

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

No sidewalk plowing plan in mayor's budget

Pilot snow program receives no funding despite previous support from Johnson

By Jake Sheridan
Chicago Tribune

When Mayor Brandon Johnson's budget proposal floated down to the City Council, his promise to test clearing snow for free from Chicago's sidewalks didn't stick. Johnson's budget includes no

funding to pilot the city-run Plow the Sidewalks program, despite his campaign promise to enact the policy and vocal support of it in office.

The mayor's team said the city's daunting budget challenges made paying for it impossible in 2025, frustrating transportation and

disability advocates who insist there is enough money to push ahead.

It would cost around \$1 million to pilot the program by plowing sidewalks in four, 1.5-square-mile areas scattered across the city, said Laura Saltzman, transportation policy analyst at the disability advocacy nonprofit Access Living. In the context of a \$17.3 billion overall budget, cutting that amount "is not going to be what keeps the city solvent," but paying up would

build trust in the often-overlooked disabled community, she added.

"It shows a commitment that you understand, even when it's hard or even when there are trade-offs, that disabled people matter, disabled people deserve to be in society," Saltzman said.

On the campaign trail, Johnson championed the policy backed for years by advocates, then made it the first policy he highlighted in a video celebrating his first 100 days in office.

"My question is, what is the cost to the city of Chicago when our seniors and individuals with disabilities can't move around ... because the season has changed," Johnson said in the video.

In May, the mayor released a plan put together by over a dozen city department leaders to make Plow the Sidewalks a reality in 2025. He called the announcement "an important step forward

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VIKINGS 30, BEARS 27



EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

NOVEMBER PAIN

Bears quarterback Caleb Williams walks off the field after losing to the Vikings in overtime at Soldier Field on Sunday. The Bears made a comeback from 11 points down to force overtime but still suffered their fifth straight loss. **Coverage in Chicago Sports**

US debt a hurdle for Trump's big plans

Paying down \$36T could limit his tax cuts, other policies

By Josh Boak and Fatima Hussein
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President-elect Donald Trump has big plans for the economy — and a big debt problem that will be a hurdle to delivering on them.

Trump has bold ideas on tax cuts, tariffs and other programs, but high interest rates and the price of repaying the federal government's debt could limit what he's able to do.

Not only is the federal debt at roughly \$36 trillion, but the spike in inflation after the coronavirus pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine have pushed up the government's borrowing costs such that debt service next year will easily exceed spending on national security.

The higher cost of servicing the debt gives Trump less room to maneuver with the federal budget as he seeks income tax cuts. It's also a political challenge because higher interest rates have made it costlier for many Americans to buy a home

Turn to Trump, Page 2

THE PRICE KIDS PAY



Frequent ticketing of students at Palatine High School, shown in 2022, led the Illinois attorney general's office to investigate Township High School District 211 and conclude the district had violated state law. **STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

AG: Palatine schools broke law by using cops to ticket students

But other districts continue practice in cases of misconduct

By Jodi S. Cohen and Jennifer Smith Richards
ProPublica

In the strongest rebuke yet of Illinois school districts that ask police to ticket misbehaving students, the state attorney

general has declared that the practice — still being used across the state — is illegal and should stop.

The attorney general's office, which had been investigating student ticketing in one of Illinois' largest high school districts, found that Township High School District 211 in Palatine broke the law when administrators directed police to fine its students for school-based

conduct, and that the practice had an "unjustified disparate impact" on Black and Latino students.

"We strongly encourage other districts and police departments to review their policies and practices," the office told ProPublica.

But the attorney general's office did not alert other districts of its findings, which came in

Turn to Tickets, Page 4

Official tied to troubled CPD case

Area 5 commander was 1 of 2 detectives on Kevin Jackson investigation

By Sam Charles
Chicago Tribune

Kevin Jackson was released from prison last month, more than two decades after he was convicted of murder in the fatal shooting of a man at a West Englewood gas station.

Now 43, Jackson has always maintained his innocence. Police and prosecutors said several witnesses identified him as the shooter, but each recanted at Jackson's 2003 trial while claiming threatening, intimidating and coercive efforts by the two lead Chicago police detectives assigned to the case.

One of those detectives retired from the Chicago Police Department last year amid growing scrutiny of his past casework.

But the other has continued to rise through the ranks of CPD, earning praise and promotions along the way.

John Foster, a CPD veteran of more than 30 years, is now commander of Area 5 detectives, overseeing the investigations of the most serious crimes reported across Chicago's Northwest Side, everywhere north of Division Street and west of the Chicago River.

Jackson has yet to petition for a certificate of innocence, but Cook County prosecutors have signaled they will drop the case. That decision comes in the wake of a special prosecutors' report into Jackson's

Turn to Commander, Page 2

How to have a civil Thanksgiving

Experts give advice on how to get along at family get-togethers this week, when old wounds and debates make the rounds at the dinner table. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Hezbollah blasts Israel with rockets

The Lebanese group fired about 250 rockets and other projectiles into Israel, and Israel struck an army center in Lebanon, as the European Union pressed for a peace deal. **Nation & World**

A superior 'Annie' at Chicago Theatre

There are many reasons to see this new production, including the emotional connection between the leading characters and a shaggy labradoodle that steals the show. **Arts & Living**

TODAY'S WEATHER



High 52 Low 25

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 12

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
177th year No. 330 © Chicago Tribune

