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Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

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Gambling Action Alert - November 10, 2021



Chicago city council hearing on gambling at Sports Venues

Neil Bluhm opposes lifting Chicago ban on sports betting

Bluhm's Rush Street Gaming company is part of two separate groups vying to build a Chicago casino — and his Des Plaines-based Rivers Casino has a sports book that could lose business if sports betting is legalized in Chicago. [Read more](#)

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Sports betting at Chicago stadiums?

State legislators approved sportsbooks at big professional stadiums, but Chicago has to lift its ban on sports betting and approve licensing to allow it to move forward and regulate the number of betting kiosks and hours of operation.

. . .The Cubs have already received approval from the Commission on Chicago Landmarks to build a proposed two-story DraftKings sportsbook adjacent to Wrigley Field, but it cannot operate without action by the City Council. [Read more](#)

Related: Even before the back-and-forth between the city's wealthy power players, several alderpeople expressed concern over the limited tax and fee revenue from sports books compared to the heavily taxed casinos.

Under the ordinance, the owners of the five sports facilities could open a sports betting facility at their stadiums and arenas or within a five block radius of the facility. [Read](#)

Mayor sets aggressive timetable for Chicago casino

Police and fire pension funds hovering dangerously close to insolvency and mounting police retirements are putting even more pressure on the police pension fund. **“I would like to get a final list to recommend to the Illinois Gaming Board some time in the first quarter of next year,”** she said. “We’re very, very interested in moving this process along as expeditiously as possible.” [Read](#)

Related: Chicago’s police pension obligations could increase by another \$3 billion total through 2055 if the state of Illinois passes a proposed law designed to force the city to acknowledge its probable liabilities for annual pay increases to retirees. [Read](#)

[**A look at the 5 bids for a Chicago casino**](#)

Man robbed of \$40K after leaving Rivers Casino

The robbery happened **in the parking garage of the casino** around 2:30 a.m. Tuesday. . . . The man who was robbed admitted to WGN News that he should have had the casino cut a check, but took his winnings in cash and walked out the door. [Read](#)

Former Rep. Arroyo pleads guilty - attempting to bribe

Arroyo broke with his previous narrative and pleaded guilty to one count of “defraud[ing] the people of Illinois of the intangible right to the honest services” of Arroyo as a state representative, in addition to the services of former State Sen. Terry Link (D-Vernon Hills), whom Arroyo attempted to bribe while Link was wearing an FBI wire. [Read](#)

For Immediate Action

- [Contact Governor Pritzker](#) and ask him to **Veto HB 3136--** gambling on all Illinois college sports, and expansion of video gambling in municipalities/counties outside of Chicago that Ban the machines.
- **Share this Alert** with your faith community and PRAY.
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