

Message discouraging migrants was never sent

State had drafted flyer highlighting weather, lack of support to send to Texas

**By Dan Petrella
Nell Salzman and Jake Sheridan**
Chicago Tribune

As Illinois and Chicago officials this fall were planning how to ease the strain on the city's overburdened migrant shelter system, members of Gov. J.B. Pritzker's administration crafted a Spanish-language flyer aimed at discouraging asylum-seekers at the south-

ern border from coming north by painting a bleaker picture of the weather and support available here.

The flyer — which contrasts much of the initial welcoming tone city and state leaders professed for migrants — was never distributed. A top official in Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson's administration expressed concerns about the effectiveness of the strategy, a development that underscores

the ongoing disharmony between the Pritzker administration and City Hall over the migrant response.

The disconnect has persisted, even after the state stepped in last month to promise \$160 million in additional aid to the city that included covering the cost of a tent encampment to house migrants sleeping at police stations and at O'Hare International Airport, currently numbered at more than 600.

Indeed, the state Sunday paused at least through Tuesday construction on the tent site after it said it still had questions about an environmental report Johnson's office released late Friday that detailed contaminants found on the land at 38th Street and California Avenue, along with plans to address them.

The late release of the environmental report drew frustration from the

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Palestinian citizens inspect the destruction caused by airstrikes on their homes on Monday in Khan Yunis, Gaza. AHMAD HASABALLAH/GETTY

Assault widens in south Gaza Strip

Airstrike campaign leaves Palestinians with few safe places

**By Najib Jobain,
Samy Magdy and Jack Jeffery**
Associated Press

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip — Israeli warplanes heavily bombarded an area around Khan Younis in southern Gaza on Monday as the military ordered mass evacuations from the town in the face

of a widening ground offensive that is pushing Palestinians into a progressively shrinking portion of the besieged territory.

The expanded assault posed a deadly choice for hundreds of thousands of Palestinians — either stay in the path of Israeli forces or flee within the confines of southern Gaza with no guarantee of

safety. Aid workers warned that the mass movement would worsen the already dire humanitarian catastrophe in the territory.

“Another wave of displacement is underway, and the humanitarian situation worsens by the hour,” the Gaza chief of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, Thomas White, said in a post on X.

Adding to the chaos, phone and internet networks across Gaza collapsed

again Monday evening, the Palestinian telecom provider PalTel reported. The network has broken down multiple times during the war, making it largely impossible for residents to communicate with each other or the outside world for hours or sometimes several days until it is repaired.

Israel has vowed to eliminate Gaza's

Turn to Assault, Page 11

Alleged Burger King shakedown in spotlight

Executive gives testimony about former Ald. Burke's involvement in project

**By Jason Meisner
Ray Long and Megan Crepeau**
Chicago Tribune

Zohaib Dhanani was a 20-something executive from Texas in charge of renovating nearly two dozen Chicago-area Burger Kings when he had his first-ever encounter with an elected official.

And it wasn't some county hack. It was Edward M. Burke.

In March 2017, Dhanani received an email from a colleague warning Burke was “angry” over issues with their rundown Burger King on South Pulaski Road, from complaints about trucks parking overnight to what he perceived was a lack of philanthropy on their part, according to testimony in Burke's corruption trial Monday.

Since the denied Burke's OK to go forward, it would be wise to make him happy, the colleague, Jeff McDonald,

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Program helps kidney donors to qualify



Rachel Watson is shown at her home in Warrenville on Nov. 15. Watson donated her left kidney to an anonymous recipient in June after taking part in a University of Chicago initiative to expand the organ donor pool. TRENT SPRAGUE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

UChicago project assists more people ineligible because of their weight, smoking habits

By Ilana Arougheti
Chicago Tribune

More than 70 kidney transplants were performed every day in the United States last year. Rachel Watson wanted to be one of the donors, but was told she didn't qualify — at first.

Watson, a 27-year-old digital marketer living in Warrenville, had been moved by a news story about a local politician in need of a kidney. In 2022, she reached out to a Chicagoland hospital about donating one of her kidneys to a stranger. During a phone screening, Watson was told that she weighed too much to be considered as a donor.

In January, Watson tried again at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood. She passed an initial donor screening, but her BMI was still too high.

That's when she learned about Project Donor, which helps interested kidney and liver donor candidates who are turned away

Turn to Donors, Page 6

Deadline arrives to get on March ballot

Monday afternoon marked the deadline for 2024 hopefuls to turn in their petitions to make it onto the March primary ballot, with candidates jockeying for ballot position and already firing off campaign barbs. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

White House warns of risk to Kyiv

The White House warned that the United States would run out of money to send weapons to Ukraine by the end of the year if Congress does not approve additional emergency support for the war that has been snarled by funding debates. **Nation & World**