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## Introduction

As the world continues to exit the last stages of a global pandemic, now familiar military conflicts continue to rage, new ones threaten to boil over and destabilize already tumultuous regions, and worldwide economies find themselves stumbling while trends of automation emerge with little oversight. All the while climate change continues to relentlessly push the world to inhospitable levels, and the constant detrimental spread of disinformation and malicious use of artificial intelligence disrupt the global physical and information landscape respectively. The governments of today find themselves in precarious positions

Since February of 2022 Ukraine and Russia have remained at war with nearly half a million dead.<sup>1</sup> Ukraine's counter-offensives have begun to push the invading Russian army back with slow progress as their drone strikes remain a constant terror in the Black Sea near Crimea.<sup>2</sup> This and other devastating outbreaks of warfare should stand not only as important issues on their own, but also as worrying signs of potential escalations of conflict elsewhere across the globe. Border tensions and constant displays of might and violence threaten to erupt with devastating consequences. As Ukraine and Russia remain in conflict, western countries like the United States and those of Europe must decide their best path forward to aid their allies in the immediate conflict and to prevent it from spreading elsewhere on the continent. Whereas regional powers like the People's Republic of China may eye the conflict as an opportunity to both seek leverage over nearby partners embroiled in the conflict to attempt to cement themselves as the sole regional powerhouse, or even view it as a welcome distraction to pursue other goals as much of the fixation of the world is drawn elsewhere. No conflict happens in a vacuum. The lessons learned from Russia's direct aggression may be applicable in unforeseen circumstances, especially ones arising far sooner than any might think as tensions continue to escalate in the Taiwan Strait as well as across the globe.

Information-based warfare continues to spread and dominate much of modern technological discourse through social media and other information sharing platforms. On platforms like X (formerly known as Twitter), WeChat, and others, artificial intelligence continues to explode in popularity as new unregulated programs develop with risks of minor misrepresentations of facts at best, and dangerous violence-inciting misinformation at worst.<sup>3</sup> Current problems have only grown as platforms like X have become unmoderated landscapes of falsified information with competing propaganda narratives and an unchecked spread of near outright lies. To compound this issue, the true volatility of A.I. remains yet to be seen, as does its potential impact on the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/ukraine-war-estimated-casualties-1.6940723>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-60506682>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/08/technology/ai-chatbots-disinformation.html>



economies of the world through automation & obsolescence, beyond the continued engagement and



*Source: Stanford University, 2022*

creation of disinformation. Programs like ChatGPT, DALL·E 2, and other artificial intelligence applications continue to develop and run rampant throughout the internet with little oversight.

Beyond the known concerns of warfare, both conventional and digital, climate change and its effects remains a looming specter over the entire globe. Natural disasters are

undeniably increasing in intensity and frequency with record breaking heat waves, floods, and droughts.<sup>4</sup> The average temperature of the planet has risen an entire degree Celsius since the late 19th century,<sup>5</sup> the Greenland & Antarctica ice sheets have lost an average of 280 and 150 billion tons of ice respectively,<sup>6</sup> and “Global sea level rose about 20 centimeters in the last century. The rate in the last two decades, however, is nearly double that of the last century and accelerating slightly every year.”<sup>7</sup> The world must find common ground and solutions that can work for all while there still remains a world to save.

The delegates of this body are expected to be among the brightest available and will be called to answer many challenges in a variety of unique and effective ways. The validity of the very information being presented must be questioned alongside the decisions of how to solve the issues, and no stone must be left unturned to obtain a future that will be to the benefit of all, hopefully in a world of peace and understanding.

*This guide will present the primary concerns facing each Cabinet, Committee, and Board of Directors at the start of the conference, **December 7th, 2023**. Each body will be*

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-62712301>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/monitoring>

<sup>6</sup> [https://climate.nasa.gov/evidence/?trk=public\\_post\\_comment-text](https://climate.nasa.gov/evidence/?trk=public_post_comment-text)

<sup>7</sup> <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1717312115>



*approaching the same issues and expected to make their own decisions in the face of an uncertain future.*

## **Chicago City Council Brief**

The Chicago City Council is the legislative body composed of 50 aldermen, one from each ward, responsible for the organization of the city government into departments, appropriating funds for city programs, zoning and development regulations, granting permits and licenses, and setting penalties for various infractions and ordinance violations. The council is composed of 20 committees<sup>8</sup>, each with its own chair, where legislation is refined before going to a vote before the full council.

Each ward has a population of roughly 50,000 Chicagoans and the alderman serves as a key local connection to city government for hearing complaints, assisting with business licenses and permits, and ensuring the delivery of city services like garbage pickup, rodent control, and pothole repair. In long-standing but criticized practice, the council looks to the local alderman in issues pertaining to one ward and this “aldermanic privilege” gives them unique control over business licenses and housing development.<sup>9</sup>

Municipal elections were held earlier this year, bringing Mayor Brandon Johnson and several new aldermen into office. This administration is in a unique position to shift the status quo and propel the city out of the pandemic era into a new age of prosperity. Three issues could make or break that transition. First, housing has become less affordable threatening the stability of our most vulnerable families. Next, the police department faces dual challenges as crime sharply increased following pandemic lockdowns while in the midst of reforms to maintain a professional standard for law enforcement. Lastly, Chicago needs to attract tourism and special events to be a true cultural hub and to grow the city’s economy but large events pose a burden on communities with few amenities. As aldermen, you can work together to solve these issues by calling hearings, passing ordinances and resolutions, and appropriating money.

### **Topic 1 - Housing for All Chicagoans**

Although Chicagoans enjoy relatively affordable housing for a major U.S. city, those with the lowest incomes are struggling to find places to live in a worsening crisis. The Chicago City Council is tasked with reducing homelessness, preserving and subsidizing affordable housing,

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<sup>8</sup> <https://chicago.councilmatic.org/committees/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://chicago.curbed.com/2019/5/31/18646174/chicago-politics-city-council-corruption-aldermanic-privilege>



and providing shelter to an influx of migrants sent to the city by states along the southern U.S. border.

### *Current Situation*

Elected on a sweeping progressive message of improving housing affordability and ending homelessness long-term to “Bring Chicago Home” through increased taxes on the wealthy, the Johnson administration now finds itself confronted with a new short-term housing emergency: busloads of migrants arriving in the city each day faster than the city can find shelter space for them. As of early November, about 20,000 migrants have arrived in the city since last August.<sup>10</sup> New arrivals are sleeping on floors at airports and police stations while the city’s Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC) and Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS) try to find space in shelters and temporary housing. The city has resorted to using park buildings as temporary housing, renting hotel rooms, and buying or leasing vacant property to house migrants.

The council recently agreed to add a non-binding advisory referendum on the March 2024 primary ballot asking voters to approve changes to the real estate transfer tax proposed by Bring Chicago Home. In addition, some aldermen want to ask voters whether the city should remain a sanctuary city in response to the migrant crisis. This emergency has become sharply political and has divided the council along racial lines. In a blow to the administration’s legislative priorities and leadership, Ald. Carlos Ramirez-Rosa resigned as both floor leader and zoning committee chair after a tense meeting in early November where Ald. Ray Lopez accused Ramirez-Rosa of blocking Ald. Emma Mitts from entering council chambers to deny a quorum for a meeting called by Lopez and others. Other aldermen also accused Ramirez-Rosa of threatening to block zoning changes—and thus residential and commercial development—in their wards in retaliation. In response, Mayor Brandon Johnson acknowledged the tension and said, “the forces of division have preyed on our city, pitting us against each other in the most destructive ways.”

### *Long-term Housing Affordability and Homelessness Prevention*

Chicago’s middle class has nearly disappeared since the 1970s, when about half of Chicago’s census tracts were classified as middle income with a few areas of very high or very low income.<sup>11</sup> The north lakefront grew more wealthy while the south and west sides grew poorer during that time and now there are very few census tracts where the population is largely middle

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<sup>10</sup> Chicago New Arrivals Dashboard, <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/texas-new-arrivals/home.html>.

<sup>11</sup> Jessica Kursman and Nick Zettel, “Who Can Live in Chicago? Part I,” June 6, 2018. <https://voorheescenter.wordpress.com/2018/06/06/who-can-live-in-chicago-part-i/>.



income. The city is infamous for its stark divisions along racial lines and income inequality. The city has recently made the availability of affordable housing one of its long-term goals to ensure that everyone who works in Chicago can afford to live here.

For the poorest residents, public housing programs and rental assistance vouchers funded by the federal government are administered by the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA). These units are either units in public housing developments, privately-managed units leased by CHA, or private market units paid for with housing vouchers, with a minimum rent of \$75 per month that adjusts to income.

Low-to-moderate income earners may find rent-restricted affordable housing through set-asides of up to 20 percent of units in new apartment developments under the city's Affordable Requirements Ordinance (ARO). Market-rate units may also be made more affordable through developer subsidies such as tax breaks, density bonuses that allow housing developers to build more units, and transit-oriented development policies like the Connected Communities ordinance that remove requirements for off-street parking spaces near public transportation. In recent years, the city has raised its minimum wage and approved automatic increases to keep pace with inflation. Additionally, there have been calls to lift the state of Illinois' ban on rent control, which is a mechanism available in some states and cities that can protect renters from large rent hikes, but this would require approval of the state legislature.

For its part, the CHA has been slow to rebuild thousands of public housing units demolished since 2000 as part of the Plan for Transformation. The plan was part of a larger federal effort to replace large high-rise housing projects, which concentrated low-income populations in dense buildings without nearby economic opportunities, with scattered-site housing in mixed-income communities funded by the HOPE VI program and meant to be safer and offer more economic opportunity to residents. The results for residents have been mixed, according to a report by MIT researchers for the MacArthur Foundation.<sup>12</sup> At the same time, CHA was criticized for hoarding cash that could have been used to build more housing.<sup>13</sup>

Chicago has tried to help people experiencing homelessness who live on the street by increasing access to temporary shelters and providing assistance toward stable, long-term housing. However, these programs have been strained by the migrant crisis. The city's 2023 homeless

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<sup>12</sup> Peter Dizikes, "Chicago hope," MIT News Office, March 3, 2011, <https://news.mit.edu/2011/chicago-public-housing-0303>.

<sup>13</sup> Jason Grotto, "Chicago Housing Authority stockpiles cash, pays debts as families languish on waiting list," Chicago Tribune, January 13, 2017, <https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/breaking/ct-cha-finances-report-met-20170112-story.html>.



point-in-time count found over 6,000 people living in temporary shelters or on the street.<sup>14</sup> This count is used for federal human services funding, but advocates from the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless say the problem is actually ten times larger, with over 60,000 people living either in shelters, on the street, or “doubled-up” with friends or family and without their own place to live.<sup>15</sup> An effort called Bring Chicago Home would give the city dedicated funding for homelessness programs by increasing the tax on real estate sales over \$1 million, raising over \$100 million per year.

### *Migrant Crisis*

On August 31, 2022, Texas Governor Greg Abbott announced the first bus of migrants would arrive in “sanctuary city Chicago” via tweet and committed to sending buses of immigrants from Venezuela and Central America to the city until President Joe Biden “secures the border.”<sup>16</sup> Abbot is purposefully conflating the political issue of illegal border crossings and undocumented workers with the reality of U.S. and international asylum law, which temporarily protects people from deportation while they make their claim for asylum on U.S. soil. The situation at the federal level is complicated by the Biden administration’s efforts to both discourage immigration at the Southern border while also upholding the rights of immigrant asylees. Especially since the expiration of temporary restrictions on border crossings called Title 42 along with the end of the U.S. COVID-19 public health emergency, Border Patrol may not turn away people seeking asylum and we are now seeing an influx as the result of a two and a half year backlog.<sup>17</sup> Although they are legally allowed to live here, not all asylees are allowed to work and earn a living here, especially those who arrived very recently. Migrants who arrived from Venezuela before July 31 were granted Temporary Protected Status which provides a path for authorization to work legally.<sup>18</sup> A partnership between federal officials and the city will assist migrants with applying for work authorization.<sup>19</sup> Under pressure from Republicans like Abbott, the Biden

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[https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/depts/fss/supp\\_info/Homeless/2023PITCOUNT/2023%20PIT%20Count%20one%20pager%20FINAL.pdf](https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/depts/fss/supp_info/Homeless/2023PITCOUNT/2023%20PIT%20Count%20one%20pager%20FINAL.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> <https://s6624.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Homeless-Estimate-2023-v7.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> Greg Abbott, Twitter post on August 31, 2022, [https://twitter.com/GregAbbott\\_TX/status/1565138872887115776](https://twitter.com/GregAbbott_TX/status/1565138872887115776).

<sup>17</sup> Erica Gunderson, “What Does the End of Title 42 Mean for Those Seeking Asylum in the U.S.?” WTTW News, May 13, 2023, <https://news.wttw.com/2023/05/13/what-does-end-title-42-mean-those-seeking-asylum-us>.

<sup>18</sup> U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Temporary Protected Status Designated Country: Venezuela, <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status/temporary-protected-status-designated-country-venezuela>.

<sup>19</sup> Lynn Sweet, “White House, state, city team up for pilot program to help migrants apply for work permits,” Chicago Sun-Times, November 6, 2023, <https://chicago.suntimes.com/columnists/2023/11/6/23949383/joe-biden-pilot-program-migrant-crisis-work-permits>.



administration later re-established some diplomatic relations with Venezuela to resume deportation flights.<sup>20</sup>

For Gov. Abbott, Chicago is an easy political target as the host of the 2024 Democratic National Convention, for its new progressive mayor, and sanctuary city status. “Sanctuary city” refers to policies that prevent city officials and police from asking about immigration status or sharing information on immigrants with federal authorities. State law also prohibits police from cooperating with immigration officials. Proponents argue that these policies help encourage undocumented people to report crimes or assist local police because they would otherwise fear deportation while opponents say the policies thwart federal immigration enforcement and possibly expose us to national security threats. Chicago has had such a policy since the 1980s, with the latest expansion under the Welcoming City ordinance. Reversing these policies will not get migrants housed and may not stop the Texas governor from continuing to send buses to Chicago. Still, there are real concerns about the city’s effort to house migrants while failing to house Chicagoans who have been living on the street long-term and to deliver on promises the CHA made 20 years ago to families living in public housing.

City officials and council members are facing backlash from some constituents living near planned migrant shelter sites. Shelter operations may disrupt available classes and services at city parks, for example. A southwest side alderwoman was battered at a confrontational community meeting in Brighton Park about the shelters.<sup>21</sup> Some Chicagoans have questioned the city’s effort to put immense resources toward housing immigrants while neglecting disadvantaged populations that already live here.

### Questions to Consider:

1. Who should be able to live in the city? How can the council lower barriers to housing for all?
2. Should the voters have a say in raising the real estate transfer tax or the city’s sanctuary city status?
3. What are the city’s moral, ethical, and legal obligations to provide for migrants’ basic needs? Are these different from our obligations to people experiencing homelessness?

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<sup>20</sup> Mark Stevenson, Michael Balsamo, and Colleen Long, “Biden administration is resuming deportation flights for Venezuelan migrants as arrivals grow,” Associated Press, October 5, 2023, <https://apnews.com/article/mexico-united-states-fentanyl-migration-3ea8f589019506d271906d83be432cdf>.

<sup>21</sup> David Struett and Michael Loria, “Protesters attack Ald. Julia Ramirez and an aide over tents for asylum-seekers,” Chicago Sun-Times, October 19, 2023, <https://chicago.suntimes.com/news/2023/10/19/23924198/tent-city-protesters-attack-ald-julia-ramirez-aide-asylum-seekers-migrants>.





## Topic 2 - Public Safety

Public Safety was a key issue in the 2023 Municipal Election with now-Mayor Brandon Johnson backing the idea that we can reduce crime by addressing the root causes like poverty and a lack of opportunities for education and employment while challenger Paul Vallas vowed to spend more money on policing to increase the number of officers and arrests. Johnson also signed on to a campaign for Treatment not Trauma, which would send healthcare and social workers either in place of or alongside armed police responding to mental health emergencies.<sup>22</sup> The campaign recently made progress toward reopening city-operated mental health clinics closed under Mayor Emanuel.

### *Current Crime Situation*

Crime is a perennial concern for most big cities and Chicago is no exception. The city experienced a spike in violent crime in the early 1990s along with other major U.S. cities but did not see as much of a decline as cities like New York into the 2000s and murders rose sharply in 2016.<sup>23</sup> Chicago recorded 802 murders in 2021, exceeding 800 for the first time since the 1990s. The number of murders is again on the decline as pandemic-era restrictions wane. There have also been recent spikes in armed robberies, particularly in the West Town and surrounding neighborhoods on the near Northwest Side, but ultimately the number of reported robberies is lower than it was 10 years ago.<sup>24</sup> Still, there is widespread news coverage of these increases and a general perception that streets are less safe for Chicagoans than prior to the pandemic.

As murders and other violent crimes spiked along with well-publicized instances of retail theft following the coronavirus pandemic and the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer in 2020, Chicago Police made fewer traffic stops, investigatory stops where the subject was patted down and searched on the street, and arrests.<sup>25</sup> The arrest rate for the most violent crimes—homicide, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated battery—was just 5.8 percent in 2021. There are myriad reasons for the decline in police activity, including the pandemic, the so-called “Ferguson Effect” after the killing of Mike Brown by a Ferguson, Missouri officer, heightened scrutiny of the Chicago Police Department (CPD) following the 2014 murder of Laquan McDonald, and reforms of the department under the consent decree.

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<sup>22</sup> <https://southsideweekly.com/chicago-city-council-moves-forward-on-treatment-not-trauma/>

<sup>23</sup> <https://news.wttw.com/2023/01/04/chicago-homicides-declined-2022-total-still-among-highest-90s>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.axios.com/local/chicago/2023/10/30/crime-robberies-homicides-2023>

<sup>25</sup>

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/2022/7/15/23216341/violent-crime-soared-arrests-historic-lows-chicago-police-department-david-brown-lori-lightfoot>





### *Police Misconduct and the Consent Decree*

Professional, equitable, and constitutional policing is crucial to keeping Chicagoans safe, securing convictions, and reducing city liability. CPD has a long history of racial discrimination, torture to obtain false confessions and convictions<sup>26</sup>, corruption, and excessive force. Following a comprehensive federal review of department practices in 2017, the city began implementing reforms under court supervision through an agreement called a consent decree.

The consent decree and other recent reforms were ultimately prompted by the 2015 revelation of dashcam video showing a white police officer, Jason Van Dyke, shoot Laquan McDonald, a Black teenager, seconds after arriving to a call of a person slashing tires in 2014. The video contradicted the accounts of Van Dyke and other responding officers that McDonald lunged at them with a knife thus necessitating deadly force. Van Dyke shot McDonald 16 times, including in the back, emptying his magazine, and continued firing after the boy's body fell to the ground. The video had been withheld from the public by city officials—possibly to safeguard then-Mayor Rahm Emanuel's re-election earlier that year—until a judge finally ordered its release under the Freedom of Information Act. The Cook County states' attorney announced first-degree murder charges for Van Dyke the same day as the video was released and Emanuel fired the police superintendent. In the fallout, the department implemented body-worn cameras, the Department of Justice (DOJ) under President Obama launched an investigation, and Emanuel ultimately decided not to seek re-election in 2019.

The DOJ investigation acknowledges upfront that a lack of accountability for officers who violate the law has fostered distrust between CPD and the communities it serves, especially Black communities that bear the brunt of gun violence. The investigation found that CPD engaged in a pattern or practice of using unreasonable force and deadly force, officers were inadequately trained on how and when to use their weapons, officers routinely lied about their actions and faced no consequences for lying, and the systems in place to hold officers accountable routinely failed to do so.<sup>27</sup> The DOJ also found that CPD used excessive force against Black Chicagoans 10 times as much as against white Chicagoans and that these failures of inadequate training, unreasonable force, and poor accountability disproportionately affected Black and Latino residents.

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<sup>26</sup> <https://theappeal.org/the-lab/explainers/chicago-police-torture-explained/> (CW: contains graphic descriptions of torture)

<sup>27</sup> United States Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, "Investigation of the Chicago Police Department," January 13, 2017, <https://www.justice.gov/opa/file/925846/download>.



Five years into the reform process under the consent decree, CPD has made updates to department training and policy but the changes are not apparent to residents, according to the department's own survey.<sup>28</sup> "The [survey] findings are just devastating in terms of how often they have negative interactions, in terms of how threatening the police are, in terms of the overall sense of being over-policed and under-protected," said Sheila Bedi, a Northwestern School of Law professor. "And that is really the measure of the consent decree's failures."

### Questions to Consider:

1. How can the city reduce violent crime such as murders, shootings, and robberies without further victimizing innocent Chicagoans, particularly young Black and Latino men?
2. Are the consent decree and recent reforms effective enough to reduce excessive use of force? If not, what more needs to be done?
3. Should the city continue to dispatch police officers for calls requesting help with a mental health crisis?

### Topic 3 - Municipal Marketing

After Douglass Park in North Lawndale hosted three large music festivals last summer, nearby residents demanded a community-led process for permitting the large festivals they say disrupted nearby hospitals, displaced their youth sports programs, and left the park filled with trash.<sup>29</sup> Many neighbors have called for Riot Fest to leave the park altogether. This year, two of the three festivals relocated while the Chicago Park District<sup>30</sup> board of commissioners approved Riot Fest's permit under a new process that requires large fest organizers to hold community meetings and gain board approval, shifting the final say away from district staff.<sup>31</sup>

Riot Fest, a punk rock festival and carnival about half as large as Lollapalooza with 50,000 visitors per day, was previously driven out of Humboldt Park over similar concerns. Event

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<https://news.wttw.com/2023/08/28/examining-chicago-police-department-s-progress-consent-decree-almost-5-years-process>

<sup>29</sup> "Lyrical Lemonade Leaves Douglass Park For Suburbs; 2nd Fest To Relocate After Pushback From West Siders," Block Club Chicago, March 15, 2023, <https://blockclubchicago.org/2023/03/15/lyrical-lemonade-leaves-douglass-park-for-suburbs-2nd-major-music-fest-to-relocate-after-pushback-from-west-siders/>

<sup>30</sup> The Chicago Park District is a "sister agency" legally separate from the City of Chicago yet all but controlled by the mayor. All seven members of the district's Board of Commissioners are appointed by the mayor and approved by city council.

<sup>31</sup> Patty Wetli, "Riot Fest Given Approval for Douglass Park, But Debate Over Mega-Events in Chicago Parks Rages On," WTTW News, June 14, 2023, <https://news.wttw.com/2023/06/14/riot-fest-given-approval-douglass-park-debate-over-mega-events-chicago-parks-rages>



organizers need approval from local aldermen and often donate to their political campaigns. Since 2015, Riot Fest and associates have donated about \$80,000 to local aldermen and political action committees and received 90 percent discounts off millions of dollars in permit fees through agreements with the park district.<sup>32</sup> This year, Riot Fest sweetened the deal with additional job opportunities for youth in North Lawndale. “They’re buying the park,” one critic said.<sup>33</sup>

The fight surrounding Riot Fest is just one of several recent efforts to keep parks from being fenced off for weeks at a time to benefit private, for-profit uses that charge over \$100 to enter. Efforts to keep industry out of public open spaces date to the 1890s, when catalog magnate A. Montgomery Ward fought in court to keep the Lake Michigan shoreline “forever open, clear, and free” of numerous buildings proposed by city leaders in what is now Grant Park, known as Chicago’s front yard.<sup>34</sup> City council further enshrined restrictions on commercial use in the 1973 Lakefront Protection Ordinance.

What was once the concern of a powerful businessman in a rapidly growing city has become a political cleavage in disinvested and depopulated communities like North Lawndale as neighborhood leaders look to reverse the damage of neoliberal city policy by encouraging private investments from these fests in parks while neighborhood activists decry the temporary sale of public goods for private profit. Some aldermen know this money is going somewhere and feel it should be flowing to their communities in spite of disruptions.

Fest organizers claim large events are worth the temporary closures. In its first year, NASCAR claimed their Street Race, which closed Grant Park for weeks of setup and shut down DuSable Lake Shore Drive on race weekend, brought over \$100 million to Chicago in direct and indirect economic impact. Lollapalooza organizers claim the 3-day festival, now in its 18th year in Chicago, brought in nearly half a billion dollars.<sup>35</sup>

### Questions to Consider:

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<sup>32</sup> Kelly Garcia, “Donations, violations, and fees,” Chicago Reader, September 15, 2022, <https://chicagoreader.com/news-politics/donations-violations-and-fees/>

<sup>33</sup> Wetli, “Riot Fest Given Approval for Douglass Park.”

<sup>34</sup> James Krohe, Jr., “Cityscape: How the Lakefront Was Won,” Chicago Reader, November 7, 1991, <https://chicagoreader.com/news-politics/cityscape-how-the-lakefront-was-won/>

<sup>35</sup> Heather Cherone, “NASCAR Added \$109M to Chicago’s Economy, City Tourism Officials Say,” WTTW News, October 4, 2023, <https://news.wttw.com/2023/10/04/nascar-added-109m-chicago-s-economy-city-tourism-officials-say>



1. How can the city balance private uses of park space for popular festivals and events with public access for recreation? Should the city establish a festival ground to serve this need?
2. With the city's financial condition expected to worsen as federal pandemic aid expires, is it a good idea to rely on public-private partnerships and private investment to replace some city-funded park upkeep and services?
3. Should the city spend public money to keep the Chicago Bears in Soldier Field? The football team is considering a move to the suburbs if it can get subsidies for the modern stadium they desire.

**Additional Resources:**

- Chicago New Arrivals Dashboard  
<https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/texas-new-arrivals/home.html> has up to date numbers and FAQ is very thorough
- Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights website <https://40thward.org/cirr/>
- Bring Chicago Home campaign <https://www.bringchicagohome.org/>
- Local news websites:
  - [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (free access with email sign-up)
  - [Block Club Chicago](#) (some free access)
  - [Chicago Tribune](#) (has a paywall)
- [What does it mean to be a sanctuary city?](#) (WTTW News)
- [From Woodlawn to West Ridge, migrants live in temporary shelters across Chicago](#) (WBEZ)