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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Protest: Chicago Reader Union members urge co-owner Len Goodman to honor his word and #SaveTheReader

When: Thursday, April 21, at 11 AM

Where: Wellington Ave. and Lake Shore Dr. (3000 N. Lake Shore Dr. West), Chicago IL

Next Thursday, members of the *Chicago Reader* editorial union and their supporters will protest outside co-owner Len Goodman's home as a last-ditch effort to #SaveTheReader. Earlier today, the *Chicago Tribune* published a letter ([linked here](#)) from members of that union addressing the harm Goodman is causing. For nearly four months, Goodman has delayed the sale of the paper to the Reader Institute for Community Journalism, the nonprofit formed to carry it forward, in retaliation against a request from *Reader* editors to fact-check one of his published columns.

Goodman is using his power as co-owner to bully us. Because he's blocked the sale, the paper can't operate as a nonprofit, and it's not viable as a for-profit. Within a few weeks, what remains of the for-profit *Reader* will run out of money. Most of the *Reader's* 35 staffers make around \$45,000 annually, and now a rich man thinks we should fear for our jobs because we dared try to correct his mistakes.

This fiasco is damaging the *Reader* with every passing day. Not only is Goodman publicly demanding we compromise our editorial independence to indulge his whims, but he's also put a halt to our growth by delaying the nonprofit transition. The nonprofit can't raise funds normally, and two key editorial positions remain unfilled, further burdening our staff. We work hard for low pay because we care about what the *Reader* publishes, and we won't turn our backs on that to mollify a self-styled progressive from the billionaire Crown family who wants to punish us for his hurt feelings.

We ask for support from our media colleagues and the larger *Reader* community. At stake is the legacy of Chicago's 50-year-old free alternative newspaper and the jobs of the workers who make the *Reader* what it is.