of a new justice. That's pure nonsense. They should get a job. Wash their faces. And try paying property taxes like everyone else. Cry-baby snowflakes, indeed.

The Chicago Police believe they were set up for an ambush July 17. They're right, That's what it looked like. Sent in to protect the statue of Christopher Columbus in Grant Park, the cops were mauled by the violent mob. Armed with enough brutality to injure 49 officers, putting 18 in the hospital.

The snowflake generation of demonstrators and agitators came prepared.

They also came armed with the knowledge that the mayor will not

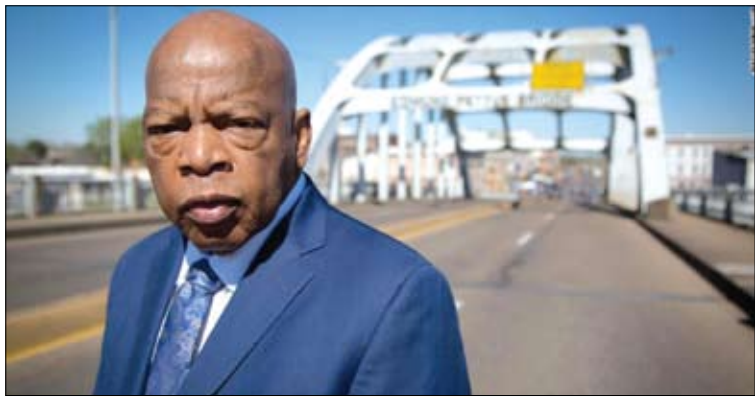


Poster in Wicker Park.

permit the use of real force to stop their destruction of public property. And Kim Foxx, the George Soros-owned States Attorney, has already shown she will not prosecute violent demonstrators. She's no friend of the Chicago Police and has created a comfy safe way for the Bolsheviks to attack without consequences. No wonder Michigan Ave. was once again targeted by the mobs of Bolshies. Smashing windows and looting high-end shops and stores. Not a very good economic incentive for business folk. What's the Greater North Michigan Ave. and the Magnificent Mile associations doing about it? Please, lower the boom.

Many fear this is the start of ending such shops in the city. Is this what Mayor Lightfoot wants? Why is she working so hard to keep these events secret? Why is she leaning on Chicago media to prevent the true facts of such mayhem from getting out to the public? Of course she's blaming President Trump for everything but the Chicago Fire. But she can't fool any real Chicagoans. We've been trained by the best. Is this what they teach you in the federal attorney's office?

My Wicker Park neighborhood is home to many of the leadership among the agitators and demonstrators. You don't have to look far to see the tell-tale signs of the cancel-culture. Lampposts and street signs serve as natural sign boards for information and details of where the mobs are going next. The six corners of Milwaukee, North and Damen appear



Congressman John Lewis.

to be ground zero for recruiting more angry, bitter Millennials to march and ruin other neighborhoods with their pillaging and looting. The buzz-cut armies of tattooed misfits have organized the destruction of our hometown until they get their way.

None of this is accidental.

Here are just some of the organizations advertising their passion for urban violence. All a part of the July 17 assault on police in Grant Park. The Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repressions; Black Lives Matter; Democratic Socialists of America; Chi-Nations; Black Youth Project 100; Revcoms (Univ. of Chicago Communists); Lifted Voices; and The Let Us Breathe Coalition. Their name for that event was "DECOLONIZE ZHIGAAGOOK." A reference to their new name for Chicago.

Don't be fooled. This is no assembly of rag-tag individuals. This is organized, pre-meditated warfare.

The rule of law and the rights of Chicago citizens are under attack. People in the Gold Coast are terrified to walk the streets of the lakefront. As well they should. My former Astor St. neighbors are in full panic. And they live across the street from the governor. Chicago has lost its old guard City Council leadership that in another era would just not have allowed the mayor, or anyone else, to so jeopardize the safety of Chicagoans. And the once grand reputation of the city to be so shattered and abused before a global audience.

There's much talk of the mistake Chicagoans made electing someone so sympathetic to the Bolsheviks to the office of mayor. Tourism in Chicago is in mortal danger.

Would you want to dine out of

doors as the mobs roam the streets looking for the perfect spot to stage their mayhem?

You could be hit over the head while sipping your martini at RL. Or have the T-bone pulled from your mouth at Gibson's. Tables tossed and courageous wait staff in fist fights with the Fascist hordes. Just don't let a cop intervene.

Come on Mayor Lightfoot. Wake up. The time to be politically correct has passed. Look up the word "terror" in your LGBTQ dictionary. It means the same to all of us. You know, the ones you're sworn to protect. Looks like I'll be staying in my lockdown a while longer. Hanging on for dear life to my sweet corn and unsalted Irish butter. And doing a bit of target practice amid the hydrangeas in my garden.

CITY DEATH TOLL AND SHOOTING: Last week, July 19 - 25, some 138 people were shot in Chicago, with 23 total homicides. The whole world is watching

REP. JOHN LEWIS: When the nation was most seized by the strictures of pandemic, quaran-

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

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Life's a beach, but stay out of the water



Heart of the 'Hood

by Felicia Dechter

As of July 19, which is when the Great Lakes Surf Rescue Project (GLSRP) last updated their stats, 38 people have drowned in the Great Lakes. Twenty-one of those drownings occurred in Lake Michigan and included a six-year-old boy, who was waist deep playing in the waves when he disappeared.

On Sunday night an emergency was called for persons in the water at 1222 W. Touhy- a search of the area was completed with negative results.

Authorities quickly learned that on Sunday night, a group of teenage kayakers did go missing off of a Rogers Park beach. The youths were later rescued by the U.S. Coast Guard four miles off-shore.

Police say that the teens launched two inflatable kayaks into Lake Michigan from Loyola Beach between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.

They were blown as far as seven miles out to sea in a storm, and were found as they tried to row their way back to shore. It is a reminder of how quickly things can go bad on our big lake.

When the group did not return after several hours, authorities launched a search using the police's Marine Unit and helicopter, Chicago Fire Dept. divers and the U.S. Coast Guard.

The search lasted until about 1 a.m. Monday when kayakers were found by the Coast Guard far out to sea. They were reunited with family near Montrose Harbor.

The teens [two 19-year-old women, a 19-year-old man a 13-year-old boy] were found safe and did not require medical treatment, police said.

Overall since 2010, the GLSRP has tracked 876 Great Lakes drownings. Please don't become a statistic. Be careful if you're swimming in Lake Michigan when there are no lifeguards.

The beaches may be closed but plenty of folks are still in the water. The other night, it was Party Central down at the beach by my Rogers Park home. Mainly it's young people, having a good time on the beach, going for a swim.

I understand that though. When I was growing up, that's what we did. Summer days were spent lounging at the lakefront and night swimming was a blast. We were young. We were invincible. That is, until my first love drowned at the age of 23 after an evening of heavy partying.

And now, all these years later, after living on the beach for the last four decades, it has almost become a yearly ritual to see a massive search taking place for



Divers searching Lake Michigan at Lunt Avenue a few years ago after a teen disappeared into the water and drowned.

someone who has drowned.

It tears my heart out to see the mothers come down, hysterical, and brought to their knees when they've learned their child is dead. I've seen the stricken faces of loved ones, hoping that their friend or family member will be pulled out alive. I've watched divers search for hours in a choppy, dangerous Lake Michigan.

***It happens
in the blink of an eye.
Drowning doesn't look
like drowning.
There are only
12 seconds once the
drowning process begins
in fresh water
before you submerge.***

It's a scene that you never want to see, because once you do, it's etched in your mind.

Such is the case with West Ridge resident Halle Quezada, who was at the lake in 2018 with her husband and two children when Darihanne Torres, 13, drowned at a Rogers Park beach. Quezada witnessed Darihanne's friend's rescue, and the painful battle between hope and time when a child is submerged in our waters. Sadly, in this case, time won.

The tragedy prompted Quezada, a mom, CPS teacher, and local organizer, to co-found the Chicago Alliance for Waterfront Safety (CAWS). Spreading the word about water safety has become her mission.

Drowning, Quezada said, is the No. 1 cause of death for children under five. It's also a leading cause of death for those 24 and under, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

"It's just so fast once someone submerges," said Quezada. "You can't go back. It's fast and it's fi-

nal."

Quezada cannot stress it enough: This city needs life rings, water safety education in school, and signage at the lakefront as to what drowning looks like, and where the currents are.

"We have at least one drowning a year where the people would be alive if there was a flotation device," said Quezada. "Lifeguards, life rings and public education are just no-brainers.

And she is fighting hard for those proper lakefront safety devices. Her husband is a water rescue diver, and had there been something that floats on the beach that day, there might have been a different outcome for Darihanne Torres.

"The beach was swarming with police and not a single officer had anything," recalled Quezada. She said the Chicago Police Dept. has agreed to put flotation devices in squad cars (funded through a state grant) but it has been at least a year with zilch happening here while other Great Lakes states already have them.

Lifeguards are on the beach these days making sure no one goes into the water, but they are not there to save lives and are ill prepared if anything does happen, said Quezada.

"Now they watch the water, they watch the sand, but they're not equipped if someone is in trouble," she said. "I know I won't go to the beach without something that floats now." And you really don't think drowning will happen, until it does. It happens in the blink of an eye. Drowning doesn't look like drowning. There are only 12 seconds once the drowning process begins in fresh water before you submerge.

Contrary to what you may think, drowning is silent. There are no flailing hands. No screaming for help. A person is in a vertical position, their head is tilted back and

Top 10 Water Safety Tips



Ten lifesaving tips to remember while out at the lakefront.

often their hair is in front of their face. "Know what drowning looks like," said Quezada. "It's not like you see in the movies."

Water safety starts before you leave the house, said Quezada. Look at the water conditions, use Coast Guard-approved water floats, provide arm's length supervision to your children. Never go in the water if conditions are hazardous. And if the water's cold, your swimming ability is not going to be what you think and you may tire easily.

There has been an uptick in pool drownings since the coronavirus, especially in the southern states, Quezada said. So be mindful in pools too. And even though you may not worry as much because you or your child can swim well, 66% of drowning victims were strong swimmers, Quezada said.

"Even Michael Phelps isn't stronger than our lake," she said of the famous swimmer, who has won 28 Olympic medals.

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Police Beat...

Scooters are easy to steal

Motorized scooters are a convenient way to get around town. They're small, energy-efficient, and easy to park on congested city streets. They're also very easy to pick up and steal.

So easy, in fact, Chicago police are warning about a series of scooter thefts from Streeterville to Lincoln Park. Thieves have stolen at least six motorized scooters from street parking spaces since July 18, according to CPD detectives.

The scooters were legally parked and unattended when they were swiped. Police said known cases were reported in the 600 block of N. McClurg on July 18; the 1200 block of N. LaSalle on July 19; the 900 block of N. Orleans on July 20; the 1600 block of N. Orchard on July 20; the 1500 block of N. Wieland on July 21, and the 500 block of N. Lake Shore Dr. on July 21

Police did not explain how the scooters have been stolen. No descriptions of the offenders were released.

Anyone with information about the crimes can call Area Three detectives at 312-744-8263 regarding crime pattern P20-3-144.

Feds charge sex offender with possessing child porn

A Chicago man who is a convicted child sex offender is facing federal charges after agents found child pornography playing on a cellphone in his home, according to newly-re-



Joseph Werwath

leased court records. The charges follow an undercover investigation that included online chats between the man and a covert FBI employee, federal authorities said.

Joseph Werwath, 36, is charged with one count of possession of child pornography. If convicted, he faces 10 to 20 years in prison.

Federal documents do not list Werwath's most recent home address, but he previously lived in Evanston and on the North Side, according to state records.

In 2009, Werwath was charged and later convicted of sexually abusing a 14-year-old McHenry County girl.

Federal agents who executed a search warrant June 17 at Werwath's home found child pornography playing on a cellphone in a bedroom, according to a news release from the U.S. Attorney's Office in Chicago. Investigators allegedly found about 40 additional videos depicting child pornography on the

phone.

Investigators began looking at Werwath after he exchanged chat messages with a covert online employee via the LiveMe phone app, according to an affidavit filed by FBI agent Anna Doyle in support of the agency's search warrant.

The chats took place between Nov. 18 and Nov. 20 last year and again on Feb. 12 this year.

Werwath, using the screen name "VampireDaddy69" shared child pornography in a LiveMe chat group and expressed an interest in traveling to have sex with the undercover investigator's fictitious nine-year-old niece, Doyle wrote.

"That's adorable age," VampireDaddy69 wrote. "I'm not active with kids but wish I had the opportunity [sic]. Maybe one day."

Later, VampireDaddy69 told the covert federal worker in a chat that he had to be careful because he'd "been to prison oce already for a sx offense. I make the wrong mistake they gonna bury me under the jail."

"I guess this could be tje best or worth thing ever," VampireDaddy69 wrote.

He then told the investigator he might "ask on the dark web how other pedos" verify that people like the covert fed aren't cops. "It usually requires a few meets ar least before the actual party day."

In February, Werwath used the screen name "Vampire Daddy Dom" to share 30 child pornography videos online, Doyle said in her affidavit.

Investigators compiled information from Google, T-Mobile, and other corporations to identify Werwath as the person behind the "Vampire Daddy" screen names.

Battery victim stabs assailant at Sedgwick Brown Line station, police say

A CTA customer stabbed a man who assaulted him with a traffic cone at the Sedgwick Brown Line station Tuesday morning, police said. Prosecutors have deemed the stabbing self-defense.

An acquaintance of the 45-year-old victim followed him into the station and physically attacked him around 6:47 a.m., according to police. At one point, the offender used a traffic cone to strike the victim.

The victim defended himself by stabbing the assailant, age 46, in the upper chest, police said. An ambulance transported the offender to Northwestern Memorial Hospital in good condition.

Police said no charges will be filed against the victim. Charges are pending against the offender. Area Three detectives are investigating.

Victim uncooperative after being shot in Uptown

An Uptown man is not cooperating with detectives after a gunman shot him on the 4600 block of N. Beacon on July 22, police said.

The victim, age 50, was inside his apartment when someone began firing, and one bullet grazed his back around 2:20 a.m., according to CPD.

Police found about eight shell casings inside and outside the man's apartment. Witnesses reported seeing a young Black male leaving the scene with a gun. He was wearing a red bandana, black pants, and a white t-shirt under a gray hoodie or shirt. The suspect reportedly ran southbound on Beacon, then eastbound on Wilson after the shooting.

An ambulance transported the victim to Weiss Memorial Hospital in good condition. He does not have any previous contact with Chicago police, the department said.

Woman mugged in Lakeview July 21

A man pushed a Lakeview woman to the ground and robbed her July 21, police said. It was the second mugging in the area that day.

The victim, age 48, told police she was walking in an alley when the robber approached her from behind and pushed her to the ground in the 700 block of W. Briar at 6:55 p.m., according to a CPD spokesperson.

Police searched the area and eventually found the woman's purse discarded behind a small strip mall on the 3100 block of N. Halsted. Her wallet and phone were missing.

Chicago police spokesperson Kellie Bartoli said the offender is described as a Black male between 25- and 30-years-old, 5'-8" tall, and about 160 lbs. He has curly black hair and was wearing a tie-dye shirt with black jogging pants, Bartoli said.

Area Three detectives are investigating.

Earlier on Tuesday, a woman reported being robbed at the Belmont CTA station, 945 W. Belmont. Police officers happened to be at the station when dispatchers broadcast the robbery call and a suspect was arrested at the scene.

Police seek ID of woman in battery case



Chicago police detectives are seeking to identify the subject in connection with an aggravated battery that occurred on June 17, in the 2600 block of W. Devon Ave. The subject struck the victim, a 40-year-old male, about the head with a knife sharpener during a verbal argument.

The offender is described as a female, 5'-5" to 5'-6" tall with long dark hair, wearing a black and white striped shirt and red pants.

Those with any information on this offender may call the Bureau of Detectives - Area Three detective John Hendry at 312-744-8261.

Muggings spike near Chicago Red Line station, at least three robberies

Three people robbed a teenager near the Chicago Red Line station July 22, police said. The teen is at least the third person to be robbed within a one-block radius of the station since Friday.

Most recently, a 17-year-old girl told police that three women got out of a tan vehicle and robbed her at knife-point on the first block of E. Chicago at 12:20 a.m. Wednesday, CPD spokesperson Kellie Bartoli said.

After displaying a knife, the three offenders punched and kicked the victim repeatedly and took her purse, phone, and keys, according to Bartoli. They then returned to the four-door car and fled westbound. The victim declined medical attention.

The three robbers are described as:

- Black female with braided red hair who wore a white shirt and jean shorts
- Black female with dreadlocks who wore pink leggings and a pink sports bra
- Black female who wore a black shirt and had her hair in a bun

Two robberies were reported in the same area on Friday:

Divvy bike crew carjacked 82-year-old man in Streeterville

A Chicago Police Dept. surveillance camera was rolling Sunday morning when a group of Divvy bike-riding carjackers swarmed an 82-year-old driver in Streeterville.

A source has provided CPD's internal video of the crime to this reporter.

The video shows at least eight males pedal Divvy bikes up to the victim's car as he sits in the driver's seat around 10 a.m. on the 200 block of E. Grand. Within moments, the bikers have his car surrounded. One offender dismounts his Divvy and drops it to the ground before he opens the victim's car door and begins pulling the elderly man out of the seat.

The victim steps out of his car after another offender jumps into the rear passenger seat. More Divvy bikes are thrown to the pavement, and the crew starts tossing the victim's personal property out of the car so they have room to sit down.

Five offenders jump into the man's SUV before it speeds away with a sixth offender running

alongside, trying (but failing) to hitch a ride.

At least two bicyclists and several motorists pass the carjacking as it unfolds.

Police said crew members who weren't lucky enough to get a ride in the victim's car escaped via a Red Line CTA train at Grand. Five more Divvy bikes were found abandoned there.

About 30 minutes before the carjacking, around 9:30 a.m., a man told police that someone in a group of Divvy bike riders punched him in the throat on the Riverwalk between Michigan Ave. and Columbus Dr. He was not seriously injured.

The primary offender in the Riverwalk attack was a Black male between 18- and 22-years-old who stands about 6' tall and weighs about 180 lbs. He was wearing a maroon t-shirt with shorts, and he has a goatee or mustache.

Area Three detectives are investigating the crimes.

Sneaky burglar gets locked inside Macy's, on purpose

Everybody's probably thought about it. What would happen if you found yourself accidentally locked inside a store after closing time?

Other people apparently have a slightly different outlook on the scenario: How can I intentionally get myself locked inside a store after closing time?

It looks like a creative thief has figured that out.

Chicago police say a burglar hid inside the Macy's store at Water Tower Place around closing time July 21 with the intention of getting locked inside. He succeeded. Then, after the employees were gone, he helped himself to money from the retailer's cash drawers.

Investigators determined the burglar entered the sprawling eight-level department store at 6:47 p.m. — just 13 minutes before it closed for the night. Once the coast was clear, he stole some of the cash drawers that had been placed in registers for the next day's business. Then, he left.

Macy's employees discovered thefts around 10 a.m. July 22 as they prepared to open, police said.

Surveillance images show the sneaky thief to be a Black male between 50- and 55-years-old, who stands 5'-8" to 6' tall, and weighs 150-160 lbs. He was wearing a black jacket with white stripes on the sleeves, black jeans, white gym shoes, and a black New York-logged baseball cap.

Armed robberies in Lincoln Park

Police are warning residents of Lincoln park of recently reported armed robberies.

In each incident, the offender(s) approached the victim and engaged in conversation. The offenders then implied or produced a firearm, and demanded the victim's property/cash from the victim before fleeing the area.

Incidents include on on the 400 block of W. Belden Ave., June 9, and a second on the 2000 block of N. Burling St., June 12, both were in the evening hours.

Police describe the offenders as male(s), African Americans, 5'-10" to 6'-1" tall, 160-180 lbs., and 16-25 years of age.

— Compiled by CWBChicago.com

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The late road warrior, Torello Tacchi.



Road warrior 'Little Bull' lived an adventuresome life



The Home Front

by Don DeBat

The road warrior gunned the throttle on the 750cc engine of his Italian motorcycle and sped toward the Michigan Ave. Bridge near the Wrigley Building.

At the same time the bridge tender began to raise the mammoth concrete and steel span across the Chicago River, and the rider and bike catapulted across the open gap. That early 1960s movie stunt summed up how Torello Tacchi lived his adventuresome life.

Torello Fortunato Tacchi, a master mechanic, an expert motorcycle racer, airplane builder and licensed pilot, passed away July 15, in Jacksonville, FL, after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. He was 80 years old.

Born on Jan. 15, 1940 in Tunis, Tunisia to the late Marie and Albert Tacchi, Torello and his family immigrated to Chicago in 1949. His life's work encompassed running the family motorcycle business, building custom road-racer motorcycles, and competing against professional factory racing teams at tracks in the Chicago area, Indianapolis and Daytona Beach.

"Torello held the motorcycle-lap speed record at Meadowdale International Raceway in Carpentersville, IL, for many years and he also won races at the Daytona International Speedway and other tracks," said Page Pitts Tacchi, his wife of 52 years. "He held lap speed records at tracks in Indianola, IN, Laconia, NH, and Wentzville, MO."

A third-generation rider, Tacchi followed in the tracks of his father and grandfather, who raced in Europe and Africa. Tacchi, who started road racing in 1964, also had a brief fling as a stuntman in the motion picture industry. The spectacular Michigan Ave. Bridge jump was covered by the WGN-9 News.

Mr. Tacchi's abundant collection of motorcycle-racing competition trophies was displayed in his airplane hangar and expansive estate and work shop in rural

Jacksonville, FL. He was a lifetime member of the American Motorcycle Assoc.

A true renaissance man and mechanical wizard, Tacchi also was a licensed pilot who built and flew his own airplane, and a man who survived at least one plane crash and a half dozen high-speed motorcycle-racing accidents.

He also was an inventor who created a patented labeling system for Budweiser beer while employed as a mechanic at Anheuser Busch Brewery in Jacksonville.

"Torello Tacchi had a deep, sophisticated, professional knowledge of mechanics," recalled close friend Don Garbarino, former Wright College News editor. "He was asked to write an article for a national aircraft magazine explaining how automobile and aircraft engines differ. I was amazed at how extensive his understanding was on how engines worked."

Tacchi was known for his ability to size up a repair project quickly and then complete the job "with no more difficulty than constructing tinker toys," Garbarino said.

A bright child, Tacchi spoke Italian at home, French in elementary school in Tunis and quickly learned English.

Albert, his mechanic father who was a natural-born U.S. citizen, opened Tacchi Auto Works in the 1500 block of N. Halsted in the early 1950s, when the blue-collar Old Town neighborhood was a stone's throw from the gritty Cabrini Green public housing project.

"Tacchi, my paesano, was a tough kid—aptly named, because Torello means 'Little Bull' in Italian—and that he was," recalled Pilsen real estate investor Lionel Bottari, his Wright Junior College newspaper friend.

When other boys were playing baseball and sports, Torello worked long hours in his father's shop, repairing automobiles and learning to service exotic sports cars and rare European motorcycles.

In the mid-1950s, Tacchi attended Lane Technical High School, where he excelled in the advanced Smith-Hughes auto shop classes. By age 16, Torello was such a skilled mechanic that he completed all auto shop class assignments in the first few weeks of the semester, earning a

superior grade. "Then, the perplexed auto shop teacher assigned Torello the task of working on a worn out 1940 Ford V-8 motor that hadn't been running in a decade. According to classmates, he had the engine purring like a kitten in a week.

Tacchi was graduated from Lane Tech in Jan. 1959, and in 1961 attended Wright Junior College, joining the Wright College News staff, mentored by legendary journalism professor Thomas Glazer.

There he learned to write newspaper copy and met and put out the paper with future professional journalists Paul McGrath (Chicago Sun-Times and Tribune), Michael Drexler (WCFL News), Chuck Baker (Las Vegas Review Journal), James Dwyer (Associated Press), Larry Graff (Sun-Times) and this writer who worked for the Chicago Daily News and Sun-Times for 27 years.

"The Wright College News staff also brought their cars to Tacchi Auto Works for affordable repairs. Baker recalled driving his beat up 1949 Plymouth to the shop, even though it was a \$10 car with no floor boards. "I fixed the floor boards and Torello repaired the engine, connected the headlights and hooked up the horn and AM radio," Baker said. "It took him about 10 minutes. I drove it for about a year, and when I got drafted into the U.S. Army I sold it to the used-car lot down on Halsted St. for about \$50."

In 1963, after Tacchi graduated from Wright College with an Associates Arts degree, majoring in journalism, his family launched Midwest Motorcycle Imports on Halsted St.

The showroom featured a collection of antique motorcycles, including Merkle, Indians and a rare, museum-quality Traub, a machine built in 1916. Tacchi restored the Traub and later sold it to a Hollywood investor friend of movie star Steve McQueen.

The shop's big attraction was a 1930s Moto Guzzi which Albert Tacchi, Torello's father, dismantled and hid in a barn hayloft in Tunis during World War II and later shipped to America in the 1950s. The vintage bike was restored and Torello added a side car and rode it in the Wright Junior College homecoming parade

LITTLE BULL see p. 6

Assessor's Office re-opens to public

North Side commercial property owners may seek emergency review

The Cook County Assessor's Office announced the re-opening of its office locations to the public, in accordance with Cook County's reopening plan. Many of the office's services can also be accessed online at cook-countyassessor.com.

During an online interview last week Assessor Fritz Kaegi said his office has been preparing for an expected onslaught of reassessment requests by residential and commercial property owners due in part to the Coronavirus economic lockdown.

Residents can now pay their property tax bills as late as Oct. 1, and he says that usually means a rush of people seeking to apply for missing property tax exemptions.

"During the month before tax bills are due, many homeowners have questions about how to apply for missing property tax exemptions, which can potentially save those thousands of dollars," said Kaegi. "We're limiting in-person access to our office due to COVID-19, but property owners should know they can apply for these exemptions and other services at our website."

Homeowners can apply for

missing property tax exemptions online where they will also see a list of frequently asked questions and answers about tax bills, as well as information about how to file an appeal online.

Many landlords now find their tenants in arrears in rent, or their properties now vacant as local businesses closed down due to the stay-at-home order and economic lockdown. He said their office also expect commercial property owners to seek assessment reductions as tenants decide to vacate office space as more of their employees working from home.

Property owners can also make appointments for in-person visit online or by calling 312-443-7550.

All in-person visits will require a mask, physical distancing, and a health screening.

"Our staff has been doing great work at home to process appeals and exemptions during this extraordinary time," said Kaegi. "I'm grateful we have an office full of dedicated public servants who are here to help, even as we are away from the office."

In addition to applying for missing exemptions online, the Assessor's Office's can assist in filing assessment appeals. Results of appeals will not be available for pickup in person. All results will be mailed to property owners, including those represented by property tax practitioners.

While property tax bills are due on Aug. 3, no late fees or penalties will be incurred if tax bills are paid by Oct. 1.

Correction

Intersex not interex

In our story of July 22 on the proposal to change the name of the Boystown community we attributed a quote to Devlyn Camp in the article, quoting him as saying "non-binary, transgender, and Interex people" - then included a definition of "Interex" from the Urban Dictionary.

We now know Camp said "intersex," which fits with the previous two groups.

We're sorry about the mix up.

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3550 N Lake Shore Drive, Unit 2211

This condo features beautiful gray wood floors throughout, a cook's kitchen with white shaker soft-close cabinets, white & **SOLD** under-cabinet lighting, undermount sink & a full range of stainless steel appliances, along with a breakfast bar. Gorgeous bathroom with new floor & wall tile & vanity.



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PASSED from p. 2

tine and disturbing racial unrest, the death of the longtime American voice of reason and humanity, **John Lewis**, is more deeply felt. He was a bridge to truth and fairness. A companion on the journey to great liberty and moral responsibilities. His loss is unequaled by the perils of our times. His long service to the civil rights movement in this nation and his deep devotion to **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, gives him in death an unusual triumph of spirit and faith. He is a scale upon which the moral deeds of all Americans must be weighed. “Pax Tibi.”

LET’S START HERE: Mayor Lori Lightfoot tells us there are no monuments to African Americans. Why not rename the stretch of the park where Columbus used to stand, “Simpson Park,” after **CPO John Simpson**, 30-year-old African American policeman, badge 4774. First line of duty death among African American Chicago police. He was attached to the Wabash Ave. Station 101 years ago when the tragic race riots of 1919 broke out. He gave his life for Chicago. A real Chicago hero. Officer Simpson was laid to rest in Lincoln Cemetery. He was survived by his parents, **Silas and Mariah**; and his brother, **Curtis**.

THE CUPICH FACTOR: The Cardinal Archbishop of Chicago has always wielded great influence in the global affairs of the Roman Catholic Church. But what happens when the Pope and the Cardinal have a very close relationship of harmony an influence? Chicago’s present **Cardinal Blase Cupich** exercises enormous influence sitting on some powerful curial posts like the Congregation of Bishops. **Pope Francis** trusts and values his leadership. In the past few weeks three Chicago priests have been named bishops to lead dioceses in Illinois. **Auxiliary Bishop Ron Hicks**, 52, is the new bishop of Joliet. **Father Louis Tylka**, 50, has been named next bishop of Peoria. And **Father Michael McGovern**, 55, is the



Cardinal Blase Cupich

new bishop of Belleville. All men in the humble tradition of Pope Francis. This trifecta is causing heads to spin from the Vatican to Holy Name Cathedral.

BE COUNTED: State Rep. Greg Harris reminds us this is National Census Surge Week. Please celebrate responsibly by going to my2020census.gov and taking a few minutes to fill it out. How many people fill out the census determines how much Federal money Illinois will get for hospitals, schools, transit, youth programs etc. for the next decade. It’s really important so please get it done.

RICK KOGAN: Tune into WGN Radio’s ‘KoganAfter-Hours.’ Rick says he remembers when his baseball hero was White Sox **Luis Aparicio**. Sundays, 7-9. He adds that Aparicio has been found since 1984 in the Hall of Fame, the first Venezuela native get to Cooperstown.

ANCHORS AWAY: The US Navy has graduated its first Black female fighter pilot, **Lt. j.g. Madeline Swegle**.

SERVICE CLUB: The gang’s all here. Service Club Day on the Terrace taping at the Geraghty. Be a part of it. Watch on Monday, Aug. 3.

SECRET CONCERTS: The secret rooftop outdoor candlelight classical music concerts are returning to Chicago this summer. Beginning July 29 and following all government guidelines. Twice per night. Vivaldi. Mozart. Beethoven. Go to Secret Chicago.

INSIDE PUBLICATIONS



Lt. j.g. Madeline Swegle.



Ikram Goldman boys.



Art by Rae Bright.

Goldman Boys are known, recently welcomed lucky Toy Poodle **CousCous Saman Goldman** to the family.

SILVER LINING: Sandy Goldberg is elated and grateful to the Glassy Baby White Light Fund for awarding a Baby Grant to her Silver Lining Foundation. All are honored, she says.

COVER UP: ZZAZZ Productions and Tracey Tarantino DiBuono tells us well-known fashion designer **Thierry Roger** is featured in a moving story of trials and triumphs during COVID-19. Facing his cancer treatments, paused in design work, he forged ahead to make masks for the hospital he must frequent, friends. Full story in Chicago History Museum.

The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either -- but right through every human heart -- and through all human hearts. This line shifts. Inside us, it oscillates with the years. And even within hearts overwhelmed by evil, one small bridgehead of good is retained.

— Alexander Solzhenitsyn

tog515@gmail.com



(Left) Service Club Day on the Terrace. (Right) Dan Balanoff at the potato salad stand at Side Hustle Saturday Lemonadeland in Woodlawn.



WOODLAWN ARTS: Attorney **Dan Balanoff**, a Hyde Park native, was roaming the Side Hustle Saturday Lemonadeland and taking in the art exhibitions and the potato salad stand. The 67th Street festival features businesses of local Woodlawn neighborhood entrepreneurs.

SING OUT: The very social **Sean Eshaghy** is with **Christopher Stovall**, celebrating this pal’s birthday a little early.

LOVELAND: **Charles and Candace Jordan** are celebrating 29 years of marriage and it’s hard to tell who’s happier.

PRANZO: Tino Antonacci having afternoon lunch at Pennyville Station with the **Lupos** and the **Loguidice’s**. Mange, mange, tutto la tavola.

MCA: Karin Carlson has seen

the preview of the new Museum of Contemporary Art’s exhibition that’s all set to open. Entitled “Just Connect” it explores the many ways we’ve stayed together while being apart. Time for reflection. She’s thrilled **Duro Olowu’s** internationally acclaimed gallery has been extended until Sept 27.

ART NEWS: Artist **Rae Bright** added a new photo of his work “Geisha and Yellow Bird.”

FRENCH ARSON: A fire broke out in three places at the gothic cathedral of Nantes in western France Saturday, destroying priceless stained glass windows and the grand organ. An arson investigation is under way. Should Chicago churches tighten up security?

POOCH BULLETIN: The Brothers Samurai, as the **Ikram**

LITTLE BULL from p. 5

in 1962.

Tacchi would put in a full day selling and repairing exotic Italian, English and Japanese motorcycles—such as Ducati, Moto Guzzi, Norton, BSA, BMW and Suzuki. On weekends he would generously help his college buddies renovate their homes.

In 1968, Torello Tacchi met Page Pitts through mutual friends and took her out on a blind date. Four months later on Sept. 28, 1968, Torello married Page, and they bought a three-flat with a coach house in Roscoe Village and started a family. Daughter Elizabeth Page was born in 1974, and son Torello Orazio in 1978.

In 1980 the family moved to Jacksonville, where Torello took a machinist/mechanics job at Anheuser Busch. Over the past three decades, Torello developed a passion for flying, earned his pilot’s license, and built his own airplane. He flew for Angel Flight, a



Torello and Page Tacchi in early 1970s on a red Moto Guzzi.

Photo by Al DeBat

charitable organization that provides free flights for ill patients.

In 2011, Tacchi survived a crash of his Vans RV-10 in rural southeastern Georgia. “Torello told me he made a ‘dead stick’ landing between two trees that tore the wings off the plane, but

he survived with only minor cuts,” Bottari said.

Tacchi is survived by his wife, daughter Elizabeth (James) Bailey, his son Torello Orazio Tacchi, his sisters Mirella Minnich, Rita Payne, his grandson, James Bailey, granddaughter Ari Bailey, and numerous nieces and nephews. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a Chicago memorial service will be delayed until the spring of 2021.

For 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.

Lakeview Township Real Estate For Sale

Real Estate For Sale

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION THE CORONADO INVESTMENT CORPORATION Plaintiff, -v- EUGENE NWACHUKWU, APPOLONIA ADAMA NWA-CHUKWU, 6118 SHERIDAN CONDO HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION Defendants 18 CH 01390 6118 NORTH SHERIDAN ROAD, APARTMENT 303 CHICAGO, IL 60660 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 8, 2020, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on August 28, 2020, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, CHICAGO, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 6118 NORTH SHERIDAN ROAD, APARTMENT 303, CHICAGO, IL 60660 Property Index No. 14-05-210-023-1017 The real estate is improved with a condominium. The judgment amount was \$69,649.53. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in “AS IS” condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall

pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g) (4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver’s license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, JOHNSON, BLUMBERG & ASSOCIATES, LLC Plaintiff’s Attorneys, 230 W. Monroe Street, Suite #1125, Chicago, IL, 60606 (312) 541-9710. Please refer to file number 18-6070. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE. You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. JOHNSON, BLUMBERG & ASSOCIATES, LLC 230 W. Monroe Street, Suite #1125 Chicago IL, 60606 312-541-9710 E-Mail: ilpleadings@johnsonblumberg.com Attorney File No. 18-6070 Attorney Code. 40342 Case Number: 18 CH 01390 TJSC#: 40-1996 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff’s attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 18 CH 01390 13153358 292929 222222 151515

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
LOWELL HOUSE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION Plaintiff,
-v-
TRINITY GREEN LLC-88 W SCHILLER Defendants
19 CH 10492
88 W. SCHILLER ST, #1001
CHICAGO, IL 60610
NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 14, 2020, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on August 27, 2020, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, CHICAGO, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
Commonly known as 88 W. SCHILLER ST, #1001, CHICAGO, IL 60610
Property Index No. 17-04-209-043-1008
The real estate is improved with a condominium. The judgment amount was \$60,897.28.

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

Real Estate For Sale

residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

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

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g)-1.

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues

Real Estate For Sale

where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.
For information, Thomas M. Olson, KOVITZ SHIFRIN NESBIT Plaintiff's Attorneys, 175 N. Archer Avenue, Mundelein, IL, 60060 (847) 537-0500. Please refer to file number CLOW001/39010. 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.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.
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Attorney File No. CLOW001/39010
Attorney Code. 38862
Case Number: 19 CH 10492
TJSC#: 40-1006
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Case # 19 CH 10492

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Chicago's home-sharing regulations may help prevent party problem locations

Last week the mayor introduced an ordinance to City Council to strengthen the regulatory oversight of the shared housing industry. The reform ordinance hopes to improve transparency within the home-sharing industry while giving the City of Chicago more regulatory authority to prevent and remove “party houses” and other problem locations.

Over the last year, several North Side properties have been exposed in this newspaper as rental party houses that draw complaints from neighbors about rowdy behavior, noise, gun play, gambling, prostitution and gang activity.

Some of the worst abuses are seen in the Gold Coast, Old Town and Rush St. districts, Lincoln Park, Boystown and Wrigleyville, although the economic lockdown and COVID-19 quarantine may do more to immediately stem the abuse of these party houses.

Currently, there are 8,869 shared housing units listed through two licensed shared housing intermediaries – Airbnb and HomeAway. The new regulations follow a shared housing hearing in March, at which the Dept. of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection [BACP], aldermen and residents expressed their concerns over the existing Shared Housing regulations.

The home-sharing industry is a “critical link for residents and visitors in our city, that’s why with this ordinance, we are not only ensuring customers have transparency, but also making it easier for small operators to become licensed in our city,” said Mayor Lori Lightfoot. “By enhancing the City’s enforcement powers against bad actors and increasing regulatory oversight we can further ensure this new and innovative industry remains safe for all of Chicago’s residents.”

Passed in 2016, Chicago’s current shared housing ordinance was a regulatory approach that made Chicago the first city in the nation to receive information from hosts, allowing the city to enforce restric-

tions designed to protect the quality of life throughout Chicago.

The ordinance introduced last week hopes to make significant regulatory changes that are needed to ensure safe and responsible operations.

The new regulations remove the ability for shared housing hosts to list units and accept reservations while their registration application is pending; make the BACP the point of intake for registration applications; Prohibit the use of shared housing units for single-night reservations; Enhance BACP’s enforcement authority around shared housing units being used for parties, and create a tiered licensing fee for platforms to make it easier for small operators to become licensed while increasing the per-unit registration fee.

“Over the last four years, we have worked to oversee the evolving shared housing industry within the limits of the existing regulations,” said BACP Commissioner Rosa Escareño. “This ordinance will modernize the process, improve host registrations and enhance the City’s ability to hold problem actors accountable.”

Under the previous regulations, shared housing hosts are granted the ability to immediately list and rent their units on the intermediary before they receive approval from BACP. They must remove their listing only upon final denial from BACP. This means that units that would be rejected due to existing regulatory restrictions can still accept reservations during a registration and appeals process that could last for months.

With the proposed new ordinance, shared housing hosts will no longer be able to list and rent their unit while their application is pending and must wait until an application is approved by BACP before listing their unit on any platform.

Presently shared housing operators submit their information directly to the intermediary, who then submits this information to BACP every two weeks. This leads to incomplete data and a lack of identifying information that would support the enforcement against problem locations.

In order to stop the proliferation of problem party locations, the proposed ordinance will prohibit the use of shared housing for single-night reservations to prevent and remove party houses. The ordinance will make it easier for the City to revoke a registration after one instance of an illegal party or overcrowding, while lowering the threshold for revocation for other nuisance conditions.

The proposed ordinance will also create a tiered licensing fee for intermediaries and increase the registration fee for each host. Currently, all intermediaries pay an annual fee of \$10,000, no matter the size of the platform. Under the proposal, intermediaries with 1 to 499 units will pay a decreased fee of \$5,000 per year, intermediaries with 500 to 999 units will pay \$7,500, and intermediaries with 1,000 or more units will pay the current rate of \$10,000 per year. This will make it easier for smaller operators to compete and come into compliance. Additionally, per unit fees will increase from \$60 to \$125 per year.

Public meeting on General Iron operations

The Chicago Dept. of Public Health (CDPH) will host a community Zoom meeting to provide residents with an update on the current status of General Iron. The meeting will be held online beginning at 5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 3.

To register for the meeting call 312-643-2299.

The meeting will provide residents with an opportunity to learn more about current and future actions on-site. Residents will also have the opportunity to ask questions and be heard on matters related to the facility and operations in Lincoln Park through the end of 2020.

FEDS from p. 1

be coming to Chicago for Operation Legend.

- Romeo Holloway, 21, is charged with illegal possession of a firearm by a felon. Chicago police and ATF agents arrested him on the 2700 block of W. Flournoy July 21 after they allegedly found a handgun in his waistband. Holloway’s arrest was made about 20 hours before Operation Legend launched.

- Darryl Phillips, 22, is charged with illegal possession of a machine gun. Phillips was arrested after Chicago police and ATF agents raided a home on the 2700 block of W. Flournoy that Holloway was seen exiting about eight hours earlier. Phillips’ arrest preceded the launch of Operation Legend by about 12 hours.

LEASES from p. 1

lough tens of thousands of store employees for closed stores across the country to preserve their finances while revenue from the stores dropped to zero overnight.”

They claim the circumstances have fundamentally altered the terms of their leases. They said the rent they pay assures them the opportunity to “operate a store” in the malls.

The changed landscape, the retailers said, has “frustrated the express purposes of these leases and made their principal object illegal, impossible and inapplicable, all for a period of time that remains unknown and unknowable.”

However, even as the country reorients itself after the spring store closures, the shape of retail will “radically change ... for a long time to come,” leaving retailers unsure of the continued viability of their presence within the shopping malls that heavily rely on foot traffic and crowds.

The changed landscape, the retailers said, has “frustrated the express purposes of these leases and made their principal object illegal, impossible and inapplicable, all for a period of time that remains unknown and unknowable.”

The retailers said this invalidates their obligation to pay rent for the time their stores remained closed, either by governors’ edicts, or by choice, to help reduce the spread of the new disease.

The retailers said they are asking the court to redetermine their “rights and obligations” under the leases amid the new circumstances, and a court order restricting the leases and ordering the landlords to refund the rent the retailers may have paid during or immediately before the pandemic closures.

DuSable Park to get \$5 million in tax funding

The Chicago Park District’s long-delayed Du Sable Park, 400 N. Lake Shore Dr., on the Near North Side would be supported through \$5 million in Open Space Impact taxes.

The funding plan passed through City Council last week.

Located at the mouth of the Chicago River, the three-acre park has been ignored by City Hall for 30 years, and will soon be paved over to serve as a staging area for the construction equipment and supplies for a pair of high-rises going up adjacent to the park.

Thirty years ago, former Mayor Harold Washington named the site DuSable Park after Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable, a Haitian fur trader who today is recognized as the “Founder of Chicago.” Today, after decades of delays and dozens of failed proposals and unfulfilled promises, the 3.3-acre park remains undeveloped and closed off to the public.

Some day in the future the site will finally be open to the public and offer lakefront green space, lighting, a plaza, seating areas and historical markers honoring Point du Sable, who became the area’s first non-indigenous settler when he lived along the river in the 1780s.

The remainder of the \$15 million-project would be financed by developer Related Midwest through a separate agreement.



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