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## **Gambling Alert -February 7, 2023**



### **These are some of the people in line to profit from Lightfoot's Bally's casino deal**

Among them: the family of the woman chairing the mayor's reelection campaign fund, contractors who are Lightfoot financial backers and two clout-heavy real estate investors whose children attended the elementary school where Lightfoot's daughter was a student

Three months after Mayor Lori Lightfoot chose Bally's for a lucrative deal to build and operate Chicago's first casino, the daughter of a contractor expected to help oversee its construction was named to chair Lightfoot's campaign fund.

Lightfoot announced Bally's as her pick last May to develop a casino along the Chicago River on the site of the Chicago Tribune's printing plant, a deal that required Bally's to make an upfront payment of \$40 million to City Hall.

Then, last August, the mayor's "Lightfoot for Chicago" campaign fund told the Illinois State Board of Elections it had a new chairwoman: LaToyia Huggins, daughter of Larry Huggins, founder of Riteway-Huggins Construction, Inc.

The Chicago company is among a group of nine businesses, most of them minority-owned, that Bally's put together to oversee construction of the planned \$1.7 billion casino. Under the Bally's plan — which is **contingent on the Illinois Gaming Board granting it a license** to operate the casino — the contractors also would create a temporary gambling site at Medinah Temple downtown that would operate until the permanent complex is ready, according to records and interviews.

That means the family of the woman chairing Lightfoot's reelection campaign fund stands to profit from the casino deal the mayor approved. [READ](#)

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