Southwest Chicago Post

An independent news service for the people of Chicago's Southwest Side.

No bells or whistles. No gossip or political glad-handing. Just neighborhood news, reported plainly and honestly by people who live here.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2018

See You in Court, Rainbow Motel Says

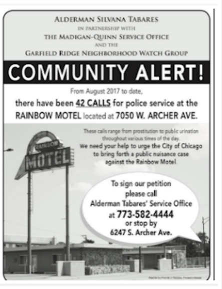
Meeting Ends With Threat to Sue City Hall

By Tim Hadac
Managing Editor
Southwest Chicago Post

A month and a day after the Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection declared the Rainbow Motel to be a "public nuisance," the motel's attorney announced that the Rainbow plans to fight City Hall with a lawsuit.

The revelation came in a Tuesday afternoon meeting at City Hall, the third in three months between city government, Rainbow owners and managers, two Southwest Side aldermen, Chicago Lawn (8th) District police and a handful of Garfield Ridge Neighborhood Watch members.

In a move that began last summer, several hundred Southwest Side residents have signed a petition urging City Hall to bring a "nuisance case" against the Rainbow Motel, 7050 W. Archer.



ALDERMAN SILVANA TABARES
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
THE MADIGAN-QUINN SERVICE OFFICE
AND THE
GARFIELD RIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUP

COMMUNITY ALERT!

From August 2017 to date,
there have been 42 CALLS for police service at the RAINBOW MOTEL located at 7050 W. ARCHER AVE.

These calls range from prostitution to public urination throughout various times of the day.
We need your help to urge the City of Chicago to bring forth a public nuisance case against the Rainbow Motel.

To sign our petition
please call
Alderman Tabares' Service Office
at 773-582-4444
or stop by
6247 S. Archer Ave.

The petition drive was organized initially by 13th Ward Ald. Marty Quinn, but was quickly handed off to new 23rd Ward Ald. Silvana Tabares. The motel is in the 23rd Ward.

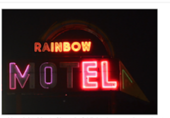
Some Garfield Ridge residents—many with the Garfield Ridge Neighborhood Watch crime fighting group—have claimed that the motel is a haven for misdemeanor crimes like prostitution, drug abuse, public urination and defecation, harassment of local school children and more.

As further evidence illustrating their concerns, GRNW members mentioned an October 26 incident at the motel, in which a woman claimed she was robbed and sexually assaulted in one of the rooms--which GRNW members and police said appeared to have been used as an overnight party room by a handful of West Side residents.

Police said there were no arrests made during the incident, but noted that several windows had been smashed--apparently by the victim's friends and relatives, who came to the motel after they heard her claims.

A nuisance case can be a first step towards revocation of a business license.

The colorful, kitschy Rainbow sign by day.



...and by night. Most of its colorful lights long ago burned out.

The three meetings, according to BACP attorney Marianne Rieger, are part of a process designed to bring together businesses and neighbors with concerns. She has said that the tactic is successful a majority of the time.

The process failed Tuesday.

The meeting, scheduled to last an hour, was stopped 32 minutes after it started when Rieger declared the meeting to be unsuccessful and adjourned it—moments after Rainbow's attorney, Adeena J. Weiss-Ortiz announced the planned lawsuit.

Most in the room appeared to agree that Rainbow management has made significant progress on a list of suggested improvements handed to them by BACP in September: upgraded security and maintenance measures, as well as improved outreach to the community.

But the sticking point between BACP and the Rainbow is short-term stays. The Rainbow rents its rooms for as little as four hours, and Weiss-Ortiz pointed out that the law allows them to do that.

Rieger countered that BACP has the administrative authority to request that the Rainbow not offer short stays—if doing so causes problems or concerns among nearby residents.

Some neighbors have said that short stays are an invitation for the Rainbow to be used by prostitutes and johns, as well as people buying and selling drugs.

Weiss-Ortiz disputed the aldermen's contention that activity at and around the Rainbow has resulted in 44 calls for police service to date this year. In response, new Eighth District Commander Brian McDermott checked statistics he brought with him and confirmed the number.

Weiss-Ortiz claimed that BACP and the aldermen are unfairly targeting the Rainbow, and she claimed that the nearby Walgreens at Archer and Harlem generates more 911 calls, as does a comparable motel—the Skylark, near Archer and Cicero.

Nonetheless, Rainbow officials proposed a compromise: that they would only offer short stays on Fridays, Saturday and Sundays—rather than seven days a week.

The idea was rejected by Rieger, which prompted Weiss-Ortiz to announce the lawsuit.

It remains to be seen if BACP will now move to revoke the Rainbow's business license.

Background

The Rainbow Motel has been around since 1954. Its tall sign was reportedly erected in the early 1960s so that motorists on the new Southwest Expressway (which opened in in 1964 and was later renamed the Stevenson) could see it easily.

The Rainbow expanded in the 1970s when it absorbed what had been a fast-food restaurant, according to a WBEZ-FM report last year that quoted manager Sagar Patel.

Over the years, its imaginative and occasionally outlandish "theme rooms" have included a pink palace, a space-walk room, Valentine's suite, a Las Vegas room, a "night in Paris" room and more.

###

advertisement

STORM DAMAGE?
FREE
ROOF INSPECTIONS
HAIL & WIND CLAIMS APPROVED
INSURANCE APPROVED
ALL EXTERIOR CONTRACTORS
ROOFING • SIDING • GUTTERS
708.705.7900
ILLINOIS LICENSE # 104.016961
LICENSED, BONDED & INSURED
LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

advertisement

advertisement

Red Barrel RESTAURANT

advertisement

advertisement

CHICAGO GLASS BLOCKS
PHONE: 773.581.5081
6036 South Central Avenue Chicago, IL 60638

advertisement

Posted by Southwest Chicago Post at 1:29 PM

Labels: Front Page News, Southwest Chicago Post

No comments:

Post a Comment

Enter Comment

Newer Post Home Older Post

Subscribe to: Post Comments (Atom)

GROWING EVERY DAY!

4,981,456

"LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK!

SWC Post

SWCP NEWS ARCHIVE

- 2026 (29)
- 2025 (49)
- 2024 (43)
- 2023 (29)
- 2022 (78)
- 2021 (96)
- 2020 (85)
- 2019 (86)
- 2018 (133)
  - December (3)
  - November (14)
    - CPD Alert: Attempted Child Abduction
    - Crime News Update
    - Crime News Update
    - A Fitting Tribute to a Fallen Hero
    - 2 Charged after Archer Heights Shooting
    - Crime News Update
    - For the Love of Lauren
    - See You in Court, Rainbow Motel Says
    - Crime News Update
    - Taking a Breather from Political Ads
    - Crime News Update
    - Girl Scouts Trim Tree at Valley Forge
    - Cops Warn of Home Burglaries
    - The Face of a World-Class City?
  - October (8)
  - September (12)
  - August (11)
  - July (15)
  - June (8)
  - May (10)
  - April (14)
  - March (12)
  - February (13)
  - January (13)
- 2017 (73)
- 2016 (116)
- 2015 (107)
- 2014 (179)
- 2013 (228)
- 2012 (199)

CWB CHICAGO

CWBChicago

CHICAGO CONTRARIAN

CC CHICAGO CONTRARIAN

SUPPORT THE CRHS!

Clear-Ridge Historical Society

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

White Fence Farm

Galloping Ghost ARCADE

ABOUT US

The Southwest Chicago Post is an independent news service delivering news and opinion to the people of Chicago's Southwest Side.

We promote prosperity, progress and peace in the neighborhoods we serve.

We intend to champion homeowners, locally owned and operated small businesses and professional practices, schools, libraries, parks, houses of worship and more.

We also strongly support efforts to prevent crime and make our neighborhoods safer.

We cheerfully assist and promote members of our business and professional community, particularly those that are independent, locally owned and which hire local residents.

This online news service is owned and operated by lifelong Southwest Siders Joan Hadac (Editor and Publisher) and Tim Hadac (Managing Editor), both of whom have worked as local newspaper reporters and editors for over 25 years each.

Do you have a news tip, big or small? A letter to the editor? Want us to come out and cover your event? Let us know: editor@swchicagopost.com.

ALL EXTERIOR CONTRACTORS

ALL EXTERIOR & INTERIOR CONTRACTORS
Call Geno
(708) 705-7900
"CONSIDER IT DONE"

ZOOMIN GROOMIN

TWISTED SHAMROCK PUB

Twisted SHAMROCK PUB

WINTRUST SPORTS COMPLEX

WINTRUST SPORTS COMPLEX AT BEDFORD PARK

COLER CHIROPRACTIC

COLER CHIROPRACTIC
229-8888
BACK AND NECK PAIN
SPORTS INJURIES

A GREAT CATHOLIC SCHOOL!

St. Bede SCHOOL

CHICAGO'S MOST EFFECTIVE CIVIC GROUP!

ARCHER HEIGHTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

YOUTH BASEBALL & SOFTBALL!

Clear Ridge CHICAGO

AN ARCHER AVENUE FAVORITE FOR DECADES!

Adam Furniture

MUTTS OF THE MIDWAY

MUTTS of THE MIDWAY

RAZPACHOS

Razpachos Paleteria MICHOACANA
www.Razpachos.com

WEBER'S BAKERY

Weber's Bakery Inc.

WINSTON'S!

Winston's Sausage

A ROLLING TRIP THROUGH YESTERYEAR!

Berwyn's TOYS & TRAINS

RAINBOW CONE

THE ORIGINAL RAINBOW CONE EST. 1926

SW SIDE PIZZA LEGEND

VITO & NICK PIZZA RESTAURANT ON DRAFT

FAT JOHNNIE'S

FAT Johnnies

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Kodak MARQUETTE PHOTO SUPPLY CAMERAS

CHICAGO GLASS BLOCKS

Chicago Glass Blocks

ARCHER MANOR LITTLE LEAGUE

ARCHER MANOR AM 19 52 LITTLE LEAGUE

MIDWAY BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

MBA

CLASSIC CINEMAS

CLASSIC CINEMAS

GARFIELD RIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

GARFIELDRIDGENW.COM

COOK COUNTY CRIME STOPPERS

COOK COUNTY CRIME STOPPERS

CLEARING NIGHT FORCE

We support the Clearing Night Force NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUP

BEVERLY RECORDS

BEVERLY RECORDS

CITIZENS UTILITY BOARD

Citizens Utility Board
Fighting For Illinois Consumers Since 1984

LABELS

- About Us (2)
- Advertisements (4)
- Business (78)
- Crime (502)
- Front Page News (133)
- Opinion (81)
- Schools/Youth News (167)
- Southwest Chicago Post (1109)

FOLLOWERS

Followers (84) Next

Follow

© Copyright 2014 Southwest Chicago Post. All rights reserved.. Powered by Blogger.