

Police Board cases put on pause

Judge halts 20 pending proceedings during cop discipline dispute

By Sam Charles
Chicago Tribune

The ongoing fight over the future of police discipline in Chicago has reached the Circuit Court of Cook County, and while attorneys for both the city and the Fraternal Order of Police polish their arguments, a judge has ordered that all pending Chicago Police Board cases be paused until at least Feb. 24.

The highest-profile of those now-halted cases stems from the 2021 shooting death of 13-year-old Adam Toledo in Little Village. The Chicago Police Department filed administrative charges last year against Officer Eric Stillman, seeking to fire him for his role in the shooting.

Stillman's Police Board evidentiary hearing was scheduled for last week.

But that case is just one of 20 currently pending before the Police Board, the 6-decade-old body that has historically acted as arbiter in the most serious cases of misconduct by CPD officers.

Along with Stillman, five other officers are accused of improper use of deadly force. Four face allegations of domestic violence or

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Have plan for Rafah, Biden tells Netanyahu

No Israeli attack until Gaza city's civilians can be protected, he says

By Najib Jobain and Samy Magdy
Associated Press

RAFAH, Gaza Strip — Israel should not conduct a military operation against Hamas in the densely populated Gaza border town of Rafah without a “credible and executable” plan to protect civilians, U.S. President Joe Biden told Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday, the White House said.

It was the most forceful language yet from the president on the possible operation. Biden, who last week called Israel's military response in Gaza “over the top,” also sought “urgent and specific” steps to strengthen humanitarian aid. Israel's Channel 13 television said the conversation lasted 45 minutes.

Discussion of the potential for a cease-fire agreement took up much of the call, a senior U.S. administration official said, and after weeks of diplomacy, a “framework pretty much is now in place” for a deal that could see the release

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A rescued pigeon named Wilma rests in a cage at Susan Jicha's home in Chicago's Uptown neighborhood on Wednesday. Jicha is one of the founding members of Great Lakes Pigeon Rescue and has seven pigeons under her care at home. JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS

Love for the ‘underbird’

Chicago pigeon owners, enthusiasts say it's time to see them as ‘symbol of beauty’

By Rebecca Johnson
Chicago Tribune

When Susan Jicha greets guests at her Uptown home, her pets like to make introductions. Her dog, Rosie, shakes her tail at the door and her bird, Kahlo, wobbles from underneath the television stand to perch on her hand.

Kahlo is happy and independent, the 68-year-old retired teacher said. Her assertion that he's the most photographed bird on the North Side rings true as he stretches his neck as if he were posing. By all accounts, he's “living the good life.”

But Kahlo's life wasn't always so easy. He's not the type of bird many people would probably

think of as a pet. He's not a parakeet or a parrot. Kahlo, with his gray feathers tinged purple and blue in patches, is a pigeon.

About four years ago, Jicha adopted him from a rescue organization in the Fox Valley. Kahlo nearly starved, Jicha said, because his previous owner didn't realize he was blind — likely from brain damage due to a collision. He eventually learned to eat again through training with a bell.

“Somebody said, ‘Can you take him’ and I said, ‘Sure.’ I thought it was temporary, and I've had him ever since,” Jicha jokes as Kahlo makes cooing sounds.

While pigeons are often looked

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Kahlo, a rescued, blind pigeon, stands on Jicha's shoulder at her home.

“Pigeons can be very polarizing, but it's very heartening how many people love pigeons, and see them as a symbol of resiliency, a symbol of beauty in an urban environment.” — Chava Sonnier, Great Lakes Pigeon Rescue

Frustrations rise as Adderall shortage remains



Jennifer Howell sits on her front porch in Chicago with her son Linus, 10, after he came home from school on Thursday. Howell has struggled to find ADHD medication for Linus. VINCENT ALBAN/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Inventories of it, other ADHD medications inconsistent, limited

By Kate Armanini
Chicago Tribune

All Jennifer Howell wanted was to find medication for her son. Instead, she was caught in a maze of desperate phone calls to pharmacies and physicians.

Her son, Linus, had been diagnosed with ADHD in 2021 during the grips of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of his behavioral traits — restlessness, impulsivity, difficulty focusing — suddenly made sense. When he was first prescribed medication, its effects were instantaneous.

“It was something that changed him within 24 hours,” said Howell, a Lincoln Square resident. “It was enough for us to cry, saying, ‘Oh God, I wish we had known.’”

Howell recalled how Linus, now

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