

Chicago Tribune



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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



Organizer Essence Gatherright rallies against resource officers in schools with dozens of Chicago Public Schools students and supporters outside CPS headquarters on Thursday. The board unanimously voted to remove officers from the district's schools. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS**

Board votes to remove CPS resource officers

Chicago joins scores of districts nationwide in eliminating police presence

By Alysa Guffey,
Sarah Macaraeg
and Zareen Syed
Chicago Tribune

The Chicago Board of Education unanimously voted on Thursday to terminate its \$10.3 million school resource officer program in Chicago Public Schools and order schools to remove uniformed police officers before the 2024-25 school year starts.

At its monthly meeting, the board passed a resolution requiring the district to create a new policy that “codifies best practices for a holistic approach to school safety at every District school.” The resolution, backed by Mayor Brandon Johnson,

passed following hours of public comment from students, parents, aldermen and union representatives.

CPS must present the new policy to the board for final approval by June 27. It must include explicit orders to end the use of resource officers by the first day of classes in the fall, along with an implementation plan with the mayor's office and Chicago police.

School resource officers are uniformed police officers responsible for safety at nearly 40 high schools across the district. A maximum of two resource officers work at a school. The overwhelming

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Former board member Dwayne Truss speaks in support of resource officers during a Chicago Board of Education meeting on Thursday.

Dolton mayor under probe

FBI investigating as AG orders charity to stop taking donations

By Mike Nolan
and Jason Meisner
Daily Southtown

A charity organized by Dolton Mayor Tiffany Henyard has been told by the Illinois attorney general's office to stop soliciting or accepting contributions, and that it must register with the state.

Separately, a law enforcement source confirmed federal authorities, including the FBI, are conducting an investigation targeting Henyard. The source said the probe has included recent interviews by investigators both inside and outside of Dolton, but is in the early stages and no charges have been brought.

The attorney general's letter, dated Wednesday and sent by certified mail, notes the Tiffany Henyard CARES Foundation is not in good standing and states the attorney general has sent multiple letters advising, among other things, that it is not registered with the state.

However, the foundation hasn't responded “and we have not been advised why there has been a delay,” according to the recent letter, sent by Pasquale Esposito, deputy bureau chief of the attorney general's Charitable Trust Bureau.

A Facebook page for the charity provides little information about the charity's activities or officers.

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Henyard

R. Kelly appeal argues basis for long sentence too vague

By Megan Crepeau
and Jason Meisner
Chicago Tribune

Imprisoned R&B star R. Kelly's attempt to win a new sentencing in Chicago's federal court might well backfire, an appellate judge reminded his attorneys in court Thursday.

“If we agree with you, does your client realize he could be worse off?” Judge Amy St. Eve of the 7th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals asked, noting that Kelly could be given a harsher prison term if he is resented. “... If he wins on this particular point, he has risks.”

Kelly's attorneys were in court to argue that the disgraced R&B singer's sex crimes convictions should be thrown out and that the judge who sentenced him had no legitimate basis to give him 20 years in prison, which was higher than the suggested sentencing guidelines.

Much of the brief hearing was dedicated to discussing whether

Kelly should be resented. But in the end, Kelly's lead attorney Jennifer Bonjean noted, his fate really hinges on what happens on appeal in his New York federal case, a racketeering conviction that got him a whopping 30 years behind bars.

“That's his life sentence,” Bonjean said during the 30-minute hearing at the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse. “If that sentence sticks, he will probably die in prison.”

Appellate arguments in the New York case are scheduled for next month.

A federal jury in Chicago convicted Kelly in 2022 on child pornography charges for explicit videos he made of himself and his then 14-year-old goddaughter, “Jane.” Kelly was also found guilty of inappropriate sexual relations with Jane and two other teenage girls, “Pauline” and “Nia.” The jury acquitted Kelly on separate charges of conspiring

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Navalny's mom says she faces blackmail

Officials pressuring her to OK private burial, she claims

Associated Press

The mother of Russia's late opposition leader Alexei Navalny said Thursday that she has seen her son's body and that she is resisting strong pressure by authorities to agree to a secret burial outside the public eye.

Lyudmila Navalnaya said investigators allowed her to see her son's body in the city morgue. She said she reaffirmed the demand to give Navalny's body to her and protested what she described as authorities trying to force her to agree to a secret burial.

“They are blackmailing me,



President Joe Biden meets with Yulia Navalnaya, right, and her daughter Dasha on Thursday in San Francisco. **WHITE HOUSE**

they are setting conditions where, when and how my son should be buried,” she said in a video statement from the Arctic city of Salekhard. “They want it to do it secretly without a mourning ceremony.”

Navalny's spokesman, Kira Yarmysh said on X, formerly Twitter, that his mother was also shown a medical certificate stating that the 47-year-old politician

died of “natural causes.” Yarmysh didn't specify what those were.

Navalny, Russia's most well-known opposition politician, died in an Arctic prison last week, prompting hundreds of Russians across the country to stream to impromptu memorials with flowers and candles. The Russian authorities have detained

Turn to Navalny, Page 7

Outages hit AT&T, others

More than 1,700 AT&T users in the Chicago area reported service outages Thursday as cellular disruption spread across the U.S., according to a data detector. **Business**

Reinsdorf's familiar threat

Owner Jerry Reinsdorf's about-face on the White Sox possibly leaving for Nashville is history — and hypocrisy — repeating itself, writes Paul Sullivan. **Chicago Sports**

Mozart in the miniature

Mary Zimmerman's “The Matchbox Magic Flute” shrinks the allegorical opera down to 10 performers and a five-piece orchestra in her intimate Chicago theater. **A&E**

TODAY'S
WEATHER



High 45 Low 23

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 14

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
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