# Sunday Edition



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### Chicago Announces Lawsuit Seeking Accountability for Manufacturing, Selling Pistols that Easily Turn into 'Glock Switches'



On Tuesday, the City of Chicago announced a first-

of-its-kind lawsuit against Glock, the manufacturer of

the most popular handguns in the United States,

alleging that Glock is facilitating the proliferation of illegal machine guns on the streets of Chicago. The lawsuit alleges that Glock unreasonably endangers Chicagoans by manufacturing and selling in the Chicago civilian market semiautomatic pistols that can easily be converted to illegal machine guns with an auto sear – a cheap, small device commonly known as a "Glock switch." The suit is the first to use Illinois's new Firearms Industry Responsibility Act, passed and signed into law in 2023 to hold gun companies accountable for conduct that endangers the public.

Filed earlier Tuesday in Cook County Circuit Court, the lawsuit reports that law enforcement personnel in Chicago have recovered over 1,100 Glocks that have been converted into illegal machine guns in the last two years alone in connection with a wide variety of crimes, including homicides. aggravated assaults. batteries, kidnappings, burglaries, home invasions, carjackings, and attempted

robberies. The lawsuit alleges that Glock knows it could fix the problem but refuses to do so, and the City is seeking a court order requiring Glock to cease sales of its easily converted pistols to Chicago civilians. The City also seeks penalties against Glock and damages for the harm that Glock has caused to the City. The lawsuit is filed by the City of Chicago Law Department along with Everytown Law and Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, LLP.

#### Chicago Anuncia Demanda Buscando Responsabilidad por Fabricamos y Vendemos Pistolas que se Convierten Fácilmente en "Interruptores Glock"

El martes, la ciudad de Chicago anunció una demanda, la primera de su tipo, contra Glock, el fabricante de las pistolas más populares de Estados Unidos, alegando que Glock está facilitando la proliferación de ametralladoras ilegales en las calles de Chicago. La demanda alega que Glock pone en peligro injustificadamente a los habitantes de Chicago al fabricar y vender en el mercado civil de Chicago pistolas semiautomáticas que pueden convertirse fácilmente en ametralladoras ilegales con un fiador automático, un dispositivo pequeño y barato comúnmente conocido como "interruptor de Glock". La demanda es la primera en utilizar la nueva Ley de Responsabilidad de la Industria de Armas de Fuego de Illinois, aprobada y promulgada en 2023 para responsabilizar a las empresas de armas por conductas que ponen en peligro al público.

Presentada el martes en el Tribunal de Circuito del Condado de Cook, la demanda informa que el personal encargado de hacer cumplir la ley en Chicago ha recuperado más de 1.100 Glocks que han sido convertidas en ametralladoras ilegales sólo en los últimos dos años en relación con una amplia variedad de delitos, incluidos homicidios, agravados. agresiones, agresiones, secuestros, robos, allanamientos de

viviendas, robos de vehículos e intentos de robo. La demanda alega que Glock sabe que podría solucionar el problema pero se niega a hacerlo, y la ciudad está buscando una orden judicial que exija a Glock que deje de vender sus pistolas fácilmente convertibles a los civiles de Chicago. La Ciudad también solicita sanciones contra Glock y daños y perjuicios por el daño que Glock ha causado a la Ciudad. La



demanda es presentada por el Departamento Legal de la Ciudad de Chicago junto con Everytown Law y Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, LLP.

#### **CHA Board Approves Funding for Next Phase at Lathrop**

The Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) Board of Commissioners approved funding for Phase IC of the Lathrop redevelopment at Tuesday's Board Meeting. This long-awaited third phase will focus on the Lathrop South campus (south of Diversey Avenue) and will address all remaining vacant buildings on the Lathrop site. As part of project, Lathrop Community Partners (CHA's development partner) will rehabilitate seven existing historic buildings on the site, while three existing buildings will be demolished to add an accessible new construction building

with an elevator, as well as additional parking and open space. The exterior of the "Powerhouse building" will also be renovated. Altogether, the project will add a total of 309 new or renovated mixed-income apartments to the campus. These rehabilitated or new apartments come in addition to the 488 apartments that have already been delivered to the site during the award-winning earlier phases of construction, bringing the total number of apartments at Lathrop to 797. Final closing on funding and construction start are expected for the fourth quarter of 2024,

with project completion at the end of 2026. "Today's board action brings us one step closer to completing our vision for the new Lathrop: a vibrant and sustainable mixed-income, mixeduse community where all families, including those who live in subsidized housing, feel welcome and can thrive," said CHA CEO Tracey Scott. CHA's Board approved a construction loan of up to \$37 million towards the project. The total project cost is approximately \$205 million. Lathrop Community Partners includes Related Midwest LLC and **Bickerdike Redevelopment** Corporation.



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Como cortesía, Old National Bank ha traducido cierta información del producto al español. Tenga en cuenta que la mayoría de las comunicaciones, documentos y divulgaciones que recibirá de Old National Bank están únicamente en inglés. Para la apertura de cuenta, le recomendamos que consiga su propio traductor. Como alternativa, Old National Bank también ofrece servicios de interpretación mediante Atención al Cliente llamando al 1-800-731-2265.

# Artists Showcase Ukrainian Folk Art in Works Displayed at Treasurer Maria Pappas' Office



The public is invited to view paintings by Ukrainian-born, Chicagobased artists Elena Diadenko and Elena Pach on display in the Office of Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas through April 30. The exhibit, "Charitable Visions: A Dual Ukrainian-American Artistic Journey," opened Wednesday, March 20, and showcases efforts of Chicago artists to support native Ukrainians in their fight for independence two years after neighboring Russia invaded their homeland. Diadenko said her abstract and modern acrylic-on-canvas pieces "portray the echo of war and life in Chicago." "Art is a journey of constant

exploration and intuition," Diadenko said. "My work is all about embracing the freedom to follow my intuition and my aesthetic vision and letting the creative process guide me." Diadenko has sold her art works and raised more than \$90,000 for Ukrainian causes since the war began. She has donated funds to four organizations: a group that supplies gauze and bandages used to treat people injured in the war; a group that buys medical equipment for military hospitals; a group that provides Ukrainian soldiers with coats and other winter gear; and a group that cares for animals displaced by the war. For her charitable efforts Diadenko was

awarded the "White Cross Medal of Honor et Gloria," a prestigious Ukrainian recognition awarded to foreigners and stateless individuals who have supported Ukraine during "Charitable the war. Visions: A Dual Ukrainian-American Artistic Journey" will feature more than 20 paintings by Diadenko and seven by Pach. Proceeds from sales of works displayed in the exhibit will be donated to groups

supporting Ukraine. The works by Diadenko and Pach will be displayed from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily on the walls of the Treasurer's office, 118 N. Clark St., Room 112, Chicago.

#### Little Village -26<sup>th</sup> Street Area Chamber of Commerce Announces 2024 Mexican Independence Day Updates



The Little Village Chamber of Commerce announces the date and theme for the 2024 Annual 26th Street Mexican Independence Day Parade. The annual parade will kick-off at noon on September Sunday, 15, 2024, the first day of Hispanic Heritage Month. The parade is a celebration of Mexican Independence Day, which is celebrated each year on September 16th. The parade's theme, 'Celebrando Nuestras Tradiciones', will center around the rich tapestry of Mexican traditions and cultural celebrations. Expect a vibrant display as parade participants showcase an array of

traditions stemming from diverse regions and cultures. From the elegance of quinceañeras to the captivating rhythms of Mexican folkloric dancing and the skillful artistry of charrería, the parade will be a kaleidoscope of experiences, highlighting the essence and diversity of the Mexican heritage in Chicago and throughout the United States. The parade will continue its tradition by kicking-off from the historic Little Village Arch located on 26th street and Albany Avenue and proceed down 26th street to Kostner Avenue. For more info about participation in the parade or for sponsorship opportunities please contact Sarai Guerrero at sarai@littlevillagechamber. org or at (773) 521-5387.

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#### Delight in a Spring Break Staycation at Shedd Aquarium

Few spring break destinations allow families to explore both tropical coral reefs and arctic waters in the same day. At Shedd Aquarium, guests come face-to-face with aquatic life from across the globe to tap into their curiosity and compassion, all from the comforts of Chicago. This year, Shedd offers even more opportunities for families and adults to make the most of spring break with new exhibit features, unique animal sightings, extended aquarium hours and more.

#### Engage Deeper with Updated Animal Spotlights

Whether it's a sea lion or beluga whales, it's always a surprise who shows up for Shedd's Animal Spotlights. Now, these presentations have brand-new features that strengthen guests' connections to these animals and their incredible adaptations. Why are the dolphins at Shedd black and white? What noise do beluga whales make? These answers and more live at Shedd Aquarium. Guests will uncover unique natural behaviors and anatomy that allows these animals to thrive, potential threats these animals face in their natural environment and how everyone can play a part in protecting our blue planet. Animal Spotlights are free with admission in the Abbott Oceanarium and times vary throughout the day.

Encounter Animals with Extraordinary Experiences



For those looking for an extra-special staycation, guests can embark on the Must See Tour behind the scenes with an enthusiastic guide and stop by all the highlights of Shedd in just 75 minutes. The tour offers exclusive exhibit views, chats with animal experts and even the opportunity to touch a jellyfish. Shedd also offers once-in-alifetime opportunities to meet animals up close with Animal Encounters.

To check out more activities, visit www.sheddaquarium. org

Photo Credit: ©Shedd Aquarium



Community Development Block Grant Program Tom M Tomschin, MPA – Executive Director Phone 708-656-8223

#### Hernandez Advances Bill Protecting Families from Flood Insurance Mismanagement

Local families would be better informed about their protection against flooding under a new law advanced by state Rep. Elizabeth 'Lisa' Hernandez, D-Cicero, requiring home insurers to notify policyholders of flooding insurance coverage if their purchase covers flood and sewer backup. "My community was among those most devastated by flooding last summer, and because they weren't aware of the insurance options available to them, they faced thousands of dollars in damage and the loss of priceless family

items," Hernandez said. "My legislation will make sure that no family is left unaware of affordable insurance plans to protect them, should another flood impact their lives. Donations, fundraisers and federal assistance should not be the only forms of assistance to help families rebuild their lives from preventable and insurable disasters such as those my community experienced last summer. That's why I am looking forward to seeing this legislation signed into law." Hernandez championed House Bill 5357 to require



insurers to disclose whether an insured person's policy covers damage from a sewer backup or overflow from a sump pump. If it doesn't, the insurer must offer additional coverage for damages. House Bill 5357 passed out of the House Insurance committee on Wednesday by a unanimous vote.

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#### **Chicago Officials Begin Migrant Evictions from Shelters**

#### <u>By: Ashmar Mandou</u>

Last weekend, the City of Chicago began evicting migrants from city shelters who have overstayed the 60-day limit, causing confusion. In the first two days of eviction, fewer than 10 migrants were evicted from their shelters, according to the City. Five migrants were forced to leave Monday, while three were evicted Sunday.

Mayor Brandon Johnson's administration described the eviction policy as a way 'decompress" the City's shelter population. "By encouraging resettlement while also providing casespecific extensions with a focus on health and safety, we are advancing a pathway to stability and self-sufficiency," said Mayor Johnson. The new policy will place a 60-day shelter stay limit on those remaining migrants. After eviction, they must find alternative housing or reapply to another shelter.

"Amidst a broken immigration system, federal inaction, the influx of 36,000 new arrivals since August 2022—with 12,000 of them living in shelters—our city and your administration has acted true to its values, working tirelessly to provide emergency shelter to all new Chicagoans in need. We need an end to this policy, as it doesn't solve our challenges, it merely exacerbates and displaces them," said Alderperson Andre Vasquez.

To date, 14,700 people have exited shelter due to resettlement across the Chicago area and 5,200 people have reunited with family and friends through out-migration for a total of 19,900 people supported. Currently, 4,155 of 11,210 shelter residents are being provided support in resettlement efforts and are making progress towards securing housing, according to the City of Chicago.

'For over a year, Chicago been extending has solidarity with our migrant neighbors seeking asylum in the spirit of our values as a sanctuary city. For the first three months of this administration, the city was opening a shelter every nine days. The City of Chicago and the Chicago City Council Latino Caucus feel a deep sense of responsibility to support those coming to our city seeking refuge," stated the Chicago City Council Latino Caucus. "We will continue to work with Mayor Johnson's



administration to implement a plan to create more shelter space across the city, use tent base camps to relieve police stations as new arrivals wait for shelter, develop communication with organizations at the border and seek partnership with other municipalities to share in the responsibility.' The city has sought to limit shelter stays to 60 days for the more than 10,000 migrants, requiring them to find housing or apply for other shelter at the city's "landing zone" for new arrivals after their exit dates arrive. The evictions also come amid a measles outbreak at one of the shelters. The 60-day shelter stay limit was originally announced in the wake of the State's announcement of increased investment in resettlement services and case management. The new exit dates for this group may be adjusted depending on if they meet eligibility for new extensions and will be added on to their current exit date.

# Careers In Trade Open House: Indispensable Skills and Undeniable Value



It's time to rise and dream bigger. Living Word Christian Center is proud to present the Careers In Trade Open House: Indispensable Skills and Undeniable Value on Friday, March 22 from 10a.m., to Noon at the Living Word Christian Center, 7600 W. Roosevelt Rd., Forest

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Park, IL. This event, inspired by the legacy and mission of Booker T. Washington, aims to showcase the immense value of trade skills in today's marketplace. Gain valuable insights into the world of trades, including the realities, preparation process, and income

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potential. Network with industry professionals and explore the diverse career possibilities available in the trades. For more information and registration, please contact Dr. LaShondra Kyle at lkyle@livingwd.org or call 708-697-5000.

# Women Leaders Come Together for Third Annual 16th District Women's Power Brunch

On Friday, March 15th. Cook County Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar, 16th District Commissioner on Women's Issues Claudia Ayala, Leyden Township Supervisor Rocco Biscaglio, and Franklin Park Mayor Barrett Pedersen hosted the Third Annual 16th District Women's Power Brunch to celebrate women leaders throughout Cook County and the 16th District. The event. located at Pescatore Restaurant in Franklin Park, brought over 100 individuals to honor and celebrate Mrs. Fiorito and the other women elected officials and leaders of the 16th District. In attendance were Honored Guests Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle and State **Representative Elizabeth** "Lisa" Hernandez, State



Representative Norma Hernandez, the 16th District Peggy A. Montes Unsung Heroine Award winner Debra Fiorito, and local women elected officials and community leaders throughout the municipalities of the 16th District. Also in attendance was Mrs. Fiorito's family. who with the other women elected, were credited by Mrs. Fiorito as the reason she became involved in politics and community service. This ceremony featured a Power Panel of women leaders who

discussed their work, goals, and policies they advocate for with state, county, and municipal leadership. On the panel was the 2024 Unsung Heroine Award Winner Debra Fiorito, State Representative Norma Hernandez, and Franklin Park Director of Health and Human Resources Lisa Anthony. After the panel, Franklin Park Village Clerk April Arellano delivered closing remarks.

Photo Credit: The Office of Cook County Commissioner Frank J. Aguilar

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#### Latino Art Beat Launches 2024 Youth Art and Film Competition Scholarships to be Awarded



Ribbon cutting at the Hyatt Regency Latino Art Beat art exhibit with students and officials from Miami City Hall

Latino Art Beat, a national not for profit arts organization, launches its 2024 competition for young artists and filmmakers in select cities, for an opportunity at a college scholarship. Latino Art Beat founded in Illinois by its President Don Rossi Nuccio has successfully completed 25 years of public service in celebrating Hispanic Heritage and Culture; the artistic talents of young aspiring artists and filmmakers along with promoting the importance and need for higher education after high school graduation. Latino Art Beat to date has awarded in excess of \$5 million in scholarship support to the very talented winners of its various art and film competitions over the years. During last year's competition finale, Latino



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.





Don Rossi Nuccio with D.C. 2023 1st Place winner, Piero Roque

Art Beat celebrated its 25th anniversary in grand style by honoring its competition winners at Miami City Hall and afterwards launching its "Retrospective Latino Art Beat Youth in the Arts' exhibit at the Miami Hyatt Regency Hotel to a very successful opening night reception. The art exhibit remained in place for two months for all to enjoy. The 2023 National art competition winner, from Washington, D.C. received a \$20,000 scholarship award to attend MICA in Baltimore and the Best of Show winner was a young student from Miami

who received a \$10,000 scholarship award.

For 2024 Latino Art Beat is launching its milestone art and film competition in Miami, Washington, D.C. and Havana, Cuba. Other cities will be invited to also participate. The competition theme is What Hispanic Heritage & Culture Means to Me?" and is open to students of all ethnic backgrounds. In Cuba the theme is "Friendship between the Youth of the United States and Cuba. High school juniors and seniors may submit a colorful original artwork

reflecting the competition theme for a chance at a college scholarship. Film students may submit a short film of 15 minutes or less, with original score to also be considered for a scholarship opportunity. All winning artwork is on display for the winning year and is retained by Latino Art Beat. Films are screened at various film festivals around the country. This year's competition deadline is in May, 2024. For further information contact Latino Art Beat at latinaortbeat@ hotmail.com Photo Credit: Latino Art

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