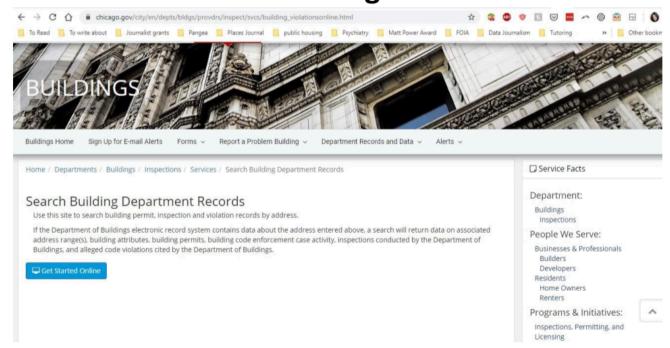
Welcome to our 117th Public Newsroom! This week we're taking a look at evictions in Chicago with the Chicago Reader's Maya Dukmasova. The following is a self-guided activity packet you'll be going through with a small group.

• ICEBREAKER: Turn to two to three of your neighbors and discuss the following questions—What are three questions (or less) you have about eviction? What information would you like to know about evictions and renter's rights? Share your responses below:

#### GROUP ACTIVITY: LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR LANDLORD AND BUILDING HISTORY

**Instructions:** The following self-guided activity is designed to help you navigate Department of Buildings and Recorder of Deeds website to know who your landlord is and the history of building code violations at the property. Work in your icebreaker group to go through the following. Have questions? Raise your hand and someone will come around to help.

# Group Activity: Know your landlord, know your building



To look up your building's inspection records and code violations Google "Chicago building code violations" and get yourself to this page. Click "Get Started Online" and "accept" the terms on the next page



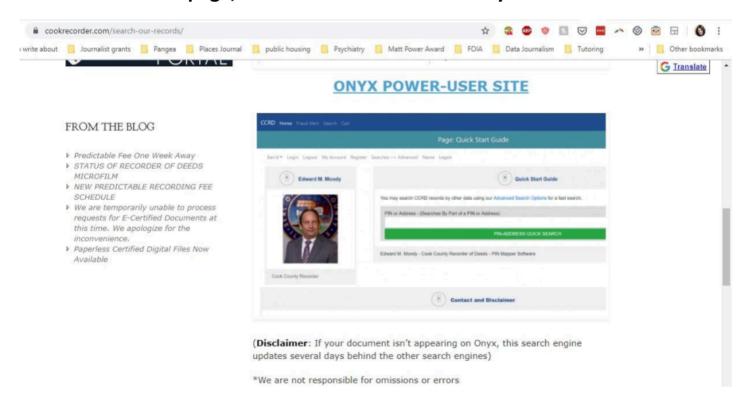
Enter the building address that interests you and click "Submit"

### Researching building ownership

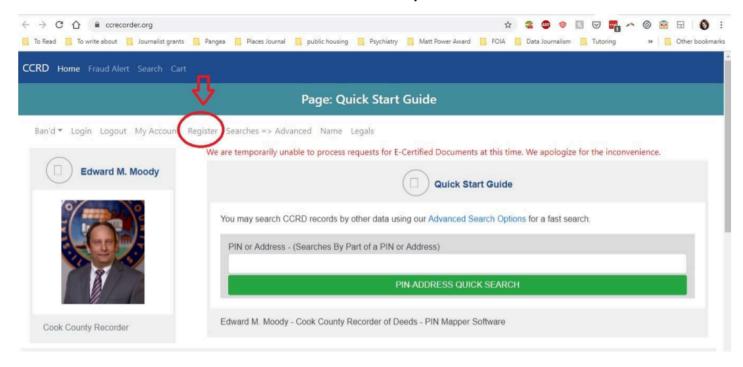


Go to the Cook County Recorder of Deeds homepage and click "Search Public Records" on the left

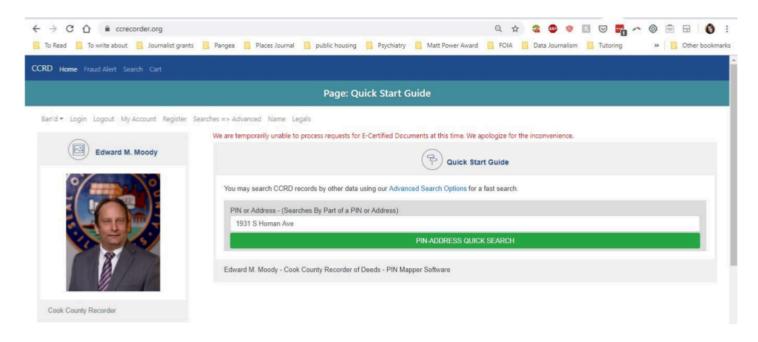
### On the next page, scroll down and click on "Onyx Power-User Site"



## Once you're on the Onyx landing page, first create a free account (this will allow you to look at documents)

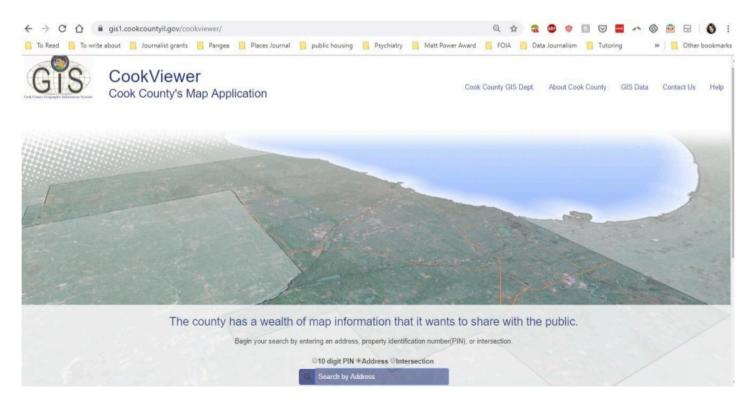


### Once you've registered, log in and then click "Home" in the upper left corner. Enter the building address in the search bar

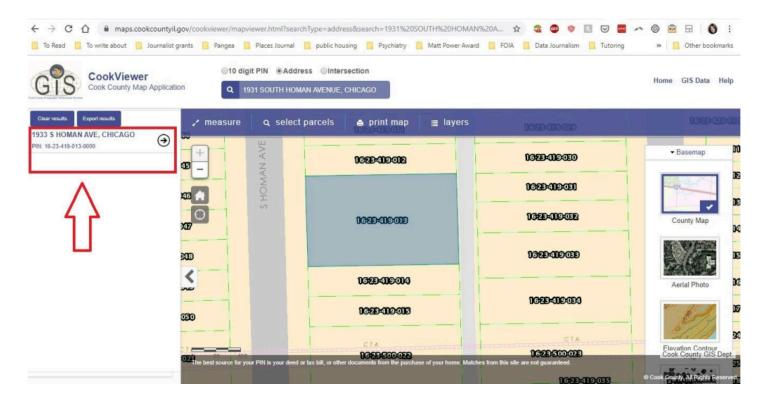


If the result says "No Address Found" you'll need to search using the property's PIN. The easiest way to look up the PIN is through the Cook County GIS website.

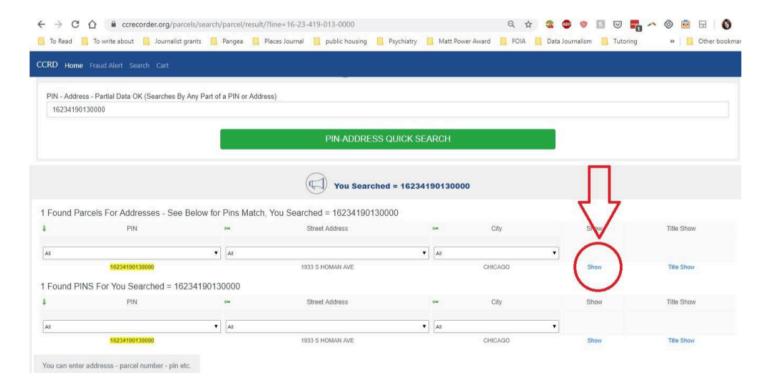
### Google "Cook County GIS" and on the home page select "Address" over the search bar and type it in



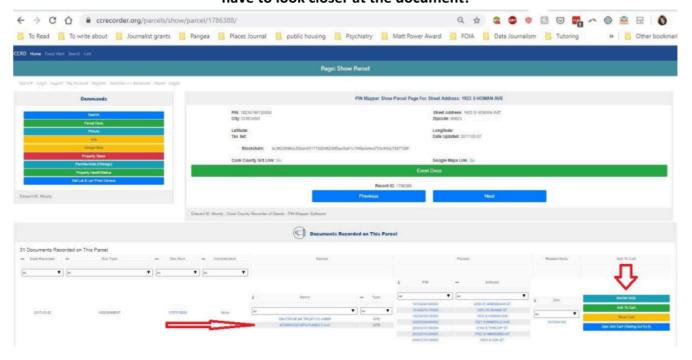
Accept the terms in the pop-up window, and you'll be taken to a section of the county map with the parcel of land on which the property stands. On the left side you'll see the address and PIN below. You can now enter that PIN back on the Recorder of Deeds website.



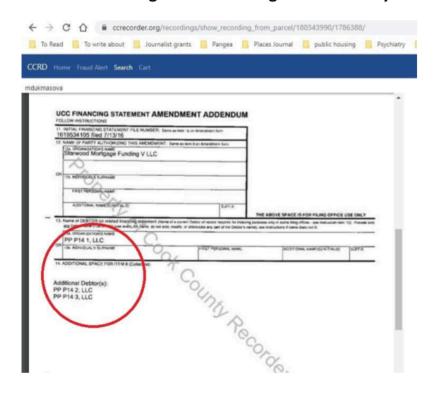
#### Select "Show" next to the PIN search result



On the next page you'll see documents related to the transactions involving the property. They're listed in reverse chronological order. You can click "show doc" to see more specific details about the transaction. Sometimes you can see the owner of the property as one of the parties involved in the transaction (most often it's an individual or an LLC transacting with a financial institution, such as a bank), but not in the case. You'll have to look closer at the document!



After clicking "Show Doc" scroll down to the embedded PDF. On the second page you can finally see on whose behalf this financial transaction was conducted: PP P14 1, LLC You can find out that this is one of Pangea's LLCs through the Secretary of State's database



#### To search for LLCs go to the Secretary of State's database

GO TO: https://www.ilsos.gov/corporatellc/CorporateLlcController

Select "Corporate and LLC"

Click "Submit"

Select "Name"

Enter the LLC name: "PP P14 1"

Select "Continue" Click the result

Under "Agent Information" you can see "Pangea Ventures LLC"

**Go Deeper:** Once you've navigated the above, answer the following questions as a group. The final question you will be asked to share out with the entire audience. Please select someone to share out from the group!

- What was your experience like navigating these websites?
  - O What would you change?
- Share-out question:
  - What is other information you'd like to know about evictions, landlords, buildings, housing and renter rights?

#### Take-aways

Thanks for coming to our workshop! The following list of resources was compiled by Maya Dukmasova and originally ran in the Chicago Reader. As Dukmasova writes, "Overall, 60 percent of the eviction cases filed end with a judgment against a tenant, but when tenants have legal representation their chances of staying housed increase substantially: 17 percent fewer tenants with attorneys get evicted than those without. And the type of attorney tenants hire matters too. While about half of tenants who hire a private attorney end up being evicted, only a quarter of those represented by free legal aid lawyers do." The organizations below offer free legal advice and lawyers to tenants.

#### LAF I www.legalaidchicago.org

Focus on tenants with housing subsidies such as Section 8 vouchers

#### Cabrini Green Legal Aid | www.cgla.net/programs

Focus on evictions arising from allegations of criminal activity

#### Access Living | www.accessliving.org

Focus on tenants with disabilities

#### Center for Disability and Elder Law | www.cdelaw.org

Focus on tenants with disabilities and seniors

#### Metropolitan Family Services (Legal Aid Society)

www.metrofamily.org/legal-aid-society

Represents low-income tenants

#### Uptown People's Law Center I www.uplcchicago.org

Focus on formerly incarcerated and north side tenants

#### Chicago Volunteer Legal Services | www.cvls.org

Also represents low-income landlords

#### **Center for Conflict Resolution**

www.ccrchicago.org/mediation-services

Free mediation services for tenants and landlords

#### **Coordinated Advice & Referral Program for Legal Services**

(CARPLS) | www.carpls.org

Free legal advice desk at the Daley Center 312-738-9200

#### Metropolitan Tenants Organization | www.tenants-rights.org

Tenants' rights hotline at 773-292-4988

Want to be more involved in the reporting on evictions? Share your email and why below and then turn this into th presenters.	е
Name (first and last):	
Email:	
Why do you want to be involved?	

Public Newsroom 117: Understanding Chicago's Eviction Crisis | Sept. 5th, 2019 | citybureau.org/publicnewsroom