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City Announces Efforts to Reduce Violence



By: Ashmar Mandou

City leaders on Wednesday announced collaborative efforts designed to prevent and reduce crime and violence, including community safety town halls curated to each Chicago region that will provide an opportunity for residents to ask questions, share

feedback, and inform the City on violence prevention strategy. "The COVID-19 pandemic taught us that partnering with community leaders is key to our success to co-create and implement equitable and efficient strategies," said Tamara Mahal, CSCC Chief Coordination Officer. "The CSCC is designed around deep partnership with those

most impacted by violence and the mobilization of our city department resources in response."

Since the launch of Chicago's first-ever Community Safety Coordination Center (CSCC) in August, 2021, the City has worked with health care providers, community-based organizations and faith

leaders. Over twenty departments and agencies worked through a process to identify their role in violence prevention. As a result, the City is implementing targeted strategies, including

•**People-based strategy:** Connecting, coordinating, and organizing supports and opportunities around those at the highest risk for violence involvement.

•**Crisis**

response: Supporting law enforcement partners with deep engagement with community and strengthening collaborations to build stronger, coordinated pathways to resources for those who are justice-

involved.

"Making our city safer means ensuring every community has a voice," said Chicago Police Department Superintendent David O. Brown. "The work of the Chicago Police Department, the Community Safety Coordination Center, and every city department go hand in hand because we all play an important part in preventing violence." Between March 9th and March 19th, the CSCC and CPD will host six virtual community safety town halls tailored to the needs of each Chicago region, with one town hall fully in Spanish. Residents are encouraged

to register for one of the town hall meetings at, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-safety-town-halls-tickets-288801201167>

•March 9 –North/Northwest Sides Community Safety Town Hall

•March 10 –West Side Community Safety Town Hall

•March 12 –Southwest Side Community Safety Town Hall

•March 15 –City Center/ Near North, South Loop, West Loop Community Safety Town Hall

•March 16 – South Side Community Safety Town Hall

•March 19 –Citywide Community Safety Town Hall in Spanish

La Ciudad Anuncia Esfuerzos Para Reducir la Violencia

Por: Ashmar Mandou

Líderes de la ciudad anunciaron el miércoles, esfuerzos colaborativos designados a prevenir y reducir el crimen y la violencia, incluyendo ayuntamientos de seguridad comunitaria seleccionados para cada región de Chicago que brindarán a los residentes la oportunidad de hacer preguntas, compartir opiniones e informar a la Ciudad sobre estrategias de prevención a

la violencia. "La pandemia de El COVID-19 nos enseñó que afiliarse con líderes comunitarios es la clave de nuestro éxito para co-crear e implementar estrategias equitativas y eficientes", dijo Tamara Mahal, Funcionaria de Coordinación en Jefe de CSCC. "CSCC está diseñado en torno a una asociación profunda con los más afectados por la violencia y la movilización de los recursos del departamento de nuestra ciudad en respuesta".

Desde el lanzamiento del Centro de Coordinación de Seguridad Comunitario de Chicago (CSCC) en agosto del 2021, la Ciudad ha trabajado con proveedores de cuidado de salud organizaciones comunitarias y líderes religiosos. Más de veinte departamentos y agencias trabajaron en un proceso para identificar su papel en la prevención de la violencia. Como resultado, la Ciudad está implementando estrategias claves,

incluyendo

•Estrategia basada en las personas: conectar, coordinar y organizar apoyos y oportunidades en torno a las personas con mayor riesgo de participación en la violencia.

•Respuesta en Crisis: Apoyar a los socios encargados de hacer cumplir la ley con un compromiso profundo con la comunidad y fortalecer las colaboraciones para construir vías más sólidas y coordinadas hacia los recur-



Attorney General Raoul, ISBE Announce Guidance to Combat School-to-Prison Pipeline



Attorney General Kwame Raoul, along with Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Superintendent of Education Dr. Carmen I. Ayala, announced the

state’s first guidance for school districts to ensure that disciplinary policies do not violate civil rights laws. The guidance is aimed in part at addressing the connection between exclusionary school discipline practices and increased rates of incarceration, often referred to as the school-to-prison pipeline. Illinois law requires school boards and the governing bodies of charter schools to conduct annual reviews of discipline policies and their implementation. Raoul

and ISBE are encouraging school boards to review disparities in discipline data and eliminate policies and practices associated with having a race-based disparate impact. During the 2019-2020 school year, 45 percent of students expelled from Illinois public schools were Black, despite comprising less than 17 percent of the state’s student population. The Attorney General’s Civil Rights Bureau enforces state and federal civil rights laws prohibiting discrimination. Attorney General Raoul

urges students or parents who experience or witness discriminatory school discipline practices or policies to contact his office’s Civil Rights Bureau by emailing civilrights@ilag.gov or by calling his Civil Rights Hotline at 1-877-581-3692, or to contact the ISBE Student Care Department by emailing studentcare@isbe.net.

La Ciudad Anuncia

Viene de la página 1

...sos para aquellos que están involucrados en la justicia. “Hacer nuestra ciudad más segura significa garantizar que cada comunidad tiene una voz”, dijo el Superintendente del Departamento de Policía de Chicago, David O. Brown. “El trabajo del Departamento de Policía de Chicago, el Centro de Coordinación de Seguridad Comunitaria y cada departamento de la ciudad van mano a mano porque todos desempeñamos una importante parte en prevenir la violencia”. Entre el 9 de marzo y el 19 de marzo, CSCC y CPD ofrecerán seis foros virtuales de seguridad comunitaria adaptados a las necesidades de cada región de Chicago, con un foro totalmente en español. Se aconseja a los residentes que se inscriban para una de las reuniones de la alcaldía en <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-safety-town-halls-tickets-288801201167>

- 9 de Marzo – North/Northwest Sides Community Safety Town Hall
- 10 de Marzo – West Side Community safety Town Hall
- 12 de Marzo – Southwest Side Community Safety Town Hall
- 15 de Marzo – City Center/Near North, South Loop, West Loop Community Safety Town Hall
- 16 de Marzo – South Side Community Safety Town Hall
- 19 de Marzo – Citywide Community Safety Town Hall en Español

CPS, Partner Groups Invite Community Input



The Whole School Safety Steering Committee, an unprecedented partnership between the Chicago Public Schools administration and five community-based organizations, launched a survey to gather vital data from students, parents, teachers, administrators and community members on a reimagined approach to school safety. The goal is equitably protecting and supporting CPS students. The survey, aimed at the 53 CPS school communities that have or have had school resource officers, can be found and will remain open through March 14. **The Whole School Safety Survey** should only take five minutes to complete

and will:

- Give** key stakeholders a chance to offer input on school safety needs and their vision for alternatives to the school resource officer program.
- Help** the Whole Schools Safety Process Planning Committee, Chicago Public Schools, and partner groups understand the complexities of reimagining school safety at the individual school

level.

- Ensure** that the voices of key stakeholders are heard in the school safety planning process.
- Shape** each individual school’s safety plan for the next school year.

To learn more about the Whole School Safety Planning Process, or to take the survey, go to www.bit.ly/WholeSchoolSafety



Benedictine University’s ‘Teach In for Social Justice’



Gustavo Arellano, Los Angeles Times Columnist, and author of the book *Taco USA: How Mexican Food Conquered America*, will be the featured speaker at Benedictine University’s upcoming “Teach In for Social Justice” event on Monday, March 7, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The program is open to the public, free, and available on Zoom. For more information or to register, visit <https://bit.ly/3h7JnRa>

Arellano’s presentation will focus on food and justice in multicultural America, and how to uplift communities by appropriately appreciating their food ways, with insights on how that can be accomplished. He will also focus on how the

food that is characteristic of Mexican culture has become widely and widely popular in the U.S. The Benedictine University Teach-In on Social Justice is an annual all-day, all-campus event now in its 6th year. This year’s theme is *Working for Justice: Building Alliances for the Common Good*. Arellano is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times, covering Southern California and parts of the West. He previously worked at OC Weekly, where he was an investigative reporter for 15 years and editor for six, wrote a column called ¡Ask a Mexican! and is the author of “Taco USA: How Mexican Food Conquered America.”

Governor Pritzker Issues Updated Executive Order with New Mask Guidelines



With COVID-19 positivity rates continuing to decline and the majority of eligible Illinoisans vaccinated, today Governor Pritzker released an updated executive order lifting the mask requirement in most indoor settings. In accordance with CDC guidance, the executive order also lifts the mask requirement

in K-12 schools and daycares. School districts and private businesses can continue to require masks at their discretion. Masks are currently required for all residents, staff, and visitors to long-term care facilities, congregate facilities (i.e. – correctional facilities and homeless shelters) and in healthcare settings, regardless

of vaccination status. Additionally, pursuant to federal mandates, all individuals over the age of two, regardless of vaccination status, must wear a face covering on public transportation including, but not limited to, planes, trains, and buses and while in transportation hubs such as airports and bus stations. Vaccines continue to be readily available at pharmacies across the state, many local health departments, doctor offices, federally qualified health centers, and other locations. To find a COVID-19 vaccination location near you, go to www.vaccines.gov.

Illinois DCFS Ofrece Becas Universitarias



El Departamento de Servicios Infantiles y Familiares de Illinois está aceptando actualmente solicitudes para el Programa de Becas DCFS 2022. A través del programa, un mínimo de 53 becas académicas serán otorgadas a jóvenes actuales y anteriores, para el próximo año escolar, con cuatras becas reservadas para hijos de veteranos. Los recipientes de becas reciben hasta cinco años consecutivos de colegiatura y dispensa de cobros académicos para

ser utilizados en colegios comunitarios del estado de Illinois participantes y universidades públicas, un subsidio mensual de \$1,273 para compensar otros gastos y una tarjeta médica. El Programa de Becas DCFS está disponible a jóvenes que tengan un caso DCFS abierto, cuyos casos fueron cerrados por adopción o tutoría o que sobrepasaron la edad de 18 años o más. Los jóvenes que tengan por lo menos 16 años de edad y no más de 21 para el 31 de marzo, pueden aplicar.

Las aplicaciones están disponibles en cualquier oficina regional de DCFS y en la red de DCFS: www2.illinois.gov/dcfs (Forma CFS 438 bajo Características y página principal de DCFS). Los estudiantes o cuidadores pueden llamar a la Oficina de Educación y Servicios de transición de DCFS al 217-557-2689 o vía email a DCFS.EducationalandTransition-Services@illinois.gov con preguntas sobre el proceso de solicitud o para más información



El Gobernador Pritzker Emite una Orden Ejecutiva Actualizada con Nuevas Pautas Para el uso de Mascarillas

Con el índice de positividad del COVID-19 que continúa bajando y la mayoría de residentes de Illinois vacunados, el Gobernador Pritzker publicó una orden ejecutiva actualizada para retirar el requisito de las mascarillas en la mayoría de lugares bajo techo. De acuerdo con las guías de CDC, la orden ejecutiva retira también el requisito de las mascarillas en las escuelas K-12 y en las guarderías. Los distritos escolares y los comercios privados pueden continuar requiriendo las

mascarillas a su discreción. Actualmente se requieren mascarillas para todos los residentes, el personal y los visitantes a instalaciones de cuidado de salud a largo plazo, instalaciones congregadas (i.e. – centros correccionales y albergues para desamparados) y en lugares de cuidado de salud, sin importar el estado de vacunación. Adicionalmente, de conformidad con los mandatos federales, toda persona mayor de dos años, sin importar su estado de vacunación, debe usar una mascarilla en lugares

de transportes públicos, incluyendo, pero no limitando a aviones, trenes y autobuses y mientras se encuentren en lugares de transporte, como aeropuertos y estaciones de autobuses. Las vacunas continúan disponibles en farmacias del estado, muchos departamentos locales de salud, oficinas de los doctores, centros de salud calificados a nivel federal y otros lugares. Para encontrar un lugar de vacunación del COVID-19 cercano a usted, visite www.vaccines.gov.

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Forty Days of Peace



By: Ashmar Mandou

In an effort to combat violence and encourage peace, faith based leaders

from Catholic and Christian Churches in the Pilsen neighborhood called on community members to hold a ceasefire as

the “40 Days of Peace” campaign kicked off on Ash Wednesday.

“This is an opportunity to pray for peace, not only for the people in our own communities but around the world,” said Fr. Mike Enright, Pastor of St. Paul Catholic Church. “We are all children of a loving God, a God who weeps also for those who commit violence upon others. We, as His children, are called to bring peace through our words and our actions,” he continued.

The coalition of faith based leaders, known as the Pilsen Faith Table Initiative, calls on all churches, businesses and neighbors of Pilsen to be peacemakers in the neighborhood and together seek an end to violence. The Pilsen Faith Table Initiative is made up of churches and organizations including St. Paul Catholic Church, St. Pius V Catholic Church, St. Procopius – Providence of God Catholic Church, New Life Community Church, Lincoln United Methodist Church, Bethel Temple,



Hope Church Pilsen, The Resurrection Project, and the Healthy Hood.

Ministers and priests from the seven Pilsen churches offered prayers and ashes to residents on Wednesday morning and evening at the 18th Station (Pink Line) and the Damen Station (Pink Line). Neighbors gathered for prayer huddles, received ashes, and were encouraged to spread messages of peace throughout Lent.

“We are asking for prayers and peace from all the violence that is happening in our communities every day, taking the lives of our young kids,” said Dalia Radecki, Pilsen resident and community leader with The Resurrection Project.

“We know peace begins at the home, so we are asking parents to become more involved, to be more caring. We are losing a lot of young kids to violence, so we are asking parents and everyone to step up. Violence needs to stop.”

“We are promoting Forty Days of Peace, but of course we are praying to God for 4,000 years of peace, but we have gotten together with other faith-based movements, our beliefs may be different, but we are together focusing on peace in Pilsen. We are here doing our thing and praying for those who allow us to pray for them,” said Pastor Johnny Delgado of Bethel Temple.

“We are praying and taking actionable steps to bring down the violence,” said Pastor Steve Cuchra of Hope Church in Pilsen. “As the weather starts to warm up, the gangs come out. We are trying to be the example of Christ and be the example of showing that even if we come from different beliefs, there doesn’t have to be wars. We are coming together by example to show that we are all brothers and sisters.” The “40 Days of Peace” campaign is set to run thru Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022. For additional information on events in the coming weeks, visit www.resurrectionproject.org.

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INVITATION FOR BIDS

CITY OF BERWYN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Mayor and City Council of the CITY OF BERWYN, Cook County, Illinois, that sealed bids will be received for the following improvement:

PY 2021 CDBG ROADWAY AND SEWER REPLACEMENT HUD ACTIVITY NOS. 719, 721

The proposed improvement consists of HMA surface removal; curb and gutter removal & replacement; alley pavement removal & replacement; sidewalk removal & replacement; driveway pavement removal & replacement; structure adjustments & replacement; combined sewer replacement; HMA surface course replacement; pavement markings; topsoil & sod; parkway restoration; and all appurtenant construction on Clinton Avenue – 26th Street to Riverside Drive, Grove Avenue – 26th Street to Riverside Drive, 25th Street – Grove Avenue to Oak Pak Avenue, Scoville Avenue – 26th Street to 24th Street and Elmwood Avenue – 26th Street to 24th Street, located in the City.

Said bids will be received up to the hour of **10:00 a.m.** on the **15th day of March, 2022**, at the office of the **City Clerk**, in the **City of Berwyn, 6700 W. 26th Street, Berwyn, IL 60402**, and will be publicly opened and read at that time.

Plans and proposal forms are available for download only from QuestCDN via the Novotny Engineering website, <http://novotnyengineering.com>, "Bidding" tab, for a non-refundable charge of \$30.00. Please contact Novotny Engineering (630-887-8640) to obtain the QuestCDN password. The Engineer has been authorized to refuse to issue Specifications and Proposals to any person, firm, or corporation that he or she considers to be unqualified. Proposals must be submitted on the forms provided. No Proposals will be issued to Bidders after **12:00 Noon** on the **14th day of March, 2022**. All proposals or bids must be accompanied by a Bid Bond, Cash, or Certified Check made payable to the **City of Berwyn** in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount of the Proposal as a guarantee that if the Proposal is accepted, a Contract will be entered into and the performance of the Contract is properly secured.

No bid shall be withdrawn after the opening of the proposals without the consent of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Berwyn for a period of **forty-five (45)** days after the scheduled time of closing bids.

The bidder is specifically advised that the City is a recipient of a grant made pursuant to the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended. Further, in compliance with the Stevens Amendment to the Department of Defense Appropriation Act of 1989, the estimated percentage of the total cost of this project to be funded with federal dollars is one hundred percent (100%) and the exact dollar amount of federal funds which will be set aside for this project will be based on the Contract amount awarded under this offering.

All laborers and mechanics employed by Contractor or Subcontractor(s) on construction work for this project shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar construction in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act as amended (U.S.C. 76-276a-5), and shall receive overtime compensation in accordance with and subject to the provisions of the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. 327-333) and the Contractor and Subcontractor(s) shall comply with all regulations issued pursuant to these Acts and other applicable Federal laws and regulations pertaining to labor standards. The Secretary of Labor has, with respect to the labor standards specified in this Section, the authority and functions set forth in Reorganization Plan Number 14 of 1950 (5 U.S.C. 113z-15) and Section 2 of the Act of June 13, 1934, as amended (40 U.S.C. 276c).

All Contracts and Subgrantees for construction or repair shall include a provision for compliance with the Copeland "Anti-Kickback Act" (18 U.S.C. 874) as supplemented in Department of Labor Regulations (29 CFR, Part 3).

Each Bidder is required to comply with Equal Employment Opportunity for Community Development Block Grants, a copy of which is on file with the City Clerk and is available for inspection.

Compliance with "Section 3", which calls for affirmative action by the Contractor to train and hire lower income residents of the project area and to subcontract with local small businesses, is required on this project.

An explanation of the applicable federal requirements previously mentioned is provided in the Special Provisions of the Bid Specifications.

The successful Bidder for the construction of the improvement will be required to file a Performance Bond equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the bid, with sureties to be approved by the Mayor and City Council, which Performance Bond shall be conditioned upon proper and faithful performance by the Contractor of the work specified in accordance with the Plans and Specification therefore, according to the time and terms and conditions of the Contract; and also that the Bidder and Contractor shall properly pay all debts incurred by the Contractor in the execution of the work, including those for labor and materials furnished.

The Contractor shall be required to furnish sufficient insurance or guaranty of indemnity to the City of Berwyn, Illinois, and the County of Cook, Illinois, against any and all claims which might arise for damages to persons or property due to the negligence of the Contractor or Subcontractor(s), or their officers, agents, employees or servants, during the construction of said improvement and until the said improvement has been finally accepted as complete by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Berwyn.

Bidders must be registered and active with SAM.gov prior to the bid date. The right to reject any and all Proposals or Bids is reserved.

Dated at Berwyn, Illinois, this 3rd day of March, 2022.

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF BERWYN**

By: Robert J. Lovero, Mayor (s)

A T T E S T:

By: Margaret M. Paul, City Clerk (s)



Nicor Gas Nombrado Campeón de Clientes de Servicios Públicos en un Estudio Residencial

Nicor Gas fue nombrado Campeón de Clientes de Servicios Públicos entre los clientes residenciales, de acuerdo a un estudio del 2021 por Escalent, una de las principales firmas de asesoramiento en análisis y comportamiento humano. El reconocimiento está basado en un estudio hecho a nivel nacional de más de 76,000 clientes residenciales de electricidad y gas natural de las 140 mayores compañías de servicios públicos, para determinar las puntuaciones del índice de

confianza de la marca que clasifican la satisfacción del servicio, la experiencia del producto y la confianza en la marca. Nicor Gas se une a la lista de 45 compañías de servicios al público que recibieron la designación de “Campeones de Clientes” por sus niveles de compromiso con el cliente líderes en la industria. En la categoría de la región del Medio Oeste para el rendimiento de referencia de participación del cliente, Nicor Gas recibió una puntuación de 737 en

una escala de 1000 puntos. Según el estudio 2021 de Cogent Syndicated Utility Trusted Brand & Customer Engagement: Residential, de Escalent, el compromiso del cliente con las empresas de servicios públicos ha aumentado significativamente ocho puntos desde los niveles previos a la pandemia en 2019 a 721 de 1,000 puntos debido a un aumento en el apoyo ambiental, esfuerzos sociales y de gobernanza (ESG). Para más información, visite nicorgas.com/community.

Mobile Payment App Scams on the Rise, ComEd and BBB Warn Utility Customers



The popularity of mobile payment apps like Cash App and Venmo is giving rise to incidents of scammers using these digital networks to bilk ComEd customers out of their hard-earned money. ComEd urges customers to be aware of these new scam attempts so they identify and avoid them. In January 2022, ComEd received more than 240 reports of scams from customers, a more than 150-percent increase from January 2021. Even worse, the amount of money reported lost to successful scams rose dramatically to more than \$27,000 in January 2022, 20 times more than January 2021. Scammers are contacting ComEd customers by phone, although some contacts can be made by text or email, demanding payment to a particular account under the threat of immediate service disconnection. The imposter will instruct the

customer to use a mobile payment app, which often have higher transaction limits than pre-paid cash cards.

Tips to Help Identify Scams

ComEd will never call or come to a customer's home or business to:

- Ask for direct payment with a prepaid cash card, cryptocurrency such as Bitcoin, or third-party payment app like Cash App, QuickPay, Venmo or Zelle.
- Demand immediate payment.
- Ask for a ComEd account number or other personal information, such as a Social Security number, driver's license number or bank information.

To identify an actual ComEd employee or communication, remember:

- All ComEd field employees wear a uniform with the ComEd logo and visibly display a company ID badge with the logo and employee's

name. ComEd recently changed its logo, so you may continue to see the former ComEd logo on uniforms, badges and vehicles until it is phased out.

- Check the name on email or websites and make sure they match the name and address of the company you do business with. Look for misspellings or slight alterations.

- Make a call to verify the suspected email or website is from a trusted source. Use a

phone number from your personal business records or the company's official website and not the number provided in the email.

ComEd urges anyone who believes they have been a target or victim of a scam to call ComEd at 1-800-EDISON-1 (1-800-334-7661). To learn more visit ComEd.com/ScamAlert.

THE OAKS



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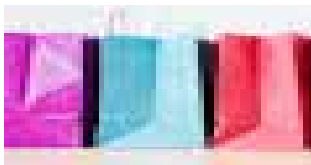


This property with its architecturally award winning atrium provides seniors and disabled individuals with parking, library, laundry room, Wellness Center and other conveniences.

A service coordinator is on staff to assist tenants who may need additional services. The units are studio and one bedroom, each with electric appliances, tile bath, and wall to wall carpeting. Modern fire and safety systems are installed in each apartment and common areas of the building. There are also 8 accessible one bedroom units for the mobility impaired. The Oaks is owned and operated by The Oak Park Residence Corporation and is funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development through the 202/section 8 Program. Residents pay approximately 30% of their monthly income for rent. For additional information please visit our website at www.oakparkha.org or contact us at 708-386-5812.



**INVIERTA EN LA
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LOCALES**





¿Quién celebra el quinto?

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Por quinto año consecutivo, Bank of America ha compartido con nuestros empleados el éxito de nuestra empresa a través del valioso premio de remuneración Sharing Success.

Para reconocer el arduo trabajo del equipo, este premio es adicional a la remuneración normal. Y este año, estamos orgullosos de conmemorar que por primera vez la mayoría de estos premios se otorgan en acciones de Bank of America.

Esto significa que este año se compartieron mil millones de dólares en acciones de Bank of America con el 97% de nuestros empleados, además de la compensación habitual.



"Quiero agradecer a mis compañeros aquí en Chicago por su arduo trabajo y dedicación constantes.

Si bien es posible que otros bancos otorguen premios como el nuestro de vez en cuando, me enorgullece trabajar para una organización que ha recompensado a nuestros empleados durante cinco años consecutivos. Porque el éxito es mejor cuando se comparte".

Rita Sola Cook
Presidente de Bank of America en Chicago

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Conozca más sobre cómo estamos invirtiendo en nuestras comunidades locales en **bankofamerica.com/chicago** (solo se ofrece en inglés).

BID ADVERTISEMENT P3-BOCT-TSB-007-Z-STAGE II

Baltimore and Ohio Chicago Terminal Railroad (B&OCT) is issuing an invitation to bid on the CREATE P3 – Stage II, B&OCT/CSXT Track, Earthwork, Retaining Wall and Bridge Construction project in Chicago, Illinois. (B&OCT/CSXT Milepost: DC 21.78 to DC 23.87)

The P3 project is a Public Private Partnership (PPP) implementing the 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project (CIP) in Chicago. The intent of the project is to improve mobility for rail passengers, freight, and roadway users by reducing rail-rail conflicts, reducing local mobility problems, and improving rail passenger transit service.

Generally, the project consists of heavy earthwork, ground improvements, drainage and erosion control, precast modular retaining wall construction, caisson installation, cast-in-place concrete pier construction, steel span manufacturing and erection, environmental compliance work, and railroad track construction including the removal of eight railroad crossing diamonds.

Additionally, this project will be funded in part by federal and/or state funds. Therefore, bidder will be required to comply with certain State and Federal policies, such as Buy America, Equal Employment Opportunity, Disadvantage Business Enterprise participation (30%), IDOT Training Program On-the-Job Training Special Provisions, and Davis-Bacon prevailing wage rates.

Insurance requirements (subject to change) are: Commercial General Liability combined single limit \$5M per occurrence and \$10M aggregate, Automobile Liability combined single limit \$1M per occurrence, Employers' Liability Insurance, Builder's Risk Insurance, and Workers' Compensation Insurance. B&OCT/CSXT requires that the railroad be named as an additional insured. Insurance coverage cannot be denied within 50 feet of a railroad.

Health and Safety Action Plan is required. Contractor safety orientation training and employee participation in ISN (www.isnetworkworld.com) program is required. All attendees must follow City of Chicago Public Health Order No. 2021-1 while attending this meeting and must provide and wear railroad approved PPE including but not limited to eye protection, hard hats, high visibility vests and lace up work boots with toe protection to participate in the site inspection.

DBE requirement on contracting is 30% for Phase III construction work. To encourage networking and facilitate opportunities for DBE participation, contact information for all participants in attendance will be made available temporarily online via the CREATE Program website, after the pre-bid meeting.

A mandatory in-person pre-bid meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM (CST) on March 15, 2022 at the location below with a site inspection to follow:

Kennedy-King College
U Building
740 W 63rd Street
Chicago, Illinois 60621

Register for the mandatory pre-bid meeting at
<https://create-csx-p3-stage2-pre-bid.eventbrite.com>.

A bid package of all contract documents may be obtained from:
Pat Kerins
Parsons Transportation Group
Patrick.Kerins@parsons.com

Bid documents will be received until 10:00 AM (CST) on April 26, 2022 at the address below; bids will then be publicly opened and read aloud (call-in number available upon request).

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For more information on CREATE go to <http://www.createprogram.org/>

Disney's Winnie the Pooh: The New Musical Stage Adaptation Hits Mercury Theatre



After its acclaimed, record-breaking run in New York City, Jonathan Rockefeller's Disney's Winnie the Pooh: The New Musical Stage Adaptation will arrive in Chicago on March 15th, 2022 for a limited 13-week run through June 12, 2022, bringing Pooh, Christopher

Robin, and their best friends Piglet, Eeyore, Kanga, Roo, Rabbit and Owl (and Tigger too!) to the Mercury Theatre Chicago, 3745 N. Southport Ave. Tickets are on sale and for more information about Winnie the Pooh, visit www.winniethepoohshow.com.

Winnie the Pooh de Disney: La Nueva Adaptación Musical Llega al Mercury Theatre



Después de su aclamado éxito en la Ciudad de Nueva York, Winnie the Pooh de Disney, la Nueva Adaptación Musical de Jonathan Rockefeller llegará a Chicago el 15 de marzo del 2022 por un tiempo limitado de 13 semanas, hasta el 12 de junio del 2022, trayendo a

Pooh, Christopher Robin y sus mejores amigos, Piglet, Eeyore, Kanga, Roo, el Conejo y el Buho (y el Tigre también!) al Mercury Theatre Chicago, 3745 N. Southport Ave. Los boletos están a la venta y para más información sobre Winnie The Pooh, visite www.winniethepoohshow.com.

Illinois lawmakers must create legal balance between owners, renters of storage units



By: Retired Army Col. Paul Kantwill

During and since my time as an active-duty officer in the Army, I have devoted much time and energy to protecting military service members from financial predators. Last year I focused on the passage of the Predatory Lending Prevention Act (PLPA), and the nationwide repeal of a Comptroller of the Currency rule that protected payday lenders using evasive schemes to get around state-imposed usury rate caps. While those efforts were successful, there is more to do.

Recently, I took notice of a bill in the Illinois Legislature, HB 4627, which would allow the owners of self-storage locker facilities to avoid altogether the required public notice of the auction of renters' items when his or her belongings have been confiscated. Those auctions often take place without the knowledge of the renter, who might be overseas defending our country or assisting fellow citizens falling victim to natural disasters. Illinois law requires owners to notify renters of an auction only by sending notice to the renter's "last known

address."

A deeper look into Illinois' Self Storage Facility Act reveals a law that is astonishingly lopsided in favor of locker owners to the detriment of renters. It is a law in need of reform. Whether the renter is active-duty military, our neighbors in the military Reserve or National Guard called to duty, a victim of eviction, or a victim of a house fire, every effort must be made to locate the renter before selling what could be their worldly belongings. Public notice in newspapers and their attendant websites helps. California law requires owners to allow renters to submit the name and address of a second individual to whom all notices must be sent. In addition, California law also allows renters to formally object to an auction after which the owner must get a court's blessing before proceeding. Illinois law should do the same.

Locker rent increases and late fees should be examined. How many rent increases should a renter endure after their belongings are in storage? Active-duty military or reservists and Guardsmen called to duty might find it impossible to competitively shop or

even receive notice once deployed. The current law should be viewed from the perspective of the transient and the vulnerable, not from only the point of view of owners.

I am all too familiar with real-life cases in which deployed service members have lost literally everything when storage facility owners sell off their possessions. I am sure that, given these difficult times, many other Illinoisans have suffered or will suffer the same. There are several other changes in Illinois law that could help protect the renters of storage lockers. Many of those changes have been proposed by my colleagues, including the Woodstock Institute, Chicago Urban League, Housing Action Illinois, and Legal Action Chicago. Those changes include several provisions that would benefit renters and help provide a balance between the rights of renters and owners. I urge legislators to not only reject HB 4627 but to reform Illinois' Self Storage Facility Act as soon as possible.

Retired Army Col. Paul Kantwill serves as founding executive director of the Rule of Law Institute at Loyola University Chicago School of Law. He

previously led the office of Servicemember Affairs at the Consumer Financial

Protection Bureau. He had a 25-year career as an active-duty officer in

the U.S. Army and served in Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf.

Los Legisladores de Illinois Deben Crear un Equilibrio Legal Entre Propietarios e Inquilinos de Unidades de Almacenamiento

Por: Retirado Col. del Ejército Paul Kantwill

Durante y desde mi época como oficial activo en el Ejército, he dedicado mucho tiempo y energía a proteger a los miembros del servicios militar de depredadores financieros. El año pasado me enfoqué en la aprobación del Acta de Prevención de Préstamos Abusivos (PLPA), y la derogación a nivel nacional de una regla del Contralor de la Moneda que protegía a los prestamistas de día de pago que usaban esquemas evasivos para eludir los topes de tasa de usura impuestos por el estado. Si bien esos esfuerzos tuvieron éxito, aún hay mucho por hacer.

Recientemente tomé nota de un proyecto en la Legislatura de Illinois, HB 4627, que permitiría que los propietarios de instalaciones de casilleros de autoalmacenamiento evitaran por completo el aviso público requerido de la subasta de los artículos de los arrendatarios cuando sus pertenencias hayan sido confiscadas. Estas subastas muchas veces tenían lugar sin el conocimiento del inquilino, quien podía estar fuera del país defendiendo nuestro país o ayudando a ciudadanos víctimas de desastres naturales. La ley de Illinois requiere que los propietarios notifiquen a los inquilinos de una subasta, solo enviando un aviso a la "última dirección conocida" del arrendatario.

Una mirada más profunda a la Ley de Instalaciones de Autoalmacenamiento de Illinois revela una ley que está sorprendentemente desequilibrada

a favor de los propietarios de casilleros en detrimento de los inquilinos. Es una ley que necesita reformarse. Si el inquilino está activo en el servicio militar, nuestros vecinos en la Reserva militar o la Guardia Nacional los llamó al deber, son una víctima de desalojo, o una víctima de un incendio en la casa, se debe hacer todo lo posible para localizar al arrendatario antes de vender lo que podrían ser sus pertenencias materiales. Una nota pública en los periódicos y sus redes asistentes ayuda. La ley de California requiere que los propietarios permitan a los inquilinos enviar el nombre y dirección de una segunda persona a quienes lleguen los avisos. Además, la ley de California también permite que los inquilinos se opongan formalmente a una subasta, después de lo cual el propietario debe obtener la aprobación de un tribunal antes de proceder. La ley de Illinois debería hacer lo mismo.

Se deben examinar los aumentos de alquiler de casilleros y los recargos por pagos atrasados. ¿Cuántos aumentos de alquiler debe soportar un inquilino después de que sus pertenencias estén almacenadas? Los militares en servicio activo o los reservistas y los miembros de la Guardia llamados al servicio pueden encontrar imposible comprar de manera competitiva o incluso recibir un aviso una vez desplegados. La ley actual debe verse desde la perspectiva de los transeúntes y los vulnerables, no solo desde el punto de vista de los propietarios.

Estoy demasiado familiarizado con casos de la vida real en los cuales



miembros del servicio desplegados han perdido literalmente todo cuando los propietarios de casilleros de almacenaje venden sus posesiones. Estoy seguro de que, dado estos tiempos difíciles, muchos otros residentes de Illinois han sufrido o sufrirán lo mismo. Hay varios otros cambios en la ley de Illinois que podrían ayudar a proteger a los inquilinos de casilleros de almacenaje. Muchos de esos cambios han sido propuestos por mis colegas, incluyendo el Instituto Woodstock, Chicago Urban League, Housing Action Illinois y Legal Action Chicago. Esos cambios incluyen varias provisiones que beneficiarían a los inquilinos y ayudarían a establecer un balance entre los derechos de los inquilinos y los propietarios. Exhorto a los legisladores a que no solo rechacen la HB 4627 sino que reformen la Ley de Instalaciones de Autoalmacenaje de Illinois lo antes posible.

El Coronel del Ejército Retirado, Paul Kantwill sirve como director ejecutivo fundador del Instituto de Estado de Derecho de la Escuela de Leyes de la Universidad de Loyola. Anteriormente condujo la oficina de Asuntos de Miembros del Servicio en la Oficina de Protección Financiera del Consumidor. Tuvo una carrera de 25 años como oficial activo en el Ejército de E. U. y estuvo activo en Afghanistan y en el Golfo Pérsico.

Illinois DCFS Offers College Scholarships



The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services is currently accepting applications for the 2022 DCFS Scholarship Program. Through the program, a minimum of 53 academic scholarships will be awarded to current and former youth in care for the upcoming school year, with four awards reserved for the children of veterans. Scholarship recipients receive up to five consecutive years of tuition and academic fee waivers to be used at participating Illinois state community colleges and public universities, a monthly grant of \$1,273 to offset other expenses and a medical card. The DCFS Scholarship Program is available to youth who have an open DCFS case, whose cases were closed through adoption or guardianship or who aged out of care at 18 or older. Youth who are at least 16 years old and not yet 21 on March 31 may apply. Applications are available at any DCFS regional office and on the DCFS website: www2.illinois.gov/dcfs (Form CFS 438 under DCFS Features on the homepage). Students or caregivers may call the DCFS Office of Education and Transition Services at 217-557-2689 or email DCFS.OfficeofEducationandTransitionServices@illinois.gov with questions about the application process or for more information.



West Loop Festival of Spirits, Wine Returns

Gourmet Expos' The West Loop Festival of Spirits & Wine returns to Plumbers Hall in the West Loop for its 5th annual spring event two days only, Saturday, March 26 and Sunday, March 27, 2022, bringing the unique experience of visiting many varied wineries and distilleries under one roof—with tastings, bottles available for purchase and one-on-one conversations with brand representatives on site. Showcasing dozens of local, national and international producers of fine spirits and wines, the festival also features renowned purveyors of artisanal chocolates and specialty treats, with live music all weekend. The West Loop Festival of Spirits & Wine takes place at the Stephen M. Bailey Auditorium at Plumbers Hall (1340 W. Washington Blvd.) on Saturday, March 26 from 11 a.m.–6 p.m. and Sunday, March 27 from 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Ticket packages start at \$45. To purchase tickets and for more information, visit gourmetexpos.com.

DCASE Announces Reopening of G.A.R. Rooms at Chicago Cultural Center Following Restoration



The Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) announced on Monday the late-March reopening of the Grand Army of

the Republic (G.A.R.) Memorial Hall and Rotunda at the Chicago Cultural Center following a year-long restoration. Free public programming during a special Reopening Weekend, March 26–27, will include tours, talks, dance performances and more in addition to continuing exhibitions, Welcome Center and Learning Lab events and shopping at BUDDY — also celebrating the 125th anniversary of the Chicago Cultural Center, which opened in 1897. The meticulous restoration of the art glass dome and decorative finishes in the G.A.R. rooms, a Civil War memorial, was made possible by a generous grant of services valued at \$15,425,000 to the City of Chicago. (The Chicago Cultural Center is home to *two* magnificent stained-glass domes; the restoration of the Tiffany dome in Preston Bradley Hall was completed in 2008.) Following the restoration, the G.A.R. rooms will reflect their historic appearance, but also more ably facilitate a wider range of free and diverse cultural programming. This includes upgraded lighting, electrical and Wi-Fi — and opportunities for artists and organizations to activate the space through performances and exhibitions. For more information, visit www.ChicagoCulturalCenter.org.



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