

A+E

What to do with 8,500 Toby jugs?

The American Toby Jug Museum in Evanston — “a roadside attraction, of sorts” — is closing.



STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

LIFE+TRAVEL

Reframing self-care

New Chicago business looks beyond scented candles and massages to help its clients find joy by wandering, creating and learning.

Affordable yachting: You don't have to be a billionaire to have a seafaring vacation in the Caribbean.

Mayor, CPS CEO continue standoff

Board avoids topic; days as chief of schools numbered, sources say

By Alice Yin
Chicago Tribune

The long-simmering standoff between City Hall and Chicago Public Schools leadership that just blew up in the public eye leaves Mayor Brandon Johnson caught between the union that bankrolled his campaign and the school system he's charged with leading.

The latest strife at CPS, stemming from the mayor's unprecedented push to oust CEO Pedro Martinez in the midst of stalled contract negotiations with the Chicago Teachers Union, raises questions about longer-term political fallout for Johnson, who's already fighting on several fronts.

His effort to bounce Martinez could have come to a head as soon as Thursday evening's Chicago Board of Education meeting, but board members opted not to take up the issue. That means the power struggle between the Chicago Teachers Union-backed mayor and Martinez continues, while the school board and the families who send their kids to CPS schools wait to see how the fight plays out.

Sources from both sides say the schools chief's days on the job appear numbered. The only question is a matter of how soon he gets canned by the seven-member school board, which was hand-picked by Johnson and will remain controlled by mayoral appointees following the January transition to a hybrid elected school board.

At stake are CPS' \$9.9 billion budget — and its structural deficit that remains a liability; the teach-



Martinez



MANY CAMERAS. LITTLE FOCUS. BLURRY RESULTS.

Chicago police bet big on pricey surveillance cameras, but two decades later, the devices do little to solve most crimes



Top: A police camera attached to a black light pole, at left, watches over the intersection of Chicago and Central Park avenues, one of the oldest camera locations in the city. **Above:** Brandy Martin stands at the gas station at Western Avenue and Marquette Road near where her 15-year-old nephew, Sincere Cole, was shot more than 20 times in 2022 — just 300 feet from a POD camera that sits to the right, in the distance.

E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS

By Madison Hopkins
Illinois Answers Project
and Joe Mahr
Chicago Tribune

The police radio crackled with a report of six gunshots near a busy corner in Humboldt Park.

In a city that has struggled more than most to solve serious crimes, this summer 2023 shooting offered detectives an immediate advantage. At that corner, police had long ago mounted one of thousands of sophisticated surveillance cameras, the kind that could rotate around a 360-degree view, or zoom in to see activity up to four blocks away.

Sure enough, records show, an officer tapped into a live feed from the camera in time to see that a wounded victim had managed to get inside a restaurant. But the camera hadn't captured images of the shooter. No video from the camera was put into evidence, and the case, like so many others, remains unsolved.

What happened that night in July 2023 underscores the potential and, at times, futility of the city's massive, 20-year bet on a network of cameras typically affixed to utility poles across the city. In the shadow of the 2001 terrorist attacks and in a city with

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This story is a collaboration between the Illinois Answers Project and the Chicago Tribune.

INSIDE

White Sox's record of futility well earned

Poorly constructed Sox team can't talk about bad breaks. They started out bad and kept getting worse.

Paul Sullivan in Chicago Sports

Hezbollah confirms death of its leader

The killing of Hassan Nasrallah in an Israeli airstrike on Friday sent shock waves throughout Lebanon and the Middle East.

Nation & World

Top cop says way to success isn't about him

Snelling has served eventful first year as police superintendent

By Sam Charles
Chicago Tribune

Preparation is important to Chicago police Superintendent Larry Snelling. From the chiefs overseeing Chicago Police Department bureaus to young patrol officers, he wants everyone under his leadership to feel equipped to carry out their job duties.

After years of serving as a training academy instructor and an expert witness in use-of-force matters, Snelling is confident and well-spoken with a physically commanding presence.

He is in charge, and it's clear he's willing to mix it up.

But, Snelling says, finding his stride as the department's leader is not actually about him.

"My job is to make sure everyone else has what they need to succeed," Snelling told a recent City Club of Chicago luncheon. "Because if I worry about me and

how I'm going to appear and what my legacy is going to be, then my focus is narrow. I need to broaden that focus because if I'm focused on success and the success of those around me and making sure those people who are actually going to keep this city safe and make sure that we're successful, if I'm doing what I need to do for them, everything else will take care of itself."

He recently became a grandfather, and catching up with his family, reading a book and watch-

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Chicago police Superintendent Larry Snelling, center, monitors pro-Palestinian protesters at Union Park ahead of the Democratic National Convention on Aug. 19. **TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**