

The Philadelphia Inquirer

ALWAYS ASKING. ALWAYS PHILLY.



Penn donor helped shape ideas used in Trump’s compact

Marc Rowan, chair of the advisory board at Wharton, has questioned the university’s instruction, faculty hiring, and political orientation.

By Susan Snyder
Staff Writer

Marc Rowan, the billionaire donor who led the campaign to oust former University of Pennsylvania president Liz Magill over the administration’s response to allegations of antisemitism, appears to have played a key role in the Trump administration’s most recent efforts to reshape higher education.

Rowan and his allies, according to the New York Times, were instrumental in developing the ideas used in the compact that President Donald Trump’s administration asked Penn and eight other universities to sign last week in exchange for preferential consideration for federal funding.

Rowan, CEO of New York-based Apollo Global Management, a private equity firm, was circulating a document last winter called a “university support and eligibility agreement” that listed some of the same principles and wording in the compact rolled out by the Trump administration last week, according to the Times. Both documents, for example, state “all monies advanced by the U.S. government during the year of any violation shall be returned to the U.S. government,” the Times said.

The compact — which has already been roundly criticized by some inside and outside the Penn community as attacking academic

An anniversary of heartbreak

Jojo Rabia cleans a box used for lighting candles Monday as he visits the site where his two sons were killed on Oct. 7, 2023, in the cross-border attack by Hamas militants at the Nova music festival, near the Kibbutz Reim, southern Israel. Two years later, American Jews reflect on their views of Israel as Israeli and Hamas representatives meet for peace talks. **Stories, A9. Leo Correa / AP**

Chicago and Illinois sue to stop Trump’s troop deployment plan

By Christine Fernando
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Illinois leaders went to court Monday to stop President Donald Trump from sending National Guard troops to Chicago, escalating a clash between Democratic-led states and the Republican administration during an aggressive immigration enforcement

operation in the nation’s third-largest city.

The legal challenge came hours after a judge blocked the Guard’s deployment in Portland, Ore.

The Trump administration has portrayed the cities as war-ravaged and lawless amid the government’s crackdown on illegal immigration. Officials in Illinois and Oregon say military intervention isn’t needed and that federal involvement is

inflaming the situation.

The lawsuit alleges that “these advances in President Trump’s long-declared ‘War’ on Chicago and Illinois are unlawful and dangerous.”

A federal judge has given the Trump administration two days to respond to Illinois’ lawsuit, but she didn’t immediately block the deployment.

Judge April Perry set a midnight

Wednesday deadline for the response from the federal government and scheduled a Thursday hearing in the lawsuit filed Monday.

The lawsuit alleges that “these advances in President Trump’s long-declared ‘War’ on Chicago and Illinois are unlawful and dangerous.”

“The American people, regardless of where they reside, should

→ SEE GUARD ON A4

→ SEE ROWAN ON A5

OLD GUARD FACES FRESH CHALLENGE IN FOP ELECTION

The campaign has been marked by contentious police union meetings and threats of violence.

By Barbara Laker
and David Gambacorta
Staff Writers

For years, the elections to decide who should run Philadelphia’s powerful police union were a formality. John McNesby, who led the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 5 from 2007 until his retirement, faced no challengers over the last 15 years to his reign as president.

That changes Tuesday, when the union’s 12,500 active and retired members will finalize the choice between two sharply different paths: keeping McNesby’s handpicked successor in place, or handing power to a slate of newcomers alleging that financial mismanagement by the old guard warrants a change in leadership.

The campaign has been unusually bitter, marked by caustic social

media attacks, fake accounts, AI-generated images, contentious union meetings, and even threats of violence.

On one side is current president Roosevelt Poplar who joined the police force in 1990, became a trustee in Lodge 5 in 2000 and later served as a union vice president and McNesby’s chief of staff.

On the other is Charles “Knute” Mellon, a former pilot in the Police Department’s Aviation Unit, and now the executive officer of recruit training.

The American Arbitration Association will tally the results at FOP headquarters beginning Tuesday morning. So far, more than 5,000 mail-in ballots have been received.

Poplar, 58, and his team have pointed to their years of experience and a proven track record securing lucrative pay raises and benefits for their members.

Mellon, 48, and his team have alleged that McNesby and the current union leaders racked up millions in questionable credit card charges and lack transparency about the union’s profits and expenses.

Questions about the union’s

→ SEE POLICE ON A10

Cancer survivors fear Medicaid cuts could endanger lifesaving care

Preventive screenings also could be at risk, worrying patients and those who advocate for healthcare access.

By Sarah Gantz
Staff Writer

When Valerie Brown’s lung cancer returned and began to spread to other parts of her body, her doctors suggested a drug that would slow the cancer’s growth.

She’d already had surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation, and eliminating the cancer was no longer an option. Most people with her type of cancer live no more than five years.

Six years later, the 62-year-old South Jersey woman is enjoying watching her 10 grandchildren grow up. She credits Tagrisso, a drug designed to treat her specific form of cancer. It costs about \$18,000 a month and has been covered by her Medicaid plan.



Valerie Brown, of Mays Landing, was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2012 at the age of 49 and relies on Medicaid to afford her medications. **Tim Hawk / For The Inquirer**

But Brown fears she could soon lose access to the drug.

Earlier this year, the Trump administration approved \$900 billion in sweeping cuts to Medicaid, the publicly funded health program for low-income families and people

with disabilities. Democrats are now demanding that Republicans address some of their concerns about patients who rely on safety-net healthcare programs, which has led to a deadlock in Washington

→ SEE MEDICAID ON A6

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