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## Sam Royko—yes, that Royko—announces bid for 1st Ward alderman

The son of the famed late newspaper columnist is looking to unseat first-term Ald. Daniel La Spata.

JUSTIN LAURENCE



A man with a familiar Chicago name is entering the race for 1st Ward alderman.

Sam Royko, son of longtime newspaper columnist Mike Royko, announced his candidacy on Tuesday.



Royko's entry into politics began after his girlfriend was carjacked last year. They created the Greater West Town Community Coalition, organized meetings around public safety and attempted to pressure the Chicago City Council to adopt a new ward map that kept West Town in as few wards as possible.

"Today, we take the next step for a safer 1st Ward that offers improved communications, better constituent services, and gets back to the basics with community-based leadership," Royko said in a press release.

Mike Royko was a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist who for decades wrote about city politics for the Chicago Daily News, Chicago Sun-Times and Chicago Tribune.

The younger Royko said he has lived in the 1st Ward since 2015, first in Noble Square and currently in West Town.

"My father is from here, he grew up above the tavern his family operated at 2122 N. Milwaukee Ave.," he said. "The 1st Ward is more than just my home, though. It is part of my history, and we want to make it the best ward for future generations."

The 1st Ward saw a dramatic shift north [under the new map](#) approved by the City Council in May, losing a chunk of West Town and gaining a larger portion of Logan Square.

Royko is looking to unseat first-term Ald. Daniel La Spata, a former affordable housing organizer and member of the Chicago Democratic Socialist Caucus.

La Spata had no comment on Royko's entry to the race or whether he was seeking re-election when asked at an unrelated morning press conference.

La Spata reported taking in \$16,000 in campaign contributions in the second quarter and has \$77,474 cash on hand as he prepares for re-election, according to the [Illinois State Board of Elections](#).

Lauren Young Weber, who unsuccessfully ran for 1st Ward committeeperson, [filed paperwork](#) last week to [run for alderman](#).

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