

**Corruption Convictions Trend Downward:  
*The State Capitol and Chicago City Hall  
Are Still Hotbeds of Criminal Activity***



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## Introduction

In terms of corruption, 2021 is a year of great contradiction. In general, the trend of corruption in the states—measured by the number of federal convictions—points to its long-term decline. No longer do Illinoisans witness across their news outlets cascading stories of convictions for bribery, fraud, and cronyism, as they did in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. However, just because corruption is becoming less frequent does not mean it is still not shamefully prevalent, nor that its impact on the state is less pernicious in terms of tax dollars wasted and lost in public trust.

In 2021, Illinois experienced a modest—though noteworthy—increase in the number of individuals convicted of corruption. These convictions included individuals at the state and municipal level, and in a wide variety of agencies and governmental bureaucracies. Illinoisans are used to being suspicious of their elected representatives, and surely, that suspicion is often justified. Throughout 2021, there continued to be fallout from the Commonwealth Edison (ComEd) and former Speaker of the Illinois House Michael Madigan bribery scandal, though Madigan avoid indictment until 2022, the red-light company Safespeeds LCC and State Senator Martin Sandoval bribery scandal, and State Representative Louis Arroyo’s bribery scandal on behalf of a gambling company. In all these cases, elected representatives either accepted or facilitated the bribery to ensure favored legislation at the behest of a powerful business. Far from being a partisan affair, Republican Representative Sam McCann was also indicted for misusing hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign funds for personal expenses.

Meanwhile, in Chicago, numerous former and current alderpersons experienced developments in their cases, including former 1<sup>st</sup> Ward Alderman Joe “Proco” Moreno’s continual involvement with law enforcement, former 10<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Edward Vrdolyak’s tax fraud case, 11<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Patrick Daley Thompson’s bank fraud and embezzlement

case—which ended up implicating several all significant players and businesspeople in Chicago—former 22<sup>nd</sup> Ward Alderman Ricardo Muñoz’s embezzlement case, and 34<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderwoman Carrie Austin’s bribery case involving development projects in her ward.

Unfortunately, it is not only politicians and businesspeople who were involved in significant corruption schemes. Throughout 2021, there were all meaningful cases involving corrupt police officers who worked with organized crime, postal workers who organized an elaborate conspiracy to steal people’s mail, elaborated kickback schemes in Veterans Affairs, and a tragic lack of accountability in the Chicago Parks District that led to years of sexual abuse of minors.

What this means is that while corruption is begrudgingly declining in the state, it is doing so at a rate that is far too slow, with far too many victims on the way down. Fundamental changes need to be made throughout the state—in politics, business, and culture—to rid Illinoisans of the perpetual yoke of corruption and its burden on victims, taxpayers, and the public trust.

## **Comparing Chicago with Other Metropolitan Areas**

Despite indictments and other legal actions against prominent politicians and businesspersons continuing in Chicago and across Illinois, the total number of federal criminal convictions for public corruption continues to decline. Across the United States, including Illinois, corruption cases have become less frequent from their peaks in the 1970s and 80s. Still, the decline is gradual. Based on U.S. Department of Justice statistics from 1976 through 2020, Illinois remains the third most corrupt state in the nation, while the Northern District of Illinois, which

includes Chicago and its suburbs, is still the most corrupt metropolitan area in the country on a per capita basis.

The Department of Justice statistics capture federal convictions for public corruption for the year they occur. The investigations and indictments often occur in prior years, sometimes three or more years before the actual convictions. They also do not include convictions for violating state and local laws and do not include corruption that is not detected and not prosecuted. Still, Table 1 shows the rankings of the nation's top 15 judicial districts and includes the city where the Federal District Court and U.S. Attorney are located. As the table shows, since 1976, Chicago had a total of 1,824 convictions and an average of 41 per year, Los Angeles had 1,625 and an average of 36, New York/Manhattan had 1,387 and an average of 31 per year, Miami had 1,288 and an average of 29, and Washington D.C. had 1,223 and an average of 27 per year.

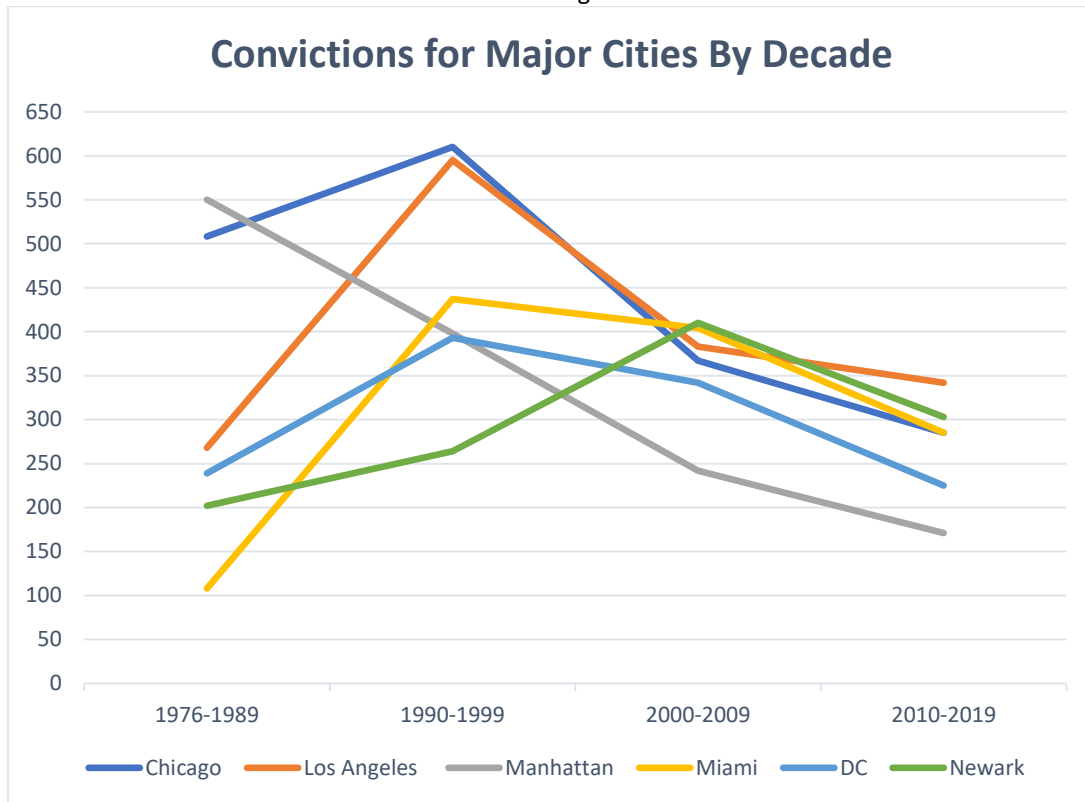
Table 1  
Federal Public Corruption Convictions by State 1976-2021

Rank for Convictions	District (Major City)	1976-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	1976-2021
1	Illinois-Northern (Chicago)	508	610	367	285	54	1,824
2	California-Central (Los Angeles)	268	595	383	342	37	1,625
3	New York-Southern (Manhattan)	550	398	242	171	26	1,387
4	Florida-Southern (Miami)	108	437	404	285	54	1,288
5	New Jersey (Newark)	202	264	410	303	44	1,223
6	District of Columbia	239	393	342	225	19	1,218
7	Virginia-Eastern (Richmond)	189	213	303	391	63	1,159
8	Pennsylvania-Eastern (Philadelphia)	291	246	252	270	22	1,081
9	Ohio-Northern (Cleveland)	173	314	333	186	37	1,043
10	New York-Eastern (Brooklyn)	308	237	204	130	19	898
11	Texas-Southern (Houston)	116	205	267	253	32	873
12	Florida-Middle (Orlando)	159	179	230	203	9	780
13	Louisiana-Eastern (New Orleans)	117	173	230	177	59	756
14	Massachusetts (Boston)	193	159	187	188	25	752
15	California-Eastern (Sacramento, Fresno)	156	203	200	104	11	674

With corruption cases since 1976, Chicago is the most corrupt city. However, when only the last decade is considered—from 2010 to 2019—Chicago slips to 6th place, tied with Miami, with 285 convictions. Richmond, Virginia, is the leader with 391 convictions. It is followed by Baltimore, Maryland with 352, Los Angeles, California with 342, Newark, New Jersey with 303, and Austin/San Antonio, Texas with 290.

While the total number of federal convictions for public corruption in most cities has declined beginning in the 1990s, the most pronounced decreases have been in New York/Manhattan and Chicago (See Figure 1).

Figure 2



The general trend in Chicago is confirmed by other data as well. As Figure 3 demonstrates, Chicago's peak corruption year, with the most corruption convictions, was 1988. During that time, the traditional Chicago Machine experienced an existential crisis with the election of Mayor Harold Washington and the signing of the Shakman decree—which outlawed political hirings and promotions—in 1983. Even though Mayor Washington's untimely death ended his reform era, the numbers suggests that the general public and law enforcement discovered a newfound zeal for prosecuting public corruption. Still, this did not mean the end to mass cronyism and patronage. Rather, a catalyst for its low and uneven decline. As Figure 4 shows,

throughout the 1970s through the 1990s, it was common to have approximately 1 conviction of a Chicago alderperson per year. However, starting in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, that number dramatically dropped to 1 conviction every 2-3 years.

Figure 3

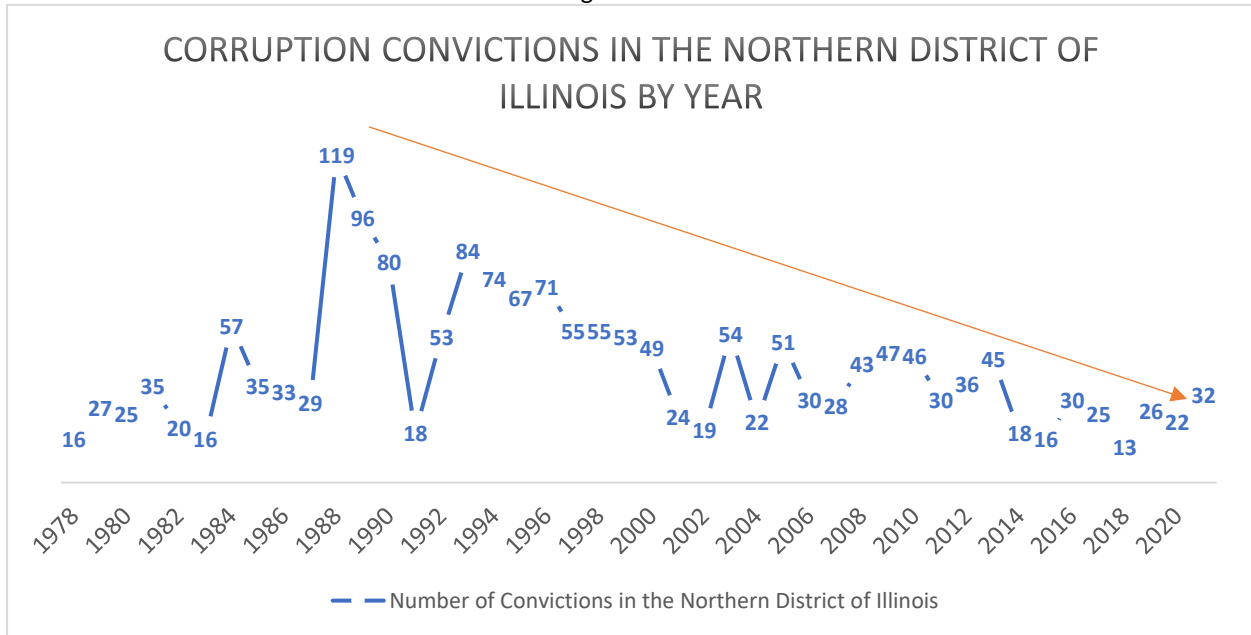
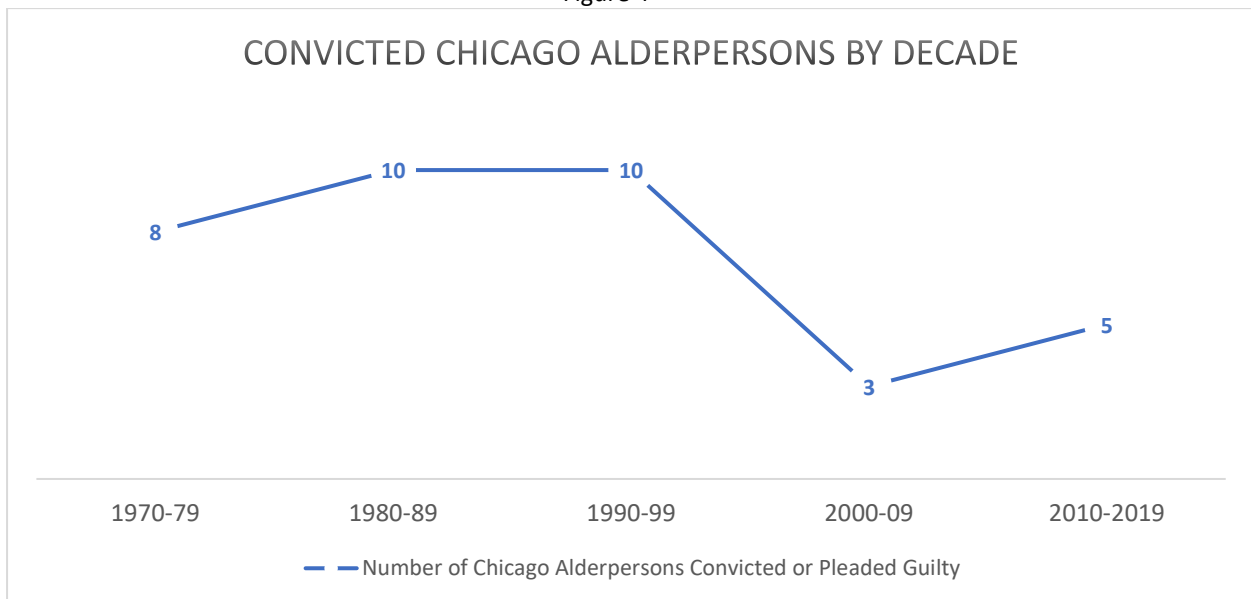


Figure 4



## Comparing Illinois with other States

In the state of Illinois as a whole, federal convictions for public corruption totaled 2,224 since the DOJ began collecting the data in 1976. While California, New York, and several other states had more federal public corruption convictions than Illinois, the Prairie State has a much smaller population and thus a higher rate of convictions per capita than all other states except Louisiana and the District of Columbia.

**Table 2:**  
Federal Public Corruption Convictions Per Capita  
Top Thirteen States with Most Convictions 1976-2021

Rank for Convictions Per Capita	State	Convictions 1976-2021	Population 2021	Conviction Per 10,000 Population
1	District of Columbia	1,215	668,791	18.16
2	Louisiana	1,320	4,627,098	2.85
<b>3</b>	<b>Illinois</b>	<b>2,224</b>	<b>12,686,469</b>	<b>1.75</b>
4	New York	3,016	19,857,492	1.51
5	Tennessee	1,050	6,968,351	1.50
6	Pennsylvania	1,916	13,012,059	1.47
7	Virginia	1,259	8,657,365	1.45
8	Ohio	1,611	11,764,342	1.36
9	New Jersey	1,223	9,267,961	1.31
10	Georgia	1,179	10,788,029	1.09
11	Florida	2,346	21,828,069	1.07
12	Texas	2,388	29,558,864	.80
13	California	3,030	39,142,991	.77

The numbers show that corruption throughout the state has also been on the decline. Again, this is largely driven by the decline occurring in the Northern District. However, as Figure 6 demonstrates, outside the state's metropolitan area, the corruption rate has been rather steady. Its peak corruption year was in 1995, with 34 convictions, and its next three most significant years (excluding 1984 which is tied for second place) are 2004, 2005, and 2013. In recent years, it has also seen a mild uptake.



Figure 5

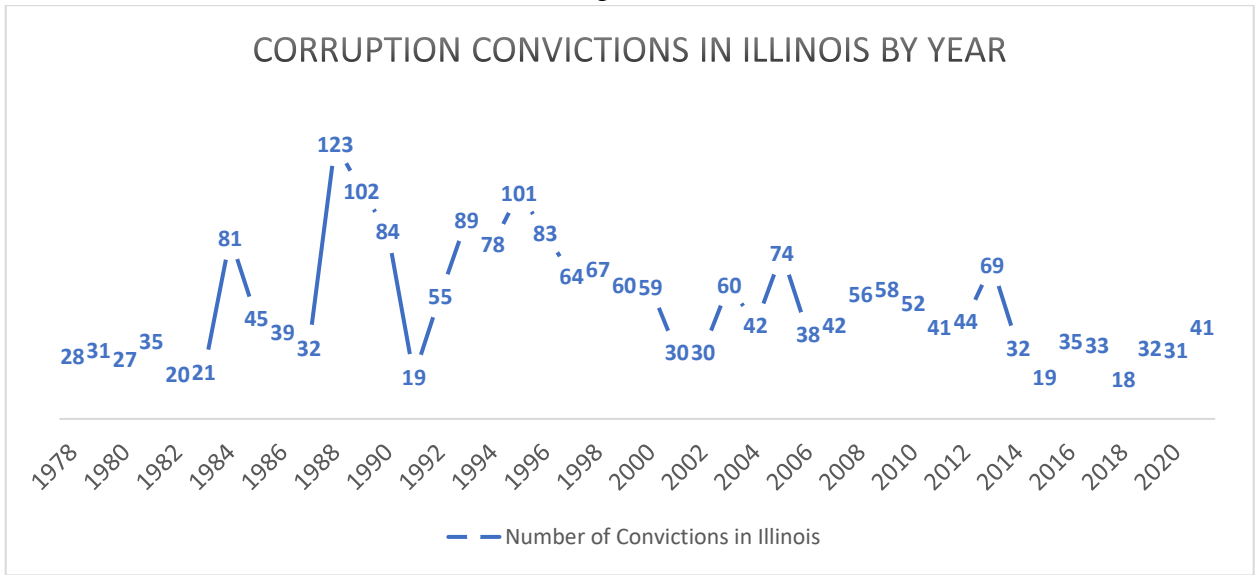
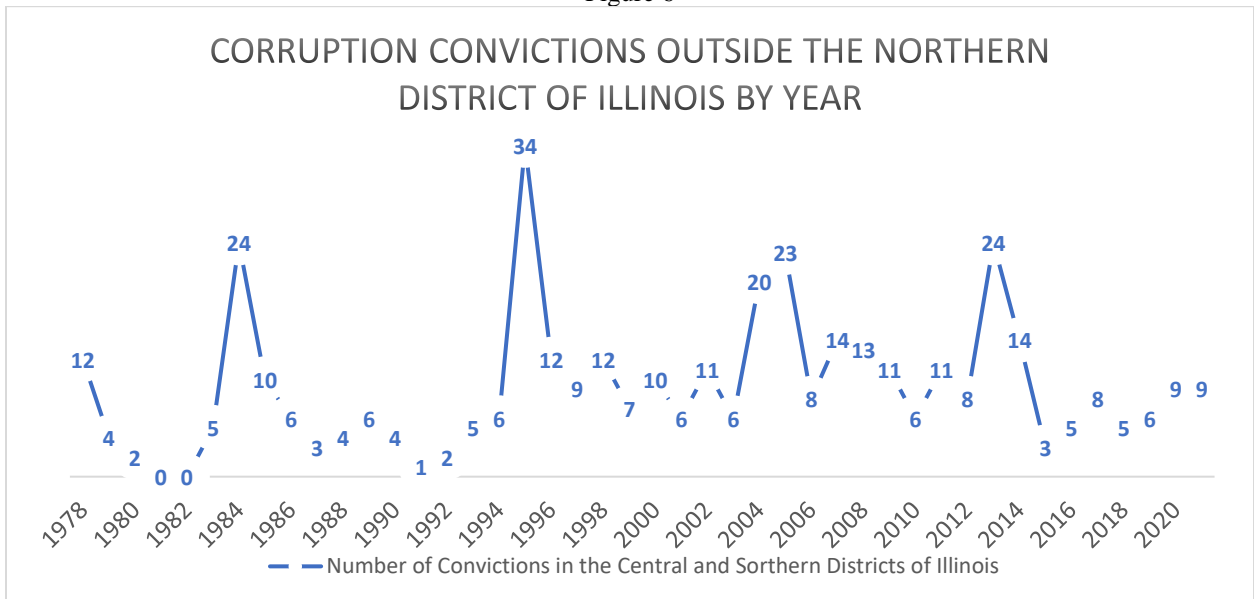


Figure 6



## **Patterns & Connections in 2021 Corruption**

In 2021, major corruption scandals impacted both the state legislator and former and current alderperson in the Chicago City Council. Additionally, trusted institutions, such as the police departments, Veterans Affairs, and the Chicago Park District, also were inflicted with corruption schemes and a lack of accountability.

### **Illinois**

Until news broke of his corruption scandal, Michael Madigan was arguably the most powerful politician in Illinois. Politically adroit, Madigan was the former Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives, Chairman of the Democratic Party of Illinois, and Committeeman of Chicago's 13th Ward. Occupying these roles for decades, Madigan was able to concentrate power and influence state politics through a tight group of associates. However, this parochial empire would come crashing down after a series of investigations revealed that it was built upon a sprawling network of cronyism and corruption.

In 2019, the FBI raided the home of Mike McClain, one of Speaker Madigan's closest confidants and a Commonwealth Edison (ComEd) lobbyist. The raid took place in mid-May and during the same time search warrants were served to two other Madigan associates, former 23<sup>rd</sup> Ward Alderman Michael Zalewski and political operative Kevin Quinn.<sup>i</sup> Shortly after, the FBI also raided the City Club's Wrigley Building office, where the club's speaker—Jay Doherty—was a top lobbyist for ComEd. The raids were part of an investigation into possible political hiring and contracting of Madigan's associates by ComEd. As law enforcement suspected, in exchange for the jobs and bribes to Madigan's people, ComEd was guaranteed legislative favors through the speaker.<sup>ii</sup>

On July 17, 2020, the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois charged ComEd as a company with one count of bribery, but agreed to defer prosecution for up to three years if ComEd executives agreed to a statement of facts that acknowledged the company arranged jobs, contracts, and monetary payments to various associates of Speaker Madigan, paid a \$200 million fine, and agreed to cooperate with law enforcement in their investigation.<sup>iii</sup>

While the company managed to avoid prosecution, individuals active in the conspiracy still faced the potential for indictment. On Nov. 18, 2020, the U.S. Attorney charged former Exelon CEO Anne Pramaggiore and three ComEd lobbyists with bribery, bribery conspiracy and willfully falsifying ComEd's books and records. The three lobbyists named were: John Hooker, Jay Doherty and Michael McClain. Months later, on May 26, 2021, Timothy Mapes, former Chief of Staff for Madigan, was indicted for lying to a federal grand jury and attempting to obstruct its investigations. According to the indictment, Mapes knowingly made false statements regarding Speaker Madigan's efforts to secure private jobs, contracts, and monetary payments from ComEd between the years 2017 to 2019.<sup>iv</sup> Then, on December 14, 2021, State Representative Eddie Acevedo pleaded guilty to one count of tax evasion, admitting to not paying the federal government \$37,000 in income taxes. Though Acevedo's indictment was strictly limited to tax fraud, court records tied him, along with his two sons—Michael and Alex—to the ComEd bribery scandal. Sons Michael and Alex faced their indictment charges the following year.<sup>v</sup>

Madigan himself would not be indicted until 2022. In the meantime, a flurry of scandals emerged as law enforcement uncovered a variety of additional corruption schemes, that, unsurprisingly, somewhat overlapped with Madigan's network.

On September 24, 2019, the FBI raided the home and offices of Illinois State Senator Martin Sandoval, Chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee and a member of the Energy Committee. The *Chicago Tribune* pointed out that Sandoval's daughter, Angie, was listed as an account manager in ComEd's government affairs department.<sup>vi</sup> While the raid did not uncover evidence of Angie Sandoval's complicity in the ComEd scandal, law enforcement did find evidence that Sandoval had organized his own bribery scheme involving a red-light speed camera company known as SafeSpeed LLC. For years, Sandoval had faced criticisms for interceding on behalf of a campaign donor that stood to make millions off red-light cameras straddling Oak Brook and Oakbrook Terrace.<sup>vii</sup> As it turned out, his interventions were more than just aggressive lobbying, but involved a system of bribes where local officials agreed to use SafeSpeed's red-light cameras in exchange for cash.

On January 28, 2020, former Senator Martin Sandoval was charged. The next day he pleaded guilty to one count of bribery, one count of willfully filing a false income tax return, and agreed to fully cooperate with the U.S. Attorney's Office regarding several investigations. Sandoval admitted to seeking \$5,000 per month in protection money to block any legislation the adversely impacted SafeSpeed. He also admitted to accepting over \$70,000 in bribes and facilitating other bribery schemes between the company and several suburban communities.<sup>viii</sup>

The fallout from the SafeSpeed scandal ended up being just as monumental as the ComEd scandal. On February 14, 2020, Patrick Doherty, a sales agent for SafeSpeed and a former staff member for Cook County Commissioner Jeff Tobolski, were indicted for conspiring to pay approximately \$4,000 to the son of an elected Oak Lawn Trustee. In exchange, the Trustee would use his position to approve the installation of SafeSpeed cameras at intersections.<sup>ix</sup> On May 7, 2021, Doherty was indicted again for personally soliciting more than

\$6,000 in bribes from a developer who was doing business with the town of McCook.<sup>x</sup> The case against Doherty was aided by a co-owner of SafeSpeed, Omar Maani, who agreed to cooperate with investigators, including agreeing to covertly record conversations with Doherty.<sup>xi</sup>

On August 7, 2020, Crestwood Mayor Louis Presta, was indicted on bribery and fraud charges for soliciting payments and other personal benefits from Omar Maani to help get additional work for SafeSpeed. Presta resigned as mayor and pleaded guilty to charges of bribery on November 17, 2021. According to the plea agreement, Presta acknowledged that in exchange for a \$5,000 payment from the company, he agreed to ensure that red-light traffic violations would remain high or even increase over the course of the contract.<sup>xii</sup> Also on November 17, Vahooman "Shadow" Mirkhaef, a businessman in McCook Illinois, pleaded guilty to bribing former Senator Sandoval and former McCook Mayor Jeff Tobolski to use their political influence to help him obtain land in McCook next to his logistic company and avoid interfering with his businesses.<sup>xiii</sup>

Finally, on March 28, 2021, Rudy Acosta Sr., a longtime precinct captain for 14<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Edward Burke and aide to former Illinois State Senator Martin Sandoval, was charged with misleading the FBI in its investigations.<sup>xiv</sup> A few weeks later, Acosta pleaded guilty to concealing material information from the FBI. Acosta admitted to his close relationship with former Senator Sandoval, his payment of a “protector fee” to someone connected with SafeSpeed and admitted that he made cash payments to Sandoval to get the senator’s support for his business.<sup>xv</sup>

The ComEd and SafeSpeed corruption scandals rocked Illinois politics. Nevertheless, they are not the only corruption scandal in 2021 to force a reckoning with Illinois’s politicians. On November 3, 2021, former Illinois State Representative Luis Arroyo pleaded guilty to

offering to pay \$2,500 per month to a fellow state senator in return for the senator's support of gambling legislation. Beginning in 2018, James Weiss, husband to former state Rep. Toni Berrios and son-in-law of one-time Cook County Democrat chair and commissioner on the Cook County Board of Review Joseph Berrios, worked to win favorable legislation for his sweepstakes gaming company by bribing state legislators. In October of 2020, Weiss was indicted, and through his trial a convoluted story emerged involving a “wire-wearing state senator, a fellow legislator on the take, clandestine meetings at a pancake house and a North Shore Wendy’s, even a purported phone call with a “ghost” woman who turned out to be an invention of the FBI.”<sup>xvi</sup> Despite Arroyo pleading guilty on November 3, 2021, Weiss was not convicted until June 14, 2023.

Lastly, former Illinois State Senator Sam McCann was indicted on seven counts of fraudulent misuse of campaign money and providing false reports to the IRS. Two of the counts accuse the former senator of money laundering and tax evasion. Accusation of McCann misusing political funds dated back to 2015. While the indictment claimed McCann converted more than \$200,000 in contributions from his multiple campaign committees--including Illinois State Board of Elections: Sam McCann for Senate, Sam McCann for Senate Committee. McCann for Illinois, and Conservative Party of Illinois—to personal uses, estimates of illicit use of funds over the years are as high as \$5 million, and include using funds to purchase new cars, travel expenses, and to pay mortgage loans.<sup>xvii</sup>

## **Chicago**

The Chicago City Council is well known for its legacy of corruption. Since 1972, thirty-eight Chicago alderperson have been indicted, convicted, or pleaded guilty to corruption (see

Appendix 2). Unfortunately, this dishonorable trend continued through 2021, with one alderperson being involved in a major bank scandal that led to the indictment of several business and political leaders.

On September 27, 2021, Ricardo Muñoz, a former alderman for the Chicago City Council's 22<sup>nd</sup> Ward pleaded guilty to fraud and money laundering. Starting in 1993, Muñoz was the treasurer for the Chicago City Council's Progressive Reform Caucus (CPRC). Due to the hegemony of the Democratic Party in the city, the CPRC acted as a shadow political party, with its own political action committee, that would support the campaigns of progressive candidates. As the person who was in charge of CPRC's finances, Muñoz had access to the organization's funds. However, instead of using the money to support candidates, Muñoz would funnel money into his reelection campaign—Citizens for Muñoz—then funnel the money again into his personal account. He ended up using political donations to fund a relative's college tuition, and purchased jewelry, clothing, cell phones, vacations, sports tickets, and airline tickets.<sup>xviii</sup>

On July 1, 2021, Carrie Austin, alderwoman of the Chicago City Council's 34<sup>th</sup> Ward, and Chester Wilson, her Chief of Staff, were indicted for bribery charges. Austin and Wilson were accused of helping to move a nearly \$50 million new development project in the 34<sup>th</sup> Ward through the city bureaucracy. In exchange for shepherding the project, Austin received free home improvement repairs from the contractor, including a \$5,250 renovation to her Austin's kitchen.<sup>xix</sup> Additionally, Wilson was charged with engaging in a separate scheme to purchase Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits—which Wilson did not qualify for—from a recipient of the program, by paying him in cash below the face value of the card.<sup>xx</sup> Austin chose not to run for reelection in 2023. In November of 2022, she claimed that she was medically unfit for trial.

Just two weeks after Austin's and Wilson's indictment, on July 15, former 1<sup>st</sup> Ward Alderman Proco "Joe" Moreno pleaded guilty and was sentenced to two years of probation for obstructing justice and disorderly conduct. In May 2019, Moreno reported his car stolen to law enforcement. In actuality, he had loaned the car to a woman he was dating. Prosecutors suspected the false report was part of an attempt to scam Moreno's insurance company, however, they agreed to drop the more serious charges of insurance fraud as part of the plea agreement.<sup>xxi</sup> Still, in less than a month later Moreno would also plead guilty to a DUI and speeding after crashing into several cars on North Astor Street in December 2020. As part of the deal, he was given "second-chance" probation, which meant he must undergo 18 months of court supervision and do 125 hours of community service.<sup>xxii</sup>

November 1, 2021, Edward Vrdolyak, former 10th Ward Alderman, was ordered to return to prison nearly a year after he received an 18-month sentence on charges related to tax fraud. In 2019, Vrdolyak was convicted of failing to adequately report millions of dollars that he and an associate, Daniel Soso, received as part of a settlement between the state of Illinois and tobacco companies. According to prosecutors, Vrdolyak made \$12 million off the litigation, without doing any real work and failing to report his earnings. The then 81-year-old was supposed to serve his sentence in a federal prison, but had his sentence partially suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>xxiii</sup>

Still, the most significant corruption scandal involving an alderperson of the Chicago City Council was the fallout from the collapse of Washington Federal Bank for Savings. The bank's practices came under scrutiny when the bank's president was found dead in an apparent suicide. In 2017, Washington Federal Bank for Savings was shut down after regulators determined it was insolvent and had at least \$66 million in bad loans on its books. As part of the



investigation into the bank, federal investigators found numerous irregularities in the bank's records. In September of 2020, prosecutors filed charges against four Washington Federal Bank for Savings employees for conspiring with a bank customer to engage in bankruptcy fraud. Then, on February 26, 2021, federal prosecutors indicted four additional persons in an alleged \$31 million embezzlement scheme associated with the bank.<sup>xxiv</sup>

As early as April of 2019, investigators suspected 11th Ward Alderman Patrick Daley Thompson—grandson of the city's legendary mayor Richard J. Daley, and nephew of former mayor Richard M. Daley—of being involved in some of the bank's illicit activities. For nearly a decade, Alderman Thompson received a series of loans from the bank without collateral.<sup>xxv</sup> On April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Thompson was indicted on five counts of willfully filing false tax returns and lying to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. about \$219,000 in loans he received from Washington Federal Bank for Savings.<sup>xxvi</sup> Eventually, on February 14, 2022, Alderman Thompson was convicted on two counts of making false statements to federal agents and five counts of filing false income-tax returns.

Thompson was not the only casualty of the collapse of Washington Federal Bank for Savings working in city government. On December 9, 2021, William Mahon—Deputy Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Street's and Sanitation and a director at Washington Federal Bank for Savings—was charged with conspiring to obstruct law enforcement, falsifying bank records, and for taking part in a year-long embezzlement scheme. Several of the bank's bad loans appeared to have been facilitated by Mahon. Three other former directors-- Janice Weston, George Kozdemba and real estate developer, William Kowalski—were also charged with their role in embezzling funds and falsifying records.<sup>xxvii</sup> Eventually, Mahon, Weston, and Kozdemba

pled guilty to conspiracy to falsify bank records, and Kowalski was convicted by a jury of embezzlement and Fraud. <sup>xxviii</sup>

## **Law Enforcement**

Corruption in Illinois has been common with the state legislature, the Chicago City Council, and among several law enforcement departments. For decades law enforcement in Chicago and other municipalities in the state have been infiltrated by organized crime. In 2021, police officers in the state were exposed for their role in supporting a vast underground gambling ring.

On April 4, 2021, Nicholas Stella, a former police officer with the Chicago Police Department, pleaded guilty to his involvement in the DelGuidice gambling ring. While a police officer, Stella moonlighted as a bookie, and generated hundreds of thousands of dollars in profits for the ring, including \$450,000 in 2018 alone, and oversaw bettors who waged tens of millions of dollars. Stella was the fifth defendant in the case to plead guilty, and the fourth since President Trump pardoned former Mettawa Mayor Casey Urlacher, the brother of Chicago Bears great Brian Urlacher. In addition to being involved in the gambling ring, Stella was also accused by prosecutors of domestic violence, including pulling a gun on his girlfriend, as a reason to deny him parole. Stella would later be sentenced to 15 months in a federal prison. <sup>xxix</sup>

Two weeks later, on April 29, 2021, John Amabile, a former Melrose Park police officer whose late grandfather was a reputed mob boss, pleaded guilty to running an illegal gambling ring from 2015 until 2019, though investigators suspected the activity went as far back as 2012. The gambling ring worked across Chicago, Elmwood Park, and Melrose Park and involved 60 different gamblers, including a veteran police officer, who was reportedly one of the ring's most

prolific gamblers. Two other individuals--Gregory Paloian, who maintained a gambling website and had possible connections to the DelGuidice gambling ring, and Ramiro Barajas were also indicted.<sup>xxx</sup>

### **Veteran Affairs**

Throughout 2021, the Veteran's Affairs facilities in the Northern District of Illinois were plagued by major kickback schemes.

Between 2012 and 2019, Thomas Duncan, a procurement supervisor at the Jesse Brown Veterans Affairs Medical Center, allegedly orchestrated a kickback scheme, with Daniel Dingle, the president of a medical supply company. In the scheme, Duncan agreed to steer the company at least \$1.7 million in product orders, many of which were never fulfilled. In return for guaranteeing business to the supply company, Duncan received over \$36,000 in payments. To conceal the plan, Duncan had Dingle send the payments to a third-party entity—Helping Hands, LLC—that was managed by Duncan. The plan was foiled when an inspector general for Veteran's Affairs began investigating the scheme in 2018. The investigation forced Duncan to produce fake invoices for Helping Hands, LLC, which later were used as evidence of his guilt.<sup>xxxi</sup>

Months later, two former employees--Andrew Lee and Kimberly Dyson--who worked as prosthetic clerks in the Veterans Health Administration Prosthetics Service were charged with participating in a kickback scheme with vendors. As part of their duties, Lee and Dyson selected vendors for medical equipment for VA patients. The two directed orders to companies in exchange for significant kickbacks. In Lee's case, Veteran Affairs fraudulently overpaid a company more than \$1.38 million from 2016 to 2020. In exchange, Lee pocketed at least \$220,000 from Darren Smith, owner of a medical supply company in Bolingbrook, Illinois. In

Dyson's case, he received a minimum of \$39,850 in kickbacks between 2018 to 2020 from Irvin R. Lucas, the owner of a supply company in North Hollywood, California.<sup>xxxii</sup>

### **Chicago Parks District**

On April 27, 2021, WBEZ reporter Dan Mihalopoulos broke a story that the Chicago Park District was conducting "broad investigations" into complaints that dozens of workers at the city's pools and beaches regularly committed "sexual assault, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, workplace violence and other criminal acts," often against minors.<sup>xxxiii</sup>

In March 2020 the park district's top official and Mayor Lori Lightfoot's office received complaints from two former female lifeguards regarding misconduct throughout the organization. Each of the former employees claimed that dozens of Chicago Park District employees in the Aquatics Department had engaged in serious acts of misconduct, including ongoing sexual abuse. One of the two former employees alleged that she was sexually assaulted by a senior when she was only 17 years old; according to the former employee, when she and others tried to initially report the matter, they received "little support" from park officials.<sup>xxxiv</sup>

Prior to WBEZ breaking the story, the inspector general for the parks department, Elaine Little, reported to the park district board that one of its veteran lifeguards likely committed criminal sexual acts, when, in 2018, he forced a 16-year-old female lifeguard to perform a sexual act on him. Additionally, the inspector general's office concluded that Aquatics Department employees sexually harassed two junior female lifeguards and sexually assaulted them in a swimming pool locker room. Another employee was described by the Inspector General Little's report as "a manipulative serial sexual harasser who abused his position as a Park District supervisor to satisfy some sort of sexual desire while simultaneously protecting his job."<sup>xxxv</sup> Five

years ago the employee was fired from a Chicago Public School lifeguarding job for making “inappropriate advances” toward high school students.

As a result of Inspector General Little’s investigation, three employees were placed on emergency suspension. By the time of the news article’s publication, two of the men no longer worked for the Chicago Park District; they resigned after the initial investigation. Inspector General Little recommended the third employee be fired, but he did not leave his position until after the WBEZ report was published when he willingly resigned.

After the publication of the WBEZ report, Mayor Lightfoot urged park district officials to contact law enforcement regarding the allegations and to conduct a full investigation into years of sexual misconduct in the department. Still, additional reporting from WBEZ found evidence of sexual abuse going back decades. Nearly a dozen former employees came forward to report that within the Aquatics Department, “Sexual harassment was the norm, daily, and assault was common and dealt with in-house... It happened to all of us.”<sup>xxxvi</sup>

As a consequence of the investigation and reporting, Park District President Avis LaVelle was forced to resign from her position,<sup>xxxvii</sup> several employees were fired, including many top-ranking officials such as Chief Program Officer Alonzo Williams, Manager of Beaches and Pools Adam Bueling, Assistant Director of Recreation Eric Fischer, and Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer Mike Kelly,<sup>xxxviii</sup> and former employees criminal charged.<sup>xxxix</sup>

## **Conclusion**

Corruption has been—and remains—and persistent problem throughout Illinois. Yet, there is hope that the state can overcome this intransigent problem. The state’s most well-known political machine, concentrated in the Cook County Democratic Party, has experienced

precipitous decline both in popularity and political impact. The end of the political careers of such stalwarts as Michael Madigan within the House of Representatives and Alderman Ed Burke in the Chicago City Council are an indication that a new page is turned in the state. Furthermore, recent elections results from 2022 and 2023 are signs that voters prefer candidates who are younger, and honest reputations, and more progressively inclined in their politics.

Elections are of course an important tool in ensuring an honest government, but if they were only what was needed then Illinois—along with several other states—would not have the problem of entrenched corruption that it has had. In addition to a batch of fresh candidates, voters need to press those elected officials to make lasting changes to the law such as regulating conflicts of interest, addressing campaign financing, contracting transparency, and corrupt lobbying practices. Additionally, the state needs to empower inspectors to monitor and proactively prevent waste, fraud, and abuse across its small and suburban municipalities.

Finally, Illinois needs to foster a cultural campaign against corruption that can be done with a renewed emphasis on civic and public engagement. Communicating, especially at a young age through the local school system, how Illinois often byzantine systems of government work, and how the average citizens can access them, is a meaningful first step in creating an empowered citizenry. In the final analysis, it is empowered citizens—those who people they can stand up to crooked politicians, bureaucrats, and businesspeople—who will ultimately determine if Illinois's governing institutions operate with integrity, honesty, and decency.

## **Appendix 1**

### **2021 Corruption Day by Day**

January 19, 2021

Employment Termination

An investigation from Chicago's Office of Inspector General revealed that Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP) business compliance investigator participated in the inspection of a nightclub where the inspector had a personal relationship with the owner. The inspector also gave compliance advice and made referrals, in the hopes of securing outside employment as a security consultant.

Source: City of Chicago Office of Inspector General, "Fourth Quarter Report, 2020," Chicago of Chicago, January 19, 2021. <https://igchicago.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/OIG-Fourth-Quarter-2020-Report.pdf>

January 19, 2021

Employment Termination

An investigation from Chicago's Office of Inspector General revealed that a Department of Water Management (DWM) foreman used their city position for personal gain. While conducting a leak investigation of an elderly person's home in the foreman's official City capacity, the foreman solicited business for a company in which they had a financial affiliation; the foreman used their position with the city to engage in secondary employment that involved a conflict of interest.

Source: City of Chicago Office of Inspector General, "Fourth Quarter Report, 2020," Chicago of Chicago, January 19, 2021. <https://igchicago.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/OIG-Fourth-Quarter-2020-Report.pdf>

January 21, 2021

Indicted

Akeem Kosoko conspired with his brother Ahmed Kosoko, who was an employee with the US postal service employee, to steal checks issued as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. Instead of delivering the checks to their rightful recipient, Ahmed would hand them over to Akeem. Akeem would then change the names on the checks to other people, then deposit the checks in his own and accomplices bank accounts.

Source: U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of Illinois, "Press Release: Chicago Man Charged in Conspiracy to Sell U.S. Government Checks Stolen From the Mail," *Department of Justice*, January 21, 2021. <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndil/pr/chicago-man-charged-conspiracy-sell-us-government-checks-stolen-mail>. NBC5 Chicago, "Chicago Man Sold COVID-19 Stimulus Checks Stolen From Mail, Feds Say," *NBC5 Chicago*, January 27, 2021. <https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/chicago-man-sold-covid-19-stimulus-checks-stolen-from-mail-feds-say/2422986/>

February 1, 2021

Pleaded Guilty

Worth Township Trustee, Richard Lewandowski, pleaded guilty to one misdemeanor count of failing to file an income tax return in 2018. According to prosecutors, Lewandowski made \$370,342 in 2018 and \$213,516 in 2017 but failed to file his tax returns. That failure cost the IRS \$52,365 and the Illinois Department of Revenue \$10,350. Lewandowski, through his printing business, is connected to other Illinois politicians. As part of the agreement, he agreed to cooperate with prosecutors with other ongoing political corruption investigations.

Source: Jason Meisner, "Worth Township trustee pleads guilty to tax charge stemming from ongoing political corruption probe," *Chicago Tribune*, February 1, 2021.

February 3, 2021

Indicted

Former Illinois State Senator William "Sam" McCann was indicted on charges of fraud, money laundering, and tax evasion related to his misuse of campaign money for personal expenses. According to the indictment, from May 2015 to June 2020, McCann converted more than \$200,000 in contributions and donations from his multiple campaign committees--including Illinois State Board of Elections: Sam McCann for Senate, Sam McCann for Senate Committee. McCann for Illinois, and Conservative Party of Illinois—to personal uses, including purchasing new cars, travel expenses, and to pay mortgage loans.

Sources: John Seidel and Andrew Sullender, "Former GOP State Senator, Rauner Challenger McCann indicted over campaign cash," *Chicago Sun-Times*, Feb. 4, 2021. U.S Attorney's Office, Central Illinois District, "Press Release: Former Illinois State Senator, Gubernatorial Candidate Sam McCann Indicted for Alleged Fraudulent Use of Campaign Funds, Money Laundering, Tax Evasion," *Department of Justice*, February 3, 2021. <https://www.justice.gov/usao-cdil/pr/former-illinois-state-senator-gubernatorial-candidate-sam-mccann-indicted-alleged>

February 5, 2021

Indicted

Thomas E. Duncan, a former procurement supervisor at the Jesse Brown Veterans Affairs Medical Center, was charged for orchestrating a kickback scheme, where Duncan conspired Daniel Dingle, the president of a medical supply company, to steer the company at least \$1.7 million in product orders, many of which were never fulfilled. In return for guaranteeing business to the supply copy, Duncan received approximately \$36,250 in kickbacks payments, as well as additional cash amounts. The scheme first began in 2012 and did not end in 2019 until the Inspector General of Veteran Affairs began investigating the scheme.

Source: U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of Illinois, "Press Release: Federal Indictment Charges Department of Veterans Affairs Procurement Supervisor With Pocketing Kickbacks," *Department of Justice*, February 5, 2021. <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndil/pr/federal-indictment-charges-department-veterans-affairs-procurement-supervisor-pocketing>



February 25, 2021

Indicted

Roberto Caldero, a former political consultant and lobbyist, was charged with bribery. In 2016, Caldero allegedly offered bribes to be a City of Chicago alderman and a Chicago Public Schools (CPS) employee. In exchange for the bribes, which included future employment, champagne, discounted event space for a family event, and admission to an annual benefit for a museum, the CPS employee was expected to procure a custodial services contract from a client that Caldero represented. For the alderman, Caldero arranged for campaign contributions to be made to political organizations affiliated with the alderman or his ward in exchange for the alderman's influence in securing an honorary street name designation and the renaming of a public park.

Sources: U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of Illinois, "Press Release: Consultant Indicted on Federal Charges for Allegedly Providing Bribes to City of Chicago Officials to Benefit Clients," *Department of Justice*, February 25, 2021.

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndil/pr/consultant-indicted-federal-charges-allegedly-providing-bribes-city-chicago-officials>. Jon Seidel, Mark Brown and Lauren Fitzpatrick, "Political Operative Caldero Charged in New Indictment Featuring Ex-Ald. Solis," *Chicago Sun-Times*, February 25, 2021

February 26, 2021

Indicted

Eleven individuals, including several US Postal Service carriers, were indicted as part of an 18-month conspiracy to steal credit cards and other financial instruments through the mail and provide them to others in exchange for cash. Two of the defendants unlawfully obtained United States Postal Services customers' personal identifying information, which they used to fraudulently activate the stolen cards and make purchases at retailers.

Source: U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of Illinois, "Press Release: Former Postal Service Employees Among Eleven Individuals Charged in Conspiracy to Steal Credit Cards From the Mail," *Department of Justice*, February 26, 2021. <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndil/pr/former-postal-service-employees-among-eleven-individuals-charged-conspiracy-steal>

February 25

Indicted

Eddue Acevedo, former Illinois State Representative, and two of his sons were indicted on tax fraud. The indictments were part of the federal government's political corruption probe into the Commonwealth Edison ("ComEd") bribery scheme, which involved associates and employees of former House Speaker Michael Madigan being hired as ComEd lobbyists in exchange for favorable legislation. All three members of the Acevedo family were lobbyists and had received payments from ComEd, but prosecutors did not indict them as being part of the Madigan's conspiracy.

Source: Ray Long, "Acevedo, sons get tax charges in ComEd probe," *Chicago Tribune*, February 26, 2021

February 26

Indicted

Federal prosecutors indicted four more persons in an alleged \$31 million embezzlement scheme with Washington Federal Bank for Saving. Washington Federal Bank for Savings is a local bank, located in Chicago's Bridgeport neighborhood, the neighborhood of the Daley dynasty and home for several of Illinois's influential politicians. In September of 2020, prosecutors filed charges against four Washington Federal Bank for Savings employees for conspiring with a bank customer to engage in bankruptcy fraud.

Sources: Robert Channick, "Feds charge four more in alleged \$31 million embezzlement scheme," *Chicago Tribune*, February 27, 2021. Tim Novak and Jon Seidel, "Feds Charge Owner of Home Where Bank President Died as Fraud Case Expands," *Chicago Sun-Times*, February 26, 2021

March 2, 2021

Pleaded Guilty

Joseph Garcia, a former Chicago city inspector, pleaded guilty to fraud in a case stemming from the ongoing federal investigation of 34<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderwoman Carrie Austin. Austin has been accused of improperly shepherding developments projects through her ward in exchange for bribes, specifically free renovations on her home, from contractors. Garcia falsely claimed to have inspected homes and found work completed as required when the work was not actually done.

Source: Jason Meisner, "Former city inspector pleads guilty to fraud involving company tied to Ald. Carrie Austin,": *Chicago Tribune*, March 2, 2021

March 2, 2021

Pleaded Guilty

Richard G. Simms, former owner of Simms Engineering, LTD, pleaded guilty to defrauding Kankakee's wastewater utilities, Kankakee River Metropolitan Agency (KRMA) and the city's Environmental Service Utility (ESU), of more than \$2 million. For several years Simms served for many years as executive director of KRMA, which was responsible for treating wastewater from for the municipalities of Kankakee, Bradley, Bourbonnais, and Aroma Park, and as the Superintendent of ESU that serves as Kankakee's public works and sewer system. From 2014 to 2018, Simms fraudulently received approximately \$2.2 million as payment to Simms Engineering for software development by Plum Flower International, a business started by Simms and his daughter. Despite not having board approval or contracts with his engineering firm to develop software, he received reimbursements by submitted fraudulent and inflated invoices for payment, then circumventing KRMA's invoice payment procedure by submitting invoices directly to its accounting firm.

Source: U.S. Attorney's Office, Central Illinois District, "Press Release: Former Kankakee Wastewater Utilities Official Pleads Guilty to Fraud," *Department of Justice*, March 2, 2021. <https://www.justice.gov/usao-cdil/pr/former-kankakee-wastewater-utilities-official-pleads-guilty-fraud>

March 9, 2021

Pleaded Guilty

Willie Hadden, a former sergeant at Illinois Correctional Center in Mt. Sterling, IL, pleaded guilty to charges related to his role of assaulting an inmate who died as a result of the injuries sustained in the assault on May 17, 2018. In the plea, Hadden acknowledged assaulting an inmate who was restrained and handcuffed behind his back and posed no physical threat to anyone. The victim, Larry Earvin suffered multiple broken ribs, a punctured colon, and other serious internal injuries, resulting in his death weeks following the assault.

Source: Source: U.S. Attorney's Office, Central Illinois District, "Press Release: Illinois Prison Guard Pleads Guilty to Inmate Assault that Resulted in Death," *Department of Justice*, March 9, 2021.

March 9, 2021

Suspension

An investigation from the Office of Executive Inspector General revealed that William Patterson, a State Mine Inspector-At-Large for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, interfered with the hiring process of the agency, including providing assistance on the application, correcting applications, and forwarding applications, to ensure that the family member would be hired. In response to his misbehavior, Patterson was given a 1-day suspension without pay.

Source: OEIG Case #18-01651.

<https://oeig.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/oeig/investigations/documents/investigative-reports/18-01651-patterson-and-benner-1-0.pdf>

March 10, 2021

Pleaded Guilty

Scott Koteski, a former employee of the City of Rochelle, Illinois, pleaded guilty to fraudulently obtaining at least \$150,000 from a non-profit business association. Beginning in 2012 and ending in 2018, Koteski, who was selected by the city to sit on the board of directors of a non-profit business association that provided broadband internet technology to smaller municipalities in northern Illinois, wrote numerous checks to himself from the association's bank account. He would then conceal the true nature of these checks by writing false information on the memo line to make it appear the checks were legitimate reimbursements.

Source: U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of Illinois, "Press Release: Former City of Rochelle Employee Pleads Guilty to Fraudulently Obtaining at Least \$150,000 From a Non-Profit Business Association," *Department of Justice*, March 10, 2021.

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndil/pr/former-city-rochelle-employee-pleads-guilty-fraudulently-obtaining-least-150000-non>

March 24, 2021

Indicted

Edward Howard, a supervisor at Edward Hines Jr., VA Hospital was charged with four counts of misdemeanor battery following an investigation into complaints filed by four female co-workers

or subordinates. In the complaints, the employees alleged that Howard touched them inappropriately and subjected them to inappropriate comments of a sexual nature.

Source: Laura Rodriguez Presa, "Supervisor at Hines VA medical Center charged with battery," *Chicago Tribune*, March 25, 2021

March 28, 2021

Indicted

Rudy Acosta Sr., a longtime precinct captain for Chicago's 14<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Edward Burke and aide to former Illinois State Senator Martin Sandoval, was charged with misleading the FBI in its sprawling federal political corruption investigation. Both Alderman Burke and former Senator Sandoval have been investigated by the FBI for separate corruption scandals. Acosta was charged with willfully deceiving the FBI about the criminal activity of others.

Source: Jason Meisner, "Longtime political operative for Ald. Edward Burke, former state Sen Martin Sandoval charged with deceiving FBI," *Chicago Tribune*, March 29, 2021

March 31, 2021

Indicted

Annazette Collins, a former Illinois State Senator and a lobbyist for ComEd was charged with allegedly filing false returns for 2014 and 2015, and for failing to file federal income taxes for herself for 2016, and for failing to file corporate tax returns for her consulting-lobbying firm for years 2015 and 2016. She worked as a lobbyist for ComEd from 2014 to 2019. She also lobbied in support of unlicensed video gambling machines known as sweepstakes machines that are at the heart of another federal investigation.

Sources: Jon Seidel and Rachel Hinton, "Ex-State Senator Charged in New Tax Indictment," *Chicago Sun-Times*, April 1, 2021.

April 1, 2021

Settlement Agreement

Former Congressman and former U.S. Transportation secretary, Ray LaHood, acknowledged to federal prosecutors that he failed to disclose a \$50,000 loan he received from a wealthy Lebanese-Nigerian businessman while he was a member of the President's cabinet. Under the agreement with the Department of Justice in 2019, but not disclosed until 2021, LaHood had to pay a \$40,000 fine and repay the \$50,000 loan.

Source: Rick Pearson, "LaHood fined for loan lie," *Chicago Tribune*, April 2, 2021

April 5, 2021

Pleaded Guilty

Nicholas Stella, a police officer with the Chicago Police Department, pleaded guilty in federal court to conspiring in an international gambling ring. He was the fifth defendant in the case to plead guilty, and the fourth since President Trump pardoned former Mettawa Mayor Casey Urlacher, the brother of Chicago Bears great Brian Urlacher. The DelGuidice gambling ring ran

from 2016 to 2019 and had connections to organized crime. During that time, Stella worked as a bookie and his gamblers generated more than \$450,000 in profits in 2018 alone.

Sources: Jon Seidel, "Chicago police officer pleads guilty in sports gambling case that involves Casey Urlacher, Chicago Sun-Times, April 5, 2021; <https://chicago.suntimes.com/crime/2021/4/5/22368209/chicago-police-officer-pleads-guiltysports-gambling-case-casey-urlacher>. U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of Illinois, "Press Release: Chicago Man Pleads Guilty to Participating in Illegal Sports Gambling Business," *Department of Justice*, April 5, 2021. <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndil/pr/chicago-man-pleads-guilty-participating-illegal-sports-gambling-business>

April 13, 2021

Pleaded Guilty

Rudy Acosta Sr., a longtime Chicago fire inspector and 14th Ward precinct captain, pleaded guilty to concealing material information from the FBI. Acosta admitted to federal prosecutors his close relationship former Illinois State Senator Martin Sandoval, his payment of a "protector fee" within someone connected to the red-light speed camera company SafeSpeed, and that he made cash payments to Sandoval to get Sandoval's support for his business.

Sources: Jon Seidel, "Political Operative With Ties to Burke, Sandoval pleads guilty, Agrees to Cooperate with Feds," April 14, 2021. Jason Meisner, "Ald. Burke ally pleads guilty to lying to FBI, Chicago Tribune, April 14, 2021

April 15, 2021

Employment Termination

An investigation from Chicago's Office of Inspector General revealed that a Department of Streets and Sanitation (DSS) laborer solicited bribes to carry away a homeowner's garbage. While the laborer was working their route, they observed carpet scraps in a resident's garbage bin: instead of reporting the matter to their supervisor, the laborer solicited and was paid \$10 in exchange for removing the carpet scraps. After removing the scraps, the laborer attempted to solicit another \$10 from the homeowner.

Source: City of Chicago Office of Inspector General, "First Quarter Report, 2021," *Chicago of Chicago*, April 15, 2021. <https://igchicago.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/OIG-First-Quarter-2021-Report.pdf>

April 29, 2021

Indicted

Ricardo Muñoz, a former alderman for the Chicago City Council's 22<sup>nd</sup> Ward, was indicted on 16 counts, including fraud and money laundering. According to the indictment, Munoz—who has served as a member of the Chicago Progressive Reform Caucus (CPRC) since 1993, including acting as the caucus's treasurer--used money from a political action committee formed CPPC to pay personal expenses, including funding a relative's college tuition, purchasing jewelry, clothing, cell phones, vacations, sports tickets, and airline tickets. Munoz obtained the money through cash withdrawals and debit card charges from the CPRC's bank account or by

transferring funds from CPRC to Citizens for Munoz and then on to his personal checking account.

Source: U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of Illinois, "Press Release: Former City of Chicago Alderman Charged With Using Money From Political Fund To Pay Personal Expenses," *Department of Justice*, April 29, 2021. <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndil/pr/former-city-chicago-alderman-charged-using-money-political-fund-pay-personal-expenses>.

April 29, 2021

Pleaded Guilty

John Amabile, a former Melrose Park police officer, pleaded guilty in federal court to unlawful sports gambling. According to the plea, Amabile admitted to running an illegal gambling ring from 2015 until 2019 in Chicago, Elmwood Park and Melrose Park, however, federal authorities acknowledged that they have evidence of his participation in the ring starting as early as 2012. Amabile was the second Illinois police officer to be convicted as part of the same federal crackdown on illegal sports bookmaking.

Source: James Meisner, "Ex-Melrose Park cop pleads to participating in sports gambling ring," *Chicago Tribune*, May 2, 2021. Jon Seidel, "Ex-Melrose Park Cop Gets Home Detention in Gambling Case," *Chicago Sun-Times*, August 20, 2021

April 29, 2021

Indicted

Patrick Daley Thompson, the 11<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman for the Chicago City Council, grandson of the city's legendary mayor Richard J. Daley, and nephew of former mayor Richard M. Daley, was indicted on five counts of willfully filing false tax returns and lying to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. about \$219,000 in loans he received from Washington Federal Bank for Savings before the bank was shuttered in 2017 after the bank's president committed suicide. According to the indictment, Alderman Thompson only made one payment back to the bank and appeared to keep the rest of the loan without consequence.

Source: Jason Meisner and John Byrne, "Nephew of Daley facing charges," *Chicago Tribune*, April 30, 2021

May 7, 2021

Indicted

Patrick Doherty, a longtime Democratic operative, was indicted for allegedly helping payments from a red-light camera company's agent to former Illinois State Senator Martin Sandoval. Previously, on February 14, 2020, Doherty was indicted for conspiring to pay money to a relative of an Oak Lawn Trustee to get approval for the installation of SafeSpeed's cameras at intersections. The new indictment alleges that Doherty personally solicited more than \$6,000 in bribes from a developer who was doing business with the town of McCook.

Source: Jason Meisner, "New charges against Doherty," *Chicago Tribune*, May 8, 2021

May 10, 2021

Sentenced

Candace Faye Wanzo, a former administrator and supervisor for the Illinois Secretary of State's Department of Vehicle Services, was sentenced to 18 months in federal prison for defrauding the Secretary of State's Office and the Illinois Department of Revenue. In a plea agreement, Wanzo admitted that from March 2015 to April 2017, she stole title and registration fees and sales tax payments and replaced the stolen funds with title and registration fees from other vehicle owners. As a result, Wanzo misapplied approximately \$300,000 in title and registration fees to conceal fees that she had previously stolen.

Sources: U.S. Attorney's Office, Central Illinois District, "Press Release: Former Administrator, Supervisor of Illinois Secretary of State Department of Vehicle Services Sentenced for Fraud Scheme," *Department of Justice*, May 10, 2021. <https://www.justice.gov/usao-cdil/pr/former-administrator-supervisor-illinois-secretary-state-department-vehicle-services>. Associated Press, "Ex-secretary of state worker sentenced for \$350K fraud," *Chicago Tribune*, May 10, 2021.

May 21, 2021

Subpoenaed

A federal grand jury subpoenaed records from the Cook County Land Bank Authority. The subpoena involved records of the sale of 24 properties as well as emails and other records related to Mustafaa Saleh, the agency's former senior asset manager. Saleh was convicted in November the year prior for conspiring with bogus "straw buyers" to fraudulently purchase six properties from the authority on Saleh's behalf between 2016 and 2021.

Source: Alice Yin, "Federal prosecutors probing Cook County Land Bank," *Chicago Tribune*, June 24, 2021

May 26, 2021

Indicted

Timothy Mapes, former Chief of Staff to the Illinois Speaker of the House of Representatives under Mike Madigan, was indicted for allegedly lying to a federal grand jury and attempting to obstruct its investigation into public corruption. According to indictment, on March 31, 2021, Mapes testified before the grand jury and knowingly made false statements regarding the Speaker's relationship with the state's largest utility company Commonwealth Edison. Specifically, Mapes made false or misleading statements regarding Speaker Madigan's efforts to secure to obtain for others private jobs, contracts, and monetary payments from the utility company between the years 2017 to 2019.

Sources: U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of Illinois, "Press Release: Former Chief of Staff to Illinois Speaker of the House Indicted for Allegedly Lying Under Oath to Federal Grand Jury," *Department of Justice*, May 26, 2021. <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndil/pr/former-chief-staff-illinois-speaker-house-indicted-allegedly-lying-under-oath-federal-0>. Jon Seidel and Rachel Hinton, "Indictment Brings Feds Closer to 'Public Official A'," *Chicago Sun-Times*, May 27, 2021



June 17, 2021

Pleaded Guilty

John O'Sullivan, an ex-state lawmaker and former Worth Township supervisor, pleaded guilty to bribery and conspiracy and agreed to cooperate with federal agents in their public corruption investigation of red-light camera schemes. O'Sullivan admitted to playing a role in a scheme to pay off an Oak Lawn trustee to expand the business operations of the red-light company SafeSpeed.

Source: Jon Seidel, "Ex-Worth Twp. Supervisor O'Sullivan pleads guilty to camera bribery scheme," *Chicago Sun-Times*, June 18, 2021

June 20, 2021

Sentenced

David Webb Jr., former Markham Mayor, was sentenced to two years in federal prison for taking nearly \$300,000 in bribes from contractors doing business with the city. Webb, who pleaded guilty in 2017, cooperated with prosecutors. Webb's testimony led to the conviction of two contractors.

Source: Jason Meisner, "Ex-Markham mayor sentenced to 2 years in bribery scheme," *Chicago Tribune*, June 23, 2021.

July 1, 2021

Indicted

Carrie Austin, alderwoman of the Chicago City Council's 34<sup>th</sup> Ward, and Chester Wilson, her Chief of Staff, were indicted bribery charges for allegedly conspiring to receive home improvements from construction contractors seeking city assistance for a development project in Austin's ward. According to the indictment, beginning in 2016, Austin and Wilson were provided with personal benefits by the owner of a construction company and other contractors, including a \$5,250 renovation to her Austin's kitchen. In exchange for the services, Austin and Wilson authorized the expenditure of aldermanic menu funds for infrastructure projects that would aid the company in its construction of \$49.6 million residential development. Additionally, Wilson was charged with engaging in a separate scheme to purchase Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits—which Wilson did not qualify for—from a recipient of the program, by paying him in cash amount below the face value of the card.

Sources: U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern Illinois District, "Press Release: City of Chicago Alderman and Her Chief of Staff Indicted on Federal Bribery Charges," *Department of Justice*, July 1, 2021. <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndil/pr/city-chicago-alderman-and-her-chief-staff-indicted-federal-bribery-charges>; Jon Seidel, "Austin, Chief of Staff Plead Not Guilty," *Chicago Sun-Times*, July 9, 2021; and Gregory Pratt and Megan Crepeau, "Ald. Austin, chief of staff indicted," *Chicago Tribune*, July 2, 2021.

July 9, 2021

Indicted



Former Lake County Coroner's Deputy Dana Dingman was charged with official misconduct and violations of the state's eavesdropping laws for allegedly making a surreptitious video on a cellphone as she notified a juvenile that a relative had been killed in a motorcycle accident.

Source: Clifford Ward, "Former Lake County coroner's deputy facing criminal charges," *Chicago Tribune*, July 10, 2021.

July 14, 2021

Indicted

Sarah Jackson Abedelal, a former principal with Chicago Public Schools (CPS), was charged with fraudulently filing overtime claims. According to the indictment, from 2012 to 2019 principal of Brennemann Elementary School on the North Side of Chicago, Abedelal told certain school employees that she would authorize overtime pay for hours the employees would not be required to work. Abedelal told the employees who received the overtime that the money would be used to pay school expenses but instead were used for personal purposes by Abedelal. In total, it is estimated that the fraudulent scheme cost CPS at least \$200,000.

Sources: <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndil/pr/former-chicago-public-schools-principal-charged-scheme-fraudulently-obtain-overtime-pay>. Jon Seidel, "Ex-principal stole money employees helped her scam from CPS: feds, Chicago Sun-Times, July 15, 2021.

July 15, 2021

Employment Termination

An investigation from Chicago's Office of Inspector General revealed that a Chicago Police Department (CPD) sergeant assigned to the marine unit accepted a \$1,000 payment from a professional diver in exchange for the sergeant using their official CPD position to gain access to the Chicago Harbor Lock for the purpose of using CPD personnel and equipment to recover a lost boat propeller for the diver's client.

Source: City of Chicago Office of Inspector General, "Second Quarter Report, 2021," Chicago of Chicago, July 15, 2021. <https://igchicago.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/OIG-Second-Quarter-2021-Report-1.pdf>

July 16, 2021

Pleaded Guilty

Proco "Joe" Moreno, former 1<sup>st</sup> Ward Alderman for the Chicago City Council, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to two years of probation for obstructing justice and disorderly conduct. Moreno told law enforcement that his car had been stolen when in actuality he had loaned the car to a woman he was dating. Prosecutors suspected the false report was part of an attempt to scam Moreno's insurance company, but dropped the more serious charges of insurance fraud as part of the plea agreement.

Source: Megan Crepeau, "Moreno pleads guilty to obstruction," *Chicago Tribune*, July 16, 2021

July 22, 2021

Sentenced

Nicholas Stella, a former police officer with the Chicago Police Department, was sentenced to 15-months in prison for conspiring in an international gambling ring. While working as a bookie for the DelGuidice gambling ring ran, Stella generated hundreds of thousands of dollars in profits and likely oversaw bettors who wagered tens of millions of dollars.

Source: Jon Seidel, "Chicago police officer sentenced to 15 months behind bars for role in sports gambling case," *Chicago Sun-Times*, July 22, 2021.

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/crime/2021/7/22/22588705/chicago-police-officer-sentenced-to-15-months-behind-bars-for-role-in-sports-gambling-case>

August 3, 2021

Pleaded Guilty

Former 1<sup>st</sup> Ward Alderman Joe "Proco" Moreno pleaded guilty to a DUI and speeding after crashing into several cars on North Astor Street in December 2020. As part of the deal, he was given "second-chance" probation, which meant he must undergo 18 months of court supervision and do 125 hours of community service.

Source: Megan Crepeau, "Former Ald. Proco Moreno pleads guilty in DUI case," *Chicago Tribune*, August 4, 2021.

August 18, 2021

Pleaded Guilty

Patrick Zimmerman, a former Vernon Hills deputy police chief, pleaded guilty to charges of misdemeanor theft tied to his falsification of his hours worked. Zimmerman falsely claimed to spend time writing traffic tickets that he did not give to motorists, nor submit to the clerk's office or municipal officials. The theft was related to "STEP", a traffic enforcement program administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Source: James T. Norman of Pioneer Press, "Ex-Vernon Hills deputy police chief pleads guilty to charges of theft," *Chicago Tribune*, August 19, 2021

September 26, 2021

Indicted

Jenny Thornley, a former top financial officer with the Illinois Police Merit Board, was indicted on four counts of forgery and two counts of official misconduct in Sangamon County, Illinois. Thornley is accused of stealing between \$10,000 and \$100,000 from the state by claiming overtime that she did not work. The supposed forged documents were signed by the Jack Garcia, the merit board's executive director, who Thornley claimed sexually harassed and assaulted her in a separate federal lawsuit.

Source: Steven Spearie, "Thornley makes court appearance; attorney says he will 'vigorously defend' against charges," *State-Journal Register*, October 28, 2021.

September 27, 2021

Pleaded Guilty

Richardo Muñoz, a former alderman for the Chicago City Council's 22<sup>nd</sup> Ward, pleaded guilty to wire fraud, money laundering, and admitted taking nearly \$88,000 from the Chicago Progressive Reform Caucus to pay for personal expenses. Muñoz obtained the money through cash withdrawals and debit card charges from the CPRC's bank account or by transferring funds from CPRC to Citizens for Muñoz and then on to his personal checking account.

Jon Seidel, "Ex-Alderman Pleads Guilty in Fraud Case," *Chicago Sun-Times*, September 28, 2021.

September 29, 2021

Indicted

Seven additional United States Postal Service carriers were indicted as part of an 18-month conspiracy to steal credit cards and other financial instruments through the mail and provide them to others in exchange for cash. Two of the defendants unlawfully obtained United States Postal Services customers' personal identifying information, which they used to fraudulently activate the stolen cards and make purchases at retailers. The newly charged USPS employees delivered mail in Chicago or processed and sorted the mail at a facility in suburban Palatine.

Source: Department of Justice: U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of Illinois, "Press Release: Seven Former Postal Service Employees Charged in Federal Probe of Credit Cards Stolen From the Mail," *Department of Justice*, September 29, 2021.

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndil/pr/seven-former-postal-service-employees-charged-federal-probe-credit-cards-stolen-mail>

October 8, 2021

Resigned

Chicago Park District Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer Michael Kelly resigned hours after Mayor Lori Lightfoot called on the park district's board of commissioners to fire him with cause over his handling of allegations of sexual harassment and abuse involving park district lifeguards. An inspector general report from the department and breakthrough reporting from WBEZ Chicago revealed that employees for the department, some as young as 16 years old, were regularly assaulted by senior employees. Throughout the department's history, victims of sexual assault were intimidated into silence or had their complaints minimized or ignored.

Source: Matthew Hendricks, Lauren FritzPatrick, and Fran Spielman, "Park District Supt. Kelly resigns after Lightfoot says he should be fired for cause," *Chicago Sun-Times*, October 9, 2021.

October 12, 2021

Pleaded Guilty

Donald Donagher, former owner of the debt collection company Penn Credit Corporation, pleaded guilty to corruptly agreeing to underwrite certain expenses for a special event hosted by the former Cook County Circuit Court Clerk. In 2014, Penn Credit Corporation had a non-exclusive contract with Cook County to perform debt collection work. In the plea agreement, Donagher admitted that in March 2014 he agreed to underwrite certain expenses for

the Circuit Court of Cook County’s Women’s History Month Celebration and that the purpose of the underwriting the expenses was to reward the Clerk of the Circuit Court for her favorable treatment.

Sources: U.S. Attorney’s Office, Northern District of Illinois, “Press Release: Owner of Debt Collection Company Pleads Guilty to Corruptly Providing Benefits to Public Official,” *Department of Justice*, October 12, 2021. <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndil/pr/owner-debt-collection-company-pleads-guilty-corruptly-providing-benefits-public>. Jason Meisner, "Ex-CEO: I funded Dorothy Brown event," *Chicago Tribune*, October 13, 2021

October 15, 2021

Violation

An investigation from Chicago’s Office of Inspector General revealed that a lobbyist, formerly registered with the City of Chicago, violated the City’s Governmental Ethics Ordinance. On three occasions, the former lobbyist lobbied on behalf of entities that they did not report on their annual lobbyist registration and on four occasions, the lobbyist conducted lobbying activity that they did not report on their quarterly lobbying activity reports.

Source: City of Chicago Office of Inspector General, “Third Quarter Report, 2021,” Chicago of Chicago, October 15, 2021. <https://igchicago.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/OIG-2021-Third-Quarter-Report.pdf>

October 15, 2021

Employment Termination

An investigation from Chicago’s Office of Inspector General revealed that a City of Chicago contractor employee accepted a \$100 bribe from a private individual in exchange for not towing the individual’s booted vehicle. The employee’s responsibilities for the contractor required the employee to drive through Chicago and locate vehicles that had been booted for failure to pay parking tickets. The investigation revealed that the employee accepted a \$100 bribe from the owner of a vehicle that had been booted.

Source: City of Chicago Office of Inspector General, “Third Quarter Report, 2021,” Chicago of Chicago, October 15, 2021. <https://igchicago.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/OIG-2021-Third-Quarter-Report.pdf>

November 1, 2021

Ordered to prison

Edward Vrdolyak, former 10th Ward Alderman, was ordered to return to prison by Federal Judge Robert Dow as part of 18-month sentence on charges related to tax fraud. Vrdolyak was convicted in March 2019 for failing to adequately report millions of dollars that he and an associate, Daniel Soso, received as part of a settlement between the state of Illinois and tobacco companies. The then 81-year-old was supposed to serve his sentence in a federal prison, but had his sentence partially suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Source: Jason Meisner, “Former Ald. ‘Fast Eddie’ Vrdolyak ordered to report to federal prison by end of the month,” *Chicago Tribune*, November 1, 2021.

November 2, 2021

Employee Terminated

Chief Program Officer Alonzo Williams, Manager of Beaches and Pools Adam Bueling, Assistant Director of Recreation Eric Fischer were fired from their position in the Chicago Parks Departments for failing to respond to allegations of sexual harassment and assault from employees. An inspector general report from the department and breakthrough reporting from WBEZ Chicago revealed that employees for the department, some as young as 16 years old, were regularly assaulted by senior employees. Throughout the department's history, victims of sexual assault were intimidated into silence or had their complaints minimized or ignored.

Source: Fran Spielman and Lauren Fitzpatrick, "3 Fired Amid Lifeguard Scandal Fallout," *Chicago Sun-Times*, November 3, 2021.

November 3, 2021

Pleaded Guilty

Former Illinois State Representative Luis Arroyo pleaded guilty to federal bribery charges. Arroyo admitted to offering to pay \$2,500 per month to a fellow state senator in return for the senator's support of gambling legislation. The legislation would have expanded the use of sweepstakes gaming machines in the state, and would have benefited a client of Arroyo's.

Source: Jason Meisner and Ray Long, "Ex-state representative Arroyo pleads guilty in bribery case," *Chicago Tribune*, November 4, 2021.

November 9, 2021

Resigned

Park District President Avis LaVelle was forced to resign from her position as board president under pressure from allies of Mayor Lori Lightfoot. An inspector general report from the department and breakthrough reporting from WBEZ Chicago revealed that employees for the department, some as young as 16 years old, were regularly assaulted by senior employees. Throughout the department's history, victims of sexual assault were intimidated into silence or had their complaints minimized or ignored. Despite agreeing to resign, LaVelle defended her handling of the scandal and made a public statement that she was not being forced out.

Source: Fran Spielman, "Avis LaVelle resigns as park board president under fire for handling of lifeguard scandal," *Chicago Sun-Times*, November 10, 2021.

November 17, 2021

Indictment

Andrew Lee and Kimberly Dyson, two former employees who worked as prosthetic clerks in the Veterans Health Administration Prosthetics Service were charged with participating in a kickback scheme with vendors. As part of their duties, Lee and Dyson selected vendors from which to order medical equipment for Veteran Affairs patients. In exchange for steering orders to certain vendors, Lee and Dyson received cash payments from those companies. In Lee's case, Veteran Affairs fraudulently overpaid a company more than \$1.38 million from 2016 to 2020. In

exchange, Lee pocketed at least \$220,000. For Dyson, kickbacks total a minimum of \$39,850, and the scheme ran from 2018 to 2020.

Source: U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of Illinois, "Press Release: Federal Indictments Charge Department of Veterans Affairs Employees With Pocketing Cash From Vendors," *Department of Justice*, November 17, 2021. <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndil/pr/federal-indictments-charge-department-veterans-affairs-employees-pocketing-cash-vendo-0>

November 17, 2021

Pleaded Guilty

Louis Presta, former mayor of Crestwood, Illinois, pleaded guilty to properly soliciting and receiving benefits from an individual with a financial interest in a red-light camera company that provided services to Crestwood. According to the plea agreement, Presta acknowledged that he agreed to ensure that the percentage of red-light traffic violations that Presta approved would remain high or increase in exchange for a \$5,000 payment from the company.

Sources: U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of Illinois, "Press Release: Former Crestwood Mayor Pleads Guilty to Participating in Bribery Scheme Involving Red-Light Camera Services," *Department of Justice*, November 17, 2021. <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndil/pr/former-crestwood-mayor-pleads-guilty-participating-bribery-scheme-involving-red-light>; Associated Press, "Chicago-area mayor pleads guilty in red-light camera scheme," *KWOC NBC TV 6*, November 17, 2021. Jason Meisner, "Crestwood Mayor Louis Presta resigns," *Chicago Tribune*, November 11, 2021

November 17

Pleaded Guilty

Vahooman "Shadow" Mirkhaef, a businessman in McCook Illinois, pleaded guilty to conspiracy and bribing then State Senator Martin Sandoval, for his help in obtaining land in McCook, Illinois next to his logistic company. Mirkhaef also admitted to giving cash and other benefits to Cook County Commissioner Jeff Tobolski, who also served as mayor of McCook, in return for Tobolski, helping and not interfering with his businesses.

Source: Jon Seidel, "Business admits rewarding Sandoval, with help from Tobolski," *Chicago Sun-Times*, November 18, 2021.

November 19, 2021

Employment Termination

Brent Fischer, executive director of the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board, was fired after the state's Executive Inspector General found that he improperly granted a law enforcement certification to philanthropist Howard Buffett after the philanthropist donated a million dollars to support the training agency's efforts.

Source: Jeremy Gerner, "Head of police training agency fired over improper certification," *Chicago Tribune*, November 19, 2021

November 19, 2021

Employment Termination

Chicago Public Schools terminated the employment of ten employees, a volunteer, and the principal Marine Leadership Academy, Erin Galfer. The individuals were accused of either engaging in inappropriate sexual relations with students, as far back as 2016, or actively covering up the known sexual abuse.

Sources: Diane Pathie, Leah Hope, and ABC7 Chicago Digital Team, ABC TV 7 Chicago, November 19, 2021. See also: Sarah Karp and Nader Issa, "CPS knew about sex misconduct claims at school but promoted principal anyway, records show," *Chicago Sun-Times*, November 23, 2021

December 9, 2021

Indicted

William Mahon, Deputy Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Street's and Sanitation and a director of the failed Washington Federal Bank for Savings, was charged with conspiring to obstruct records, falsifying bank records, and for taking part in a year-long embezzlement scheme. Washington Federal Bank for Savings was shut down in 2017 after regulators determined it was insolvent and had at least \$66 million in bad loans on its books. Several of those bad loans appeared to have been facilitated by Mahon. Three other former directors-- Janice Weston, George Kozdemba and real estate developer, William Kowalski—were charged with their role in embezzling funds and falsifying records for the bank.

Source: Paige Fry, "Top Streets and San official charged in bank fraud scheme," *Chicago Tribune*, December 9, 2021.

December 14, 2021

Pleaded Guilty

Former State Representative Eddie Acevedo pleaded guilty to one count of tax evasion stemming from the federal probe of ComEd's lobbying of House Speaker Michael Madigan. According to the plea, Acevedo admitted to not keeping sufficient records for his work as a consultant and not paying the federal government \$37,000 in back income taxes.

Source: Jason Meisner, "Acevedo pleads guilty to tax charge from ComEd probe," *Chicago Tribune*, December 15, 2021.

**Appendix 2**  
**Aldermanic Corruption in the Chicago City Council**

<b>Corruption Related to Aldermanic Duties</b>				
<b>#</b>	<b>Aldersperson</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Year</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Fred Hubbard</b>	2nd Ward	Pleaded Guilty	1972
	Hubbard pleaded guilty of embezzling nearly \$100,000 from a federally funded jobs program.			
<b>2</b>	<b>Joseph Jambrone</b>	28th Ward	Convicted	1973
	Jambrone accepting bribes of \$4,000 and \$1,000 to support zoning changes in his ward.			
<b>3</b>	<b>Casimir Staszuk</b>	13th Ward	Convicted	1973
	Staszuk was convicted of accepting three bribes totaling \$9,000 to back zoning changes.			
<b>4</b>	<b>Joseph Potempa</b>	23rd Ward	Pleaded Guilty	1974
	Potempa pleaded guilty of accepting \$3,000 for zoning changes and failing to report \$9,000 on income tax returns.			
<b>5</b>	<b>Frank Kuta</b>	23rd Ward	Convicted	1974
	Kuta was convicted of accepting a \$1,500 bribe on a zoning case.			
<b>6</b>	<b>Thomas Keane</b>	31st Ward	Convicted	1974
	Keane was convicted of fraud and conspiracy for aiding a scheme to buy and sell tax-delinquent property at inflated prices.			
<b>7</b>	<b>Donald Swinarski</b>	12th Ward	Pleaded Guilty	1975
	Swinarski pleaded guilty of accepting \$7,800 in three bribes to approve zoning changes in his ward.			
<b>8</b>	<b>Edward Scholl</b>	41st Ward	Pleaded Guilty	1975
	Scholl pleaded guilty of accepting \$6,850 in bribes from a contractor to permit zoning changes in his ward.			
<b>9</b>	<b>Stanley Zydlo</b>	26th Ward	Pleaded Guilty	1980
	Zydlo paid \$1,000 to alter two relatives' test results for a Fire Department physical entrance exam.			
<b>10</b>	<b>William Carothers</b>	28th Ward	Convicted	1983
	Carothers was convicted of extorting as much as \$32,500 from Bethany Hospital builders to remodel his ward office.			



<b>11</b>	<b>Tyrone Kenner</b>	3rd Ward	Convicted	1983
	Kenner was convicted of accepting \$15,500 in bribes to help more than a dozen people become sheriff's deputies or electricians.			
<b>12</b>	<b>Louis Farina</b>	36th Ward	Convicted	1983
	Farina was convicted of conspiring to extort \$7,000 from contractors to help them obtain city building permits.			
<b>13</b>	<b>Clifford Kelley</b>	20th Ward	Pleaded Guilty	1987
	Kelly pleaded guilty to accepting a \$36,500 bribe in exchange for lucrative city work.			
<b>14</b>	<b>Wallace Davis Jr.</b>	27th Ward	Convicted	1987
	Davis was convicted for accepting a \$5,000 bribe and for forcing his niece to pay \$11,000 in kickbacks, and for extorting \$3,000.			
<b>15</b>	<b>Chester Kuta</b>	31st Ward	Pleaded Guilty	1987
	Kuta pleaded guilty to numerous crimes including, income tax evasion, fraud and civil rights violations.			
<b>16</b>	<b>Perry Hutchinson</b>	9th Ward	Convicted	1988
	Hutchinson was convicted in an insurance-fraud scheme. A year later, he pleaded guilty to accepting a \$42,200 bribe from a government mole.			
<b>17</b>	<b>Marian Humes</b>	8th Ward	Pleaded Guilty	1989
	Humes pleaded guilty to accepting a \$6,000 bribe to help with a contracting deal and for accepting \$5,000 from a government mole.			
<b>18</b>	<b>Fred Roti</b>	1st Ward	Convicted	1993
	Roti was convicted for accepting \$10,000 to influence a court case and \$7,500 to support a zoning change in his ward.			
<b>19</b>	<b>Ambrosio Medrano</b>	25th Ward	Pleaded Guilty	1996
	Medrano pleaded guilty to accepting \$31,000 from an undercover agent and placing two associates in no-work jobs on a city committee. Medrano was found guilty in 2013 in a separate corruption scheme.			
<b>20</b>	<b>Allan Streeter</b>	17th Ward	Pleaded Guilty	1997
	Streeter was convicted for accepting \$37,020 in bribes from a government mole.			
<b>21</b>	<b>Joseph Martinez</b>	31st Ward	Convicted	1997
	Martinez was convicted for accepting pay for three ghost-payroll jobs in City Hall.			

<b>22</b>	<b>Jesse Evans</b>	21st Ward	Convicted	1997
	Evan was convicted of accepting \$7,300 in bribes and extorting an additional \$10,000.			

<b>23</b>	<b>John Madrzyk</b>	13th Ward	Convicted	1998
	Madrzyk was convicted of corruption for paying \$33,764 to his daughter-in-law for working on Madrzyk's committee even though she did not do any work with the organization.			

<b>24</b>	<b>Lawrence Bloom</b>	5th Ward	Pleaded Guilty	1998
	Bloom pleaded guilty for filing a false income tax return and admitted accepting \$14,000 from a government mole.			

<b>25</b>	<b>Virgil Jones</b>	15th Ward	Convicted	1998
	Jones was convicted for accepting two payoffs totaling \$7,000.			

<b>26</b>	<b>Percy Giles</b>	37th Ward	Convicted	1999
	Giles was convicted of accepting \$10,000 in bribes and of extorting another \$81,200.			

<b>27</b>	<b>Arenda Troutman</b>	20th Ward	Pleaded Guilty	2008
	Troutman pleaded guilty to fraud and admitted she solicited donations from developers seeking to do business.			

<b>28</b>	<b>Isaac "Ike" Carothers</b>	29th Ward	Pleaded Guilty	2010
	Carothers pleaded guilty to bribery and tax charges in a zoning case.			

<b>29</b>	<b>Edward Burke</b>	14th Ward	Indicted	2019
	Federal prosecutors charged Burke with attempted extortion after raiding his office in November the year prior. Later, on May 30, 2019, prosecutors expanded the corruption allegations, accusing him of abusing his office to extort legal work from companies and individuals doing business with the city.			

<b>30</b>	<b>Willie Cochran</b>	20th Ward	Pleaded Guilty	2019
	Cochran was sentenced to one year for misusing ward funds. Federal prosecutors dropped 14 of the 15 counts against Cochran in exchange for his cooperation in investigating other corrupt dealings in the 20th Ward.			

<b>31</b>	<b>Patrick Daley Thompson</b>	11th Ward	Convicted	2021
	Thompson was convicted for lying to federal investigators about receiving loans from a bank in his ward, Washington Federal Bank for Savings, without collateral or making payments back to the bank.			

<b>32</b>	<b>Carrie Austin</b>	34th Ward	Indicted	2021
	Austin and her Chief of Staff were indicted for bribery charges for accepting free home improvement services from the contractor in exchange for shepherding a nearly \$50 million new development project in her ward through the city bureaucracy.			

<b>33</b>	<b>Ricardo Muñoz</b>	22nd Ward	Pleaded Guilty	2021
	Munoz pleaded guilty to misusing money from the Chicago City Council's Progressive Reform Caucus's political action committee for pay personal expenses, including funding a relative's college tuition, purchasing jewelry, clothing, cell phones, vacations, sports tickets, and airline tickets.			

### Corruption Not Related to Aldermanic Duties

#	Aldersperson	Ward	Outcome	Year
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<b>1</b>	<b>James Laski</b>	23rd Ward	Pleaded Guilty	2006
	Laski pleaded guilty to accepting nearly \$50,000 in bribes to steer city business to trucking companies run by his friends. Laski, a former City Clerk, also informed federal investigators he was involved in ghost payrolling scheme while an alderman in the 1990s.			

<b>2</b>	<b>Ed Vrdolyak</b>	10th Ward	Pleaded Guilty	2008
	Vrdolyak pleaded guilty to conspiring to commit mail fraud. Later in 2016, Vrdolyak pleaded not guilty to obstructing an IRS investigation into a scheme he participated in the 1990s to pocket millions of dollars from the massive tobacco lawsuit settlement.			

<b>3</b>	<b>William Beavers</b>	7th Ward	Convicted	2013
	Beavers was convicted of failing to pay taxes and using money from his campaign fund for personal expenses.			

<b>4</b>	<b>Sandi Jackson</b>	7th Ward	Pleaded Guilty	2013
	Jackson pleaded guilty to being involved in her husband's, Jesse Jackson Jr.'s, illicit spending and did not declare about \$600,000 in taxable income.			

<b>5</b>	<b>Joe "Proco" Moreno</b>	1st Ward	Pleaded Guilty	2021
	Moreno pleaded guilty to insurance fraud and obstruction of justice and was sentenced to two years of probation. In January 2019, Moreno reported his car was missing, but the vehicle was later found to be in possession of Moreno's former girlfriend, who had Moreno's permission to use it.			

## Endnotes

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- <sup>iii</sup> See Statement of Facts, in the Deferred Prosecution Agreement by the United States of America and Commonwealth Edison Company filed on July 17, 2020, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division.
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- <sup>v</sup> NBC5 Chicago, "Former State Rep. Eddie Acevedo Pleads Guilty to Tax Evasion," *NBC5 Chicago*, December 14, 2021. <https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/former-state-rep-eddie-acevedo-pleads-guilty-to-tax-evasion/2707778/>
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- <sup>xviii</sup> Jon Seidel, "Ex-Ald. Ricardo Muñoz pleads guilty in fraud case, admits he used caucus money for personal expenses," *Chicago Sun Times*, September 27, 2021.
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- <sup>xxxvi</sup> Dan Mihalopoulos, "TIMELINE: The Investigation Into Alleged Abuse Of Chicago Lifeguards," *WBEZ Chicago*, December 7, 2021. <https://www.wbez.org/stories/chicago-parks-lifeguard-abuse-investigation-timeline/86eea501-e154-4926-92c1-5d90a88e4ea8>
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- <sup>xxxix</sup> Andy Grimm and Emmanuel Camarillo, "Former Park District supervisor charged with sexual assault of a second teen lifeguard," *Chicago Sun-Times*, December 2, 2021.