

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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McKinley Park News Welcomes Nikki Roberts as Neighborhood News Correspondent

CHICAGO – The McKinley Park neighborhood's news-gathering capacity has expanded with the addition of Nikki Roberts to the staff of the *McKinley Park News*. Roberts, an early career journalist with a track record of entertainment industry reporting and top marks as a recent graduate of DePaul University's Center for Journalism Integrity & Excellence, joins the *McKinley Park News* as a neighborhood news correspondent.

Roberts' past experience includes up-close and gritty interviews with music icons like GWAR's Pustulus Maximus and running her own music blog covering the South Side's metal and punk music scenes. She's worked at and has been published in *Chicago* magazine, the *South Side Weekly* and *14 East Magazine*, and her writing has appeared in the *Chicago Reader*, *Riot Fest* and online music publications.

"I've enjoyed getting to know the neighborhood the best I can while social distancing," said Roberts, who moved to McKinley Park in 2020. "I'm looking forward to covering the neighborhood's creative community, entertainment events and other news."

Roberts' audio recording and multimedia skills, honed during her stint as a DJ at Radio DePaul, is also an asset for her coverage of music and events, she said.

Entertainment reporting and coverage is becoming more important for McKinley Park, said *McKinley Park News* Publisher Justin Kerr, especially as the pandemic subsides and the neighborhood develops.

"Creators have fled the North and West sides as colonization by the affluent drives up prices and drives out working musicians and artists," Kerr said. "So many have landed here in McKinley Park and the Central Manufacturing District, joining other longtime neighborhood artists in a very underreported scene."

"We are fortunate to have a plugged-in journalist of Nikki's caliber right here in the neighborhood to help us report on this and other neighborhood news," Kerr said.

ABOUT THE MCKINLEY PARK NEWS

The *McKinley Park News* is a micro-local online publication covering the McKinley Park Community Area and Central Manufacturing District of Chicago from its website at <https://mckinleypark.news>. Its features include original news reporting, a comprehensive calendar of neighborhood events and an

interactive membership and subscription system. Online as a neighborhood resource since 2012, the *McKinley Park News* launched its commercial operations in 2019 as a publication of Local News LLC.

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