

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

COPA wants 50 cops ousted

Discipline process remains frozen for most serious cases

By Sam Charles
Chicago Tribune

The Chicago Police Department concluded nearly two years ago that one of its officers sexually assaulted a woman in the back seat of her car while she was intoxicated and unable to give consent.

Although the criminal investigation was largely halted after the victim declined to press charges, the Civilian Office of Police Accountability's investigation carried on, and this year it sustained charges of domestic violence, sexual misconduct and making false statements.

The officer remains employed by CPD, even though COPA says he should be fired and Chicago police Superintendent Larry Snelling agrees.

The case is one of dozens in administrative purgatory as the Fraternal Order of Police — the union representing rank-and-file CPD officers — continues its effort to overturn a Cook County judge's order that allowed for third-party arbitration but also called for public access in cases of the most egregious misconduct by Chicago police officers.

Since the beginning of 2024, records show, COPA has recommended CPD terminate 50 officers for various departmental rule violations, up from 28 in February. The agency has called for another 313 officers to be suspended so far this year.

The officer in the assault case was hired in 2019 and is now 28 years old. He has remained on CPD's payroll, though stripped of his police powers and assigned to desk duty since July 2022. FOP President John Catanzara told the Tribune that the union did not provide any legal assistance to the officer because the alleged conduct was not related to any sort of police action and allegedly occurred while the officer was off duty.

The woman applied for and was granted two orders

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DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

Protest groups cry foul

Activists sue after city denies permits for stage, sound system at rallies near arena

By Jason Meisner and Jake Sheridan
Chicago Tribune

A coalition of activist groups set for a massive protest at the Democratic National Convention in

Chicago next week have challenged late denials by Mayor Brandon Johnson's administration of their plans to set up stages and sound systems for rallies in parks near the United Center.

In an emergency petition

filed in U.S. District Court, the Coalition to March on the Democratic National Convention, which has a pending civil rights lawsuit against the city over protest preparations, called the move a bait-and-switch violation of their constitutional rights.

"The city's efforts to deny at this late date the plain-

tiff's request for a stage and sound amplification system so speeches can be heard unreasonably burdens plaintiff's First Amendment rights without the city creating a record that such restrictions serve a compelling governmental interest," the motion stated, asking

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SELLING THE CITY: When Mayor Brandon Johnson steps on stage next week to address the Democratic National Convention, he will have a national spotlight to tell the story of Chicago and his progressive agenda. **Page 4**



A 'giant' of the DNC

By Jonathan Bullington
Chicago Tribune

It was around 11 p.m. on the second night of the 1984 Democratic National Convention when the Rev. Jesse Jackson stepped on the stage inside San Francisco's Moscone Center and punctuated his place in American history.

With his family seated behind him, he delivered a roughly 50-minute speech to a crowd of delegates — some waving green signs with his name printed in white letters — and millions more watching on television.

"America is not like a blanket: One piece of unbroken cloth, the same color, the same texture, the same size," he told them in his unmistakable oratorical style. "America is more like

For over half-century, Jesse Jackson has helped reshape political party



Above: The Rev. Jesse Jackson speaks during the 1984 Democratic National Convention in San Francisco. **AP**
Top: Jackson at Rainbow/PUSH Coalition headquarters on Thursday. **E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

a quilt: Many patches, many pieces, many colors, many sizes, all woven and held together by a common thread. The white, the Hispanic, the Black, the Arab, the Jew, the woman, the Native American, the small farmer, the businessperson, the environmentalist, the peace activist, the young, the old, the lesbian, the gay and the disabled make up the American quilt."

Jackson's remarks that July evening became known as his "Rainbow Coalition" speech, considered by academics to be one of the greatest examples of 20th century American political rhetoric. It's remembered both for its message of social, racial and economic equity — themes that would come to shape the Democratic Party platform

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INSIDE



TESS CROWLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

GOP beefs up its pitch to voters at State Fair

Illinois Republican Party Chair Kathy Savi, left, smiles at House Republican leader Tony McCombie during Republican Day at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield on Thursday. Illinois Republicans used their day at the fair to blame Democrats for crime, inflation and tax increases, while urging voters to focus on policy, not personalities. **Page 2**

■ Study finds anti-immigrant speech sways on rhetoric, not lived experiences. **Page 9**

Parking meter payoff for NASCAR cost Chicago \$600K over two years

By Jake Sheridan
Chicago Tribune

For NASCAR's Chicago Street Race, closing roads in and around Grant Park so professional drivers can speed past fans has its costs to residents — police overtime, street fixes, lost park access.

Add to that the cost of shutting down on-street parking.

Parking spot closures tied to the race cost Chicago \$348,306 in 2023 and another \$273,665 in 2024, a Tribune records request revealed.

The over \$600,000 in so-called true-up costs covered by the city and

owed to the parking meter system's private owner further complicates the cost-benefit analysis of the race as the city and racing authority weigh its long-term future.

And it gives Chicagoans yet another tangible reason to detest the city's lease of its on-street parking to a private entity, a much-loathed 2008 deal that penalizes the city for taking metered spaces out of commission for things like street festivals, construction or, in this case, a giant downtown race put on by a hugely popular stock car authority.

The cost gives downtown Ald. Brian Hopkins, 2nd, pause even though he thinks

the race is gaining support.

"Slowly they are winning hearts and minds," Hopkins said. "But they have not won mine because of these outstanding questions."

But despite the parking toll, NASCAR says its Chicago race is still a good deal for the city.

The event has generated \$4 million in city and county amusement tax revenue over two years and over \$1 million to the Chicago Park District, NASCAR spokesperson Jake DiGregorio said. He said it has also brought in \$108.9 million in local economic impact and effectively provided the city

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A \$2 MILLION PAYMENT: NASCAR sweetened the pot this year with a \$2 million payment to the city — a "better deal," according to city leaders, which helped cover the more than \$3.5 million in police overtime and construction costs Chicago racked up for the first race.

TODAY'S WEATHER



High 86 Low 68

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 12

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
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