

# Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

## Solis due to testify in Burke case next week

Defense lawyer says he plans to question ex-alderman for hours

By Jason Meisner, Ray Long and Megan Crepeau  
Chicago Tribune

Former Ald. Daniel Solis, whose unprecedented turn as an FBI mole helped the feds take down two princes of Chicago's Democratic political machine, is expected to be called as a defense witness next week in the corruption trial of his former colleague, ex-Ald. Edward Burke.

The undercover recordings made by Solis have been the centerpiece of Burke's ongoing trial, but Solis himself has been something of an enigma. Prosecutors opted not to call Solis as their own witness, and while Burke's lawyers promised the judge they'd call Solis, it was not mentioned to the jury in opening statements.

The picture became clearer, however, during a scheduling discussion Thursday before testimony began, when Burke attorney Chris Gair told U.S. District Judge Virginia Kendall that Solis would be called as soon as Tuesday, although they may have to work around a funeral that Solis has to attend.

When Kendall reminded Gair that the defense was not allowed to call Solis simply to impeach his credibility, Gair assured the judge the questioning will be broad.

He said he plans to question Solis "for hours" about the recordings alone, and will also delve into

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## Transit changes to get hearing in legislature

Options include new taxes, consolidation of CTA, Metra and Pace

By Sarah Freishtat  
Chicago Tribune

A sweeping set of recommendations about what Chicago-area transit could look like in the future has been sent to the state legislature, setting the stage for lawmakers to debate potentially thorny issues about funding for public transit and whether the CTA, Metra and Pace should be consolidated into one agency.

The report, drafted by regional planners after meetings with community organizations, lays out recommendations to address public transit funding, governance and the experience of riding buses and trains, as the region's three public transit agencies face a looming financial cliff and languishing ridership numbers. Among the options included are additional taxes, such as expanding the sales tax base, and two options to revamp oversight of the region's separate transit agencies.

But some of the options are likely to be contentious among influential business groups, which have already raised concerns about expanding taxes, and suburban and city representatives vying for influence on transit agency boards.

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle supports consolidating the transit agencies. At a ceremony to formally hand the report to lawmakers Thursday morning, she said she also supported recommendations

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Chicago police officers stand on duty Thursday outside City Hall. BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

## Police discipline rule nixed in committee

City Council members reject CPD contract provision, but OK pay hikes

By Sam Charles and A.D. Quig  
Chicago Tribune

Setting the stage for a potential legal fight and protracted turmoil between Chicago's largest police union and Mayor Brandon Johnson, a City Council committee on Thursday opposed a contract provision that would allow officers accused of serious misconduct to have their cases decided by a third party behind closed doors.

The committee recommendation rejecting the contract stipu-

lation now heads to a vote next week before the full City Council, which, if it agrees with the committee, would kill a major part of the contract between the union representing rank-and-file officers and Johnson's administration.

The provision would allow officers accused of misconduct to remove their cases from the Chicago Police Board docket and instead have them decided privately by an outside third party. It was the most controversial part of the proposed deal as

public officials and critics said it subverted police reform efforts and took accusations of police misconduct out of the public eye.

But in a separate vote Thursday, council members on the committee OK'd all the economic benefits included in the contract for rank-and-file officers, including 5% raises this year and next.

The workforce committee's 10-5 vote actually aligned with the balancing act Johnson has tried to strike in his handling of the Chicago Police Department.

The mayor pledged on the

campaign trail to not raise CPD's budget, then pivoted to propose a spending plan that allocated a record \$2 billion to the department, including the \$60 million in planned bonuses and raises in the new police contract. While the department's bottom line rose, Johnson reshuffled positions to reduce the number of beat cops and boost civilian positions and those dedicated to fulfilling the department's consent decree requirements.

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ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

## Migrant camp coming down

A worker removes material from a large metal structure on Thursday, two days after Gov. J.B. Pritzker's administration moved to scrap Mayor Brandon Johnson's plan to build a migrant camp in Chicago's Brighton Park neighborhood.

## Debate over homeless encampment festers

Ward's alderman blasts the site after man is fatally shot

By Jake Sheridan and Alysa Guffey  
Chicago Tribune

After weeks of the ward's alderman asking Mayor Brandon Johnson's administration to remove a West Loop homeless encampment struggling with safety issues, a man was shot and killed Thursday, adding fuel to an already contentious debate.

Officers responded to the intersection of North Clinton Street and West Lake Street at

12:50 a.m. and found an unresponsive man who'd been shot in the chest. He was transported to Stroger Hospital in critical condition and was later pronounced dead, police said.

Debate over tent encampments in the area stretches back beyond the recent controversy to the administration of then-Mayor Lori Lightfoot. In October 2022, activists resisted when the city sought to temporarily move newly donated winterized tents in the area for sidewalk cleaning.

"What was once a peaceful homeless encampment has turned into a magnet for drug

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### INSIDE

#### Drivers to get respite from delays

Kennedy Expressway lanes to reopen as first year of \$150 million construction project ends. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

#### Zach LaVine: 'I'm committed here'

All-Star guard says his three to four extra weeks of recovery are unrelated to a potential trade from the Bulls. **Chicago Sports**



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