

# Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

**MIGRANTS IN CHICAGO**

## Residents stall race to open shelters



Zerlina Smith-Members sits outside the Amundsen Park field house with members of the community Tuesday while attempting to halt the opening of a shelter for migrants. **ARMANDOL SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Pushback at Amundsen Park field house mirrors the struggles elsewhere around city and suburbs as number of asylum-seekers surpasses 18,000

By **Nell Salzman and Caroline Kubzansky**  
Chicago Tribune

About 75 residents angered by the city's plan to open a migrant shelter in the Amundsen Park field house surrounded Ald. Chris Taliaferro, 29th, Tuesday night.

"Amundsen Park is off the table, off-limits, not an option," Cata Truss, 58, shouted into a cellphone held by Taliaferro, who was on the line with Mayor Brandon Johnson's chief of staff, Richard Guccione.

"I appreciate that, ma'am; I understand what you're saying,"

Guidice said, his answer through the phone amplified by a red and white bullhorn, before Truss cut him off, jamming her finger in the air.

"No, no, sir," she said. "We are not asking you a question. We're saying to you, we want this park off the table. We're saying to you that if you don't take this park off the table, then we're going to start looking at other means of having our wrath felt."

Although the plan had been put on hold as city officials explored an alternative site, the residents were still wary a shelter could end up in

the field house because staff had been reassigned to other parks. So they wanted to send Johnson, who lives in the Austin neighborhood, a loud and clear message.

"They can't have this park," said Zerlina Smith-Members, 46, who was prepared to chain herself to the field house door should migrants approach the building to sleep there. A silver chain and padlock was draped around her shoulders.

The emotionally charged scene Tuesday night is just the

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## Berrios son-in-law sentenced to prison

'Another star added to Chicago's Walk of Shame,' judge says

By **Jason Meisner**  
Chicago Tribune

James Weiss, the son-in-law of former Cook County Democratic boss Joseph Berrios, was sentenced to 5½ years in prison Wednesday, bringing an end to a bribery case centered on the shady world of sweepstakes gaming with elements of political corruption, a state senator turned government mole, and even alleged mob ties.

In handing down the sentence, U.S. District Judge Steven Seeger decried Chicago's long history of public corruption, saying cases like Weiss' cause people to "roll their eyes" when they meet someone from Chicago.

"You know what? It is an embarrassment," Seeger said near the end of the five-hour

**'TREATMENT, NOT TRAUMA'**

Chicago will invest more than \$15 million in its mental health system and grow public health staffing in that area by nearly 75%.

**MIGRANTS IN CHICAGO**

Johnson has set aside \$150 million, though the city has said costs for the current year will likely be at least double that amount.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Head court will not rise for the city's largest workforce, though CPD spending is set to increase by \$91 million to nearly \$2 billion.



Mayor Brandon Johnson walks toward the council chambers after delivering his budget plan Wednesday at City Hall. **EILEEN T. MESLAR/TRIBUNE PHOTOS**