

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



Sculptures commemorating the centennial of the Springfield race riot of 1908 stand outside the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield. They represent charred chimneys rising from the smoldering rubble of burned-out buildings. **TESS CROWLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Springfield race riot site given monument status

Biden: 1908 incident ‘literally shocked the conscience of the nation’

By **Jeremy Gorner**
Chicago Tribune

SPRINGFIELD — President Joe Biden on Friday signed a proclamation designating the site of the 1908 Springfield race riot, one of the most egregious outbreaks of race-related violence in American history, as a national monument.

The riot has long been a calamitous symbol of the racism and intimidation that many Black Americans have endured in America. In recent years, both of Illinois’ Democratic U.S. senators, Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth, pushed for the legislation to prioritize the site of the riot as a national monument, and advocates have urged Biden to use his authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906, a federal law

that protects cultural and natural resources of historic or scientific interest, to make that a reality.

That came to fruition on Friday, two days after the 116th anniversary of a riot that erupted just blocks from where President Abraham Lincoln once lived.

“That literally shocked the conscience of the nation,” Biden said at the Oval Office, flanked by Durbin, Duckworth, Democratic U.S. Rep. Nikki Budzinski of Springfield and others. “We have no safe harbor unless we continue to remind people what happened.”

According to the White House, the monument will serve as a reminder of “the hateful violence targeted against Black Americans,

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President Joe Biden hands a pen to Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland after signing a proclamation Friday at the White House to designate the Springfield 1908 Race Riot National Monument. Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., is at left. **ANNA ROSE LAYDEN/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

Sentence levied in bribery of Burke

Developer Cui gets 32 months; likely the final hearing in case

By **Jason Meisner**
Chicago Tribune

A Chicago-area real estate developer was sentenced Friday to 32 months in federal prison for bribing then-Ald. Edward Burke to help him secure a pole sign permit for a Northwest Side liquor store, marking the end of a corruption case that rocked City Hall and became a watershed in the downfall of the old political machine.

In sentencing Charles Cui, U.S. District Chief Judge Virginia Kendall said Cui violated the trust the public put in him as a lawyer through his corruption, and exacerbated it by later lying to federal agents and failing to turn over crucial emails to a grand jury in an attempt to cover it up.

Kendall also said a message had to be sent to “other developers here in the city, especially those who are trying to make money on real estate and development of properties.”

“(They) need to recognize that you can’t go around the government’s processes, you have to go through them legally,” Kendall said.

Dressed in a blue suit and yellow tie, Cui sat at the defense table for most of the hearing, eyes downcast and one foot occasionally tapping quickly under the table. Before the sentence was announced, Cui stood at the lectern and read a tearful apology to the court and his family.

“Your honor, today marks the lowest point in my life,” Cui said in a deep, soft voice, reading from a sheet of paper with his hands in his pockets. “I am truly ashamed.”

Cui’s sentencing was likely the final court hearing stemming from the bombshell corruption investigation into Burke, the city’s longest-serving alderman and longtime head of the powerful Finance Committee.

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DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

Volunteers from ’96 reflect, see changes

Past helpers share their memories, thoughts of political landscape now

By **Rebecca Johnson**
Chicago Tribune

Eido Walny spent much of his free time as a volunteer at the 1996 Democratic National Convention wandering the halls of the United Center, chatting with senators and watching Bill Clinton’s prime-time acceptance speech.

“For a bright-eyed 20-year-old, that was incredible,” Walny said. “I still have my box of various credentials from that time. It was amazing.”

Before next week’s Democratic convention, the first Chicago has



Lt. Gov. Julianna Stratton dances as Gov. JB Pritzker talks with Ald. Walter Burnett, 27th, during the Democratic National Convention’s Volunteer Appreciation Rally at Wrigley Field on Thursday. **JOHN J. KIM/TRIBUNE**

hosted in 28 years, the Tribune followed up with two of the then-young volunteers from 1996. Now middle-aged, they shared their favorite memories and how their political views have evolved.

Meanwhile, as the ‘96 helpers reminisce, about 12,000 volunteers — ranging in age from 16 to 102 years old — will help out

at next week’s convention with jobs such as giving attendees directions and driving shuttles. They’re also generally some of the most energized supporters of Kamala Harris and other Democrats. That was on display at a volunteer appreciation rally

Turn to Volunteers, Page 4

South, West siders just 20% of construction workforce

Host committee wanted contractors to pursue a more diverse field

By **Sylvan Lebrun**
Chicago Tribune

Residents of Chicago’s South and West sides make up only 20% of the construction workforce for the Democratic National Convention, the convention’s organizers revealed this week, even after extensive efforts to diversify and engage with underserved neighborhoods.

In total, 46% of construction workers hired for the convention are from Chicagoland, with the majority coming from the North Side of the city and its suburbs, according to the DNC host committee.

The committee encouraged all of their contractors to ensure that their workforce was diverse and representative of Chicago, said senior adviser Keiana Barrett. However, they chose to not set any

specific numerical benchmarks.

“What we did was spend more time focused on process than actually on percentages,” Barrett said. “There was a very robust engagement strategy to ensure that we were not only moving the needle, but making some very significant economic impacts for communities of color on the South and West sides of Chicago.”

Ald. Walter Burnett Jr., 27th, said that the convention’s organizers overall failed to meaningfully reach workers from the Near West Side where the key evening events of the convention will take place at the United Center.

Local residents and businesses had hoped that the DNC would bring an economic windfall. Particularly to the west of the convention venue, the neighborhood has historically faced a lack of investment, leading to poor housing conditions and limited economic opportunities.

Burnett said the host committee

Turn to Workers, Page 3

Harris unveils economic proposals

Vice president announces sweeping plans to cut taxes and lower the cost of essentials. **Nation & World**

Cubs walk it off against Jays

Seiya Suzuki gets his first walk-off hit as a Cub in the 10th inning to overcome a blown save. **Chicago Sports**

Paratransit drivers go on strike

Action by drivers for Pace Suburban Bus and CPS delays service for some riders with disabilities and health conditions. **Business**

TODAY'S WEATHER



High **79** Low **67**

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 8

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
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