

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Mayor's budget boosts fees, fines

Measures set to bring in extra \$46 million, though debt relief program would become permanent

By A.D. Quig
Chicago Tribune

When Mayor Brandon Johnson introduced his 2024 budget, he noted the city had for too long balanced such spending plans on the backs of working people and vowed to end the practice.

A "\$95 city sticker or a \$100 parking ticket weighs more heavily on the family that earns \$30,000 a year versus a family that earns \$150,000 a year," he said, and the city had "relied too long on a tax

structure that heavily burdens our lowest income residents, and is too reliant on property taxes, fees and fines and rates."

And yet, Johnson's 2024 financial package counts on \$46 million more in fines and fees than this year, a 15% increase.

In all, the mayor expects to bring in \$348 million from things like parking tickets, red-light and speed enforcement fines, moving violations, booting fees, sanitation code violations and housing court fines.

When asked about the sources of new revenue, Johnson administration budget officials initially highlighted enforcement of a new Smart Streets ordinance designed to protect downtown bicyclists and keep bus traffic moving, a focus on punishing car-driving scofflaws that would play well with his progressive base.

But the Smart Streets program — an automated ticketing system that will be limited to areas in and around downtown — has not yet launched. The city later clarified it expects to bring in only \$5 million from it in 2024.

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A bicyclist passes a delivery truck parked in a bicycle lane on Wednesday in the 1500 block of North Damen Avenue. JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Residents: Report on pollution flawed

Critics say new map failed to consider city's industrial corridors

By Karina Atkins
Chicago Tribune

A recent report on the distribution of pollution and industry across Chicago could be a first step to addressing decades of discriminatory planning, zoning and land-use policies in Chicago.

But, some residents on the South and West sides say their communities have been overlooked yet again.

Coined a cumulative impact assessment and released by the Johnson administration in September, the report is intended to capture how exposure to toxins such as ozone and particulate matter, socioeconomic factors and health conditions vary throughout the city. It is part of a voluntary compliance agreement the city negotiated with the federal government in May following a two-year federal investigation that found the city culpable of steering heavy industry away from white communities to Black and Latino communities.

One of the report's key deliverables — a map identifying census tracts most burdened by pollution and vulnerable to its effects — did not consider proximity to the city's 24 industrial corridors. These sweeps of land are zoned for manufacturing and where the city's heaviest industries are concentrated.

The most burdened census

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JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Homecoming sweet for Liz Phair fans

Musician, former Chicago resident celebrates 30th anniversary of "Exile in Guyville" album at Chicago Theatre. **Arts & Living**

Premature babies moved from Gaza

Health officials said 31 premature babies in "extremely critical condition" were transferred safely Sunday to Egypt. **Nation & World**



ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Detroit shock city

Bears quarterback Justin Fields grabs his helmet after the Bears failed to get a first down in the final minutes against the Lions on Sunday in Detroit. In Fields' first game back from injury, the Bears built a 26-14 fourth-quarter lead but wound up losing 31-26. **Coverage in Sports**



Rosalynn Carter and her husband, former President Jimmy Carter, update donors on Carter Center activities in 2010. JOHN AMIS/AP

ROSALYNN CARTER 1927-2023

First lady was 'equal partner'

She gave wise, vital guidance, says her husband of 77 years

By Bill Barrow
and Michael Warren
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Former first lady Rosalynn Carter, the closest adviser to President Jimmy Carter during his one term and their four decades thereafter as global humanitarians, has died at 96.

The Carter Center said she died Sunday afternoon after living with dementia and suffering many months of declining health. The statement announcing her death said she "died peacefully, with family by her side" at her rural Georgia home in Plains.

"Rosalynn was my equal partner in everything I ever accomplished," Carter said in the statement. "She gave me wise guidance and encouragement when I needed it. As long as Rosalynn was in the world, I

always knew somebody loved and supported me."

The Carters were married for more than 77 years, forging what they both described as a "full partnership." Unlike many previous first ladies, Rosalynn sat in on Cabinet meetings, spoke out on controversial issues and represented her husband on foreign trips. Aides to President Carter sometimes referred to her — privately — as "co-president."

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Jury verdict threatens to upend homebuying

Decision could shake up industry as changes already underway in Ill.

By Lizzie Kane
Chicago Tribune

In the 40 years Kate Schumacher has worked as a real estate agent, homebuyers have rarely compensated her directly. Instead, the seller has picked up the tab.

Yet, this year, the Baird & Warner agent based in Algonquin said she has already had two deals close where the seller did not cover all of her compensation: 2.5% of the selling price of the house. Both of her clients had to make up a .5% difference. One got the \$1,315 covered by the seller in the closing costs, and the other paid Schumacher \$3,575 in cash.

"We have more and more sellers that are not contributing as much toward the buyer's agent compensation," Schumacher said.

Schumacher has long had buyers enter into buyer agency agreements, the contract between the buyer and their agent that states how the buyer's agent will be paid, guaranteeing a certain amount if the seller only partially compensates the buyer's agent or

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