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Chicago: ICE crackdowns trigger growing lawsuits

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Bearing the brunt of the operation has been Broadview, a Chicago suburb of roughly 8,000 people that has housed a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement processing center for years.

Protests outside the facility have grown increasingly tense as federal agents used chemical agents that area neighbors felt. Broadview police also launched three criminal investigations into federal agents' tactics.

Community leaders took the unusual step of declaring a civil emergency last week, after Bovino left the area, and moving public meetings online.

Broadview Mayor Katrina Thompson said the community has faced bomb threats, death threats and violent protests because of the crackdown.

"I will not allow threats of violence or intimidation to disrupt the essential functions of our government," Thompson said.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has touted more than 3,000 arrests, but the agency has provided details on only a few cases where immigrants without legal permission to live in the country also had a criminal history.

The Trump administration takes to social media to post photos of supposed violent criminals apprehended in immigration operations, but the federal government's own data paints a different picture.

Of 614 immigrants arrested and detained in recent months around Chicago, only 16, less than 3%, had criminal records representing a "high public safety risk," according to federal government data submitted to the court as part of a 2022 consent decree about U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrests. Those records included domestic battery and drunken driving.

A judge in the cases said hundreds of immigrant detainees qualify to be released on bond, though an appeals court has paused their release. Attorneys say many more cases will follow as they get details from the government about arrests.

"None of this has quite added up," said Ed Yohnka with the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois, which has been involved in several lawsuits. "What was

this all about? What did this serve? What did any of this do?"

The number of lawsuits triggered by the crackdown is growing, including on agents' use of force and conditions at the Broadview center. In recent days, clergy members filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration, alleging they were being blocked from ministering inside a facility.

Federal prosecutors have also repeatedly dropped charges against protesters and other bystanders, including dismissing charges against a woman shot several times by a Border Patrol agent last month.

Federal agents are also under investigation in connection with the death of a suburban man fatally shot by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents during a traffic stop. Mexico's president has called for a thorough investigation, while U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has said it did not use excessive force.

An autopsy report, obtained recently by The Associated Press, showed Silverio Villegas González died of a gunshot wound fired at "close range" to his neck. The death was declared a homicide.

In October, the body of the 38-year-old father who spent two decades in the U.S. was buried in the western Mexico state of Michoacan.

Many once bustling business corridors in the Chicago area's largely immigrant communities that had quieted down were seeing a buzz with street vendors slowly returning.

Andrea Melendez, the owner of Pink Flores Bakery and Cafe, said she has seen an increase in sales this week after struggling for months.

"As a new business, I was a bit scared when we saw sales drop," she said. "But this week I'm feeling a bit more hope that things may get better."

Eleanor Lara, 52, has spent months avoiding unnecessary trips outside her Chicago home, fearful that an encounter with immigration agents could have dire consequences.

Even as a U.S. citizen, she is afraid and carries her birth certificate. She is married to a Venezuelan man whose legal status is in limbo.

"We're still sticking home," she said.

Convicted Wis. woman in 2014 Slender Man stabbing is missing

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — A Wisconsin woman who admitted to nearly stabbing a classmate to death in 2014 to please the online horror character Slender Man is missing after she cut off an electronic monitoring device and left a group home, authorities said Sunday.

Madison police issued an alert Sunday for Morgan Geyser, now 23, saying she was last seen around 8 p.m. Saturday with an adult acquaintance.

"If you see Geyser, please call 911," the alert said, adding that she had cut off a "Department of Corrections monitoring bracelet."

Geyser was placed in a group home this year after being granted conditional release from the Winnebago Mental Health Institute.

She was sent to the psychiatric institute in 2018



AP, FILE

Morgan Geyser appears in a courtroom on Jan. 9 in Waukesha, Wis. She pleaded guilty to attempted murder.

after pleading guilty to attempted first-degree intentional homicide in a deal with prosecutors to avoid prison.

Geyser's attorney, Tony Cotton, said Sunday that he did not know what happened with his client and urged Geyser to turn herself in.

"It's in her best interest

for her to turn herself in immediately and not continue with this course of action," Cotton said in an Instagram video post where he addressed Geyser numerous times. "We don't know any of the facts about what happened or who might have assisted her."

Authorities say Geyser and her friend, Anissa

Weier, were 12 years old when they lured their classmate, Payton Leutner, to a suburban Milwaukee park after a sleepover.

Geyser stabbed Leutner more than a dozen times while Weier egged her on. Leutner barely survived.

The girls later told investigators that they attacked Leutner to earn the right to be Slender Man's servants and they feared he'd harm their families if they didn't follow through.

Slender Man was created online by Eric Knudson in 2009 as a mysterious figure photo-edited into everyday images of children at play.

He grew into a popular boogeyman, appearing in video games, online stories and a 2018 movie.

Weier pleaded guilty to attempted second-degree intentional homicide.

She was also sent to the psychiatric center and granted release in 2021.

Mamdani retains views about Trump

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani didn't back down in an interview that aired Sunday from past criticism that President Donald Trump acted like a despot and a fascist after a White House meeting.

The newly elected democratic socialist and the Republican president have fiercely criticized each other in the past. Trump called Mamdani a "100% Communist Lunatic" in a social media post following the incoming mayor's election victory, and Mamdani has said Trump was attacking democracy. Yet the two political foils emerged smiling after the meeting Friday and spoke of shared goals.

During a "Meet the Press" interview conducted Saturday, Mamdani said his views remained unchanged.

"Everything that I've said in the past, I continue to believe," Mamdani said. "And that's the thing that I think is important in our politics, is that we don't shy away from where we have disagreements, but we understand what it is that brings us to that table."

Notice of Proposed Property Tax Increase for Village of Hampshire

- I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for the Village of Hampshire for Tax Year 2025 will be held on December 4, 2025.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact the Village Clerk, 234 S. State Street, Hampshire, Illinois, 847-683-2181.

- II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for Tax Year 2024 were \$1,550,222.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for Tax Year 2025 are \$1,782,900. This represents a 15% increase over the previous year.

- III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for Tax Year 2024 were \$0.00.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for Tax Year 2025 are \$0.00. This represents a 0.00% over the previous year.

- IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for Tax Year 2024 were \$1,550,222.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for Tax Year 2025 are \$1,782,900. This represents a 15% increase over the previous year.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 33

- I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax increase for West Chicago Elementary School District No. 33 for 2025 will be held on December 4, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the Turner Elementary School Library, 750 Ingaltan Avenue, West Chicago, Illinois.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district, may contact Karen Apostoli, Executive Director of Business and Operations (telephone 630/293-6000 x 1227).

- II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for the year 2024 were \$47,377,742.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2025 are \$50,538,070. This represents a 6.67% increase over the previous year.

- III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2024 were \$2,292,927.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2025 are \$3,016,350. This represents a 31.55 % increase over the previous year. There was a tax abatement from the debt service fund in the amount of \$650,000.00 in December 2024.

- IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2024 were \$49,670,669.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2025 are \$53,554,420. This represents a 7.82% increase over the previous year's extension.

Notice of Proposed Tax Increase for East Maine School District 63

- I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for East Maine School District 63 for 2025 will be held on December 4, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. at the Educational Service Center, 10150 Dee Road, Des Plaines, IL 60016. The hearing will also be streamed through the following link: <http://www.emsd63.org/boardmeeting>.

Any person wishing to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Debbie Piazza, Board Secretary, at 10150 Dee Road, Des Plaines, IL 60016, or 847-493-8410. Testimony will also be accepted through online submission at the following website address: <https://www.emsd63.org/publicComment> Or via email to the Board of Education at the following email: BD.of.EDUC@emsd63.org

- II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2024 were \$43,224,615.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2025 are \$45,385,000. This represents a 5.00% increase over the previous year.

- III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2024 were \$5,283,015.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2025 are \$5,169,631. This represents a 2.15% decrease over the previous year.

- IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2024 were \$48,507,630. The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2025 are \$50,554,631. This represents a 4.22% increase over the previous year.