



V. 80 No. 30

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ESTABLISHED 1940

City Reinstates COVID-19 Restrictions



By: Ashmar Mandou

The City announced it will reinstate COVID-19 restrictions for bars, restaurants, gyms, and persona services as a precautionary move in response to a heightened number of cases across Chicago. The reinstatement of certain restrictions will go into effect Friday, July 24 at 12:01 a.m., in order to allow businesses time to prepare. Restrictions will include:

- Bars, taverns, breweries and other establishments that serve alcohol for on-site consumption without a Retail Food license will no longer be able to serve

customers indoors.

- Maximum party size and table occupancy at restaurants, bars, taverns and breweries will be reduced to six people.

- Indoor fitness class size will be reduced to a maximum of 10 people.

- Personal services requiring the removal of face coverings will no longer be permitted (shaves, facials, etc.).

- Residential property managers will be asked to limit guest entry to five per unit to avoid indoor gatherings and parties.

As the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) recently announced, the city is back in a high-

incidence state under Centers for Disease Control guidelines after topping 200 cases per day on a 7-day rolling average. As of Sunday, July 19, that number was 233. That increase has been driven in part by rising cases among young people 18-29 years old as the city has seen more social activity and interactions in bars, restaurants, parks and the lakefront.

“No one relishes making this move but it’s the right thing to do as we work to prevent a resurgence of COVID-19 similar to what we’re seeing in many states around the country,” said CDPH

Commissioner Allison Arwady, M.D. “This virus has had a disproportionate impact on Black and Latinx individuals, many of whom are essential workers who have continued to go to work, and we can’t afford to see a resurgence that would mean more cases and more deaths.

“Over the past few months, businesses and residents from every corner of this city have stepped up to follow our public health guidelines and restrictions so that Chicago could safely and responsibly reopen,” said BACP Commissioner Rosa Escareño. “We will continue to keep data and science as the north stars

of our work, which is why these new restrictions are designed to preserve the positive progress we’ve

made so far and ensure Chicago can stay one of the most open large cities in the nation.”

Gov. Pritzker Announces Roads, Bridges Improvement Plan



Gov. JB Pritzker joined the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to announce the release of a \$21.3 billion plan to improve Illinois roads and bridges over the next six years. The critical investment in communities throughout the state is made possible by the Governor’s historic and bipartisan Rebuild Illinois capital plan, the first in nearly a decade. Based on current funding levels, the FY2021-26 Proposed Highway Improvement Program will improve 3,356 miles of roads and 8.4 million square feet of bridge deck. Of the total \$21.3 billion included in the six-year program, \$3.15 billion has been identified for the current fiscal year. The program will create and support hundreds of thousands of earning

opportunities over the next six years for Illinois residents in communities across the state. As the Illinois economy begins to recover from the COVID-19 crisis, these jobs will be a critical resource for families working to get back on their feet. Projects included in the program were selected based on objective criteria, such as pavement conditions, traffic volumes, and crash history. Over the next six years, \$6.1 billion of the funding will go toward highway reconstruction and preservation, \$4.7 billion towards bridge improvements, \$2.6 billion for strategic expansion, \$1.8 billion for system support like engineering and land acquisition, and \$1.4 billion for safety and system modernizations.

Attorney General Raoul Files Lawsuit Against Dept. of Education Over Critical Borrower Defense Regulations

Attorney General Kwame Raoul joined a coalition of 16 attorneys general in filing a lawsuit against U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos and the U.S. Department of Education

challenging their action to unlawfully repeal the 2016 borrower defense regulations and replace them with regulations that do nothing more than benefit predatory for-profit

schools at the expense of defrauded students. In the lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, Raoul and the coalition argue that the



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department's decision to repeal and replace the regulations violates the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), and the coalition asks the court to vacate the department's new regulations. The 2016 borrower defense regulations established critical protections for student-borrowers who were misled or defrauded by predatory schools by providing borrowers with an efficient pathway to obtain relief from their federal student loans. In the lawsuit, Raoul and the coalition argue that the department's repeal and replacement of the 2016 borrower defense

regulations violates the APA because:

- It is arbitrary and capricious. The decision to repeal and replace the 2016 rule was not the product of reasoned decision making as required by the APA. In explaining its rationale for the new regulations, the department rejected prior agency determinations going back decades without explanation, grounded its analysis in fundamental misunderstandings, failed to consider alternatives, and disregarded facts and circumstances.

- It does not comply with Congress's requirement that the secretary implement a meaningful

process for borrowers to obtain relief. Instead, it establishes an illusory process that makes it practically impossible for students to qualify for borrower defense relief. The department admits as much by acknowledging that only around 4 percent of borrowers eligible for relief will actually get relief.

Student borrowers who have questions or are in need of assistance can call the Attorney General's Student Loan Helpline at 1-800-455-2456. Borrowers can also file complaints on the Attorney General's website.

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Living Life in Limbo



With schools set to open in just a few weeks and numbers continuing to rise throughout the United States, parents across Chicagoland are struggling with what to do. Most schools have already released their plans with many offering both in-school and remote options but the burden is intense. “We have never seen anything of this enormity in modern times where it affects everyone, in every neighborhood, every town, every city, every state. COVID-19 has touched every single person in the US, whether they want to admit it or not. Our lives have been completely upended. Normal is non-existent,” says Dr. Pavan Prasad, founder of Chicago’s Clarity Clinic. While new information about the coronavirus surfaces each day, a new study out of South Korea shows those ages 10-19 can spread it just as well as adults. Those findings suggest if schools reopen

communities will see clusters of infection and that has many worried. “Although the risk seems to be considerably low right now for children catching the virus, they are not immune. In addition, to bringing it home to family members they could also potentially infect teachers and staff. You must consider the amount of weight not only parents are carrying right now but for teachers as well. Yes, this is their job, a job they love but they also want to protect themselves and their loved ones as well and rightfully so,” adds Prasad. According to a recent poll by the Kaiser Family Foundation, 4 in 10 Americans are experiencing both worry and stress directly related to the coronavirus and 31 percent of have reported at least some difficulty in paying their bills. “Is there a perfect answer, absolutely not. But it is important to remember to continue take that time

for yourself as we move forward. Whether that looks like stepping into the bathroom and locking the door behind you to take a 2-minute break to breathe and calm your thoughts, calling a supportive friend and/or family member, talking a walk, watching your favorite show after the kids have gone to bed. Anything that you can do to calm that anxiety in the moment, to be mindful and present. Many of us have heard the phrase “one day at a time” our entire lives, that phrase was made for this time. We will get through this together, one day at a time,” says Prasad. If you are feeling hopeless right now or simply need someone to listen, please seek professional help. Though patients are not able to be seen in an office setting right now, professionals are still available via telehealth



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City Council Approves New Police Reforms



By: Ashmar Mandou

City Council approved various police reforms Wednesday afternoon that would now allow for anonymous complaints to be investigated, ending the requirement of destroying disciplinary records, preventing the names of complainants from being revealed to officers in a

bid to create accountability and transparency within the Chicago Police Department.

“For years, I have fought for reforms that would further ensure accountability and transparency at every level of the police department. As mayor, I have not only prioritized these efforts but doubled down on our reform commitments,

which is why today’s ruling represents such a critical step forward in our path toward building a stronger police department and creating a safer Chicago for all,” said Mayor Lightfoot. “Today’s historic win represents years of efforts to ensure our Chicago’s police union contracts represent the values of our officers and the

residents they serve. We will continue fighting for these same reforms as well as other measures in our ongoing negotiations with the FOP.”

The approval by City Council comes after years of negotiating with the police supervisors’ unions on reform measures that the mayor has campaigned since she led the Police Accountability Task Force (PATF). In addition, the City and union resolved a host of issues through bargained agreements. The terms approved on Wednesday echoes genuine input from the unions and efforts by the City to ensure the agreement strikes a balance between accountability, transparency and supervisors’ needs for reasonable procedural safeguards.

“These reforms and

new measures represent not only the values of our city but also those of the Chicago Police Department,” said Chicago Police Superintendent David O. Brown. “The first step to building trust between officers and the communities they serve is ensuring accountability and transparency is reflected within our police contracts. Today’s passage by City Council will ensure just that.”

The changes will now include investigations into anonymous complaints against police supervisors. For the last 40 years, the governing contracts excluded investigations of potentially meritorious complaints of misconduct solely because they were anonymous. Both the PATF report and the Department of Justice’s (DOJ) findings on CPD noted that this

provision in police contracts had not only discouraged the reporting of officer misconduct, but also reaffirmed fears of retaliation for reporting complaints against police officers. By ensuring that the City has the power to investigate such complaints, the latest measure aligns CPD with other major police departments from across the nation.

“This is a historic win for not only Chicagoans but the men and women of the Chicago Police Department,” said Ald. Chris Taliaferro, (29th Ward), Chair of the Public Safety Committee. “For years, Mayor Lightfoot has devoted her career to implementing real reforms within the police department and today is a testament to her commitment and renowned leadership on this issue.”

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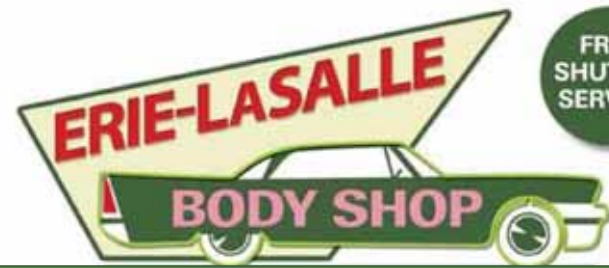
Chicago's Sports Teams Launch 'We Are All One Home Team' Campaign



As part of the latest effort to stop the spread of Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) in Chicago, Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot in partnership with Chicago's sports teams launched the "We Are All One Home Team" campaign to encourage the city's youth and young adults to wear masks, practice social distancing and follow the latest public health guidelines to keep themselves and their families safe and healthy. Building on the City's recent "We Are Not Playing" campaign, which focused on efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19 by staying home to save lives,

the "We Are All One Home Team" campaign is designed to visually highlight the importance of wearing masks as Chicago continues to reopen while monitoring our data closely. Teaming up with the Chicago Bears, Blackhawks, Bulls, Cubs, Fire, Red Stars, Sky, and White Sox – this new campaign centers around the influence of sports teams, their players and mascots to unify people across the city and work together as one home team against COVID-19. The announcement is designed to address the recent surge in COVID-19 cases among Chicago's

youngest residents. Last week, Mayor Lightfoot announced that since June 15, nearly 30 percent of new cases in Chicago have come from those aged 18- to 29-years-old. To amplify Chicago's public health guidance, players and team mascots from Chicago's major sports team are coming together to use their social media channels to spread the word about how to protect yourself from COVID-19 as part of the "We Are All One Home Team" campaign. The City encourages all residents to participate in the campaign by posting and sharing photos of their masks on social media with #WeAreAllOneTeam.



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Cicero Officials Join Food Drive Effort at Unity Junior High School

Town President Larry Dominick and the Town of Cicero Board including Clerk Maria Punzo-Arias, Supervisor Joe Virruso, Assessor Emilio Cundari, Collector Fran Reitz, and Trustees Victor Garcia, Larry Banks, Bob Porod

and John Cava joined Committeewoman Blanca Vargas, Cook County Commissioner Frank Aguilar and officials from Morton School District 99 including Board President Tom Tomschin, District 99 Supt. Rudy Hernandez

and District 99 board members, teachers and staff in distributing food to needy families on Thursday June 25, 2020 at Unity Junior High school. Also volunteering in this massive effort that brought out hundreds of families (who drove through the school parking lot in their vehicles) were Morton High School District 201 including Supt. Tim Truesdale, Board President Jeff Pesek, Jimmy Zundell and the District 201 maintenance Department, Ismael Vargas of the Clergy Committee, and Senior Center Director Diana Dominick and Senior Center staff. All helped in the effort to distribute food the boxes of food and milk gallons to each family. The food giveaway takes place



every Thursday through August at Unity Junior High School from 10a.m., to noon. Photo Credit: The Town of Cicero

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completion and this program has one of the highest GED passing rates in the state. Earning a GED provides the same benefits as graduating from High School, leads to increased opportunities for better paying jobs, and qualifies graduates to enroll in college. The courses are

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Comcast NBCUniversal Awards Scholarships to High School Seniors



Comcast NBCUniversal announced it has awarded \$175,000 in scholarships for the 2020-2021 school year as part of its annual Leaders and Achievers Scholarship Program to 70 students in its Greater Chicago Region, which includes Central and Northern Illinois, Northwest Indiana and Southwest Michigan. Students are selected for their outstanding community service,

academic performance and leadership skills. The award, funded by the Comcast NBCUniversal Foundation, is a one-time, \$2,500 scholarship to be used toward undergraduate education-related expenses. Since 2001, about \$33 million has been awarded to about 30,000 high school seniors across the country as part of the Leaders and Achievers program. The Comcast Leaders and

Achievers Scholarship Program recognizes high school seniors for their community service, academic performance, and leadership skills. These scholarships are provided to give young people the opportunity to continue their education to better compete in tomorrow's workplace. For more information, visit <http://learnmore.scholarsapply.org/leadersandachievers/>

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La agricultura es la mejor inversión en este momento. El rendimiento de su inversión supera con creces los intereses bancarios. Es una gran oportunidad para jóvenes o personas que estén pensando en retirarse con deseos de poner a trabajar su dinero con ganancias seguras.

El clima es perfecto para sembrar árboles de alto rendimiento económico como la teca y balsa y plantaciones comerciales de cacao, yuca, banano o bien pastizales para ganadería. Las opciones son innumerables. Su inversión puede ser en muchísimas plantaciones de alto valor y rendimiento.

Las plantaciones de árboles necesitan poca supervisión durante su crecimiento, por ello es que esta es una oportunidad inmejorable para residentes en el extranjero.

No es necesario el cuidado constante de las plantaciones. Es una oportunidad de inversión inmejorable. Ud. puede recuperar su inversión en tan solo un par de años con una plantación de cacao o bien a lo más en 4 años si es una plantación de balsa.

Por su ubicación, la finca es también susceptible de lotificación y urbanización.

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Pappas: Stay home!



Homeowners and business people can avoid a trip downtown by taking care of their property taxes at cookcountytreasurer.com, including making payments, searching for refunds and verifying tax exemptions, Treasurer Maria Pappas said. "Stay home!" Pappas said. "Millions of people are still staying home and you should, too. Homeowners and business people can conduct all their business on my website." The Second Installment is due August 3, but property owners can pay without any interest charge through October 1, 2020, thanks to an ordinance urged by Pappas and passed by the Board of Commissioners. Partial payments are accepted. In addition to making a payment, property owners may use cookcountytreasurer.com to:

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Public Health Experts Urge Congress to Fund Vote by Mail and Safe In-Person Voting in November

A thousand public health experts have signed a letter urging Congress to provide states with \$4 billion so that they can expand access to vote by mail and ensure safe in-person voting in November. "In order to ensure the integrity of the electoral process and protect the public health at the same time, it is incumbent on our leaders to prepare for a presidential election by mail, in which ballots are sent to all registered voters, to allow them to vote from home and ensure their health and safety in the event of a new outbreak of SARS-CoV-2," the letter says.

Congress and states need to act quickly in order to be ready for November, the letter says. As the number of positive COVID-19



cases trends sharply upward in many states this summer, social distancing is critical to keep the virus in check. But in order to make these changes to expand vote by mail and early in-person voting, the public health experts note that congressional action is needed to cover the costs of expanding these options, including ballot printing, postage, dropboxes for absentee ballots, and appropriate security.

"In the midst of this pandemic, voters should

not need to choose between their health and casting their ballots," Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) said. "Expanding access to voting by mail and early voting is not a partisan issue. As Congress prepares to provide states with medical and economic relief, we should also act swiftly to provide states with additional resources and pass my legislation to ensure that every American has a safe way to participate in our democracy during a national emergency."

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Sealed proposals, endorsed as above, will be submitted back to the District via an electronic upload to the Bonfire Portal only, from the date of the Invitation to Bid, up to 11:00 A.M. (Chicago time), on the bid opening date, and will be opened publicly as described in the Invitation to Bid by the Director of Procurement and Materials Management or designee at 11:00 AM on the stated bid opening date below for:

**CONTRACT 19 157 3P
INSTALLATION OF MECHANICAL MIXERS, STICKNEY WATER RECLAMATION PLANT**

Bid Opening: August 25, 2020

Compliance with the District's Affirmative Action Ordinance Revised Appendix D, Appendix C, Appendix K and the Multi Project Labor Agreement is required on this Contract.

The above is an abbreviated version of the Notice Invitation to Bid. A full version which includes a brief description of the project and/or service can be found on the District's website, www.mwrd.org; the path is as follows: Doing Business → Procurement and Materials Management → Contract Announcements.

Specifications, proposal forms and/or plans may be obtained from the Department of Procurement and Materials Management by downloading online from the District's website at www.mwrd.org (Doing Business→Procurement & Materials Management→Contract Announcements). No fee is required for the Contract Documents. Any questions regarding the downloading of the Contract Document should be directed to the following email: contractdesk@mwrd.org or call 312-751-6643.

Chicago, Illinois
July 23, 2020

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
By Darlene A. LoCascio
Director of Procurement and Materials Management



Classifieds



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