



## Spread Of COVID-19



By Dr. R. Pletsch

The Covid 19 pandemic has changed how we live. But some things that our local governments stress seems a little off the wall. Let me give you some examples. Protests, quarantines, restaurants and church. Many know there is no way to enforce social distancing in a protest and if you cross state borders, the government says you must self-quarantine for 14 days. These have been talked about plenty as mayors and governors keep proclaiming these unenforceable decisions. These change often as this virus spikes up and down. They even act as if restaurants and bars cause the spikes.

I found no stats that indicate places are breeding grounds for the virus. I know several people who have recovered from the virus and they were never asked where they had been, like restaurants, church, protests or other states. They were only told to tell their families and work. I believe the problem is that since

the President gave the governors the responsibilities for the states, they feel they must react when there is a spike, even when there is no clear evidence of what should be done.

Some of the announcements they have made involve schools and churches. But people have become very upset with these controls. The only other thing seems to be to keep bothering businesses that require permits, cooking and liquor, that you really have control over. Does anyone seriously believe that controlling the hours of a bar will help? Has anyone even released statistics that show the virus spreads in bars, but only after 10 p.m.? Or do they spread in church, but only if you sing?

Let's face it, everyone is working in the dark. There are politicians who say we must follow the science because we like to blame someone, like the President or the Governor or whoever. But the scientific community has issued many conflicting theories. Masks work, masks don't work, warm weather will kill the virus, cold weather will kill the virus, and so forth. Even the media's guru, Dr. Fauci, has changed his mind publicly numerous times.

Each family should take care of their own, as best as they can. The thing I do not hear about much anymore is washing your hands. From all the science classes I have had over the years, it appears to be a crucial part of killing all types of germs and viruses, maybe not Covid, but certainly other things especially what children get their hands in. So relax, do your best, and avoid ulcers.

## Order of the Arrow Boy Scouts Service Project



On Oct 24th members of the Ehalluchstt Chapter (Indian translation "Mighty and Powerful One") of the Order of The Arrow of the Takhone Lodge Pathway to Adventure Council B.S.A. (a Honor Society in scouting), held a Service project at Crooked Creek Woods in Palos Hills. Scouts and adult leaders picked up trash at the pavilions, fields and trails resulting in over twenty-five large bags of trash, vehicle tires and other debris. A lunch was held as well as a Chapter meeting and a pumpkin bowling game. Any boys ages 6 to 17 interested in scouting can have a parent contact Ed Melkonian at (312) 316-5825.

## CPS Announces Reopening Goal

Chicago Public Schools announced that all students will begin the second quarter of school remotely, with the goal bringing students back through a phased approach beginning with the thousands of students in pre-k and students enrolled in intensive and moderate cluster classrooms who cannot be served well enough under any form of remote learning. The district, in consultation with the Chicago Department of Public Health will make a decision about in-person learning closer to the start of the second quarter. The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly increased inequities in the district, with data showing that pre-k students, students in cluster programs, and Black and Latinx students are attending school at significantly reduced rates relative to prior years and other students this school year. CPS also experienced the largest enrollment decline in more than two decades driven by fewer new students enrolling in the earliest grades, including a 44% decline in Black students enrolled in pre-k compared to last school year.

The phased reopening approach, would begin with students in pre-k and intensive and moderate cluster programs who encounter significant challenges participating in remote learning without the support of a guardian. Students enrolled in pre-k are aged three and four and special education students enrolled in intensive and

moderate cluster programs require a modified curriculum with support in a separate classroom from general education peers. The district has spent the last several months ordering supplies, implementing health processes, and preparing schools for potential in-person hybrid learning. During that same time the Chicago Department of Public Health has been monitoring COVID cases among the students attending in-person private and parochial schools, as well as the staff.

## DUI Patrols During Halloween

The Illinois Department of Transportation, the Illinois State Police and local law enforcement agencies today reminded motorists that driving impaired is a scary decision that causes needless fatalities.

The message is simple this Halloween: "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" or "Drive High. Get a DUI." "If you think Halloween is scary, remember: a DUI will haunt you for years," said Cynthia Watters, bureau chief of Safety Programs and Engineering. "If you will be partaking in alcohol or other impairing substances, plan ahead for a sober ride home before the party starts."

Illinois motor vehicle crash fatality rates are higher than they were at this time last year. As of Oct. 23, 864 people lost their lives in vehicle crashes in this year, 48 higher compared to the same timeframe last year. To save lives and keep these numbers in check, law enforcement will be stepping up efforts to get impaired drivers off the road. The enforcement period will extend Halloween weekend through the early-morning hours of Monday, Nov. 2.

## Online Renewal For Motorists

Secretary of State Jesse White is offering a renewal program for drivers online via E-Check.

Go to [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com) for these services: renewing a vehicle registration; obtaining a duplicate driver's license or ID card and renewing a driver's license with the Safe Driver Renewal program.

The processing fee for e-checks will be waived through Dec. 31st, 2020.

## City Reinstates Business Curfew

Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot announced a re tightening of COVID-19 restrictions in response to a rapid rise in cases and hospitalizations. A business curfew will be in effect from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. for all nonessential businesses. Bars without a retail food license will no longer be able to serve customers indoors. Chicagoans are being asked to avoid social gatherings of more than six people and end all social gatherings by 10 p.m. These restrictions and guidelines will be in effect for at least two weeks.

Businesses that were deemed essential during the Stay at Home Order, such as grocery stores, pharmacies and gas stations, may remain open during the business curfew hours. Restaurants

may continue operating for take-out or delivery, but indoor or outdoor consumption of food or alcohol must cease at 10 p.m. Bars, taverns, or breweries that do not have a Retail Food Establishment License will no longer be able to serve customers indoors at any time. Establishments that serve alcohol for on-site consumption must end service at 9 pm before closing at 10 p.m. All other existing restrictions remain in place, including indoor capacity limits of 40% or 50 people within a room or space.

## CPS Updates LSC Elections

Chicago Public Schools announced updates to the 2020 LSC elections, including offering mail-in voting for the first time. Parents, guardians and staff can choose between voting in-person at their respective school, submitting their ballot by mail, or dropping off their mail ballot at their school. Curbside voting for individuals with disabilities will be available.

Community members will be required to vote in person because the district does not have access to information for every prospective community voter living within a school's boundary to provide a mail-in ballot. High schoolers will participate in elections using a digital format.

## Early Voting At Area Schools

Early voting is available at Kelly High School, 4136 S. California and Edwards Elementary, 4816 S. Karlov, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Trujillo Graduates

Linda Trujillo of Chicago, graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice in July from Upper Iowa University.

## BrightonParkLIFE.com

To complement our weekly edition The Brighton Park-McKinley Park Life has launched a website. On it can be found general information about us, recent and past issues, advertising information.

Send neighborhood interest stories, student accomplishments, civic organization events to [brightonparklife@aol.com](mailto:brightonparklife@aol.com).

## Mayor Releases 2021 Budget Proposal

Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot presented the \$12.8 billion budget proposal, which includes closing a \$1.2 billion corporate fund budget deficit in FY2021. This budget identifies savings and efficiencies, new revenues and targeted investments that expand opportunities and support long-term financial goals and policy priorities.

The Office of Budget and Management partnered with City departments to identify more than \$537 million in savings and efficiencies including \$106 million in vacancy eliminations, layoffs and furloughs, nearly \$114 million in non-personnel savings, and \$59 million in savings achieved by sweeping aging revenue accounts. After negotiating better healthcare rates, realizing savings from prior year audits and finding additional savings from union negotiations, the City generated an additional \$54 million in healthcare savings.

To address the portion of the gap caused by revenue loss due to the pandemic, the City anticipates achieving \$501 million from debt refinancing and restructuring by issuing general obligation and sales tax securitization corporation bonds.

This budget includes nearly \$185 million in increased revenues and

reserves that include \$76 million of TIF surplus funding, \$30 million from the Rainy Day Fund and a \$51.4 million property tax adjustment that includes a yearly CPI increase, and the collection of new property not previously included in the property tax base. Together with a loss of collection adjustment on the levy for pensions not previously budgeted, the \$93.9 million proposed tax levy increase represents an estimated impact of approximately \$56 annually on a median home valued at \$250,000.

Additional adjustments to existing revenues are a 1.75 percentage point increase to the Personal Property Lease Tax applied to non-possessory computer leases of cloud software and infrastructure and Vehicle Fuel Tax on non-airline purchases to increase by \$0.03 per gallon.

More than \$18.6 million in new investments include an additional \$5.25 million for community-based violence prevention and reduction efforts.

This budget will provide an additional \$1.7 million for youth programming, \$2 million in new funding for affordable housing and \$7 million for economic recovery efforts to support workforce training and small businesses.

## Mah to Oppose Hospital Closing

This week public hearings are being held on the proposal to close Mercy Hospital. "Since Mercy Hospital is an essential health care access point for our district, I have been strongly opposed to the proposed closure," stated State Rep. Mah.

"I plan to present testimony at the hearing on Wednesday and encourage everyone who cares about this issue to please sign up and get your choice heard."

The hearing is available online via WebEX Thursday, Oct. 29th, 1 to 4 p.m. and Friday, Oct. 30th, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Instructions for participating, viewing, and/or submitting testimony can be found at [www2.illinois.gov/sites/hfsr/Announcements/Pages/Mercy-Hospital-Public-Hearing-20-039.aspx](https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/hfsr/Announcements/Pages/Mercy-Hospital-Public-Hearing-20-039.aspx)



STATE REP. MAH

## Free Assistance For College

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission offers free help for any student or family with questions about completing the FAFSA or Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid. They can help with applications for college admission, as well.

Online events are available at [studentportal.isac.org/events](http://studentportal.isac.org/events) or [Facebook.com/ILStudentAssistance](https://www.facebook.com/ILStudentAssistance).

Assistance via phone, email, text, or videoconference with a local member of the ISACorps can be searched by zip code at [studentportal.isac.org/isa\\_corps](http://studentportal.isac.org/isa_corps). Two-way text mes-

saging assistance through a local number is available at [isac.org/colleaga](http://isac.org/colleaga).

For online chat assistance, visit [studentportal.isac.org](http://studentportal.isac.org).

## Turkey Raffle For 12th Ward

12th Ward Alderman George Cardenas will sponsor his Annual Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway. Ward residents should enter the raffle at <https://forms.gle/qNqZHEyYg3stRvC8> by Nov. 20th.

## Zoom Events At Archer Heights Library

The Archer Heights Branch Library, 5055 S. Archer has scheduled book clubs, a Graphic Novel monthly discussion and other events via Zoom.

Beginning To Read On Your Own will be offered on Tuesdays, until Nov. 17th from 4 to 4:30 p.m.

These books have: smaller print with less white space, several lines of text per page, less repetition and rhyming, varied sentence structure, punctuation and verb tense, more complex stories, and less picture support.

Some examples are: *King & Kyla* by Dori Hillestad Butler, *Ling & Ting* by Grace Lin, and *Penny and Her Marble* by Kevin Henkes

## IDPH Urges Flu Shots

The Illinois Department of Public Health emphasizes the importance of getting a flu shot during the ongoing pandemic.

"This season more than ever, it is critical that Illinoisans get our flu shots," said Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike. "Flu and COVID-19 each can cause serious respiratory illness and co-infection could possibly lead to more severe illnesses, hospitalization, and even death. While a vaccine is still in development, a vaccine for flu already exists. Protect yourself and the people around you by getting the flu vaccine, which has been proven over the years to be safe and effective."

More information about influenza can be found at [www.dph.illinois.gov](http://www.dph.illinois.gov). More information about COVID-19 can be found at [www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19](http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19).

Reading On Your Own will be offered on Thursdays, until Nov. 29th from 4 to 4:30 p.m.

These books have: chapters, less pictures, rich vocabulary, detailed phrases and sentences, and more complex plots and themes.

Some examples are: *Barkus* by Patricia MacLachlan, *Frog and Toad* by Arnold Lobel, and *Meet Yasmin* by Saadia Faruqi.

A new Virtual Adult Graphic Novel Book Club will meet on the 2nd Monday of each month from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The topics are: Nov. 9th, *Batman: The Dark Knight Returns* by Frank Miller and Dec. 14th and *Saga* by Brian K. Vaughn & Fiona Staples. Register by 6 p.m. on the day before the discussion.

The Virtual Book Club meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Topics are: Nov. 25th, *Immortalists* by Benjamin Chloé and Dec. 23rd, *Strange Case of the Alchemist's Daughter* by Theodora Goss.

Library hours are Monday and Wednesday, 12 to 7 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call (312) 747-9241.

## Caregivers Month For Alzheimer's

November is National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month and National Family Caregivers Month. To mark these events, the Alzheimer's Association Illinois Chapter is encouraging people to lend a helping hand to Illinois family members and friends serving as caregivers.

The suggestions include educate yourself about the disease, give caregivers a break and join the fight.

To learn more visit [alz.org](http://alz.org).

## CPS Schedules Testing Dates

Last school year, current Chicago Public School 12th-grade students were unable to take the PSAT/NMSQT in the fall due to the work stoppage and the SAT in the spring due to COVID-19. As a result, these students do not have a college-reportable SAT score, have yet to meet the state testing requirement for graduation, and were unable to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship. To support these students, the Illinois State Board of Education is funding optional SAT administrations with essay on Oct. 27th.

Eligible grade 12 students may participate in one of the dates this fall or the regularly scheduled SAT day on April 13th, 2021. The current test dates for 11th-grade students to take the PSAT/NMSQT test is Jan. 26th.

Visit [cps.edu/reopening2020](http://cps.edu/reopening2020) for the latest updates and additional resources.





## Seeks Retention

Judge John Michael Allegretti is seeking retention in this November's election. He currently serves as a Cook County Circuit Court Judge assigned to the Municipal Division where he hears civil disputes.

There he presides over non-jury civil trials, hears and decides motions, and conducts settlement conferences.

John was one of nine children, grew up in Cicero, and attended Fenwick H.S.

He worked and paid his way through college, University of Illinois - Chicago, and law school, St. Thomas University - Miami, performing construction and manual labor.

His past public and private legal experience as an advocate, administrative law judge, in-house counsel, and college professor has provided him a solid foundation he continues to build upon as a judge.

The major attorney associations have repeatedly found him highly recommended, recommended and/or qualified for qualified for retention. These include the Chicago



**J. ALLEGRETTI**

Bar Assn., Hispanic Lawyers Assn. of IL, Women's Bar Assn. of IL, plus notable others.

Judge Allegretti has received the endorsement of the Chicago Tribune, Chicago Federation of Labor, Cook County Democratic Party and numerous other organizations and groups.

He has been married for over 25 years and has 2 children. For more information visit [cookcountyjudges.org/john-allegretti](http://cookcountyjudges.org/john-allegretti).

## Online Reporting For Child Abuse

The Department of Children and Family Services enhanced and streamlined its online reporting system and optimized its website for easier submissions through mobile phones to make reporting allegations of neglect and abuse easier for the public and mandated reporters.

The site has improved entry fields, clearer instructions and fewer necessary clicks, reducing the time required to make reports and providing a convenient alternative to calling the 24-hour hotline.

During the early months of the coronavirus pandemic while families were secluded at home, children were less likely to be seen by other adults, including mandated reporters such as teachers. Less than 50% of reports of suspected child abuse and neglect were reported in April 2020 compared to April 2019.

Now that schools welcomed students back either in person or virtually, that trend is reversing. Reports to DCFCS have increased, with September 2020 remaining about 18% below 2019.

Online reports through the enhanced site have quickly increased since its launch, with 434 online reports in the last full week of September compared to 173 filed during the same time in 2019.

The new online reporting system also places reports directly into DCFCS's case management system, which increases internal efficiency.

The decrease in reports did not result in a decrease in investigations, as the number of investigations actually increased compared to the prior year.

To make a report of suspected child abuse or neglect online in a non-emergency situation, visit <https://dcfsonlinereporting.dcfcs.illinois.gov/>. To make a report by phone, call 1-800-25-ABUSE (800-252-2873). Calls and online reports may be made 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For all emergency situations, calls should be made to 911.

## Lawyers Offer Phone Advice

Attorneys with the Chicago Bar Association's Call-A-Lawyer Program will be available to take calls at (312) 554-2001 from the public and offer legal advice on Saturday, Nov. 21st from 9 a.m. to noon.

Citizens may explain their situation to an attorney who will then suggest self-help strategies or provide advice to help resolve their issues.

If callers need further legal services or have questions beyond the scope of the attorney's practice area, they will be advised to contact the CBA Lawyer Referral Service. For more information visit [www.chicagobar.org](http://www.chicagobar.org).

## Halloween Treats For Zoo Animals



Brookfield Zoo sloth bears, Hani and Kartik, 4-year-old African lions Brutus and Titus; Ahava, a 5-month-old snow leopard cub; as well as a binturong, tamandua, and tortoises received a treat of Halloween gourds which were carved and filled with other food items such as fruit, bones, bugs, spices, or meat depending on the species.

As part of the Chicago Zoological Society's Center for the Science of Animal Care and Welfare, staff are always thinking of ways to physically and mentally stimulate the animals at Brookfield Zoo. One way is by providing them with enrichment items they normally do not receive on a regular basis, including pumpkins.

## Voter Guidance For 2020 Election

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way many individuals will exercise their right to vote, and Attorney General Kwame Raoul released new online guidance to help people understand their rights during the 2020 general election.

The Attorney General's "Guidance for Illinois Voters: 2020 Election" is available online as a resource for Illinois voters on election laws and their voting rights. This year, the Illinois General Assembly amended some election statutes in order to protect voters during the COVID-19 pandemic. Raoul's online guidance provides access to accurate, reliable election information to answer questions regardless of whether people vote by mail or in person.

"The right to participate in our nation's democracy is one of the most fundamental rights we have as Americans, and with the General Election already underway in the midst of an unprecedented public health pandemic, it is more important than ever that Illinois residents have a clear understanding of their rights as voters," Raoul said. "My office is issuing 'Guidance for Illinois Voters: 2020 Election' so that voters can access comprehensive election information to help them select the voting method that best meets their needs."

"Guidance for Illinois Voters: 2020 Election" is designed to walk voters

through various steps in the process and answer potential questions. People can access basic information to identify and contact local election authorities and the Illinois State Board of Elections, and determine whether they are registered to vote. Additionally, the guidance details important remaining deadlines and procedures for those who have not yet registered to vote or applied to vote by mail.

It also answers questions people may have about voting by mail, voting early, or public safety measures they will encounter at polling places.

The Legislature expanded voting by mail due to the pandemic, and the guidance describes the ways in which a mail-in ballot can be submitted, whether by the U.S. Postal Service, using a designated drop-box, or in person.

The guidance also informs voters that the Illinois Department of Public Health has implemented health practices to keep polling places safe during early voting and on Election Day.

Voters should be prepared for new protocols established by local election authorities, such as physical distancing at polling places.

People who vote in person should be aware that only authorized individuals are allowed inside polling places.

Individuals who believe they are the victim of fraud related to voting should call the hotline at 1-800-386-5438.

## Recycling At City Facility

Dispose of your household chemicals responsibly and recycle your old computers by dropping them off at the City's permanent Household Chemicals & Computer Recycling Facility at 1150 N. Branch st. until Dec. 31st.

Household chemicals and computers often contain hazardous substances, such as lead, mercury, and PCBs can contaminate air, soil, and water. Through proper disposal methods or recycling, these hazardous substances are reprocessed and reused in an environmentally-responsible manner.

The facility accepts a range of items, including household cleaners, oil-based paints, solvents, cell phones, compact fluorescent light bulbs, computers and related equipment. It does not accept business/commercial sector wastes, explosives, fireworks, or latex paint. Review the full list of items in both categories before you visit.

During business hours, an attendant is outside, ready to help unload your vehicle and accept your materials. Materials should not be left outside the facility unattended. Do not drop off any items outside of scheduled business hours: Tuesdays, 7 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Thursdays, 2 to 7 p.m.; the first Saturday of every month 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

View a complete list of accepted/not accepted materials at [chicago.gov](http://chicago.gov).

## Initiative For Early Childhood

Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot announced the launch of Every Child Ready Chicago, a public-private partnership led by the City of Chicago in partnership with Start Early (formerly the Ounce of Prevention Fund). The multi-year effort seeks to align the prenatal-to-five systems and supports serving children and families, creating a coordinated early childhood ecosystem that prepares every child in the city to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

One in three Black children (30 percent) and one in five Latinx children (20 percent) in the city are considered "ready" for kindergarten based on the most recent state Kindergarten Individual Development Survey.

This Early Childhood Working Group will help lay the groundwork for a multi-year strategic plan to create an equitable system where all children, particularly those in under-resourced communities, have access to quality services.

For more information, visit [chicagoearlylearning.org](http://chicagoearlylearning.org).

## Fall Events At Nature Center



The Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, 9800 S. Willow Springs road has scheduled interesting and informative events for fall enjoyment.

On Friday, Oct. 30th participants will observe resident animals at 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

On Saturday, Oct. 31st

at 11 a.m., spooky, slithery and slimy creatures will be observed via Facebook Live.

At 6:30 p.m., a one mile Full Moon Night Hike will search for nocturnal creatures.

Registration is required at (708) 839-6897.

## Morado Appointed To MPEA Board

Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot announced the appointment of Juan Morado Jr. to the Board of the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority.

"Juan Morado Jr. has dedicated much of his professional life to creating, advocating for and advancing socioeconomic opportunities for Latinx and Hispanic communities both in our City and across our entire state," said Mayor Lightfoot. "This expertise and experience, rooted in the values of equity and inclusion, make him an invaluable add to the MPEA team. I want to extend my congratulations to Juan for his exciting new role and look forward to working closely with him in the future."

He joined Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff, LLP in 2017 as a Partner in the health care practice group and recently served as the 23rd President of the Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois.

Morado served as General Counsel and Ethics Officer to the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board. From 2013 to 2015, he worked in Governor Pat Quinn's administration, as Deputy Chief of Staff. Quinn appointed him to the Board of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning and as Representative to the National Governor's Association policy academy on public-private partnerships.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel appointed Morado as Commissioner to the Illinois Medical District Commission, and elected to serve as vice president.



**J. MORADO JR.**

He is also on the Board of Managers for the Chicago Bar Association.

Other civic engagements include serving as a Board Director for La Casa Norte, the Medical Organization of Latino Advancement, Public Interest Law Initiative, We CAN Achieve Foundation, Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois Charities, Teatro Vista Advisory Board, American Health Law Association, Illinois Association of Health Law Attorneys and Hispanic National Bar Association.

## Virtual Class For Citizenship

Brighton Park Neighborhood Council is offering free citizenship classes via WhatsApp. To register, call Adrianna Morales at (773) 540-4033.

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Judge

# John Michael Allegretti

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More info: [cookcountyjudges.org/john-allegretti](http://cookcountyjudges.org/john-allegretti)

**Happy Halloween!**  
Stay Safe!

**56th & Nottingham Ave.** Archer & Nottingham - Quad Level 7 rooms, 3 bedrooms brick with 3 baths. New roof on home & garage, all windows upgraded with shades or blinds. Built in sprinkler system; A/C in 2009, hardwood floors in 2017, 2.5 car garage, side drive. Semi finished sub basement, fireplace, laundry room and more. Call for more details at (773) 582-9300.

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