



**CORONAVIRUS**   **NEWS**   **POLITICS**

# Southwest Side alderman delivers lunches to Chicago Police officers citywide

Ald. Matt O'Shea has paid to deliver meals to hospitals, police and fire stations. Now, with Tuesday's citywide lunch, delivered by O'Shea's staff and participating restaurants, the tally of all meals likely will surpass 5,000.

By Fran Spielman | Apr 14, 2020, 11:38am CDT



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Ald. Matt O'Shea started a GoFundMe page to raise money to pay for meals for first responders. On Tuesday, he delivered lunch to all 22 Chicago Police Department districts. | File photo/Getty

## Coronavirus Newsletter

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Ever since the coronavirus started bearing down on Chicago, Ald Matt O’Shea (19<sup>th</sup>) has been raising money and delivering meals to hospital workers and first-responders on the front lines of the city’s war against the pandemic.

On Tuesday, he shifted into overdrive — delivering roughly 2,000 lunches to all 22 district police stations, three detective divisions and to Chicago Police headquarters at 35<sup>th</sup> and State streets.

“You and I know how dangerous a job it is on any given day. [But] these officers and the fear they’re living with doing their job with the potential of getting themselves infected and bringing this virus into their homes to their children or their parents. It’s that much more stressful and we’ve seen it. We’ve lost officers. And we’ve got over 200 infected,” said O’Shea, whose Far Southwest Side ward is home to scores of Chicago police officers.

“I’ve been overwhelmed by how many people have called or emailed to say, ‘Can I help you deliver those meals?’ They themselves may be out of work, but they want to make a donation ... by helping to pay for the lunch. People just want to step up and do

something positive.”

The benefit is two-fold. Not only is the lunch-on-wheels program filling the stomachs and warming the hearts of police officers on the front lines of Chicago’s war against the coronavirus. It’s also filling the empty coffers of Beverly and Morgan Park restaurants forced to close to dine-in customers during the pandemic. There’s no discount.

Restaurants are getting full price for their “quality meals” — ranging from pizza, club sandwiches and pasta to salads and cheeseburgers.

Years ago, O’Shea started a non-profit he called the 19<sup>th</sup> Ward Youth Foundation to support charitable causes in his ward. When the coronavirus hit, he started a companion GoFundMe page that raised \$82,000 in just three weeks.

He used the money to deliver meals to hospitals, police and fire stations. Tuesday’s citywide lunch for Chicago police officers — delivered by O’Shea’s aldermanic staff and participating restaurants themselves — is expected to bring the number of meals delivered to first-responders to “north of 5,000.”

At a time when yesterday, today and tomorrow are pretty much the same, O’Shea said he’s trying to make the day different by providing a beacon of hope.

“You want to support your community and show strength and provide hope and say, ‘Hey, we’re gonna get through this, but we care,’” said O’Shea, one of Mayor Lori Lightfoot’s closest City Council allies.

“I’m lucky enough to represent a neighborhood that truly does care.”

#### **IN THIS STREAM**

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### **Coronavirus in Chicago, Illinois**

- Rising COVID-19 cases prompt warnings for Illinoisans ‘to remain vigilant and remain up to date’ on vaccine shots
- State public health officials move away from ‘outdated’ COVID testing positivity rate in

favor of hospital metrics

- Illinois COVID-19 cases rising: 'Critically important' for immunocompromised to get vaccinated, boosted

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Aiming to predict COVID, future pandemics better, CDC opens infectious diseases forecasting center

Unmasked transit: Pritzker ends mask mandates in public transportation, airports

US mask mandate for planes, other travel voided by federal judge in Florida

Rising COVID-19 cases prompt warnings for Illinoisans 'to remain vigilant and remain up to date' on vaccine shots

Dr. Ngozi Ezike to become CEO of Sinai Chicago hospital system

With COVID-19 cases rising, Pritzker still searching for public health chief to succeed Ezike, a 'hero during this pandemic'

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#### **MOST READ**

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Woman fatally shot in Lawndale

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Rain can't wash away reality that Dodgers have gone where Cubs didn't try to go

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Second City alum and prolific character actor Mike Hagerty dies

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### THE LATEST

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#### ART

### Immersive art experience featuring works of Monet, Renoir, Degas heading to Chicago

“Immersive Monet & The Impressionists” is the latest such experience to make its way to Chicago.

By Miriam Di Nunzio | May 9, 2022, 12:05pm CDT

## WHITE SOX

### **Bummer to IL, Burger to Charlotte as White Sox reinstate Yoan Moncada, Joe Kelly**

Aaron Bummer has right knee strain, lands on 15-day injured list.

By Daryl Van Schouwen | May 9, 2022, 11:56am CDT

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## CRIME

### **Lincoln Park robbery victim remains in critical condition after he was shot three times by duo wanted in 7 other North Side crimes**

“Dakotah [Earley] is fighting as hard as he can right now,” his brother wrote Sunday.

By David Struett | May 9, 2022, 11:15am CDT

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## BEARS

### **Bears cut Ledarius Mack, sign six undrafted rookies**

Mack, the brother of former Bears linebacker Khalil Mack, played in three games last season. The six players who were signed participated in last weekend’s rookie minicamp on a tryout basis.

By Mark Potash | May 9, 2022, 11:07am CDT

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## UKRAINE

### **Jill Biden pays surprise visit to Ukraine, meets first lady**

The first ladies met at a school being used to temporarily house Ukrainian migrants.

By Associated Press | May 9, 2022, 11:04am CDT

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