

PROTECT OUR PARKS, INC.

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NEW LAWSUIT CHALLENGES PARK PAYMENT TO LATIN SCHOOL

The Chicago Park District and the Latin School were sued again today in the Circuit Court of Cook County in another round of litigation arising as a consequence of the secretly negotiated deal to build a reserved use Latin School soccer field in Lincoln Park.

Today's lawsuit is a Taxpayer's Derivative action challenging any attempt of the Park District to pay public funds to the Latin School or its contractors for the illegal soccer field construction which was stopped in a previous court action filed by Protect Our Parks, the volunteer community watchdog organization.

The new lawsuit alleges that an Agreement of the Park District to pay Latin School over \$ 1.35 million of public tax money as reimbursement for the Court voided original Latin Agreement is a violation of taxpayer's constitutional rights and the Park District's own rules with respect to public contracts.

The exclusive, private Latin School itself does not pay the real estate taxes which support maintenance and improvements in the park, which Latin School monopolizes as its private playground.

Protect Our Parks hailed the taxpayer action and repeated its contention that the Park District is trying to complete its private deal with Latin School, now with public money, and that three or four soccer fields could be build in needy underserved neighborhoods with the money that the Park District wants to give to Latin. If built, the Gold Coast Latin soccer field would become the most expensive soccer field in Chicago and crowd out all the open, clear and free public uses previously enjoyed in this park meadow.

The motion for a TRO (Temporary Restraining Order) to enjoin repayment to either Latin School or contractors will be heard tomorrow morning at 9:30 in Chancery Court, Daley Center, Room 2502, by Judge Arnold.

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