

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

VIOLENT HOLIDAY WEEKEND

Mayor slams 'choice to kill'

More than 100 people shot in Chicago between Thursday and Sunday, with 19 slain, according to Police Department

Johnson calls for accountability, stresses that his office has sought more funding to address root causes of gun violence

By Sam Charles
and Nell Salzman
Chicago Tribune

After another long holiday weekend that saw scores of people killed or wounded by gunfire — many of them children — city leaders gathered at Chicago police headquarters Monday morning to once again decry the city's entrenched violence and call for accountability for those who carried out the shootings.

More than 100 people were shot in Chicago between Thursday and the end of the holiday weekend. Nineteen people were killed, according to Chicago police. Among the shootings: a brazen daytime attack in Greater Grand Crossing on Thursday left two women and an 8-year-old boy, Bryson Orr, dead.

While homicides and nonfatal shooting totals are both down so far compared to 2023, the milestone Fourth of July weekend typically ushers in the hottest two months of the year in Chicago, when city streets are busier and gun violence often peaks.

But unlike prior years, as shootings likely continue in the coming weeks, CPD officers also will be tasked with keeping the peace while handling the inevitable protests of next month's Democratic National Convention and the city is in the spotlight on a national stage.

Mayor Brandon Johnson stressed that his administration has recently sought more federal funding to address root causes of violence, but still called for punishment for those who make "a choice to kill."

Offenders make choices and violence is the result, the mayor said.

"This is a choice. It's a choice to kill. It's a choice to kill women. A choice to kill children. A choice to kill the elderly," Johnson said. "These are choices that the offenders made and they calculated."

CPD Superintendent Larry Snelling also said he was wrestling with the disregard for human life demonstrated by those who carried out the shootings.

"What we really have to think about is the brazenness and the behavior of those who could walk into a home and see children and women and open fire," Snelling said. "It's an amazing thing to think that, as a human being, that you could walk in and do something like that, that you could see a child and open fire."

Around 45 of those shootings occurred Friday, according to Chicago police. Four mass

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An officer investigates where two men were shot in the 2400 block of West Monroe Street on Sunday in Chicago. ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

NASCAR event diverts officers: The street race has drawn criticism from some over the number of police officers diverted to Grant Park during the historically violent holiday weekend. The city's top cop said Monday that fewer officers worked the race than last year, but the police department did not immediately provide estimates or totals supporting that claim.

Johnson: 'No decision' on moving NASCAR race dates

By Alice Yin and
Jake Sheridan
Chicago Tribune

Mayor Brandon Johnson was tight-lipped Monday on the fate of the NASCAR Chicago Street Race after a lackluster audience showing and criticism from some over the diversion of hundreds of police officers to Grant Park during the historically violent holiday weekend.

Speaking at a news conference at Chicago police headquarters, the mayor condemned the grim tally of more than 100 people shot in the city over the Fourth of July weekend. But Johnson and Chicago Police Department Superintendent Larry Snelling were noncommittal on moving the downtown NASCAR event to a different weekend, with Johnson instead punting the blame for its timing to his predecessor, Lori

Lightfoot. "Obviously, those were dates that we inherited. We will continue to assess how this particular weekend for NASCAR ... best benefits the people of Chicago," Johnson told reporters. "But no decision has been made on which weekend in particular is best suited because I'll just say it like this: Whether

Turn to NASCAR, Page 2

For fireflies, a changing climate is the darkest hour

By Adriana Pérez
Chicago Tribune

For many who grew up east of the Mississippi River, yellow twinkling lights punctuate magical childhood memories. New England natives call them fireflies, but they're known as lightning bugs from the Midwest to the South. No matter their regional name, they are a staple of warm summer evenings.

Yet concerns about how many more generations will be able to bask in the glow of this nostalgic phenomenon have emerged in recent decades as anecdotal reports and observations in certain locations seemingly indicate firefly numbers are dwindling.



A firefly lights up on a leaf in Chicago's Lincoln Square neighborhood on Sunday. E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"We kept hearing all these stories that fireflies were in decline, firefly populations were disappearing, and as an invertebrate conservation organization, that always piques our interest," said Candace Fallon, a senior conservation biologist

who has led firefly research in the endangered species program at the Xerces Society since 2018. "So we decided to look into it a little bit more, and started doing formal assessments, building

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ELECTION 2024

Republican platform mirrors Trump views

By Maggie Haberman,
Shane Goldmacher
and Jonathan Swan
The New York Times

Former President Donald Trump told officials Monday that he supports a new Republican Party platform, one that reflects the presumptive nominee's new position on abortion rights and slims down policy specifics across all areas of government.

The platform, as described to The New York Times by people briefed on it, appears to cement Trump's ideological takeover of the GOP. The platform is even more nationalistic, more protectionist and less socially conservative than the 2016 Republican

platform that was duplicated for the 2020 election.

Trump, who has had the draft for several days, called in to a meeting of party officials Monday and said he supports it. The document overwhelmingly was approved 84-18 by the platform committee Monday, according to a person briefed on the matter.

The abortion section has been softened. There is no longer a reference to "traditional marriage" as between "one man and one woman." And there is no longer an emphasis on reducing the national debt, only a brief line about "slashing wasteful government spending."

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■ President Joe Biden, in an open letter to congressional Democrats, stood firm Monday against calls for him to drop his candidacy and called for an end to the intraparty drama. **Nation & World**

TODAY'S
WEATHER



High 81 Low 67

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 12

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
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