

## Downtown aldermen express anger, frustration over mayor's actions

**Foxx called out for lack of prosecutions**

BY STEVEN DAHLMAN  
*Loop North News*

The looting of Aug. 10 appeared to be more violent than was the rioting of May 30-June 1. Hundreds of people drove into downtown Aug. 10 for a night of looting that saw two people shot and 13 police officers injured. Now the two aldermen who serve the downtown area seem to have had it with all the excuse making.

Downtown area businesses who were already teetering on the brink of insolvency due to the economic lockdown and first batch of riots were damaged further, including Macy's, Gucci, Burberry's, Apple and Block 37, along the Magnificent Mile, and in River North, particularly Nordstrom. Jeweler's Row along Wabash Ave. was ransacked, as were three Binny's Beverage stores, a mere three months after five of their stores were looted in early June.

Adding insult to injury the city restricted access to the the downtown area Aug. 10 through 17, a move that mostly punished those businesses still trying to operate downtown.

With such a risk hanging over business owners' heads, many retailers big and small are now reassessing their future in Chicago. Al Wojtek Macniak, 57 and his daughter, Marta, 35, told TIME magazine that they plan to move out their business, M&M Jewelers on the ground-floor of Jeweler's Row, after looters broke into their building a second time in two months. "We moved here 10



Two loud blows to the doors of Nordstrom and this mob was in, looting the department store at Wabash and Grand in River North on Aug. 10.

years ago because we wanted the foot-traffic," Marta said. "But it's no longer worth it to stay."

The city's 911 switchboard was swamped with 1,800 calls between midnight and 3 a.m. Aug.

***"I am demanding publicly that the administration present a safety plan that will protect all neighborhoods and small business owners. Absent a comprehensive safety plan, I am strongly in favor of asking for federal assistance," said Ald. Brian Hopkins.***

10, a figure that's typically in the teens at those hours. Some 400 police officers were called to action downtown, but at times they still appeared to be outnumbered, and without a big picture plan on how to deal with the violent mob.

It is unclear whether the Chicago Police Dept. [CPD] is utilizing it, but advanced technology and services exist that can help police get ahead of planned looting and rioting - allowing them to monitor these platforms and aggregate

"chatter" in social media and on the Dark Web by using key search words and proprietary data sharing. This gives the Police critical information before the crime is even committed - allowing them to plan, in advance, and perhaps shut it down quickly.

After her hasty and angry press conference Aug. 10, Ald. Brian Hopkins [2nd] called Mayor Lori Lightfoot's performance "nothing but rhetoric and blame. I am demanding publicly that the administration present a safety plan that will protect all neighborhoods and small business owners. Absent a comprehensive safety plan, I am strongly in favor of asking for federal assistance."

Hopkins expressed frustration over what he says is a lack of a plan to protect all Chicago neighborhoods and small business owners. Indeed city officials know that the whole world is watching as Chicago fails to deal

ANGER see p. 8

## Alderman, neighbors put brakes on Near North high-rise deal

A pending lawsuit and opposition from Ald. Brian Hopkins [2nd] has put into doubt the construction of a new 43-story high-rise at 125 W. Maple.

Developer Fifield Cos. had hoped to construct the new 406-unit tower proposed for a site adjacent to a building they had previously built at 111 W. Maple St.

That building, called Gold Coast Galleria, now stands firmly in opposition the project. The condo board in that building thinks the proposed new construction is too tall at 457-feet, and will be located too close to their own building with only 20-feet separating the two. To pull off the plan, Fifield plans to purchase air rights from the adjacent Annunciation Greek

Orthodox Cathedral.

The project was broadly opposed during a virtual community meeting held July 15.

Fifield's is hoping to buy the low-rise condo building LaSalle Manor, 1039 N. LaSalle, which would have to be knocked down and replaced by the high-rise, but one of the unit owners in that building is now suing to halt the sale. Reportedly, the purchase agreement is contingent on winning zoning approval for the high-rise plan. The sale was approved by 78% of the unit owners in July 2019. Fifield had hoped to start construction in early 2021.

(A new rule established in Sept. 2019 requires all new condo conversion deals get an 85% approval

vote from owners, rather than the previously required 75%, which was the case when Fifield agreed to buy the LaSalle St. property.)

Hopkins told the Chicago Tribune that he hasn't ruled out the plan entirely, and said he plans to continue talks with the developer. "It's a big ask that we have before us. We're still in conversation. I'm viewing this project with skepticism right now. It's far from a point where I would support it," he said.

The lawsuit was filed June 24 by Daniel Alberga, who owns three units in the building. Defendants named in the complaint are the condo association's board of directors and its president, Noel Torres.

## Alderman: 'Abandoned Divvy bikes outnumber pigeons downtown'

Story on page 5

Anyone with videos, photos, or information regarding the recent looting incidents is asked to call the task force at (312) 744-8263, or email [630lootingtaskforce@chicagopolice.org](mailto:630lootingtaskforce@chicagopolice.org). The public can also always submit an anonymous tip at [CPDtip.com](http://CPDtip.com).

## Veterans oppose removal of Indian Statue

BY DON DEBAT  
*The Home Front*

First of two articles.

War was hell for thousands of Lane Tech High School students who fought on battlegrounds around the globe.

Lane students died in the Argonne Forest in France in World War I. They died on remote South Pacific islands, on the beaches of Normandy and in the Battle of the Bulge in World War II, and later in U.S. wars fought in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Some 314 World War II fallen Lane Tech heroes and more than 50 veterans of World War I, Korea and Vietnam are solemnly honored by name on plaques displayed in the school's Memorial Garden," noted John H. Schwan, retired chairman of the Lane Tech Century Foundation, which raised more than \$2 million for restoration of the campus as part of the school's Centennial Celebration.

"The historic garden stands as a memorial to every Lane Tech man and woman who served in the U.S. Armed Forces since World War I through the Iraq War, the War in Afghanistan and the Global War on Terrorism," said Schwan.

Schwan volunteered in 1966 and fought in combat as an officer in the U.S. Army's 1st Division Air Cavalry in Vietnam in 1968 and 1969. He is a decorated, disabled Purple Heart veteran.

Today, a key controversial focal point of the Lane Tech Memorial Garden is the restored bronze statue titled "Shooting the Stars," which depicts a Native American



The sculpture [above] stands in the school's courtyard as a memorial to every Lane Tech man and woman who served in the U.S. Armed Forces since World War I through the Iraq War, the War in Afghanistan and the Global War on Terrorism.

warrior in a feathered headdress gazing to the heavens.

A plaque attached to the base of the war monument simply states: "In reverent tribute to those Laneites who gave the last full measure of devotion for justice, and the American way of life, this memorial is solemnly dedicated."

However, the warrior statue, standing on a pedestal in the central private garden at the Lane Tech College Prep High School, 2501 W. Addison St., and the school's other Indian imagery

STATUE see p. 8

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# World's most refined architecture little comfort when all the glass is broken



By Thomas J. O'Gorman

The phone ringing in the early hours of daybreak was the first signal that Chicago was out of control.

Friends out East enquiring if I was safe.

It was really early, they were an hour ahead.

I was asleep. Unaware that all hell was breaking loose.

Looters still in Nordstrom as the sun rose.

Gucci and Hermes trashed.

Michigan Ave. laid waste once more. The cycle of pillaging appearing organized. Vengefully deliberate.

Hardly tied to anyone's civil rights or lack thereof. Just the greed of thievery. The mindless passion for violence and skull-duggery and vanquishing of fancy streets.

The mob hiding behind face masks of pandemic. Millennial looters looking for expensive shoes. Their keys of the kingdom some handy metal pipe.

Mayor Lori Lightfoot mumbling and bumbling herself to excuses for the urban tragedy she

conveniently forgets she enabled.

Police brutalized once again, ordered to stand down from any force that would make the mayor look bad.

Or tough on organized crime.

The felony of socially disturbed, nasty youth who could be out on some crime spree romantic date. Seizing department stores like wild west forts and ransacking the city's showcase esplanade of famous brands.

This is what passes for equality in the compassionless world of gangland snowflakes.

How proud their parents must be.

Still no sign of reinforcements. The mayor is resolutely firm in that Univ. of Chicago style belligerence. That implacable immovability that has no care for the feelings, possessions, freedom or safety of others. It's a favorite on the menu of the Quadrangle Club. The fragrance in the air in Hyde Park.

Where is the Illinois National Guard? You know, our state's uniformed militia to safeguard the vulnerable from the harm of unforeseen disasters. Floods. Riots. Chaos. Lawlessness. Witless political leaders. Leaderless actions in the nation's third largest city.

It's safe to say that when you're terrified and you're way over your head in the mire of urban catastrophe, your focus is often just surviving trying to save your own behind.

That's the playbook our mayor is using to figure who's on first.

A cloistered nun could figure out a better plan for safeguarding the citizens of Chicago. Hopefully with a more fine-tuned sense of good and evil.

That's the annoying thing about moral dilemmas. If your sense of right and wrong is controlled by how you look on TV, your sense of righteous indignation will simply lie flat. No profile in courage here.

Imagine how Mayor Big Bill Thompson would have reacted to the present urban assaults back in the 1920s. We would not have enough jail cells or body bags to house those caught red-handed.

Or can you imagine Mayor Long John Wentworth's response? When Officer James Quinn, Chicago's first cop killed in the line of duty back in 1853, was murdered in the riverfront saloon district, the mayor personally went along to burn the culprits out of their saloons. He took few prisoners.

How about Mayor Joseph Medill, elected on the Fireproof ticket right after the Great Fire of 1871? He tolerated no nonsense in the clean up and restoration of the city after the flames.

And we all know how Mayor Richard J. Daley would have laid out plans to stop the violence. Would that we had him with us now.

How much hand wringing and excuse making are we supposed to tolerate from Mayor Lightfoot? She doesn't want to upset any of the looters. The States Attorney Kim Foxx has done a Cracker Jack job of making sure no looting felon has to see the inside of a jail cell. Her best States Attorneys, like the police, are hamstrung.

What do they say to the city's financial kingpins? The bankers and CEOs who are right now probably trying to find a way to exit the zip code.

I've been told by several restaurant owners that the mayor has never met with them about any of this lawlessness. Most of our world class famous eateries are in

trouble from the pandemic. Barely surviving. Who can we turn to to resolve this urban outrage?

You'd have to be out of your mind to want to visit Chicago and vacation here. Who would ever jeopardize their safety and that of their families to lounge around Chi-town. Dodging bullets from drive-by shootings, or the raging antics of mentally disturbed 20-somethings who think strong armed robbery is a civil right.

Perhaps the raising of the bridges to impede riots and getaway cars might become a new Chicago attraction to take the place of the Lyric Opera or the Chicago Symphony. They're so white privilege.

Mayor Lightfoot has made Chicago the talk of the nation. Few Americans who know Chicago can believe that in such a short time Chicago's star has so eclipsed. Having the world's most refined urban architecture is little comfort when all the glass is broken. A singular American lakefront landscape doesn't mean much when the public art has been looted and graffiti abounds.

Chicago appears to be a city on the way out. Guaranteed by the inadequate political abilities of our chief executive and the folk around her.

Common sense mustn't be in the graduate syllabus at the Univ. of Chicago. If it were we wouldn't be fighting for our municipal life, or pleading that the federal government surround our city and shield us from the assault of the unspeakable.

Maybe we should be looking at some Arizona Desert sites to fashion into holding centers to introduce convicted looters and rioters to rational behaviors conducive to living more socially acceptable lives. Maybe we should actually prevent the organized attacks of mobs of thieves before they bash what's left of Chicago's windows.

Maybe we should empower the police and the military to defend the citizens of Chicago and not just coddle violent rioting thugs.

Maybe we could invest in a moral code of acceptable conduct that guarantees that all peoples' human rights have value.

Let's at least try before no one is left in Chicago to people our neighborhoods or bring life back to our streets.

**BODY COUNT:** Eleven people were shot and killed last week with 65 wounded. Weekly total is 76 shot.

**IT BEGINS:** Macy's to leave Water Tower Place and United Airlines moving out of Willis Tower to suburbs. Thanks **Mayor Lightfoot**. Is that your U of C economics at work?

**FAREWELL TO A LEGEND:** Hal Oscar Binyon III, 80, passed away peacefully after



Hal Oscar Binyon III

a battle with cancer in Naples, FL. While the Binyon legacy to Chicago will always remain turtle soup, veal kidneys, and the memory of your favorite drink, Hal will be remembered because he was a prince, a true gentleman ready to

host you to abundance as a cherished friend and patron. Binyon's was a restaurant in the old style of familiar patrons who cherished their time there, like their cloth napkins. It was all about family. No gimmicks. Hal went to school "Far above Cayuga's waters," Cornell Univ. A true Blue Blood who cherished the Cubs, golf, his Catholic faith and travel. I will always be grateful for the two giant

**BROKEN** see p. 6

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INSIDE is published every Wednesday by Inside Publications  
 6221 N. Clark St., rear  
 Chicago, IL 60660  
 Tel: (773) 465-9700  
 Fax: (773) 465-9800  
 E: [insidepublicationschicago@gmail.com](mailto:insidepublicationschicago@gmail.com)



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# Who knew science could be so cool?



## Heart of the 'Hood

by Felicia Dechter

Raise your hand if you were a science geek growing up. Now, raise your hand if you were a wannabe science geek growing up whose Science Fair projects were always totally lame.

I was definitely the latter. That's why I wish there'd been a place like Mad Science.

Mad Science is a worldwide, Montreal-based science enrichment franchise -- that caters to kids between the ages of three and 12 through hundreds of after-school programs, camps, birthday parties, workshops and various events. Through hands-on, interactive experiments aligned with STEM curriculum objectives, Mad Science helps nurture children's love for science and equip them with the resources to pursue careers in the field of science.

"Science is for everyone," said Sharon King, VP of research and development/operations for Mad Science. "There are no barriers for kids. We're trying to get that



Future scientist.

'wow' factor younger. Kids are natural scientists. We need a population that are science literate. We're trying to create science-literate adults."

It's easy to start creating a mini scientist, King said.

"Grab a little plastic magnifying glass and go for a walk," she said. "Look around. Who knew there was a little world beneath a log?"

You can also go to the library, which has great books about science, facts about the subject, or the solar system, King said.

"The earlier science can be introduced the better," said King. "Kids need to be introduced early so it's not scary."

Science has always been important, but now, during the pandemic, it's become even more so, said King. "Science will create

the vaccine. Listen to the scientists."

Mad Science of Chicago, 1053 N. California Ave., usually services about 25 schools across Chicago. It also, in normal times, has "a ton" of programming for pre-k to second grade kids, said its business manager, Paige Peavler, a "Mad Scientist." These days, there are online programs and fun, interactive workshops that teach the little ones while following state curriculum.

"Out of the darkness comes a lot of creativity," said Peavler, a North Sider. "We've had to re-think things. We've had to pivot because of remote learning with CPS."

"Parents are dipping their toes in the water to see what kids are interested in," said Peavler. "You have to have the fun stuff that's



Paige Peavler

real easy and fun to do and will stick with them."

"We realize a lot of parents are starting pods," said Peavler. "Hey, if you need help with your science, we have workshops. If science teachers are at their wits end and trying to think of something fun, we can help them." (For a fee, of course).

Here's a very simple, fun-sounding science experiment to try. With the little darlings not in school and home with you all day, check out the Mad Science website if you're looking for more cool projects.

- Take a sheet pan and fill it with an inch of water. Make a boat out of a paper or Styrofoam plate, no mast is necessary. Put the boat on top of the water and put in some tiny drops of dish soap.

"That creates a chemical reac-

tion and the boat goes through the water," said Peavler.

But it's a "one trick pony" experiment, she said, as it only works once and then you have to start over again. This is because there is oil in soap and it won't mix and creates a disturbance in the H<sub>2</sub>O.

That seems about my speed for a science experiment. But check out Mad Science if you'd like to know more or if you're in need of some mad science ideas during the pandemic.

"Reach out," said King. "Everybody needs support."

**Don't miss the boat...** and be sure to catch this free online public fundraiser for the Lookingglass Theatre Company [LTC], which is holding a one-night watch party of "Eastland: An Original Musical," at 7 p.m. tomorrow, Aug. 20. As the next offering in the Chicago Stories initiative, LTC is inviting folks to revisit, "a relatively unknown piece of history that unfolded in the heart of the city." A post-show conversation will be held with creative team members Andrew White and Andre Pluess.

You more than likely know the story of this tragically sad piece of our city's history. The Eastland was moored on the Chicago River

**SCIENCE** see p. 6



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# New surge in Divvy bike thefts traced to credit card fraud and docking station flaws

**Alderman: 'Abandoned Divvy bikes outnumber pigeons downtown'**

BY CWBCHICAGO

Two years after a docking device malfunction caused Chicago to lose hundreds of its taxpayer-owned Divvy bikes to thieves, the popular program is again battling rampant theft of its inventory, according to multiple city sources.

Lyft, which manages the bike share program, is scrambling to correct multiple shortcomings in the system's physical and financial security structures, the sources said. The sources, who all have direct knowledge of the situation, declined to be identified by name for this story.

The sources said Divvy is trying to stop two kinds of credit card fraud and multiple physical security shortcomings that thieves exploit to steal bikes.

Pressure built to fix the security loopholes after this reporter published video of an 82-year-old man being carjacked in Streeterville by a dozen young Divvy bike riders on July 26.

Following that incident, leaders of the 18th Near North Police District asked aldermen Brendan Reilly [42nd] and Brian Hopkins [2nd] to pressure the Chicago Dept. of Transportation [CDOT] and Lyft to fix Divvy's security problems, the sources said.

Just three days after the carjacking, Reilly tweeted, "unsecured Divvy's are abetting crimes, again. If they can't secure their bikes, they aren't welcome in #Chicago."

On Aug. 11, Reilly said he asked a Divvy worker how many bikes were stolen during that week's looting.

"He told me, 'oh, a couple hundred,'" Reilly tweeted. "He was busy retrieving Divvy bikes strewn around a looted storefront at the time."

Ald. Hopkins has been less public with his concerns about the Divvy program.

Pressed by the aldermen and increasingly bad publicity, CDOT and Lyft this month identified three theft methods for immediate correction:

- Fraudulent use of credit cards at docking stations
- Theft of bikes rented on pay-as-you-go debit cards
- Ineffective docking station locks

Divvy's "Buy a Pass" option

allows non-members to rent bikes at docking stations with a credit card. People who use this option are required to enter their ZIP code. But Divvy's security system has not been correctly comparing the ZIP codes people enter on the kiosk with the ZIP code associated with the credit card, according to sources. As a result, thieves have been able to use stolen debit

**The city pays Divvy an \$1800 fee for every bike stolen.**

and credit cards to take up to five bikes out of a station at one time.

A significant number of Divvy thefts have been tracked to pay-as-you-go credit cards, too, a source said. Theft via pay-as-you-go cards is so substantial, Divvy managers were considering a freeze on that payment method, according to a source. Like the ZIP code loophole, the pay-as-you-go shortcoming allows thieves to steal up to five bikes at a time.

Thieves who exploit the payment security flaws have been keeping the bikes, selling them to gullible buyers, and — like the carjacking crew — dumping them on the street, according to sources.

Information about current docking station flaws was not readily available. However, the 2018 Divvy theft surge was made possible by a Divvy manager's decision to remove a critical piece of security hardware from docking stations. The removed device had been making it more difficult for users to dock bikes at the end of their rides, but it also made stealing docked bikes much easier.

CDOT and police records show that at least 12% of Divvy's bicy-

cle inventory was stolen last year between April 2018 and April 2019.

In a separate story last September, we reported that Divvy bikes were still being stolen in significant numbers even after program managers said the critical piece of security hardware had been re-installed on docking stations.

Police reports that documented Divvy thefts after the docking stations were supposedly fixed show that inventory was being stolen from trucks that are used to shuttle bikes and to perform repairs in the field.

A Streeterville resident who attended a recent community meeting told this reporter that local aldermen were ready to demand a "theft-proof" docking station design if Divvy cannot get a handle on rampant theft.

Neither CDOT nor Lyft responded to multiple emails from this newspaper seeking comment for this story since July 31. We're not the only ones who've been denied answers.

"I am currently working to address the Divvy theft issue," Ald. Reilly tweeted on Aug. 3. "Divvy needs to step-up to be a part of the solution. So far I'm not impressed with the bureaucratic responses, so I've escalated the issue at CDOT."

The next day, Reilly tweeted again. "Looking forward to @DivvyBikes, @lyft & @ChicagoDOT getting back to us on that 'bike theft fix.' Divvy theft is rampant & stolen bikes are being used to commit other crimes. This must be addressed."

"Abandoned Divvy bikes outnumber pigeons downtown these days," Reilly continued.

The city pays Divvy an \$1800 fee for every bike stolen.

## Rental assistance extended one more week

The Illinois Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program will provide renters impacted by COVID-19 \$5,000 for back rent and prepay through 2020, or until funds are exhausted. Applications will be accepted through Friday, Aug. 28.

Eligibility requirements in-

clude household income at or below 80% Area Median Income, and that the applicant has an unpaid rent balance that began on or after March 1, 2020, due to loss of income related to COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information, visit [www.era.ihda.org](http://www.era.ihda.org).

### Letter to the Editor

**Dear Mayor Lightfoot...**

Regarding your Aug. 12 Neighbors Fed Up story, yes our beautiful city of Chicago has become a disaster and a disgrace.

Letting these animals loot and damage property and injure or kill people is unforgivable... This is criminal activity that is out of control.

This is no longer about BLM protests, it is a well-organized attack on our city. Where is the FBI and why don't you have better information about this well thought-out plan that was all over the internet?

Why aren't you bringing in help from our President? The National Guard is needed!

Why should our police be told to stand down? How can you allow our police to get hurt protecting property and injuring or killing people who have worked their whole lives to support their families?

This is the third time the stores on the Magnificent Mile have been looted and boarded up.

What about the small family owned stores that have been looted and destroyed numerous times as well?

Too many unfortunate bankruptcies and stores that will leave Chicago for good. The insurance companies will no longer insure these stores.

The people who live in Chicago are afraid to walk down the streets. The property values in our apartments and homes are sinking. No one will be able to afford the high taxes you will impose. People will be and are leaving Chicago for good.

You need to step down or get help as you are not able to control this sad and unfortunate criminal situation.

Why are you refusing help when you cannot control this disastrous situation?

Linda Robin

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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** counter tops with glass tile backsplash, LED 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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# Virtual SEA Blue prostate cancer walk Sept. 13

Us TOO International Prostate Cancer Education and Support Network and Uropartners have announced the SEA Blue 2020 National, Virtual Prostate Cancer Walk, Run will take place in Lincoln Park on Sunday, Sept. 13, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

This year's it's going to be a live-streaming web event. The SEA Blue walk and run is the largest and longest-running prostate cancer event in Chicago to

raise funds and awareness for those affected by the disease. Traditionally held in Lincoln Park, the event has been restructured this year to provide support, education, advocacy and awareness to the prostate cancer community while complying with COVID-19 restrictions.

The event benefits Us TOO International, a nonprofit organization which offers programs and services free of charge to those

affected by prostate cancer.

"We are doing our best to make this year's SEA Blue event feel as close as possible to the rich experience found at the in-person event, with many of the same activities - including the walk, run, teams, fundraising, entertainment, information and more," said Beau Stubblefield-Tave, executive director of Us TOO International.

The live web event will include

a variety of educational presentations and entertainment. A small, in-person, invite-only component will be held as part of the event broadcast hub at Hofbrauhaus in Rosemont. SEA Blue will once again be emceed by prostate cancer survivor and former WGN TV news anchor, Steve Sanders. The virtual nature will allow SEA Blue to connect to a national audience for the first time, for potentially the largest audience

in the event's history.

Registration for this year's event is 'pay what you can,' but donations and fundraising are encouraged. Registration is required to view the live stream. Registrants will receive a video link prior to the event for viewing. To register or donate visit [www.seablueprostatewalk.org](http://www.seablueprostatewalk.org), call 630-795-1002, or email [seablueinfo@ustoo.org](mailto:seablueinfo@ustoo.org).

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# Should I stay or should I go?

## Votes are in for police in schools

Chicago Public Schools [CPS] asked Local School Councils [LSC] at more than 70 schools city-wide to vote on whether to keep — or remove — police on campuses. Most of the votes for North Side high schools are now in.

Chicago’s school board voted against cancelling a \$33 million contract with the police last month. Mayor Lori Lightfoot and schools chief Janice Jackson have both resisted efforts to make a wholesale decision, preferring to leave it to individual

schools.

To a great extent, the final decision actually rests with each of the school’s principals.

Several LSC’s voted without a quorum, which means the vote is considered advisory. According to district rules, in this case, the principal and the area network chief make the final decision. Here is how most of the school councils have voted so far:

**Amundsen High School:** voted 10-1 on June 8 to keep officers.

**Mather High School:** voted 6-4 on Aug. 11 to remove officers.

**Lake View High School:** voted 9-1 on Au-

gust 13 to keep officers.

**Lane Tech College Prep High School:** voted 9-3 to remove school resource officers on Aug. 11. Students and alumni held a rally to call for police removal from schools. A petition against the police has also garnered about 2,000 signatures.

**Lincoln Park High School:** on Aug. 13, voted against police officers remaining in the building.

**Northside College Prep:** voted 8-0 on July 7 to remove officers.

**Senn High School:** narrowly voted to remove police from schools after a four-hour

meeting on Aug. 11. The LSC voted 6-6 on a motion to retain police officers, with one member abstaining. A CPS representative said that an abstaining vote acts as vote against police.

**Sullivan High School:** the elected LSC made an advisory voted against police, but the principal has not yet announced a final decision.

**Uplift Community High School:** voted 8-1 on Aug. 11 to remove officers.

**Wells Community Academy High School:** voted 5-4 on Aug. 10 to keep officers.

## STATUE from p. 1

recently have come under fire from some students and alumni who say they reinforce harmful racial stereotypes of Native Americans.

“The Native American statue symbolizes the courage of our war heroes who lost their lives defending our country, and all the Lane Tech veterans who served or will serve in all wars,” Schwan noted. “The American Indian has stood as the school’s mascot for more than 100 years.”

The Memorial Garden and “Shooting the Stars” statue by sculptor John Szaton, was dedicated on Oct. 30, 1947 to honor Lane Tech’s 314 Gold Star Heroes who died in World War II.

At least 6,539 Laneites served in World War II. Some 8,174 Lane Tech students served in the Armed Forces in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and in the Global War on Terrorism, according to a 2002 survey. More than 360 Lane Tech students died in all these wars. In many



John H. Schwan

ways, the Memorial Garden is Lane Tech’s Arlington Cemetery.

In 2011, nearly 100 military veterans—including 41 surviving World War II heroes—were honored at the unveiling and rededication of the restored statue and Memorial Gardens sculptures. “A 21-gun salute was fired by the Lane Tech JROTC, and military taps were played to honor the fallen heroes,” said Schwan, who estimated that 400 veterans and guests attended the event.

A \$10,000 special projects grant was received from the Terra Foundation for American Art. The grant was used to help restore the statue and develop creative research projects about World War II for Lane Tech students.

“The statue was not designed to epitomize an Indian of a specific tribe. It is only a pure artistic representation of a noble and brave Native American warrior,” Schwan said. “It is not a symbol to be taken lightly, nor quietly moved away to a dusty museum in the middle of the night.”

In 2020, the Lane Tech Alumni Assoc. created the first data base of alumni who served in Vietnam and replaced the original memorial marker which had omitted the names of two Laneites killed in action in that war. A new granite marker was in-

*“The statue was not designed to epitomize an Indian of a specific tribe. It is only a pure artistic representation of a noble and brave Native American warrior,” John Schwan said. “It is not a symbol to be taken lightly, nor quietly moved away to a dusty museum in the middle of the night.”*

stalled a few weeks ago.

Over the years Lane was known as “the School of Champions” because of its many athletic victories in high school football, baseball, basketball, gymnastics, track and many other sports. Lane Tech also is ranked as one of Chicago’s top high schools.

“Shooting the Stars represents Lane’s heritage as the School of Champions, both in sports and academic achievement,” Schwan said.

Lane Tech has dubbed its teams the “Indians” and most students and alumni proudly wear sweaters, jackets, sweatshirts and T-shirts lettered and embroidered with

the historic Indian logo.

Principal Brian Tennison directed Lane’s advisory council to address the “Indian” issue with a vote. In early August the council unanimously agreed to start a process to remove the iconic warrior statue from the Memorial Garden.

The plan also would remove other Indian mascot images from the school, including a huge Native American curtain on the auditorium stage and several priceless Works Progress Administration (WPA) murals and paintings adorning the halls of the school.

Schwan asked: “Who were the school council voters? Are any of them military veterans?”

NEXT WEEK: If the historic “Shooting the Stars” statue and other Native American icons are banished from the Lane Tech campus, what should the school and alumni choose as its new mascot name?

For more housing news, visit [www.dondebat.biz](http://www.dondebat.biz). Don DeBat is co-author of “Escaping Condo Jail,” the ultimate survival guide for condominium living. Visit [www.escapingcondojail.com](http://www.escapingcondojail.com). DeBat is a 1961 Lane Tech graduate.

## ANGER from p. 1

with serious problems underway downtown over gang violence, commercial theft and shoplifting, shootings, carjacking and outright looting. The alderman also questioned whether the newly established Critical Incident Response Team - created as part of the mayor’s restructuring of CPD - “has been fully trained to prepare for the unprecedented crime we are seeing, or how they will be used strategically to discourage another surge in retail crime.”

“The mayor offered to assign more police officers to the 18th and 1st [police] districts but revealed no plan for how they would respond to mass-offender events like what we saw this week,” said Hopkins. “Our city cannot afford even one more night of rampant and uncontrolled criminal activity. This has to stop. And it has to stop now.”

Ald. Brendan Reilly [42nd] says he is “angry and disgusted” by the looting. He says it was “a highly coordinated, professional attack on downtown and neighboring wards” involving caravans of stolen vehicles.

He says the attack was “laser-focused on high-value targets” such as department stores, electronics stores, jewelry stores, branch banks, ATMs, and high-end retail boutiques, and was coordinated using social media.

The judicial system and Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office in particular, said Reilly, “are failing us like never before.” State’s Attorney Kim Foxx, he says, has prosecuted “a fraction” of felony retail thefts compared with her predecessor, Anita Alvarez.

CPD Supt. David Brown “has made it clear that the lack of consequences for

the looting that occurred in late May only served to further embolden these criminals to strike again. I agree - it is clear that there is no accountability or consequences for the widespread lawlessness in the City of Chicago. As much as I disagree with President Trump and his policies, I am sincerely grateful for this federal assistance, which I believe will be a real benefit to the CPD and our city as a whole,” said Reilly.

A major benefit of the federal assistance,

he says, is that people arrested will be federally prosecuted, which “will likely result in stiffer penalties and real consequences for offenders, unlike the woeful prosecution efforts we have seen through the Cook County State’s Attorney’s office.”

One explanation for the precipitous drop in prosecutions can be linked to a policy adopted by Foxx and her office in 2016, when she decided to treat retail theft as a “misdemeanor” crime, unless the value of

stolen items exceed \$1,000 or the suspect has 10 prior convictions. “That leaves far too much wiggle room for habitual, repeat offenders,” said Reilly.

“We expect prosecutors to enforce all of our laws with equal vigor – city and state laws are not a buffet for prosecutors to selectively enforce, they must all be enforced. All too often, we are seeing repeat offenders, violent offenders, gun crime suspects and now looters being released on [a recognition bond] or the totally ineffective electronic monitoring program. This is totally unacceptable.”

Looting at Nordstrom in River North was briefly interrupted when Chicago police were able to park a police SUV directly in front of the doors, but when they were called away to help with worse looting in the Loop, the crowd returned.

Streeterville Organization of Active Residents [SOAR] expressed its disappointment with progress following their recent meeting with 18th police district commander Jill Stevens, and aldermen Hopkins and Reilly.

“Based on this meeting, we had anticipated better management and control of the illegal and criminal activity that has impacted Streeterville and the City of Chicago,” wrote SOAR in an email to members. “However, no one anticipated that this wide-scale looting and destruction of property would happen again, especially in the middle of the night.”

CPD has established a looting task force and is seeking videos, photos, or other information about the recent looting incidents. They may be sent to [630lootingtaskforce@chicagopolice.org](mailto:630lootingtaskforce@chicagopolice.org) or you may call 312-744-8263.



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**PORCHLIGHT PALOOZA**  
A THREE-DAY SILVER ANNIVERSARY VIRTUAL FUNDRAISING FESTIVAL  
FEATURING BROADWAY LEGEND AND ICON AWARD HONOREE  
**JOEL GREY**



**FRIDAY, AUG. 21, 7PM CDT**  
CELEBRATING PORCHLIGHT MUSIC THEATRE'S 25 YEAR HISTORY AND A KICK-OFF FROM CO-CHAIRS DEANN AND RICK BAYLESS AND DONNA LAPIETRA AND BILL KURTIS!



**SATURDAY, AUG. 22, 7PM CDT**  
FEATURING PORCHLIGHT'S COMMITMENT TO NURTURING YOUNG AUDIENCES, THE PRESENTATION OF THE LUMINARY AWARD TO ELAINE COHEN AND ARLEN D. RUBIN AND MORE SURPRISES!



**SUNDAY, AUG. 23, 7PM CDT**  
JOIN OUR 2020 ICON AWARD HONOREE FOR AN INTIMATE CONVERSATION WITH BILL KURTIS SALUTING JOEL GREY'S INFLUENCE ON MUSIC THEATRE!

AN ENTERTAINMENT-PACKED, **FREE** THREE-EPIISODE FUNDRAISING FESTIVAL!

FOR FULL SCHEDULE, PERFORMERS & MORE, VISIT [PORCHLIGHTMUSICTHEATRE.ORG/PALOOZA](http://PORCHLIGHTMUSICTHEATRE.ORG/PALOOZA)

**PORCHLIGHT MUSIC THEATRE**