

CHICAGO



FRI.
72
63

Cloudy.
Rain too?



SAT.
74
62

Mostly
sunny



SUN.
74
61

Chance
of rain



MON.
72
58

More
showers?



Police admit an internal investigation

Allegations of stealing and false arrests

Chicago Tribune

Chicago police officially acknowledged Thursday that internal investigators are looking into allegations that a handful of officers made false arrests and stole from drug dealers and others.

"This has been an ongoing internal investigation initiated and conducted by the internal affairs division," Supt. Philip Cline said in a statement after published reports about the investigation. "We are now working with the state's attorney's office, and until the investigation is complete, the department reserves comment."

Cline's statement disclosed no details of the investigation.

But sources familiar with the inquiry say the Cook County state's attorney's office is preparing to charge several officers with misconduct related to the allegations. Citing sources, the Tribune and other news organizations reported last month that some special operations section officers were stripped of their powers because of the investigation.

As early as spring 2005 and as recently as a few months ago, lawyers who filed civil rights lawsuits against some of the officers realized their clients' claims were part of a larger pattern. Some of the targeted officers have been sued repeatedly by Chicagoans who claimed they were the subjects of illegal searches, thefts, false arrests and beatings, court records show.

Two lawyers said they were contacted by investigators conducting an internal probe after the lawyers' clients filed claims. Attorney Christopher Smith said investigators called his law firm a couple of months after the city settled the case.

"They settled quickly, probably to beat the discovery process on these officers," Smith said, referring to a legal procedure that could have uncovered further information about the officers' backgrounds. The city agreed to pay his client \$25,000 in February 2005, just three months after the federal suit was filed. "I figured something was up because they were quick to be reasonable."

A few months after the settlement, investigators contacted Smith's law office and talked to another lawyer, seeking information about the plaintiff's claims, Smith said.

George L. San Jose President and Chief Creative Officer of The San Jose Group a multicultural advertising agency.



The immigration march makes its way down Jackson Boulevard in May. [TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO]

Marketing muscle

Miller Brewing to sponsor weekend march for immigrants

Chicago Tribune

Marchers had to duck into fast-food restaurants for water when they first took to Chicago's streets in support of illegal immigrants five months ago. At the next two marches, family-owned grocery stores offered free bottled water from trucks emblazoned with their names.

This time, as demonstrators march from Chinatown to House Speaker Dennis Hastert's (R-Ill.) Batavia office this weekend, they will have Miller Brewing Co. as a sponsor.

The support of a major corporation for a controversial political cause shows how fierce the competition has become to woo the growing market of Latino consumers.

For Miller, the march offered a special chance to catch up. This spring the brewer drew the ire of pro-immigrant forces over contributions to U.S. Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-Wis.), who sponsored legislation that would crack down on illegal immigrants. That prompted a short-lived boycott by some Latino groups.

Now, march advertisements feature not just the organizing committee's trademark blue globe but Miller's logo and a Spanish translation of its "Live Responsibly" slogan, a company effort to build goodwill among Latinos.

Beer bucks



The brewer has paid more than \$30,000 for a planning convention, materials and newspaper ads publicizing the event.

But this march is no Cinco de Mayo parade. The politically charged event will promote a controversial plan to end deportations and offer legal status for all 11 million to 12 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S. That creates potential pitfalls for any businesses lending support, experts say.

At the same time, business sponsorships have forced activists to confront whispers that they are commercializing their movement when they accept much-needed donations.

"We would love to have 20 corporate logos. It doesn't mean we are selling the movement out," said Jorge Mujica, a member of the March 10 Committee.

Labor unions remain the movement's backbone with four major unions bringing at least 600 marchers on buses from throughout Chicago. Religious groups have been key too. But businesses have become vital to this weekend's march, which will cover 45 miles to Hastert's district office. Hundreds of marchers plan to cover the entire span, and organizers need food and water for them.

This weekend, the Los Comales restaurant plans to donate 500 tortas. The Laredo

Bakery is donating bread while other restaurants are donating water, fruit and other supplies, organizers said. Those businesses are natural allies—"part of the same brotherhood," as one marketer put it.

But the presence of Miller at August's planning convention raised eyebrows.

The convention brought together labor unions, anti-war groups, immigrant service organizations and even socialist political candidates. Hours before bashing NAFTA and U.S. foreign policy, participants mingled with the Miller Girls, the company's public relations ambassadors, amid a display of Miller logos.

Mathew Romero, Miller's local market development manager, said he wasn't worried that some opponents of illegal immigration would be upset at the company's support of "the free movement of people, labor, goods and services."

George San Jose, president of the San Jose Group, a Chicago-based marketing company specializing in the Hispanic market, said he understands why companies chase Hispanic purchasing power, which tops \$700 billion annually in the U.S. Brewers, he said, have been especially aggressive.

But San Jose would advise clients that there are better ways.

"A company sponsoring one of the two sides of the immigration debate is no different than a company sponsoring groups for or against abortion [rights]. It's one of those heated political debates that companies should stay clear of," he said.