

Chicago Braces for Potential Chaos During Democratic National Convention

On July 24, a significant anti-Israel demonstration took place in Washington D.C., where protesters raised a Palestinian flag and defaced monuments in response to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's address to Congress. Now, the focus shifts to Chicago, which is set to host the Democratic National Convention.

Chicago Alderman Raymond Lopez and some fellow city council members have expressed concerns about potential unrest. Lopez said, "All I have to think about are the 2020 riots that happened after the murder of George Floyd. Our police department was caught completely off guard by the organized chaos that descended upon our city."

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Chicago resident Angel Ramos reflected on the riots, saying, "They let them destroy the buildings and steal whatever they wanted."

Alderman Nicholas Sposato also voiced his apprehensions, saying, "I'm scared to death, to tell you the truth. I am very concerned, very worried. I believe there are going to be professional anarchists coming into this city who are planning on doing nothing more than wreaking havoc upon us."

Most of the convention activities will occur within the security perimeter of Chicago's United Center, where Vice President Kamala Harris will rally delegates in person. A virtual roll-call vote earlier this month made her the Democratic presidential nominee.

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Nathan Gonzales of Inside Elections noted, "Democrats have gone part of the way down this path before with Hillary Clinton, but this has a very different feel to it. There is a bit of whiplash. The Democrats went from almost the depths of despair with Biden at the top—even though they liked him—to now such high energy and optimism about what is possible."

Gonzales explained that the focus of the campaign will shift with Harris as the nominee, moving away from concerns about President Biden's age and ability to concentrate on the opposition. "Now that Harris is at the top of the ticket, it allows for a normal conversation or exchange of ideas in a campaign about who might be too liberal or too conservative or too MAGA. It's just more normal than it was when Biden was running for reelection," Gonzales said.

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