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

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- 2026 (29)
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- 2020 (85)
- 2019 (86)
- 2018 (133)
  - December (3)
  - November (14)
  - October (8)
  - September (12)
    - Crime News Update
    - Rats Are Big Topic at Crime Meeting
    - Alert Man Helps Nab Accused Thief
    - Crime News Update
    - CPD Warning: Man Tries to Lure Girl
    - Rainbow Motel gets honey-do list
    - Crime News Update
    - Al's Army mobilizes to salute Cacciottolo
    - Crime News Update
    - Aldermen to quiz Aviation Dept. officials
    - Stempien VFW Auxiliary planning big Family Freedom...
    - Always remember the sacrifices of working men and ...
  - 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)

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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.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2018

Rainbow Motel gets honey-do list

Aldermen, Garfield Ridge Neighborhood Watch demand improvements

By Tim Hadac
Managing Editor
Southwest Chicago Post

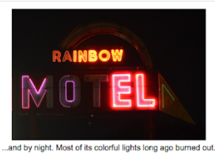
BACP
BUSINESS AFFAIRS
CONSUMER PROTECTION

With more than 200 Garfield Ridge residents signing a petition urging City Hall to bring a "nuisance case" against the Rainbow Motel, 7050 W. Archer, the Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection has handed motel owners a suggested plan of improvement.

The colorful, kitschy Rainbow sign by day.

In recent weeks, a number of Garfield Ridge residents—many with the Garfield Ridge Neighborhood Watch crime fighting group—have complained to 23rd Ward Ald. Silvana Tabares and 13th Ward Ald. Marty Quinn that the motel is a haven for misdemeanor crimes like prostitution, drug abuse, public urination and defecation, harassment of local school children and more.

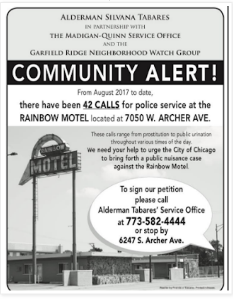
A nuisance case can be a first step towards revocation of a business license.


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

While compliance with the BACP points is voluntary, attorney Marianne Rieger said the process—in which BACP brings together businesses and neighbors with concerns—is successful a majority of the time.

In the conference room on the eighth floor of City Hall on September 11 were Rieger and another BACP employee, Tabares, Quinn, five GRNW members, Chicago Lawn (8th) District Commander Ronald Pontecore and two members of his leadership team, and five men who said they were either owners or employees of the Rainbow—as well as Rainbow's attorney, Adeena J. Weiss-Ortiz.

After hearing the views of Tabares and Quinn, as well as various complaints from each GRNW member and Pontecore's assertion that CPD has received 46 calls for police service at the site since January, the Rainbow's owners and employees—who signed in but did not identify themselves verbally—answered several basic questions from Rieger about the motel's operation.



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.

Rainbow representatives appeared to disagree among themselves somewhat on exactly how many people they employ, how many rooms they have for those seeking lodging and how many security cameras they have installed.

When asked if their security cameras are linked to OEMC (the Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications), one Rainbow representative asked what OEMC is.

An increasing number of businesses and even homes across the city have voluntarily linked their cameras with OEMC, to provide extra sets of eyes for police.

The steps offered by Rieger recommend that Rainbow officials:

• Keep a log of registered guests and visitors, and make that available to BACP, to ensure that no more than two people are in any room at any given time.

• Maintain a cleaning log showing that both the inside and outside of the premises are cleaned twice daily.

• Keep a log of calls made by motel employees to 911, reporting suspected criminal activity.

• Link their security cameras to OEMC.

• Increase the hours of their security staff from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Friday and Saturdays to 3 p.m. to 6 a.m.

• Reach out to the community to address concerns, by attending CAPS Beat 811 meetings, as well as GRNW gatherings.

At several points in the meeting, Weiss-Ortiz pushed back against the list, questioning whether BACP has the legal authority to make some of the recommendations.

Rieger herself pushed back by saying if the Rainbow Motel chooses to contest the voluntary suggestions, BACP would be willing to make the next meeting a disciplinary one.

Later in the day, Weiss-Ortiz said the motel "will be undertaking all necessary steps to promote the safety and welfare of the Garfield Ridge citizens and residents. Rainbow Motel remains steadfast in their desire to contribute and foster the safety of the neighborhood, both in the past and the future. Rainbow Motel has promoted both the safety and aesthetics of the community at all times relevant by having their property properly maintained and groomed, coupled with a security staff, prior to any intervention by the City. Rainbow Motel looks forward to a long standing, amicable relationship with the City and the community."

Rieger said BACP will meet again with Rainbow representatives to check on compliance at 11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 12 in Room 805 of City Hall. Presumably, Tabares and Quinn will attend again and invite those who have signed the petitions to join them.

Those with questions about the petition are invited to call Tabares' office at (773) 582-4444.

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) would see it clearly and 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, a Valentine's suite, a Las Vegas room, a "night in Paris" room and more.

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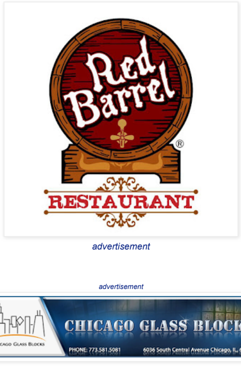

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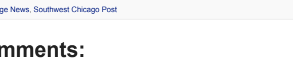

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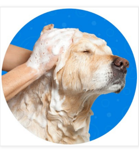

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