

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

City gives migrants 60 days' notice

Johnson's new policy highlights 'finite resources'

By Alice Yin and Nell Salzman
Chicago Tribune

Chicago started issuing notices Friday for migrants at city-run shelters to vacate the premises within 60 days, part of a new policy Mayor Brandon Johnson's office said reflects the city's fast-dwindling capacity for its thousands of new arrivals.

The strategy change comes after the mayor teased a new direction earlier this week for his administration's migrant response, following months of pressure to rein in exorbitant spending on shelters and other costs. It's a tacit admission there are limits to Chicago's status as a welcoming, sanctuary city.

But his team has cast the shift as an urgent measure to ensure those currently camped outside of or on the floors of Chicago police stations while awaiting shelter space will get a bed before the cold sets in.

In addition to the new shelter limits, the city will also begin cracking down on what Johnson's administration described as "rogue buses" of migrants and beefing up personnel at their initial landing spots to encourage them to go elsewhere, the mayor's office said.

"We have finite resources," Johnson's deputy chief of staff Cristina Pacione-Zayas, told reporters. "And so we're just being responsible with, 'Here's what we have. Let's figure out how we can judiciously use it.'"

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UN halts supply deliveries to Gaza

Communications blackout hinders aid coordination

By Wafaa Shurafa, Jack Jeffery and Lee Keath
Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — The United Nations was forced to stop deliveries of food and other necessities to Gaza on Friday and warned of the growing possibility of widespread starvation after internet and telephone services collapsed in the besieged enclave because of a lack of fuel.

Israel announced it will allow two tanker trucks of fuel daily into Gaza for the U.N. and communications systems. The amount is half of what the U.N. said it needs to conduct lifesaving functions for hundreds of thousands of people in Gaza, including fueling water systems, hospitals, bakeries and its trucks delivering aid.

Israel has barred entry of fuel since the start of the war, saying it would be diverted by Hamas for military uses. It has also blocked food, water and other supplies except for a trickle of aid from Egypt that aid workers say falls far short of what's needed.

The communications blackout, now in its second day, largely cuts off Gaza's 2.3 million people from one another and the outside world.

The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, couldn't bring in its aid convoy

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Former Chicago Ald. Edward Burke, front, leaves the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse in Chicago during a lunch break in his trial Friday.
TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"As mayors came and went, Ald. Burke was the one constant on the City Council."

— Elmhurst University political science professor Constance Mixon, the first witness in the case

Burke jurors get crash course in city politics

Prosecution expert witness in corruption trial details how powerful former alderman was

By Jason Meisner, Ray Long and Megan Crepeau
Chicago Tribune

Jurors in the federal racketeering trial of ex-Ald. Edward Burke got a lengthy crash course in the intricacies of City Hall on Friday, a seminar that a prosecution expert labeled the "Schoolhouse Rock" of Chicago politics.

As the first witness in the case, Elmhurst University political science professor Constance Mixon was tasked with bringing the jury, which includes many people from far-flung suburbs, into the nitty-gritty world that Burke dominated for decades,

from the history and makeup of the Chicago City Council to the parliamentary procedures and balances of power that go with it.

Mixon was pressed on topics ranging from "How a Proposal Becomes an Ordinance" to Chicago's unique setup where aldermen act as "mini-mayors" with broad discretion over what goes on in their wards.

But the crux of her testimony was to give the jury a sense of just how powerful Burke was. Not only was he the longest-serving member of the body, with 54 years of service, she said, but he

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CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Chicago lights up for holidays

Fireworks are set off as the Christmas tree is lit in front of a large crowd in Millennium Park during Chicago's 110th annual tree-lighting ceremony Friday. The tree is a 45-foot Colorado blue spruce donated by the De La Cruz family, of Darien.

Tiny Chicago Hope Academy plays for more

In state Class 1A football semifinals, but mission is bigger than sports

By Robert McCoppin
Chicago Tribune

The turning point for Chicago Hope Academy's football team this season came when four players were kept out of a game for misbehavior. That game was the tiny school's only loss of the season.

On Saturday, Hope Academy will play in the Class 1A semifinals, one step from the state title game. More importantly, coaches say, the players are learning to become responsible men and brothers.

"One mistake at a company can get you fired," head coach Chris Mallette said. "One mistake, even though you didn't mean to harm your family, can tear your family apart. Either you sacrifice the team for yourself, or you sacrifice yourself for the team. That will carry



Chicago Hope Academy players listen as head coach Chris Mallette speaks during practice at Altgeld Park in East Garfield Park on Tuesday. TRENT SPRAGUE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Turn to Mission, Page 4

Students walk out for Palestinian kids

About 25 Chicago Academy High School students walked out of classes in solidarity with the children of Gaza. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Police board votes to fire officer

The Chicago Police Board votes to fire an officer who it found pulled a woman from a car during the unrest of summer 2020. **Page 2**

